

## ABOUT THE WALK

**DISTANCE:** 2.5 miles. **TIME:** 1.5 hours approx  
**START/PARKING:** Church St CP or the Saracen's Head CP  
**TERRAIN:** first part of the trail is on pavement, second part is lane and field walking.  
**FOOTWEAR:** walking boots are needed.  
**REFRESHMENTS:** three inns in Easthorpe (Bramley Apple and Hearty Goodfellow provide food and The Old Coach House), Southwell Garden Centre on the trail, town inns and cafés on King St.  
**OS MAP** Explorer series 271, 1:25,000 scale. Landranger series 120, 1:50,000 scale

### THE EASTHORPE HERITAGE TRAIL

Leave the car in the CP at Church Street (alternative Saracen's Head CP). Turn left at Church Street and walk past the impressive Prebendal houses on the left. Continue round the slight bend until you reach the bridge over the Potwell Dyke. You are now in Easthorpe.

For centuries **Easthorpe**, despite its closeness to Southwell, was a village in its own right. In the 19th century its main street still had a number of farms and trade workshops all centred on agriculture and there were other local industries such as malting and framework knitting. There were two large country houses, Easthorpe Lodge and Easthorpe House, which still stand today and to the north, east and south, Easthorpe was open to fields. Today Easthorpe still has that rural feel, especially near the Potwell Dyke and along Crew Lane. Three other features that characterised Easthorpe in the 19th century, and still remain today, are its fascinating three-storey Georgian houses on the main street, its fine walls and the trees that line the Potwell Dyke. There is one particular tree that Easthorpe is rightly proud of, the Bramley Apple Tree.

Cross over the road and pause at the entrance of Palace View with the Bramley Apple PH opposite. Note the three-storey Georgian houses over the road, which have semi-circular windows in the top storey. Up to fifty years ago most of these buildings opposite would have been part workplace, part residence. Look now at numbers 56 and 64 on your side of the street and read the following information.



#### POINT OF INTEREST 1

**Easthorpe Families and Businesses.** Numbers 54-56 were occupied for many years by the HARVEY family. They were well known local butchers. It was quite usual in the first half of the twentieth century for people to see cattle and pigs driven down Church Street to Harvey's Slaughterhouse, still behind Number 56 as you look down Palace View. The Harvey family also owned land to the right of the shop which is now residential and known as Harvey's Field. For many years the town circus came to Harvey's Field and local Easthorpians still remember the annual event. *"The circus people arrived about 10am complete with horses, elephants and tigers, erected the marquee for the matinee at 4pm and were gone early the next morning"*. Harvey's butcher's shop closed in 1953.



#### Walk on to Number 64.

Number 64 was the workplace and residence for many years of the SCHUMACH family. As you walked from No 54 you would probably have noticed the sign Schumach's Yard. Back in the 1850s Henry John Schumach was a well known naturalist and taxidermist and many of his cages of stuffed birds were proudly



displayed in local houses. His wife Lucy Kate Schumach was very caring and was known locally as 'Granny' Schumach. Their son Fred Schumach was a breeder of canaries and opened the first Labour Exchange in the town at their house. In the high unemployment days of the 1930s, queues of unemployed men, waiting to sign on stretched as far as The Old Coach

House. Schumach's Yard consisted of six small cottages, privies and a water pump.

**Cross Church St just before you reach the road on your right, Farthingate. Before the Farthingate housing estate was built in the 1960s, here stood AVERY'S Farm. It was a mixed farm with cattle, shire-horses, poultry and a challenging bull, "Tom". Pause outside Number 75.**

#### POINT OF INTEREST 2

**The Bramley Apple.** Between 1809 and 1815 a young girl, Mary-Ann Brailesford, planted an apple pip at the bottom of her garden. This first produced fruit in the 1830's when the occupier of the property was a Mr Matthew Bramley. A local gardener, Henry Merryweather, happened to come across the apples and he was so impressed that he asked Mr Bramley for a cutting. Henry Merryweather then built up a stock of apple trees in his nursery on Halam Road and named the apples "The Bramley Seedling". By the turn of the century the Bramley Seedling had won first national and then international recognition as one of the finest cooking apples. The original Bramley Apple tree stands today at the bottom of the garden of Mrs Nancy Harrison at Number 75.

**Now continue on the trail - you will soon pass the Hearty Goodfellow and a footpath, Shady Lane. You will come across Shady Lane later. Pause at Number 25, 'Greyfriars'.**

**Elizabeth Pigot, the young friend of Lord Byron, came to live here in her later years. As you move towards the corner you will see that nearly all the housing on both sides of the road dates back to the eighteenth century. At Numbers 37-39 the COTTAM family for many years owned a farm and a smithy. Note the fine country house opposite Easthorpe House. Pause when you reach The Old Coach House.**



#### POINT OF INTEREST 3

**Easthorpe Inns.** THE OLD COACH HOUSE – was previously The White Lion and like many public houses it had its own Brew House. In 1904 it was bought by Warwick and Richardsons but later passed to John Smith and then became a Courage house. For a time in the 1990s it seemed likely it would be sold and made into a private house, but it survived, changed its name and in 2005 is one of the most popular inns in Southwell. THE HEARTY GOODFELLOW – goes back to

the early sixteenth century. In the eighteenth century it was used as a recruiting centre by the Royal Marines. It has a fine beer garden which extends down to the Potwell Dyke. THE BRAMLEY APPLE – was previously The George and Dragon and dates back to the early 19th century. It too was owned by Warwick and Richardson, Newark Brewery. Locals still remember the inn used in wartime by groups of women knitting socks. Later in the 1980s it was the base for a local murder enquiry

**At The Old Coach House turn left and walk on until you come opposite Bramley Close. All the houses you pass on your right have been recently built on land that was formerly the open fields of Easthorpe. Cross the road and look at the buildings just to the left of Bramley Close facing the main road.**

#### POINT OF INTEREST 4

**Southwell Gas Works and Easthorpe Endowed School.** The building just to the left of Bramley Close used to be the house of the Manager of Southwell Gas Company. Next door were the Company Offices. The Gas Works had been set up in 1852. No traces are left of the two gasometers which were sited further away from the main road. The works closed in the 1950s when North Sea Gas arrived on the scene.

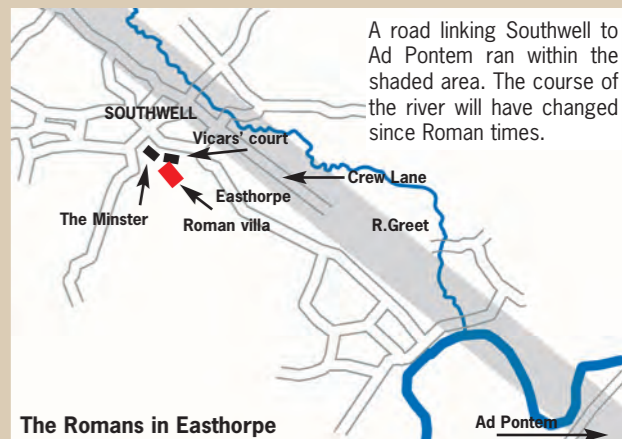
**Enter Bramley Close and observe the first two buildings on your left.**

**Easthorpe Endowed School** started in 1827. It had originally been a barn belonging to a farm, the building on your left. This building became the Schoolmaster's House. In 1822 the Easthorpe Trustees, which included the Rev. J T Becher, set up the school to educate 30 poor boys and girls from Easthorpe in the three Rs. The school continued until the 1940s. It narrowly escaped demolition when the trustees fought the plans to turn it into a housing development and raised money to have the old school transformed into a Community Centre. It became known as Easthorpe Hall and is today run by the Easthorpe Trustees and financed mainly by rents from Easthorpe lands.

**Return to the main road. Take the snicket on the immediate right between Easthorpe Hall and the Old Gas Works site. This leads to Crew Lane. Turn right down Crew Lane and walk for about 500 metres until you see a Mushroom farm on your left.**

#### POINT OF INTEREST 5

**Crew Lane – a Roman road ?** Southwell's large Roman villa, sited under Vicars' Court, on Church Street, would have needed a supply road linking the villa with the Fosse Way on the other side of the River Trent. Aerial photography and pottery finds suggest the linking road started at the Roman settlement of Ad Pontem on the Fosse Way, then forded the Trent and continued up Crew Lane before branching off to the Southwell Roman villa. Evidence of a Roman camp



#### The Romans in Easthorpe

near Goldhill Cottage, close to Kirklington, suggests the Roman road was probably intended for the transportation of minerals from Derbyshire. Crew Lane is a very pleasant country lane with tall hedges of hawthorn and elm. There are some fine trees and expect much bird song.

**Just before the Mushroom farm, take the bridle path on your right. WARNING - this bridle path can be muddy. The alternative is to retrace steps to The Old Coach House and pick up the trail again from there. Walk along the bridle path and close to Fiskerton Road note the overgrown wet ditch and the wide margin of coarse grasses, both good for wild life. Turn right at the signpost and take the FP across a field and pass an old spreading ash tree. Notice the excellent views to your right. At the FP Junction turn left and come out on Fiskerton Road. Turn right and pass the Southwell Garden Centre where there is a very good tea room. Continue walking downhill until you come to the junction with Crink Lane. Go across to the small monument ahead.**



#### POINT OF INTEREST 6

**The Paulinus Monument.** This marks the site of the *South Well* which gave the town its name. The spring was reputed to have therapeutic properties, particularly the cure of rheumatics. It is linked with Paulinus, the 7th century Bishop of York, who was said to use it for the baptism of local people.

Southwell Heritage Trails

The Easthorpe Heritage Trail



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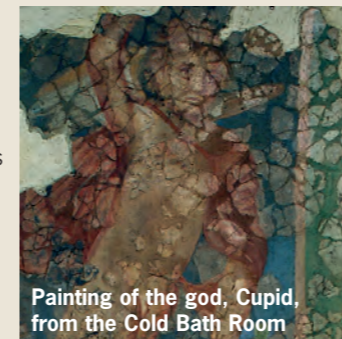
lower section of the field was recently generously donated to the town by the Froggatts of Hill House.

At the bottom of the field, climb over the stile. The fine residence on your left is South Muskham Prebend, now luxury apartments, originally one of Southwell's earliest Prebendal houses. Across the road is the Residence of the Dean and to the right of that is Vicars' Court. It is beneath Vicars' Court and the school that the Roman Villa, referred to earlier, lies.

POINT OF INTEREST 10

**Southwell Roman Villa.** Since the late 18th century Roman pottery, tiles and coins have been found in the gardens of the clergy of Vicars' Court. This evidence led to an official excavation

in 1959. Although only two small areas were available to the team the results were quite dramatic. The size of the villa was massive - at least one hundred yards long and eighty yards wide. Four separate mosaic pavements were found and part of the Bath complex was discovered. Equally exciting was evidence that some of the walls and ceilings had been decorated with painted scenes. When you next visit the Minster go to the South choir-aisle and view the Roman wall painting. Then move to the South Porch and look at the tessellated pavement, illuminated at the press of a button. For further information try to find a copy of Peter Latham's 'The Romans Were Here'.



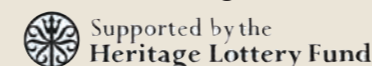
Painting of the god, Cupid, from the Cold Bath Room

If you wish to return to the CP or to the town keep to your right. If you wish to take refreshments in one of the Easthorpe inns turn left. If you prefer to walk by Vicars' Court to the Minster, cross the road and take the first opening to the left. Vicars' Court is on your left.

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There are six Heritage Trails for Southwell



another. Many different species of bird may be seen. If you are lucky you may see a flash of blue as a Kingfisher flies at high speed above the water. It feeds on the small fish and aquatic insects. Grey Herons also visit the dyke. The banks that are covered in unmanaged grasses



Potwell Dyke

provide an ideal habitat for the endangered water vole and Southwell is one of its most important strongholds. The water vole lives in burrows in the river bank with entrances above and below the water. It can be distinguished from the brown rat by its darker fur, shorter tail, chubby face and ears almost hidden in its fur. Mallard and moorhen may also be seen on the water. The smaller field vole and the wood mouse also live on or near the banks.



Grey Herons

Walk up from the bridge to the FP on the right. Scramble up the bank and take a look at the field in front of you.

The hay meadow, **Shady Lane Pasture**, is a site of importance to Nature Conservation and sixty three species of flowering herb, twenty three species of grass, one of sedge, two of rush plus twenty six species of trees and shrubs have been recorded there.

Go back to Shady Lane and the FP opposite. Walk up to the stile. As you climb over you suddenly get a magnificent view of Southwell Minster. Walk straight ahead through the field of Hill House, visible top right.

POINT OF INTEREST 9

**Hill House Field.** Until recently this was managed as pasture. It is now managed as a hay meadow but does not yet have the floristic diversity of Shady Lane Pasture. It does have a row of magnificent horse chestnuts at the bottom. The fenced off

Take the FP to the left of the monument through an area of mature and semi-mature trees. The FP follows a pleasant green lane towards the Minster, then crosses a field giving an excellent view of Easthorpe Lodge. This 1812 house, extended from the 1690s brick farmhouse seen to the right, was home for many years to members of the Caudwell family. It was Charles Caudwell, who in the mid-nineteenth century owned the mill by the Greet (see Trail 3). Walk ahead to a stile near a line of houses continue down a snicket and turn right into Farthingate Close.



Easthorpe Lodge

Follow the bend round to the left, turn right at Farthingate and you are back at Easthorpe's main street. Cross to the Hearty Goodfellow and walk down Shady Lane at the side of the PH. For many years Shady Lane has been a popular place for walking and recreation as it is bordered on both sides by open fields and the Potwell Dyke. Stop at the bridge over the Potwell Dyke. Here used to be Easthorpe's mill. Its foundations can still be seen.

POINT OF INTEREST 7

**Easthorpe's Mill** - was a water-powered mill that felled (or felted) the cloth made by local weavers in the 1600s and early 1700s.

The property was part of the Archbishop of York's Estate, for many years leased to the Clay family along with the Burgage Corn mills. In 1790, when the land had passed into the ownership of the Rev. J T Becher (responsible for the building of the Workhouse) a small cotton mill was built on the site by a local joiner, Thomas Hind, but it did not long survive competition with the much larger Maythorne cotton mill.

Pause a little longer at the bridge and read about Potwell Dyke.

POINT OF INTEREST 8

**Potwell Dyke** has the character of a dumble and further up the stream is known as Westhorpe Dumble (see Trail 5). Dumbles are an important semi-natural feature of this area and are a valuable resource for wildlife. They have a small stream with steep clay banks that in some areas form a ravine. The banks are typically lined by trees and shrubs. The trees and shrubs form a linear wood right through the town, with only a few short breaks, and form a wonderful habitat for wildlife. This also provides a corridor for wildlife to travel in relative safety from one area to

another. Many different species of bird may be seen. If you are lucky you may see a flash of blue as a Kingfisher flies at high speed above the water. It feeds on the small fish and aquatic insects. Grey Herons also visit the dyke. The banks that are covered in unmanaged grasses