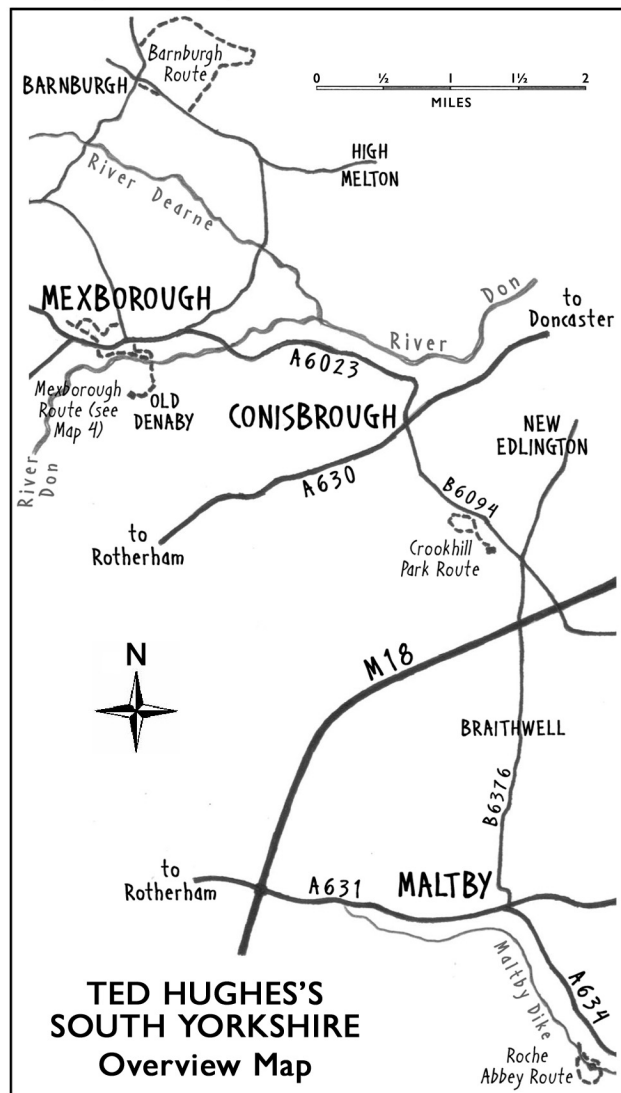


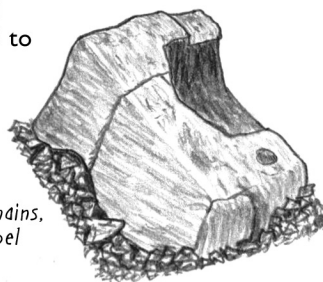
Barnburgh is an ancient settlement, bounded by the long crag of Barnburgh Cliff, below which several springs break forth. The landscape is rich with sites of historic and prehistoric interest, although many of the sites are effaced. Until the 19th century enclosures, large areas east of the village remained common land, preserving prehistoric wells and burial sites. Three Brigantian barrows dating from the Bronze and Stone Age were levelled during the creation of fields south of the Crown Inn. The fifth century battle of Maisbeli between invading English armies and those of the British tribes was fought in the fields alongside the River Dearne. Echoes of this past resonate in Celtic or Old English landscape names, like Lud Well and Cat Hill. Hughes had an enduring interest in ancient history, mythology and folklore and studied Archaeology and Anthropology in his third year at Cambridge. He was heavily influenced by Robert Graves's *The White Goddess*.



**Discovering Ted Hughes's Yorkshire** is a series of six route maps that will allow walkers to encounter the Yorkshire landscapes – Mytholmroyd and the Upper Calder Valley, Mexborough & the lower valleys of the Don & Dearne and Patrington in East Yorkshire – that formed and inspired Ted Hughes, poet laureate 1984-1998.

Edward James Hughes was born in Mytholmroyd in 1930 and moved with his family to Mexborough near Doncaster in September 1938, living there until the autumn of 1951. During his time in South Yorkshire, Hughes roamed widely across the whole landscape, walking, cycling, shooting and fishing. Map 4 in this series is a trail around Mexborough and Old Denaby, the heart of Hughes's South Yorkshire. This map comprises three separate shorter walks around specific sites relevant to Hughes's poetry. The sites are all within a 20-minute drive of Mexborough and can be combined in a day if you wish.

Barnburgh, on the edge of South Yorkshire's limestone escarpment, is the setting for Hughes's poem *Esther's Tomcat* and the wider Barnburgh Cliff area contains significant archaeological and historic sites related to pre-Christian religion.



stone altar remains,  
St Helen's Chapel

Crookhill Park, near Conisbrough, then the site of a tuberculosis sanatorium and now a local authority golf course, was Hughes's 'second home' in the period 1941-49. His best friend's father, John Wholey, was Head Gardener there and Hughes became close to the whole family, staying with them frequently. The pond at Crookhill is one of the settings for *Pike*, one of his most famous poems.

Roche Abbey, a ruined Cistercian Abbey in a dramatic setting near Maltby, is a possible site for the monastic pond referred to in *Pike*. The site is now managed by English Heritage.

This map was commissioned by the Discovering Ted Hughes's Yorkshire Consortium, the Ted Hughes Network, University of Huddersfield and enabled by generous funding from Doncaster Culture and Leisure Trust.

The walks were devised by Steve Ely, based on previous trails devised by Ely and Dominic Somers. Thanks to the Ted Hughes Project (South Yorkshire) and Carol Hughes for their support in this map's production.

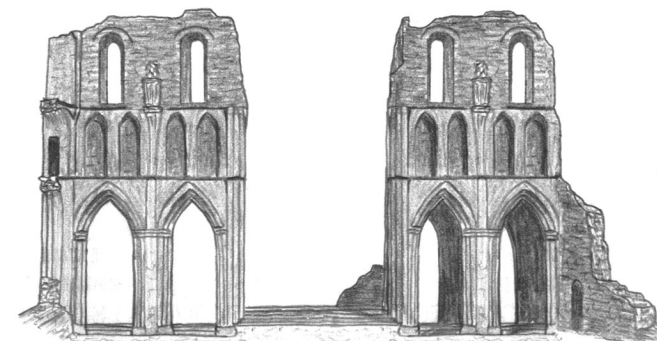
Leaflet drawn & designed by Christopher Goddard  
[www.christophergoddard.net](http://www.christophergoddard.net)

## DISCOVERING TED HUGHES'S YORKSHIRE

South Yorkshire

# MAP 5: SOUTH YORKSHIRE

A trio of short walks around Ted Hughes's South Yorkshire landscape, including Crookhill Park, Roche Abbey and the ancient landscape around Barnburgh



Roche Abbey ruins

'A pond I fished, fifty yards across,  
Whose lilies and muscular tench  
Had outlasted every visible stone  
Of the monastery that planted them-'  
(from *Pike*)

**Ted Hughes Network**

University of  
**HUDDERSFIELD**

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