D.H. Lawrence (1885-1930)

D.H. Lawrence was a British novelist, poet, and playwright. He is remembered for his groundbreaking literary works, most famously *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, and his conflict with his hometown of Eastwood, which he loved but was desperate to break away from.

**The Country of My Heart**

Lawrence constantly recreated the local area and landscapes in his writing. Colliers Wood, the former site of Moorgreen Pit, has been landscaped with shrubs, ponds and wetland to make it a haven for wildlife. Lawrence used the Moorgreen reservoir here in two of his books, calling it ‘Nethermere’ in *The White Peacock* (1911) and ‘Willey Water’ in *Women In Love* (1920).

The area near St Mary's Church also inspired Lawrence, as he helped the Chambers family with their harvest in the nearby fields, as their daughter Jessie was one of his closest friends.

‘It was very warm and still and sunny as I came through Greymede. A few sweethearts were sauntering under the horse-chesnuts trees, or crossing the road to go into the fields that lay smoothly carpeted after the hay-harvest.’ - D.H. Lawrence, *The White Peacock*, 1911.

**Walk in D.H. Lawrence’s footsteps**

Follow in the footsteps of the literary legend D.H. Lawrence with this long walk through the countryside.

This route will really show you Lawrence’s roots. It passes by all of the Lawrence family’s homes in Eastwood, Lawrence’s school the Beauvale Board School, through Colliers Wood and the local countryside, reaching St. Mary’s Church in Greasley.

This map will then bring you back to the D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum, where you can then have a well-deserved rest and cup of tea with us, or visit one of the pubs and cafés throughout the town. Did you know The Lady Chatterley Wetherspoon’s pub sells a ‘Mellors Ale’, named after the saucy gamekeeper in *Lady Chatterley’s Lover*? And The White Peacock Café is named after Lawrence’s first published novel?

**Terrain Information:** The walk takes approximately 2 ½ hours, starting from the D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum, and back again in a circular route. This route follows adjacent to some busy roads and along narrow public footpaths through countryside and farmland. Appropriate walking clothes and footwear are recommended as paths can become muddy and overgrown. Please take care when crossing roads.

**Where is the museum?**

In the glorious East Midlands, near both Nottingham and Derby, and just 40 minutes from Matlock at the edge of the Peak District. Ten minutes from the M1, close to the IKEA retail park.

**How do I get there?**

From M1 Junction 26, take the A610 towards Eastwood. From M1 Junction 27, take the A608, through Brinsley, towards Eastwood.

**Where can I park?**

Pay and Display car parking is available at the nearby Scargill Walk, Victoria Street, and Sun Inn car parks (see map above).

**Can I use public transport?**

You don’t need a car to come to us. For bus journeys to Eastwood high street jump on the Rainbow One from Nottingham or the Black Cat from Derby. Langley Mill train station is also only 1.5 miles away.

**How do I contact you?**

D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum, 8a Victoria Street, Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, NG16 3AW

T: 0115 917 3824

E: dhlawrence@lleisure.co.uk

www.lleisure.co.uk/dhlawrence

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Begin at the D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum and Gift Shop. Long Stay Pay & Display car parks available on Victoria Street or near The Sun Inn pub.

1. Turn left out of the Museum, and head down Scargill Walk, passing the Craft Workshops.
2. Pass through the archway and turn right. Follow Mansfield Road down the hill.
3. Turn right at Greenhills Road, following the road ahead until you reach Beardsall Avenue. Turn right and walk up this road. Look out for the Sons and Lovers Cottage signposts and information board.

Sons and Lovers Cottage - Number 28 Garden Road is known to readers of Lawrence as the setting for ‘The Bottoms’ in Sons and Lovers.

The Lawrence family moved here from Victoria Street in 1887 and lived here until 1891. Since it was an end house with extra space they paid an extra sixpence a week in rent.

Continue to walk down Garden Road and at the end of the road turn left down Lyncroft.

1. Turn right onto Lower Beaunale. Continue along this road until you reach a small car park and entrance for Colliers Wood on your right.
2. Pass through the gated entrance to Colliers Wood, and follow the path around to the left.
3. After a few minutes walking through Colliers Wood, you will merge onto the Nottinghamshire County Council public footpath. Follow this path, coming to a wooden fence and ‘kissing gate’ on your right leading onto ‘Dick’s Lane’.

Dick’s Lane used to be called ‘Deadman’s Lane’ and was used to take coffins from Brinsley to Greasley Church.

4. Follow this footpath, heading up the field.
5. At the top of the field turn left, and continue to follow the path. Don’t forget to take in the view of the countryside!
6. Following the lane you will approach a locked gate, to which the public footpath is on the right. This space is very narrow and near a busy road.

When emerging from the footpath turn left onto the pavement and walk ahead until you see the Nottinghamshire County Council Footpath marked by yellow arrows on the opposite side of the road (see pictured). Cross the road where safe to re-join this footpath. Please stick to the path as it will pass alongside property boundaries and through working farmers’ fields.

Continue along the path in the direction of Greasley Church, passing through a small ‘kissing gate’ and heading up the field. Beware there may be livestock in the fields.

Explore the church and grounds.

Head left, passing the entrance of the church, through the graveyard; you will pass under a beautiful canopy of trees and walk down steep stone stairs, emerging next to the busy B600. Turn left as you emerge onto the pavement and follow the road through Moorgreen. As you come to the Horse & Groom Pub (on your right hand side), please turn left.

Continue walking alongside the B6010 through Beauvale, road signs will tell you that you are approaching Eastwood.

You will pass the Beaunale Board School on your right, where D.H. Lawrence attended from 1893-1898. He disliked school and surprisingly only gained average results, even in English. Lawrence became one of the first boys from Eastwood to gain a scholarship to Nottingham High School, and then went on to train as a teacher, escaping a life down the pit.

4. Continue to walk down Lyncroft. You will pass the Lawrence family’s fourth home in Eastwood (number 97). This house was built on the steep hillside of Lyncroft and shows the family’s social improvement. It was the only semi-detached property they lived in and had a garden leading onto a field around the back.

Turn left onto Walker Street, walk down this street until you reach number 10, the house marked with an information board, on the left. This was the Lawrence family’s third house in Eastwood. See the stone slab leading to the front door saying ‘Bleak House’, Lawrence’s nickname for this property. Imagine the view of the countryside from the windows.

Continue walking along Walker Street and take a right onto Nottingham Road. As you walk along the main high street, consider what Eastwood would have looked like during Lawrence’s life time. Peak down the side streets and catch a glimpse of the countryside beyond that inspired many of his works.

Take a right down Victoria Street to reach your starting point, the D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum.

What to read on this walk...