

FRITH WOOD and SUMMERLEY

A short walk in the
countryside near Dronfield

Produced by: Old Dronfield Society,
Dronfield & District Natural
History Society, Dronfield
Footpaths & Bridleways Society



The Walks

The waymarked walks are designed to help you not only enjoy the countryside but to learn something about its natural and local history.

Both the short walk and its extension start and finish at the car parking area at the south end of Frith Wood which is approached from the B6057 in Dronfield via Callywhite Lane.

The walks are in countryside that presents the walker with a variety of interesting scenery. The short walk incorporates a woodland walk, viewpoint and historic farming hamlet before returning by a sunken path. The extension passes through an area which provides evidence of a 19th century coal mining industry and returns via the upper end of Callywhite Lane.

Strong footwear is recommended as some areas, especially in the wood, can be muddy.

Please follow the Country Code.



Just follow the waymarkers.

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Frith Wood Walk

2 miles - allow 1.5 hours
Follow the Green discs

The wood is ancient woodland which shows evidence of coppicing carried out generations ago. Trees were cut close to the ground and from the stump sprang a number of shoots which produced a higher yield of wood. Apart from the wood as a fuel, three other fuels have been produced in the wood - charcoal for the early iron and steel industries. 'White coal', a kiln dried wood for lead smelting and in more recent times, coal.



It is a mixed woodland with oak, silver birch, rowan, ash, beech, sycamore and holly (once grown as fodder for sheep, cattle and deer). There is also a stand of larch in the centre.

The wood is rich in bird life and the quiet walker may see a variety of species from the quiet tree creeper to the flamboyant jays and magpies. Smaller birds such as blue tits and great tits are always present and in early summer they are joined by blackcaps and willow warblers who fill the wood with their song.



Yellow Pimpernel

Red Campion

In Spring the woodland floor is carpeted with bluebells and wood anemones. Later in the year you may see a broad leaved helleborine or a yellow pimpernel, a small flower which is an indicator of an ancient, undisturbed woodland.

After the bluebells there is little plant life under the dense foliage of the beech trees, but in sunlit glades, cuckoo pints, red campions and hawkbits will flourish.

The pond is now a small nature reserve. Frogs, newts and toads can usually be seen there at breeding times.

After leaving Frith Wood, the walk climbs to a viewpoint. On a clear day there are delightful views southwards to Sheffield and over Dronfield to the moorlands of the Peak District.

The post and wire fences are the product of opencast mining in the 1950s. The landscape bears witness to the damage that such operations can cause to the environment.

Wood Anemone



*Broad
Leaved
Helleborine*



*Cuckoo
Pint*

Summerley Walk

An extra 1.25 miles - allow 2.5 hours in all.
First follow the Green discs to Summerley,
then follow the Blue discs.

Summerley (which means summer pasture), is a picturesque hamlet. Summerley Farm to the right of the road, and Summerley Hall around the corner, both date from the early 17th century. They both have a central chimney stack and projecting drip moulds over the windows to prevent rain damage to the mullions.

Note: The mounting block in front of the Hall.



From the Hall, the routes divide, the short route returning by a sunken lane to the starting point. Where the path meets the wood, look for the outcrop of coal in the banks.

The extended walk runs down the fields to a pair of five barred gates between which was the route of the former branch line that served collieries in the area. To the right is the site of the former Summerley Colliery.



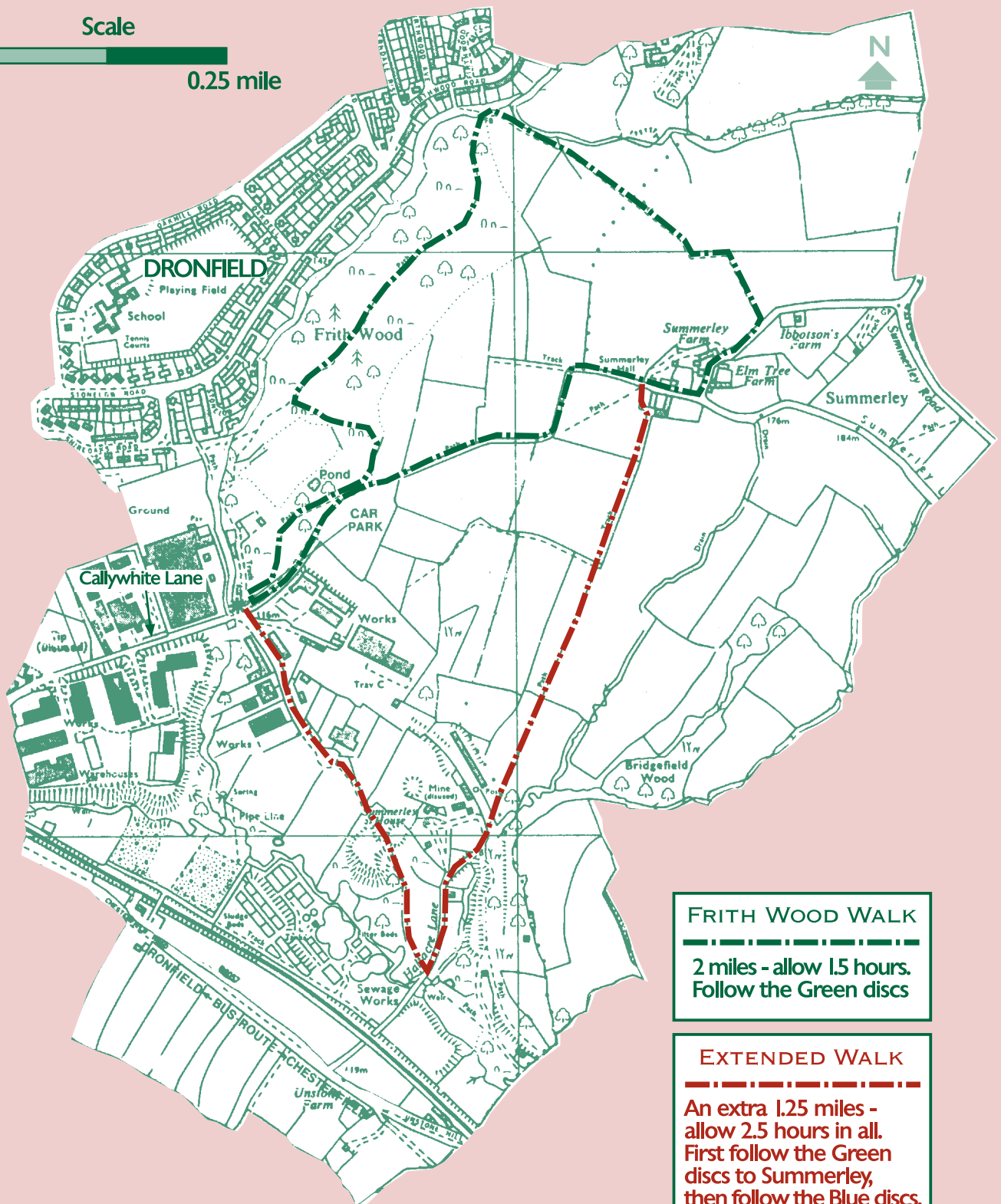
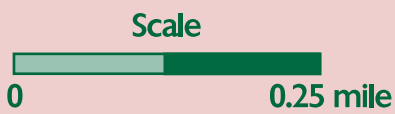
Summerley Colliery worked the Silkstone or Blackshale seam. It was sunk in 1871, producing coke for Sheffield from its beehive shaped coke ovens. The remains of these ovens are on private land and are a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM). The colliery closed in 1884.

The walk turns right just before the River Drone is reached. On the way to Callywhite Lane it passes through old colliery spoil heaps. In Autumn this is a good area for spotting different species of fungus. Fly agaric, the parasol mushroom and common puffball are most noticeable.

Summerley Farm



Frith Wood & Summerley Walk



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