



**Westthorpe Colliery**

Opened in 1923 employing 100 men. By 1947 when the National Coal Board took over, there were just fewer than 1,000 workers. The colliery closed in 1984 and reclamation began in 1997 to return the site to nature.

**Westthorpe colliery** ★

Has been both deep and opencast mined during its history. It was part of the South Yorkshire coalfield which produced the bituminous coal, needed for making coal gas and coke. This was then used in the manufacture of iron and steel.

**High Moor Colliery** ★

The home of the Pole family who were prominent figures in the church politics in the 16th Century. A date of 1610 appears above one of the porticos. The house used to be a country club and hotel but is now a private residence. Please respect the owner's privacy.



**Gatekeeper Butterfly**

**Park Hall** ★

**River Rother** ★

The River is around 27 miles long from its source in Pilsley, Derbyshire to where it meets the River Don in Rotherham and is the main feed source for the Chesterfield Canal. Due to the local industries, the river's water quality deteriorated and by 1974 was considered to be unable to sustain life. With the closure of the industries, the water quality has now recovered and provides a habitat for a wide range of wildlife including Water Voles and Kingfishers.

**Killamarsh Station** ★

Killamarsh had three railway lines running through it; the platform you can see is the former southbound platform, Killamarsh Central which was on the Great Central Railway line, later to become part of London and North Eastern Railway (LNER). The station closed in 1963 and the line closed fully in 1981, living out the end of its days serving Arkwright Colliery.

**Refreshments**

Killamarsh town centre has a range of shops and food outlets along with several public houses on or just off the route.

**Car Parking**

Is available at Killamarsh Shopping Centre, S21 1FY. Or some roadside parking is allowed in Westfield Road Industrial Estate, off Green Lane, S21 1TZ.

As you follow the route up to Park Hall, the village dominates the skyline to your right. Spinkhill is only a small village but has a historic past. It is first mentioned on a tax list known as a Pipe Roll in 1273. The name 'spink' in the Derbyshire dialect is any bird of the finch family, especially the chaffinch. Do you think this was a place where chaffinch roosted?

**Spinkhill** ★

This is an old pack horse route that links Eckington and Killamarsh and would have been well used, before the canal and railways were built, to carry goods between the villages.

**Old Pack Horse Route** ★

This is the line of the Chesterfield Canal designed by canal pioneer James Brindley, built 1771 - 1777. Forty six miles of Canal connect Chesterfield to the River Trent at West Stockwith. This section of the canal is still to be restored. For more information and to see how you can help visit [www.chesterfield-canal-trust.org.uk](http://www.chesterfield-canal-trust.org.uk)

**Chesterfield Canal** ★

Once part of the Great Central Railway; this now forms part of the southern link of the Trans Pennine Trail. These embankments have little disturbance and are now a haven for plants and animals. Look out for the wildflowers and butterflies through the spring and summer.

**Beighton to Staveley Trail** ★

**Easy to follow circular routes**

See map inside and follow these waymarks.

**Westthorpe and River Rother Walk**

6.5km (4 miles) allow 2.5 hours.



**Westthorpe Colliery Loop**

7km (4.5 miles) allow 3 hours.



**Combined walk**

13km (8.5 miles) allow 5 hours.

Waymarks are fixed at changes of direction. Make sure you have good footwear. Mud, stiles and steep slopes may make the walks difficult for some people. The short sections along the canal are easy-going and relatively dry.

For further information or if you have difficulty in reading this leaflet, it is available in other formats.

For details telephone: 01246 551035  
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**St Giles Church**

Killamarsh was mentioned in the Domesday Book under the name of Chineswoldemaresc. It was originally a farming community but boomed during the 19th and 20th century after the discovery of its rich coal supplies. This fed the Sheffield iron and steel industry. Take a little time to explore the churchyard of St. Giles and see if you can find the Saxon Cross and wooden stocks.

**Killamarsh**

**Features of interest**

**Countryside walks in Killamarsh & Westthorpe**

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**DERBYSHIRE**  
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# Westthorpe Colliery and River Rother Walk



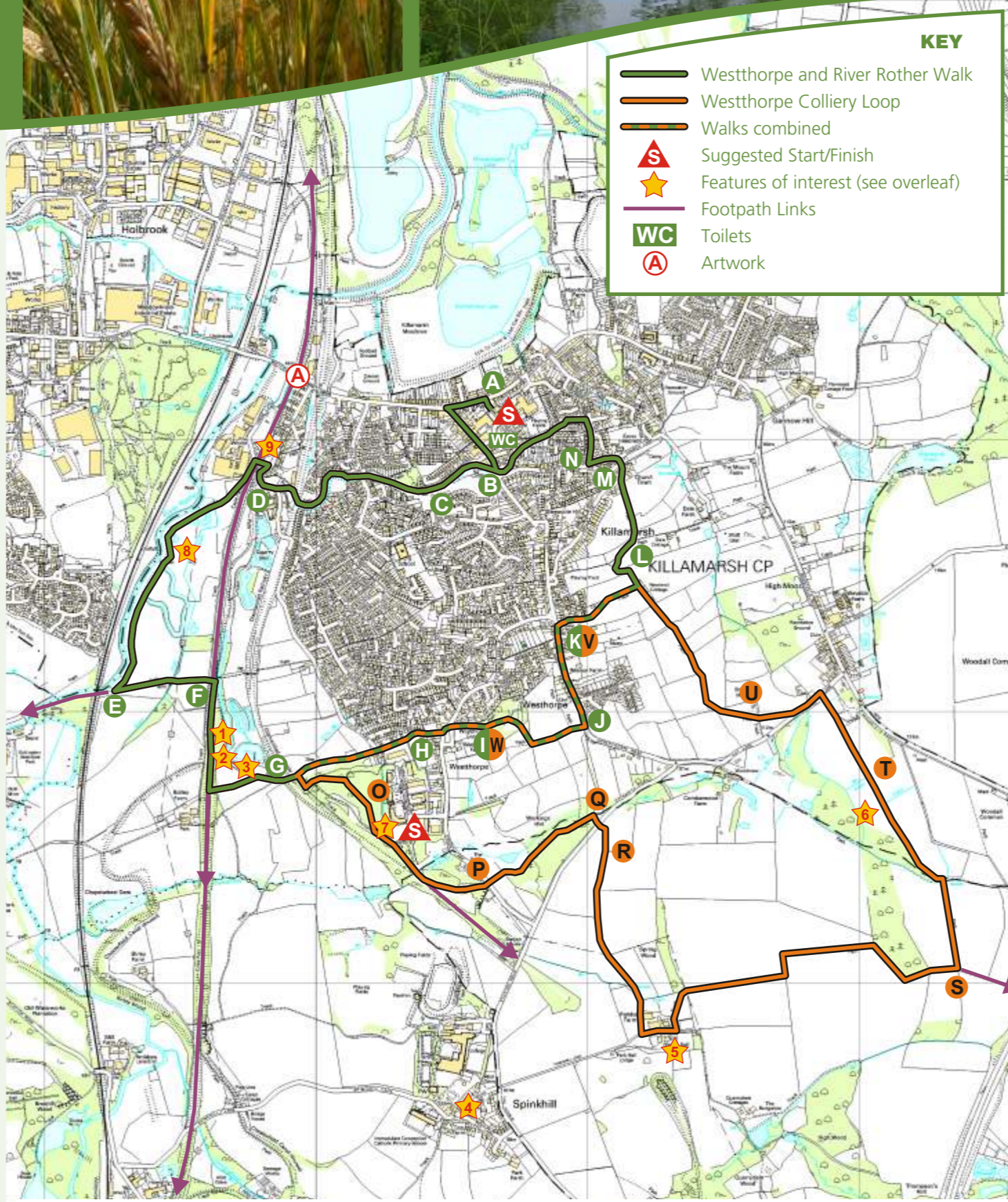
## Follow the Countryside Code

- Be safe - plan ahead & follow the signs.
- Leave gates & property as you find them.
- Protect plants & animals, take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under close control.
- Consider other people.

## River Rother Walk

Start: Parkside Shopping Centre.

- A** Turn left along main road and take first left up Bridge Street.
- B** Go past the junction with Peacock Close and turn right just past 'The Lodge' Nursing Home and follow the narrow path along the route of the disused Chesterfield Canal.
- C** Go through gate, keeping hedge on right. Cross Metcalfe Avenue and continue along under metal railway bridge. On reaching Field Lane turn right and walk down to the Killamarsh Greenway waymarker post.
- D** Cross over the old railway footbridge and turn left. Cross stile on right at end of security fence. (This is a permissive path, granted by the Environment Agency). Bear left and walk right along raised causeway beside River Rother. Look out for water voles in the river here!
- E** Just after the end of the raised embankment, go through the metal kissing gate and turn immediately over the stile. Cross two fields and go over the lane and up the wooden steps to disused railway line (part of the Trans Pennine Trail and National Cycle Network).
- F** Turn right along trail. After 250 metres, turn left through kissing gate and up path to tarmac lane (Boiley Lane).
- G** Turn left along the lane, go over the bridge, if you wish to walk the full loop, turn right through the barrier and head into Westthorpe Hills, follow the way marked route through the site and skip to orange instruction P. To continue on the River Rother Walk, carry on until the end of the lane. Turn right onto the road at the top of Boiley Lane (Crofters Close) and head towards the West End Hotel.
- H** Cross Green Lane, and take the road straight ahead at side of terraced houses (Ross Court). Take the track straight ahead and go through metal gate.
- I** After 30 metres bear right at waymark post, cross the stile and bear left. Continue through the small field and cross the stile. Continue ahead to bottom left corner of field. Go over stile in hedge on left, follow path ahead along field edge to Upperthorpe Road.
- J** Cross road and turn left along the footpath.
- K** Just before the Nags Head pub, turn right at public footpath sign. Go past garages. Follow track to house at path junction. Turn left along hedged path. Follow line of hedgerow. Bear right round field to wooden steps cut into the embankment. Descend steps and cross stile.
- L** Follow hedge down to your right. Bear left and go over stile. Continue on path to Ashley Lane.
- M** Head right down the road towards the church. At church turn left along Kirkcroft Lane.
- N** Turn right into Kirkcroft Avenue. At bend bear left towards edge of Leisure Centre complex. At end of road take the path on your immediate left along the tarmac path. Bear right on path then continue until Bridge Street is reached. Turn right to retrace your steps back to the start.



0 1km

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## Westthorpe Loop

- O** Parking in the industrial estate, head down the road into Westthorpe Hills, follow the way marked route through the site.
- If starting the route follow instructions from here. Enter Westthorpe via the Barrier at the end of the road; continue straight along the path in a southerly direction, upon reaching a surfaced area carry on over heading towards Green Lane.
- P** Cross the road with caution, follow the marked footpath. At the end of the path ('T' Junction) take the right-hand path up the hill, doubling back on yourself uphill for 130 metres until you see the finger post on your left.
  - Q** Cross the wooden sleeper bridge to the road and cross the road with caution. Go through the kissing gate on the opposite side, and cross the field diagonally to the right to the wicket gate where the hedges meet in the top left hand corner of the field.
  - R** Go through the wicket gate and cross the next field keeping the hedge on your immediate left. Go through the field gate and up the next field towards right-hand side of the farm buildings, the wicket gate is found next to the gate, turn left following the farm road between the buildings. After you've passed the buildings follow the road round to the right before turning left at the way marker which now takes the route along the left hand field edges.
  - S** As you follow the way marked route, you will come on to the site of the former Highmoor Colliery which later became an opencast site. The trails and newly planted woodlands on your left are part of the site reclamation. At the end of the plantation go through two metal kissing gates, turning sharp left after the second one, and follow the left hand side of the field to a third kissing gate.
  - T** Follow the footpath to the left and over the brow of the hill, passing through several gates as you go until you come to a road. Cross the road with caution and turn left along the pavement for approximately 100 metres. Turn right at the fingerpost onto the footpath and cross the next 2 fields.
  - U** At the corner of the second field, cross the stile and follow the path to the hedge on your left. Keep the hedge on your left until you cross the stile. Continue with the hedge on your right. Follow the path through the wicket gates until you pass the house and outbuildings on your right. At this point, turn left and follow the route back to Westthorpe or carry straight on to L and follow the instructions for the full walk.
  - V** Turn left at the road and carry on until you leave the houses behind. Where the road turns sharp left, cross carefully (busy road) and cross the stile in the hedge. Keep the hedge on your left until you cross the next stile, bear right across the field to the next stile, cross this and bear diagonally left across this field to the lane.
  - W** Heading towards the houses you will reach the main road, at the West End Hotel, cross the road and head down Crofters Close. five hundred metres down Crofters Close take the left-hand fork in the road named Boiley Lane. Carry on down this lane passing a row of houses on your left-hand side, turning left where the green barrier is set back from the roadside and turning into Westthorpe, follow the way markers through the site until you reach your starting point next to the industrial estate.