

M - Summerley Colliery

The walk runs down the fields to a line of fencing along which runs the route of the former branch line that served the collieries in the area. To the right is the site of the former Summerley Colliery. The colliery was sunk in 1871 to work the Silkstone, or Blackshale, Seam to provide coke for Sheffield.

N - Nature Reserve

Walk along the boardwalk and enjoy the natural surroundings which are managed by the Three Valleys Project. As you walk along the boardwalk you will see a pond on your left. This is managed as a nature pond and in spring you might see newts, frogs and toads.

To the right of the pond, if you look carefully, you will see the arch-topped brick remnants of the old mineral railway line. As charcoal and coke production has been a long tradition in the area, it is possible there has been some sort of oven here since medieval times, but especially during the Industrial Revolution.

As you follow the track back to the start you are walking along the old mineral railway line that served Unstone Mine.



Easy to follow circular routes

See the map inside and follow these waymarkers.

Full walk distance including the Unstone Line is 4 miles (6.5km). Allow 2 hours.
Frith Wood and Summerley Walk is 3.25 miles (5.3km). Allow 1.5 hours.



Waymarkers are fixed at changes of direction. Make sure you use good footwear. Mud, stiles and steep slopes can make this walk difficult for some people.

Travel information

Parking available at: Unstone Community Centre, Church Lane and Shireoaks Road, Dronfield. Why not use public transport and help the environment? For bus and rail services call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 (national rate call), Type Talk on 18001 0871 200 22 33. For more details on public transport in Derbyshire log on to www.derbyshire.gov.uk/transport/public_transport

For further information please contact Tapton Lock Visitor Centre on 01246 551035.

If you have difficulty in reading this leaflet it can be made available in other formats. For details telephone the above number.

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Frith Wood, Summerley and Unstone

Countryside Walks in Derbyshire No. 4
With links from Dronfield, Apperknowle
and Coal Aston



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Features of Interest

take a closer look - see map overleaf ☆



C - Metapic Wood

Metapic Wood is a recently planted woodland. Near the top of the slope you will find a seat on which to rest a while, called, appropriately "Rest a While"! At the top of this wood is a large rock with holes in it; what do you think this could be? How was it formed? Take some time to wander around at the top, where you will find a mini nature reserve.

F - Nature pond

Thought to have been formed by the extraction of clay during the 19th Century for the local brick works, the pond is now part of a small nature area created to provide habitats for frogs, toads and newts which may be spotted at breeding time.

F - The Field

The Field is owned by the Guides and is often used during the summer for nature watch activities. During the First World War, prisoners of war were held in a camp built in the Field.

G - Frith Wood

Frith Wood is an ancient, semi-natural mixed woodland (with oak, silver birch, rowan, ash, sycamore and holly) showing evidence of coppicing carried out generations ago. Beech and larch were planted to use as props for the mines, which probably provided coal to local industries. (Callywhite Lane has long been an industrial area).

The wood is rich in bird life from tree creepers to flamboyant jays and magpies. In spring the woodland floor is carpeted in bluebells and wood anemones. Later in the year you may see broad-leaved helleborine or yellow pimpernel; this small flower is an indicator of ancient woodland.



H - Delightful views

After leaving Frith Wood you will climb to a viewpoint. On a clear day there are pleasant views over the countryside. Southwards is the Crooked Spire of Chesterfield. To the north look for Norton Water Tower and Sheffield, to the west is Dronfield and beyond that the gritstone moorlands of the Peak District.



I - Summerley Hall

Summerley (which means summer pasture) is a picturesque hamlet. On the opposite hills evidence of Neolithic life were found, and the ancient field furrows are visible from here. Summerley Farm on the right and Summerley Hall just around the corner, both date from the early 17th Century. Both have a central chimney stack and projecting drip moulds over the windows to prevent rain damage to the mullions. Look for the mounting block in front of the hall. (See cover photograph).

Frith Wood, Summerley and Unstone

Frith Wood, Summerley and Unstone Walk 4 miles (6.5km) - allow 2 hours

A - Starting from the Unstone Community Centre on Church Street, the Unstone Line is well sign-posted. Go through the kissing gate and follow the path that runs alongside the football field. After about quarter of a mile turn left and go down the steps towards the industrial units.

B - Turn right after the units and follow the track until you reach the two houses. Carry straight on between the two stable blocks/fields, along the boardwalk.

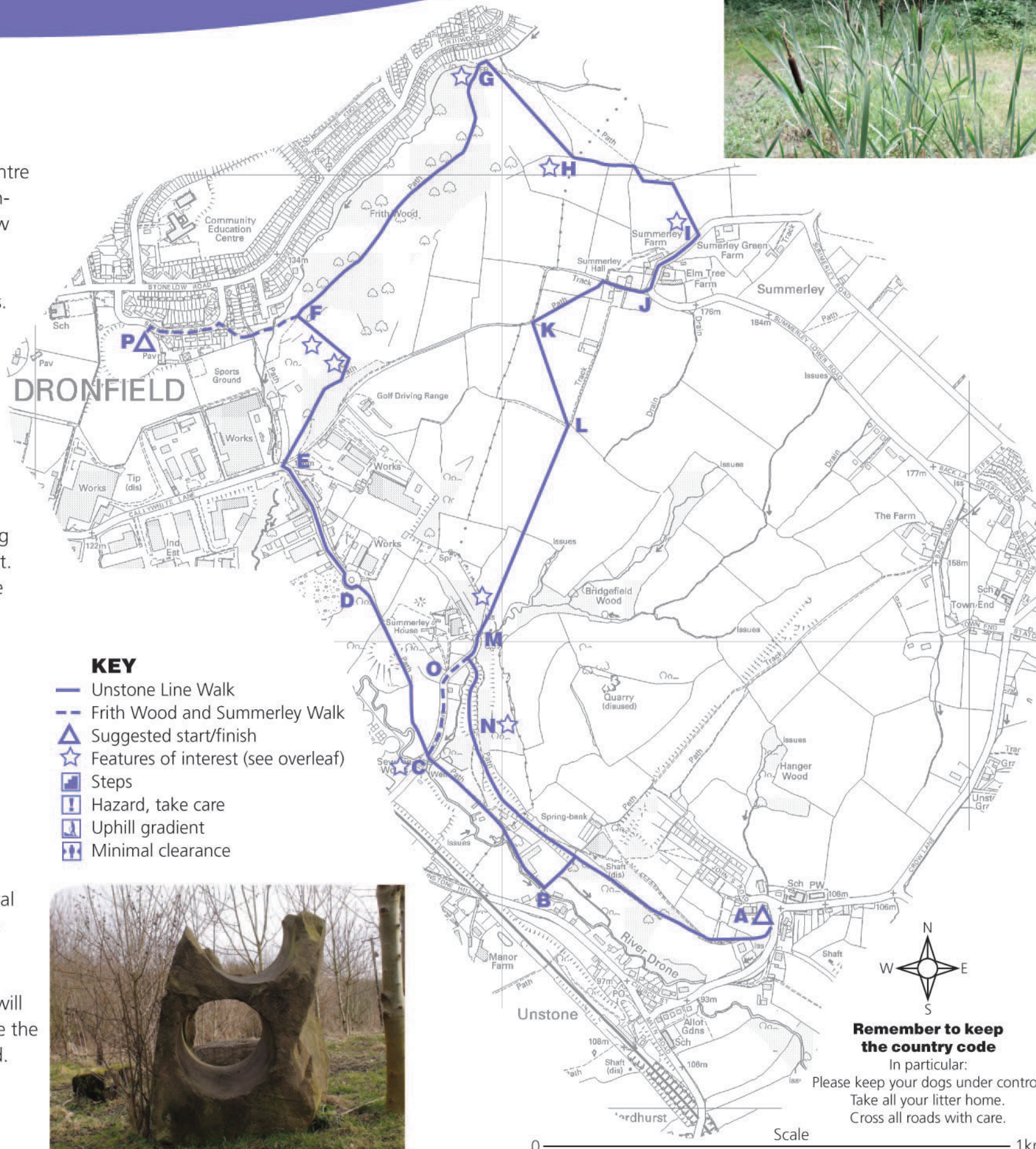
C - Cross the lane, over the stile and into Metapic Wood. Cross the meadowland that was planted with native trees in 2002, climbing the short hill, with the mature trees to your left. Rest a while on the 'rest-a-while' bench before continuing to the stile on your left. Cross the stile and climb the few steps.

D - Follow the footpath until you come out at the end of Callywhite Lane (facing a grass roundabout). Keep to the footpath as large vehicles use this road. Follow Callywhite Lane until it bears left. At the corner turn right into Frith Wood.

E - Enter Frith Wood through the large gate behind the Frith Wood sign and take the central path through the wood, taking the left fork to the pond.

F - To the left of the pond is an opening that will take you to the Guides Field. Turn left and take the path and then turn right up through the wood.

G - Go through Frith Wood to the top left corner, keeping the houses on your left.



Sculpture in Metapic Wood



Unstone Line pond

At the top of the wood drop down the steps to the bridge (but don't cross it), then go back up the other side keeping the brook on your left.

H - Follow the field edge to the top of the hill, pausing to admire the view, before turning left and climbing the stile.

I - Continue over the next field, keeping the hedgerow to your right, until you reach a stile on your right. Take this stile and follow the path across the field towards the stone wall and through the squeeze stile. Turn right and follow the lane into Summerley passing Summerley Farm. At the road junction turn right past Summerley Hall.

J - Just past the Hall, a finger post with a way-marker indicates a path to the left. Go over the stile and cross the field diagonally to the middle stile in the fence. Continue to the bottom right corner of the field.

K - At this point cross the stile and go diagonally to the bottom left corner of this field.

L - Cross the next stile and go straight on through the next two fields to the bottom stile and gate.

M - Climb the stile beside the gate into the lane.

N - To return to Unstone turn left through the 'A' frame onto the path. Follow the path along the boardwalk, which may be slippery if wet.

Frith Wood and Summerley Walk 3.25 miles (5.2km) - allow 1.5 hours

P - A shorter walk can be enjoyed by parking on Shireoaks Road in Dronfield. From the car park turn right and follow the road down to the footpath at the corner. Turn right at the Frith Wood sign and left into the wood through the kissing gate. Continue through **F** to **M**.

To return to Frith Wood continue along the lane and enter Metapic Wood on your right and then follow the directions through **C** to **F** before returning to the bottom of Frith Wood.