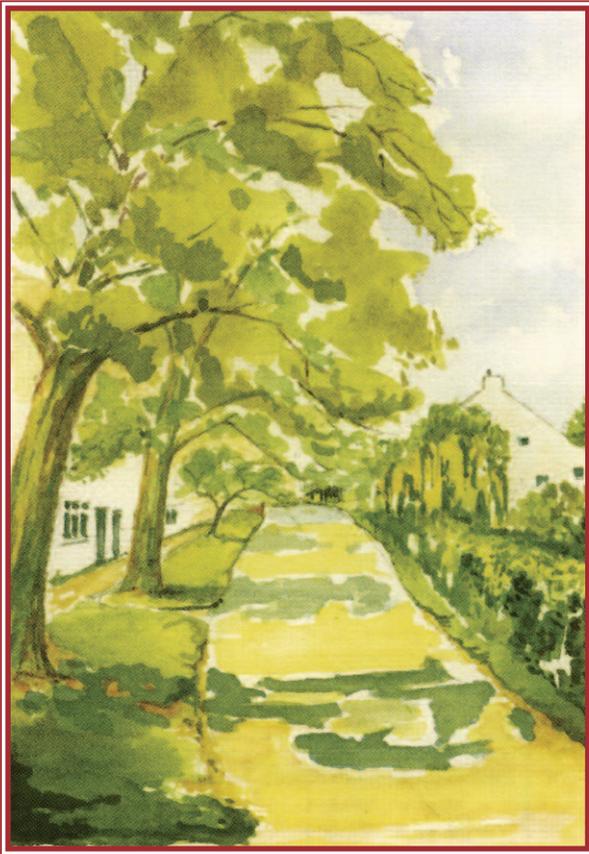


SHINCLIFFE Walks



The five walks described in this leaflet will take visitors through delightful countryside with extensive views, rich with wildlife and historical association.

Walk 1

OLD WORLD CHARM, Woods and a Racecourse

Start: The Seven Stars

Length: 3 miles

Duration: 2 hours

Shincliffe Village is an example of a 'roadside village' with narrow greens bordering the roadway. At each end of the street the view out is 'stopped' giving the village the appearance of being enclosed.

Take the path down the street. The Church **A**, behind the Rectory on the R was built in the 'Early English' style. Adjacent to the Church Hall is Forge Cottage reminding us of the days when blacksmiths provided an essential service.

At the bend in the road turn L into Hall Lane. Opposite the Garden Centre were four rows of miners' cottages which were demolished after the closure of Houghall Pit in the 1880s. Continue to Shincliffe Hall **B** which was built around 1781 by William Rudd, Recorder of Durham.

Shincliffe Wood is mixed woodland and provides a habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. From the woods are good views across the river to Houghall and along the wooded escarpment. Climb the hill to High Butterby Farm and turn L here onto the tarmac lane. In approx. a quarter of a mile turn L into Strawberry Lane.

Strawberry Lane crosses the site of Shincliffe Racecourse **C**. The Racecourse opened in May 1895 and closed with the advent of the 1st World War. When it re-opened in 1918 it failed to draw the crowds.

Where the grassy track of Strawberry Lane meets the tarmac road, turn L to West Grange Farm and follow the path through Shincliffe Wood to Hall Lane and return to the village.

Walk 2

The Waggonway Walk

Start: The Seven Stars

Length: 2 miles

Duration: 1½ hours

Follow WALK 1 through the village and Hall Lane to arrowed path on the L at the brow of the rise before Shincliffe Hall. The path rises steeply through the wood, goes round a field and passes through West Grange Farm to join Strawberry Lane. Turn L and in a quarter of a mile cross the A177, pass through the lay-by and arrive at the mapboard at the beginning of High Street.

High Shincliffe had its origins as a settlement with the sinking of the colliery in 1837. Follow the path along High Street and turn L after No.9a. On the L is Shincliffe Primary School built in 1968 on the site of the colliery **D**. Turn first L into Meldon Way, and from here the walk follows the route of the old waggonway from the mine.

Keep to the L hand path through the houses. Cross the road. On the R is the old pit heap **E**, now covered with heather, birch, hawthorn and briar. Here too, on each side of the track, were the kilns of the brick works which used clay from the mine. The waggonway linked up with the Shincliffe to Sunderland Railway.

Just beyond the pit heap turn L and cross the stile. The field walk passes above the old Shincliffe School of 1866 and joins the main A177 road above the Seven Stars.



Walk 3

Schools, Collieries and Lepers

Start: Mapboard, High Shincliffe (park in the lay-by)

Length: 3¼ miles

Duration: 2½ hours

Passing the former Post Office, turn L into Heathways and follow the road. After the sharp R hand bend there are two cottages on the L which were the first Shincliffe School built in 1841 **F**. Continue to the old waggonway and turn L. At the end of the old pit heap turn R following the field path to cross Whitwell Beck Bridge. Cross the field, keeping slightly R and go under the railway built in 1844 by the N.E. Railway Co., the first to link the capital cities of London and Edinburgh. Follow the path through the field towards the A1(M). Cross the footbridge, pass Whitwell House Farm and continue down the lane. In a quarter of a mile the road passes through the site of Whitwell Village and the arrowed gate on the R leads to the site of Whitwell Colliery opened in 1836 **G**.

Stay on the lane and continue past Whitwell Junction and Whitwell Grange to the A181 Hartlepool road. Cross the road and follow Shincliffe Lane to Sherburn Hospital **H**. Founded in 1184 for the care of lepers, it now provides residential accommodation for elderly people. Turn left passing the Hospital on the R.

In the dip in the road take the marked footpath on the L. Note the mediaeval bridge **I** over the stream. In 100 yards climb to the old railway embankment and turn left up 2 steps onto the permissive path through the plantation. Continue to the A181 Hartlepool road. Turn R and follow the roadside path across the A1(M). Cross the road to take the track leading up the old waggonway to Manor House Farm.

Here was sited the stationary engine which probably hauled the coal waggons from the pit and where a brakeman controlled their descent to the main line.

Continue along the waggonway to the road and return to the lay-by.

Walk 4

Railway, Watermill and Woodland

Start: The Seven Stars

Length: 2 miles

Duration: 1½ hours

Cross the A177 road and turn up hill. Beyond the last cottage turn L crossing the stile. Keeping the hedge/fence on your L continue straight ahead. It can be muddy. Cross the stream on the L. Aim for the highest point where the views make the climb worthwhile.

Bear R into the valley following traces of a cart track to a stile into Sandy Cut Wood. Turn R along the former railway track - the first to serve Durham City and the local collieries - to the A181 Hartlepool road which you should cross. Turn R and continue along the road crossing the motorway to the marked footpath on the L. Cross the stile into the wood. In approx. 100 yards the path forks. The path to the R leads to Sherburn Hospital and returns via Sherburn Beck. (See WALK 3)

The L fork is a permissive path along the old railway embankment. At the end of this path turn L and follow the path downhill to Sherburn Beck and continue to the motorway. After the tunnel turn L and return to the stream. Bear R following the stream to its confluence with Whitwell Beck.

These streams once powered Shincliffe Mill **J**, now the site of the Nursery Garden. Cross the footbridge and continue to the main road. Turn R and in approx. 200 yards cross the main road to join the path in Sandy Cut. Turn R and walk through the cutting dug by hand in the 1880s. Turn L at the end of the cut. At the main road (A177) cross to path through the Churchyard and then turn L to return to the Seven Stars.

Walk 5

Walking the Bounds

Start: The Seven Stars

Length: 5½ miles

Duration: 4½ hours

Follow WALK 1 to High Butterby. Continue along the tarmac lane, passing South Grange, and then at the A177 the roadside path towards Bowburn. Turn L at the garage into Tail upon End Lane.

In half a mile turn L into the bridle path to Whitwell Farm South. Follow path to footbridge over A1(M) and past Whitwell House Farm. After about a quarter of a mile turn right over a stile and continue to Byers Garth farm on A181 Hartlepool road. Turn L here and take roadside path to Sherburn Hospital. Then follow WALK 3 and WALK 4 to Shincliffe Village.

Please Remember THE COUNTRY CODE

Parts of these paths could be wet and muddy. It is always advisable to wear appropriate clothing and footwear.

Shincliffe lies 2 miles to the South East of Durham City on the A177 Durham-Bowburn road.

Refreshments may be obtained at the pubs in High Shincliffe and Shincliffe Village.

This leaflet is produced by
SHINCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

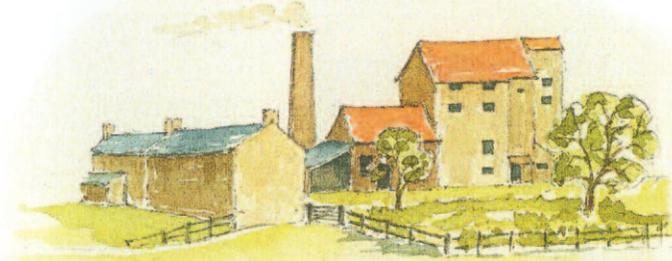


Illustrations by Michael Lowes

The Parish of Shincliffe

The Parish of Shincliffe was created in 1831 from that of St. Oswald's in Durham. With the sinking of the colliery in the late 1830s there evolved two main communities; the old village of Shincliffe with its agricultural associations and Shincliffe Colliery.

Today Shincliffe Village nestles quietly among its wooded hills bordering the River Wear while the more recently developed High Shincliffe spreads itself beyond the confines of the old colliery village with its distant views of the Cathedral City to the west and the magnesian limestone escarpment in the east. On the eastern boundary of the Parish is Sherburn House with its 12th century hospital.



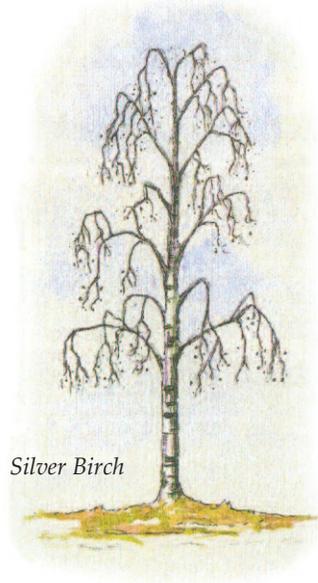
The Old Shincliffe Mill

Shincliffe Parish Council

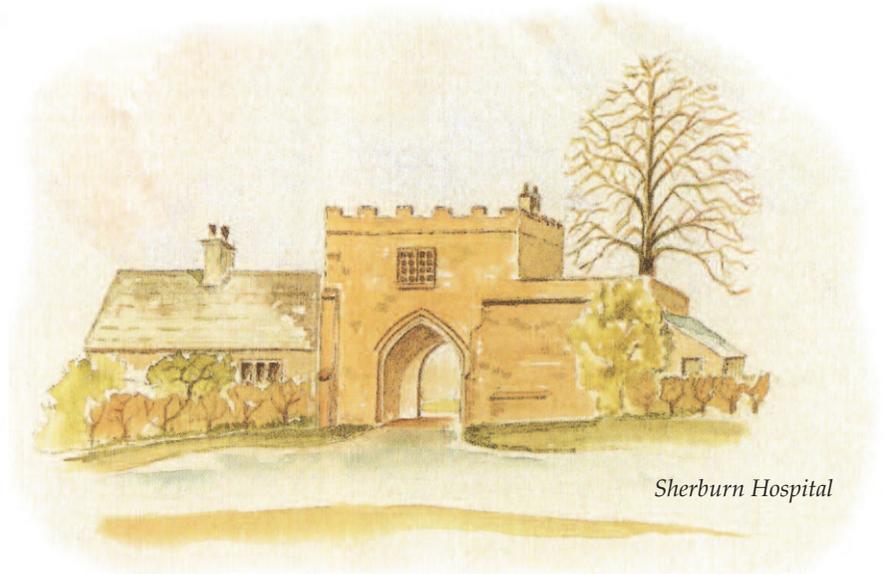
has been actively involved in maintaining and way-marking rights of way in the Parish. The walks shown are clearly marked and will be seen to inter-connect; they may be modified or extended beyond the bounds of the Parish.



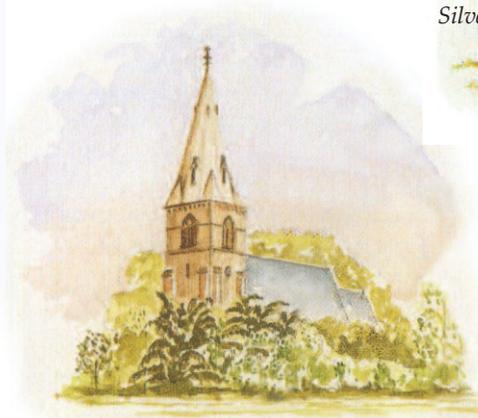
Grey Heron



Silver Birch



Sherburn Hospital



St. Mary's Church

Key to map

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk 1 Walk 2 Walk 3 Walk 4 Walk 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bridle Path Other Paths Motorway Railway Roads
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Scale: 6 inches to 1 mile

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Walk 4 Railway, Watermill and Woodland

This walk is notable for its views westward, the original track of the Shincliffe to Sunderland railway almost hidden in broadleaved woodland, and the remains of Shincliffe Mill. (It can be muddy underfoot)

Walk 3 Schools, Collieries and Lepers

High Shincliffe with the old Parochial School built in 1841, the pit heap (now a wildlife habitat), the wagonway from the colliery to the main line, the sites of Whitwell Village and the colliery, and the ancient Christ's Hospital of Sherburn founded in 1181 for the care of lepers, all await the visitor.

