

Memories and Futures

A self guided walk around Grimethorpe



Discover how a small hamlet was transformed into a thriving village

Learn about one of Britain's most productive coal mines

Find out why Grimethorpe became the most deprived village in Britain

Explore a community cautiously optimistic about the future

www.discoveringbritain.org

**the stories of our landscapes
discovered through walks**







This booklet is to be used alongside the audio commentary for this walk

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Memories and Futures

Explore the former pit village of Grimethorpe in South Yorkshire

Introduction

The 'golden pulley pit' was how Grimethorpe Colliery was known. It was one of the most productive coal mines in Britain, bringing a million tons to the surface each year.

Its 'black gold' fuelled power stations, factories, steam trains, home fires and even the boilers at Buckingham Palace. The colliery and its related industries employed six thousand workers.

By 1994 Grimethorpe was declared the most deprived village in Britain. The closure of the colliery had led to unemployment, poverty and despair.

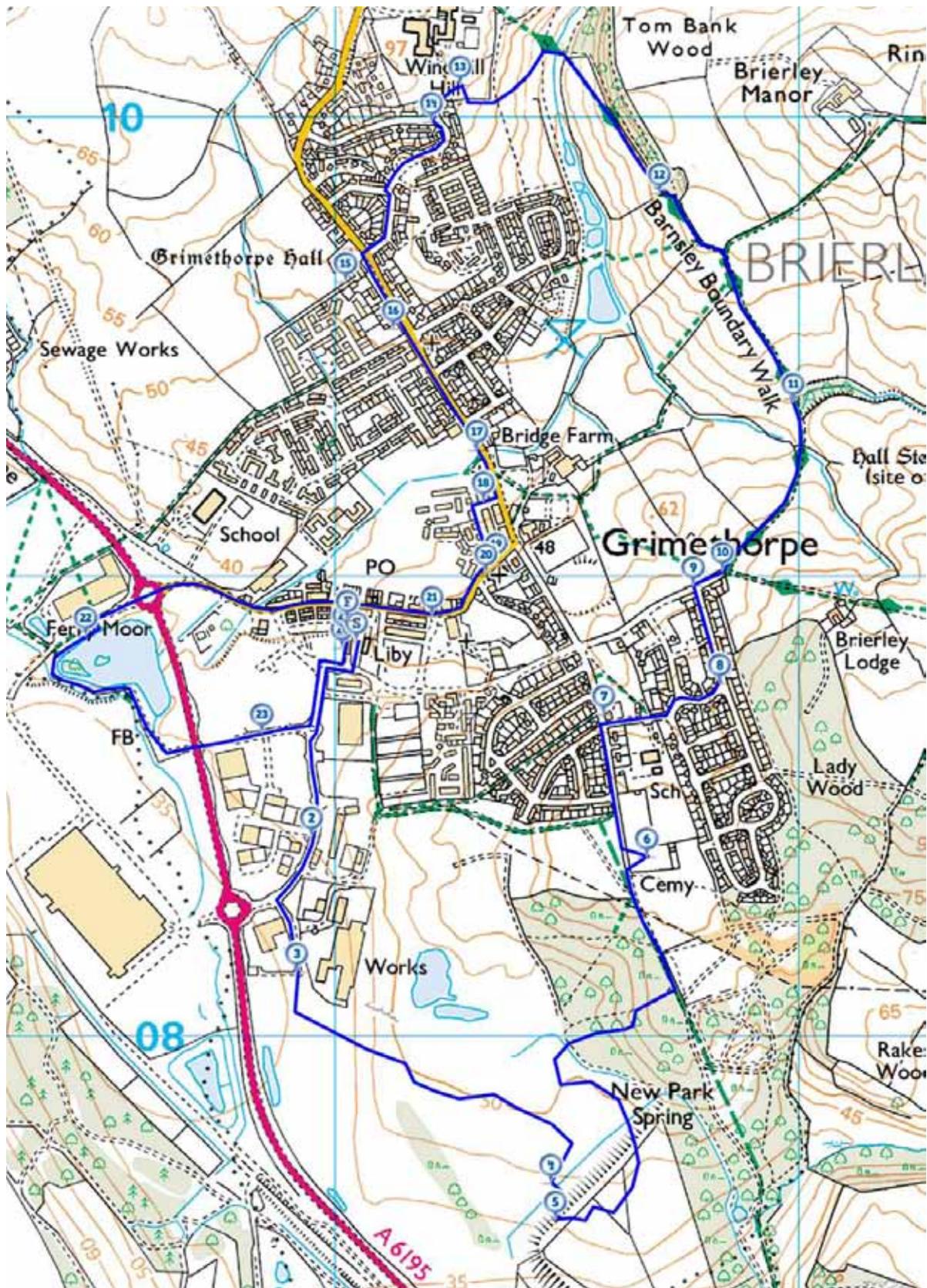
Then gradually regeneration funds were used to improve the physical environment, build new roads and houses, attract investors and create jobs, and rebuild the community's hope.

This walk tells the story of Grimethorpe in the days before, during and after coal by taking you on a journey around former industrial sites and new factories, fields and woods, residential streets and community institutions. It also hears from local people who reflect on the past and share their thoughts about the future.



This walk explores a landscape that has changed dramatically over the last 150 years
Courtesy of National Coal Mining Museum of England

Route overview



Practical information

Location	Grimethorpe, South Yorkshire
Getting there	<p>Train - the nearest mainline railway station is Barnsley (6 miles away)</p> <p>Car - Grimethorpe is easily accessible from the M1 and A1(M)</p> <p>Free car parking at the Acorn Centre (access from both the High Street and Acorn Way) on weekdays. At weekends we suggest parking on High Street outside the Acorn Centre. <i>Note: the gates of the Acorn Centre car park are locked at 6pm</i></p> <p>Bus - several local bus routes from Barnsley serve the village</p>
Start & finish point	The Acorn Centre, 51 High Street
Postcode	S72 7BB
Distance	5 ½ miles
Level	Gentle – A gently undulating route around the village and surrounding countryside
Conditions	The walk route is a combination of pavements, gravel tracks and footpaths

Suitable for

Dogs – should be kept on a lead in the village but would enjoy freedom from Stops 3 to 5 and Stops 10 to 12

Directions from the 'Grimethorpe Interchange' bus stop to the walk start

The main bus stop is known as 'Interchange' and is located in the centre of the village. From the mini-roundabout outside the supermarket go along the High Street. After about 120 metres take the second left turn and go through the gates into the Acorn Centre car park.

The Acorn Centre car park may be closed at weekends. If so: take the left turn just before the Acorn Centre entrance which is Cudworth View. The wall on the right is the perimeter wall of the Acorn Centre. Where the road bears round to the left, continue straight on the footpath next to the wall and fence. When you reach the road (Acorn Way) turn right. The back gates of the Acorn Centre are on the right after less than 100 metres.

Refreshments

A few places to buy refreshments and food near the High Street including a supermarket, newsagents and café; otherwise no cafes or pubs en route serving food.

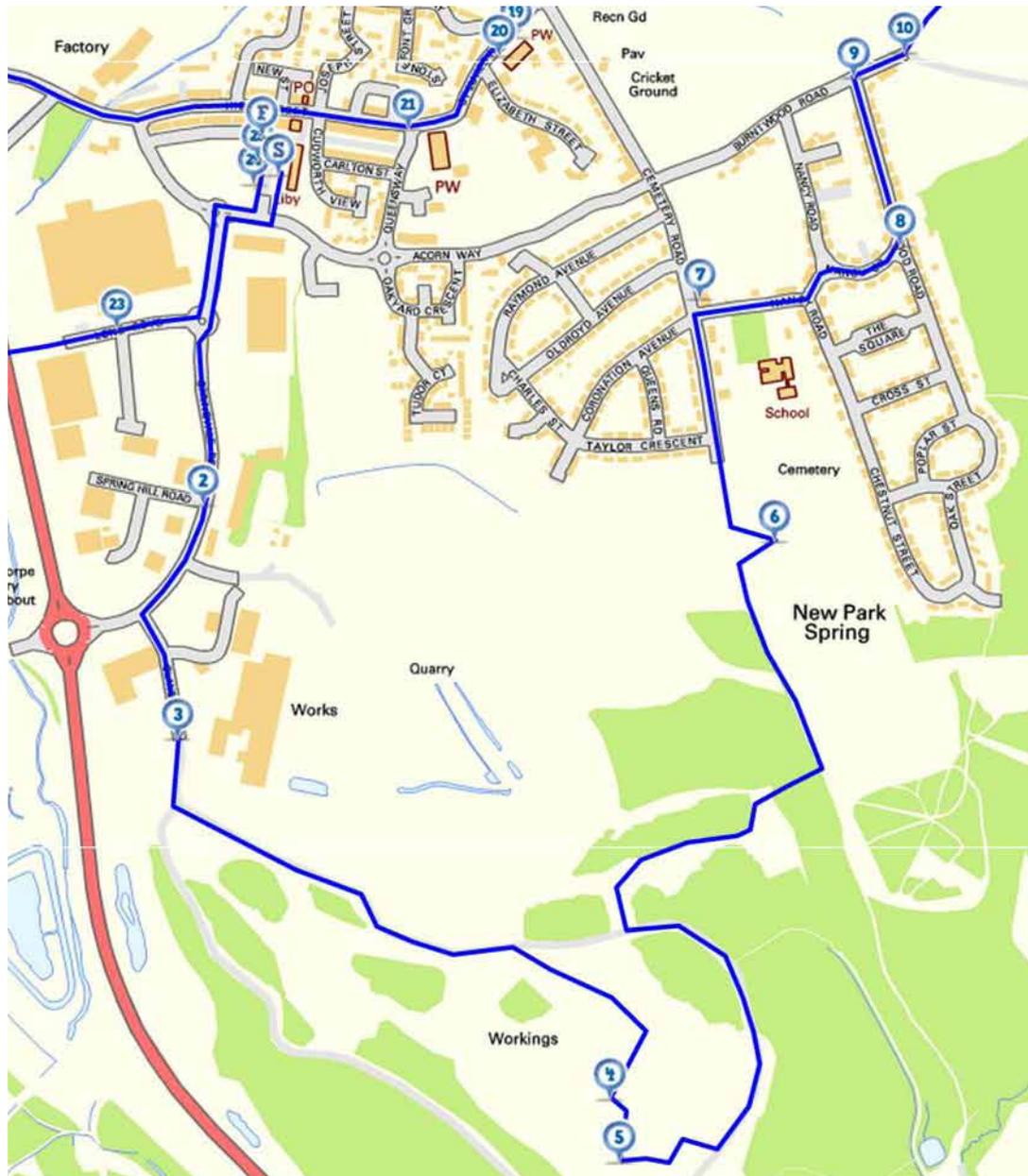
Facilities

No public toilets in the village or on the walk route; it may be possible to use facilities at The Red Rum pub (Stop 7) or The Bullet Sports and Social Club (between Stops 16 and 17).

Tourist information

Barnsley Tourist Information Centre, 46 Eldon Street, Barnsley, S70 2JL (Tel: 01226 206757)

Detailed map of the first part of the route



Stopping points

1. The Acorn Centre, 51 High Street
2. Junction of Springvale Road and Springhill Road
3. Top of Clayburn Road
4. Footpath up landscaped hill
5. Memorial at top of the hill
6. Grimethorpe Cemetery
7. The Red Rum pub
8. Junction of Nancy Crescent and Ladywood Road
9. Junction of Ladywood Road and Burntwood Road
10. End of Burntwood Road looking out onto open countryside

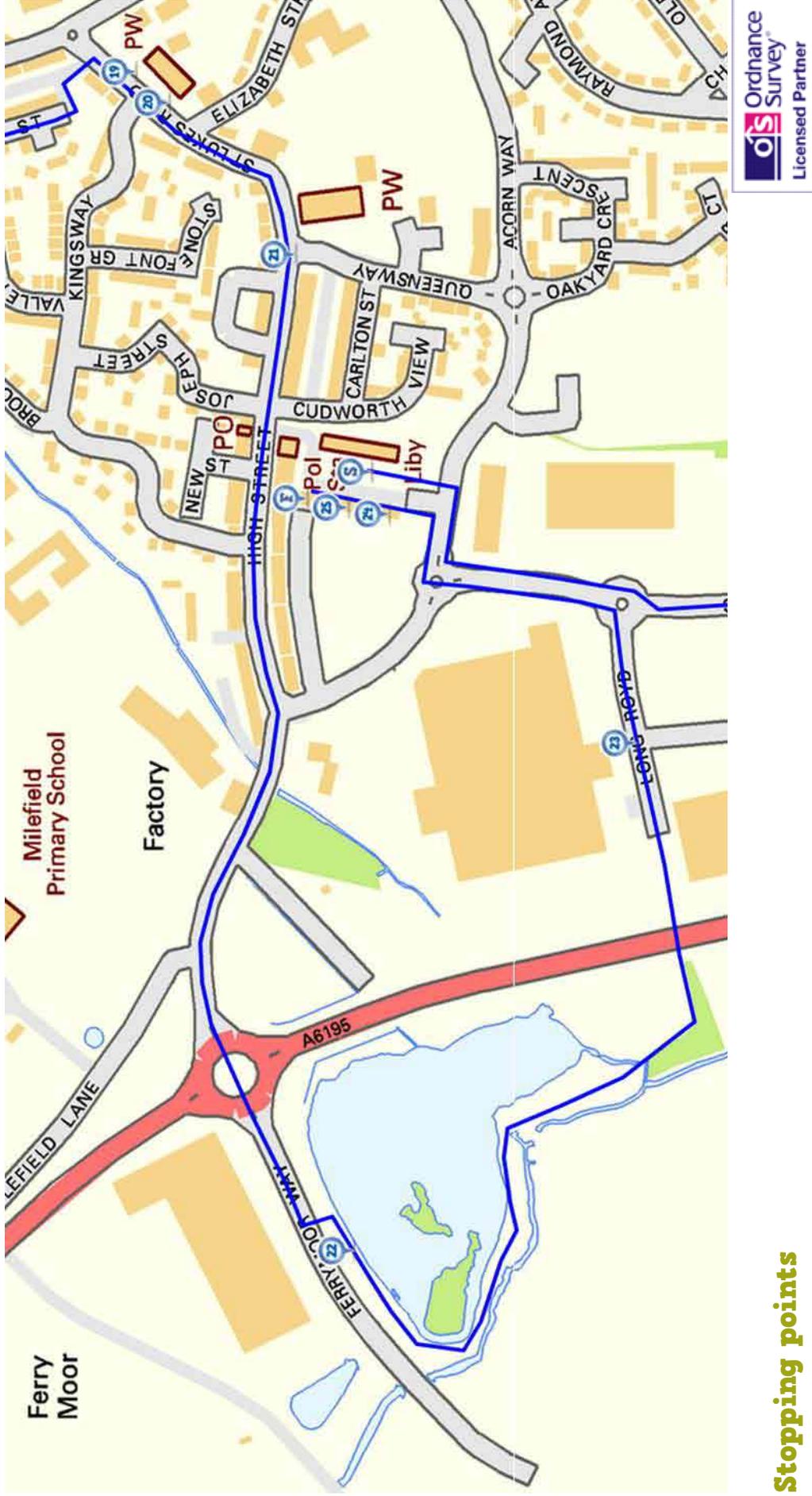
Detailed map of the middle part of the route



Stopping points

- 11.** Willowgarth, Barnsley Boundary Path
- 12.** Meadow below Tom Bank Wood
- 13.** Former site of Willowgarth High School, off Windmill Avenue
- 14.** Windmill Avenue
- 15.** Former Grimethorpe Hall, Brierley Road
- 16.** Brierley Road junction with Lilydene Avenue
- 17.** Bridge over Grimethorpe Dyke
- 18.** Alleyways off Brighton Street
- 19.** St Luke's Church, St Luke's Road
- 20.** Memorials outside St Luke's Church

Detailed map of the last part of the route



Stopping points

- 21.** Junction of St Luke's Road and High Street, site of former Grimethorpe Junior School
- 22.** Pond on Ferrymoor Way
- 23.** Park Springs Industrial Estate, Long Royd
- 24.** Grimethorpe Colliery Band, The Acorn Centre
- 25.** The Acorn Centre
- 26.** The Acorn Centre

Directions

These directions are for use with the Grimethorpe walk audio commentary. Listen to each track then read the directions below to get to the next stop.

1. Welcome to Grimethorpe

The Acorn Centre, High Street

Directions 1

If you are in the Acorn Centre car park in the centre of the complex, go through the gates at the 'back' entrance (i.e. not on High Street) and turn right onto Acorn Way.

If you are on the High Street and the Acorn Centre car park is closed (usually at weekends) you need to go around the perimeter of the site to the back. Next to the Acorn Centre entrance is Cudworth View. Walk along this road keeping alongside the wall on the right hand side. Where the road bears round to the left continue straight on the footpath next to the wall and fence. When you reach the road (Acorn Way) turn right. Pass the back gates of the Acorn Centre.

At the mini roundabout turn left into Springvale Road. Go straight on at the first roundabout (junction with Long Royd). After 200 metres is a right turn into Springhill Road. Stop by this junction and listen to Track 2.

2. A productive pit

Junction of Springvale Road and Springhill Road, former site of Grimethorpe Colliery

Directions 2

Note: If you are interested in seeing the site of the first shaft which Terry Hayes' grandfather helped to sink go into Springhill Road and take the first left. Just where the road starts to bend to the right go straight across the grass towards a tall pipe behind a high metal fence.

From the junction with Springhill Road continue straight along Springvale Road. Turn into the second road on the left which is Clayburn Road (if you reach a major roundabout you have gone too far). Pass the entrance to Carlton Brick Works on the left and continue to the top of the road. Stop at the metal gateway onto open land.

3. The dash for gas

Top of Clayburn Road, former site of Grimethorpe Colliery and tip

Directions 3

Go through the metal gateway and follow the broad footpath. At the first junction take the left fork along the main footpath and follow it as it snakes gradually upwards. After about 400 metres turn right onto a smaller footpath that leads uphill towards the top of the hill. Stop after 200 metres where a path goes off to the left and listen to Track 4.

4. The end of an era

Footpath up landscaped hill, former site of Grimethorpe tip

Directions 4

From the junction, take the path to the left and after 10 metres take the path to the right which leads to the top of the hill. Stop at the brick memorial and plaque. Listen to Track 5.

5. Grimey muck stack

Memorial at top of hill, former site of Grimethorpe tip

Directions 5

We're now to go from the top of the hill to the exit in the northeast corner so take a moment to orient yourself as there are several footpaths around the hill. Look down towards the brickworks and quarry. Follow the line of the metal perimeter fence to the right of the quarry to where it meets some trees just below some houses. This is the exit to aim for.

With your back to the brick memorial and plaque follow the footpath immediately ahead. At the first junction turn right and then left onto the main track which slopes gradually downwards around the hill. Take the second smaller path on the right which goes up towards the trees in the corner. After climbing steeply go through the metal gateway and through the trees. At the junction of paths turn left following the line of telegraph wires with the metal perimeter fence of the quarry on your left. Follow this path straight for about 250 metres until you reach some large boulders. Go past the boulders onto the road and turn right into the cemetery and listen to Track 6.

6. A repository of memories

Grimethorpe Cemetery, off Cemetery Road

Directions 6

When you are ready to leave, turn right onto the narrow lane with the cemetery on your right. Pass a school on the right and houses on both sides. Stop at The Red Rum pub on the corner of Nancy Road and listen to Track 7.

7. A community hub

The Red Rum pub, corner of Cemetery Road and Nancy Road

Directions 7

From the Red Rum pub, go along Nancy Road. After about 100 metres keep left into Nancy Crescent. Follow Nancy Crescent as it curves around for another 100 metres. Stop at the junction with Ladywood Road and listen to Track 8.

8. The runaway pram

Junction of Nancy Crescent and Ladywood Road

Directions 8

Turn left along Ladywood Road and follow it downhill. Stop at the T-junction at the bottom and listen to Track 9.

9. White City

Junction of Ladywood Road and Burntwood Road

Directions 9

Turn right along Burntwood Road with houses on your right and fields on your left. Stop where the road ends, looking out onto open countryside and listen to Track 10.

10. A natural playground

End of Burntwood Road looking out onto open countryside

Directions 10

From the end of Burntwood Road take the left hand of the two footpaths and follow it with the field on your right and hedgerow on your left. Follow it downhill to the lowest point. About 50 metres further as the path enters a copse of willow trees. Stop here and listen to Track 11.

11. Lord of the Manor

Willowgarth, on Barnsley Boundary Path

Directions 11

Follow the path through the willow trees and then as it climbs gradually between banks. In summer months this path may be quite overgrown. The path soon reaches the field level and you can stop to look at fine views towards the Pennines in the west. At the first rusty railing follow the signed path to the left. The path goes across the top of several fields towards a wood. At the edge of the wood is a crossroad of paths. Take the path on the left into the meadow just below the wood. Stop after about 20 metres and listen to Track 12

12. Tom Bank

Meadow below Tom Bank Wood

Directions 12

Follow the footpath as it goes diagonally downwards across the meadow below the wood. At the far side of the meadow follow the path into the trees and turn left to cross the bridge over the stream. Where the path divides take the left fork as it climbs up the hillside.

Go straight across at the first junction to continue following the path diagonally upwards through the wood. At the next junction of paths also go straight on into a field where there are often horses. You can also see houses at the top side of the field. Stay to the right side of this field and then turn right through a gap in the hedge. Across the next field is a metal fence and there may be construction site signs. Stop here and listen to Track 13.

13. Pass or fail

Former site of Willowgarth High School, off Windmill Avenue

Directions 13

At the top of this field is a tarmac path. Turn left to emerge by the houses at the top of Windmill Avenue. Walk down to the first junction and listen to Track 14.

14. Red City

Windmill Avenue

Directions 14

Turn left to follow Windmill Avenue as it curves downwards. After passing a bus stop there is a T-junction. Turn left down Manor Crescent to the main road. Cross the road and go slightly left. Stop on the pavement facing an old brick and stone building set back from the road. Listen to Track 15.

15. The oldest building in the village

Former Grimethorpe Hall, Brierley Road

Directions 15

Continue down the right side of Brierley Road. After about 150 metres stop at the junction with Lilydene Avenue and listen to Track 16.

16. Redevelopment

Brierley Road junction with Lilydene Avenue

Directions 16

Continue down the right side of Brierley Road. After about 300 metres is a bridge over a stream. Stop here and listen to Track 17.

17. Population boom

Bridge over Grimethorpe Dyke, Brierley Road

Directions 17

Continue along the right side of Brierley Road noting the triangular village green on the other side. Take the first right into Brighton Street (which at the time of creating this walk did not have a street sign) Stop at the first crossroads where the alleyways behind the terraced houses go off to the right and left. Listen to Track 18.

18. By the seaside

Alleyways off Brighton Street

Directions 18

Continue along Brighton Street and turn left opposite Trenchard Close. This is Hastings Street but at the time of creating this walk there was no street sign. At the top of the terrace, bend round to the left into the back alley and then the right to St Luke's Road. Cross over St Luke's Road and stop outside the church. Listen to Track 19.

19. The heart of the community

St Luke's Church, St Luke's Road

Directions 19

Go to the memorials outside the church and listen to Track 20.

20. The community remembers

Memorials outside St Luke's Church, St Luke's Road

Directions 20

With the church on your left, go along St Luke's Road and follow it as it bends round to the right. Stop at the mini-roundabout by the supermarket and listen to Track 21.

21. Childhood memories

Junction of St Luke's Road and High Street, site of former Grimethorpe Junior School

Directions 21

From the mini-roundabout go straight across into High Street. Continue as the road goes downhill passing the Acorn Centre on the left. At the bottom of the hill is a mini-roundabout. Go straight on, which is a continuation of High Street. At the large roundabout use the pedestrian island to go straight on into Ferrymoor Way. There is a large warehouse on the right hand side and a pond on the left hand side. Stop by the pond and listen to Track 22.

22. A brownfield site

Beside pond on Ferrymoor Way, former site of Grimethorpe Power Station

Directions 22

Follow the footpath all the way round the lake. Where the path meets the busy main road use the pedestrian island to cross. Follow the footpath straight ahead between fences and the warehouses of Park Spring Industrial Estate. The footpath becomes Long Royd road. Stop outside one of the industrial units and listen to Track 23.

23. Fences, mattresses, windows and disinfectant

Park Springs Industrial Estate, Long Royd

Directions 23

Continue along Long Royd. At the roundabout turn left into Springvale Road. At the next roundabout turn right along Acorn Way and then left into the Acorn Centre car park where you started the walk. Find a door on the left with a sign for Grimethorpe Colliery Band rehearsal room and office. Stop here and listen to Track 24. If the Acorn Centre car park is closed (usually at weekends) stop by the gates.

24. Top brass

Grimethorpe Colliery Band, The Acorn Centre

Directions 24

Stay within the car park of the Acorn Centre and listen to Track 25.

25. From despair to hope

The Acorn Centre

Directions 25

Stay within the car park of the Acorn Centre and listen to Track 26.

26. A positive story

The Acorn Centre

Directions to the bus stop

If you are within the Acorn Centre car park go through the car park to the exit at the other end onto High Street. If you are at the back gates of the Acorn Centre and the gates are closed, you need to go around the perimeter of the site to the front. Continue along Acorn Way for a short distance then turn left up a footpath which leads to Cudworth View. This leads to the High Street. There are bus stops on either side of the High Street near the Acorn Centre. Alternatively turn right and walk up to the mini-roundabout at the top of High Street to find 'Grimethorpe Interchange'.

Credits

The RGS-IBG would like to thank the following people and organisations for their assistance in producing this Discovering Britain walk:

- **Dick Bateman** for creating the walk and providing the commentary
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- **Donald Mann** for sharing his extensive compilation of archive photos
- **Gary** for permission to use an image from the **Brierley and its people in photographs** archive

Further information

Find out more about the walk story and places of interest along the route:

Adit now

Website about mine exploration and mining history

www.aditnow.co.uk

Brererley: A history of Brierley

www.brierleyyorkshireengland.net/Bererley_a_history_of_Brielrey.html#a

Brierley Village

www.brierleyvillage.co.uk

British Film Locations

Locations in Grimethorpe where scenes from *Brassed Off* (1996) were filmed

www.british-film-locations.com/Brassed-Off-1996

Grimethorpe Colliery Band

www.grimethorpeband.com

Grimethorpe Regeneration

www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/grimethorpe-regeneration

BBC News - the Miners' Strike in South Yorkshire

www.bbc.co.uk/southyorkshire/content/articles/2009/01/28/miners_strike_stories.shtml

National Coal Mining Museum for England

www.ncm.org.uk

St Luke's Grimethorpe

www.heritageinspired.org.uk/partner?partner_ID=39

Symphony

Website of the Grimethorpe-based company

www.symphony-group.co.uk/

Yorkshire/North Midlands Coal Mining story

www.j31.co.uk/home9.html





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