

Step Out at SWFC

The Wednesday Walk on Thursdays



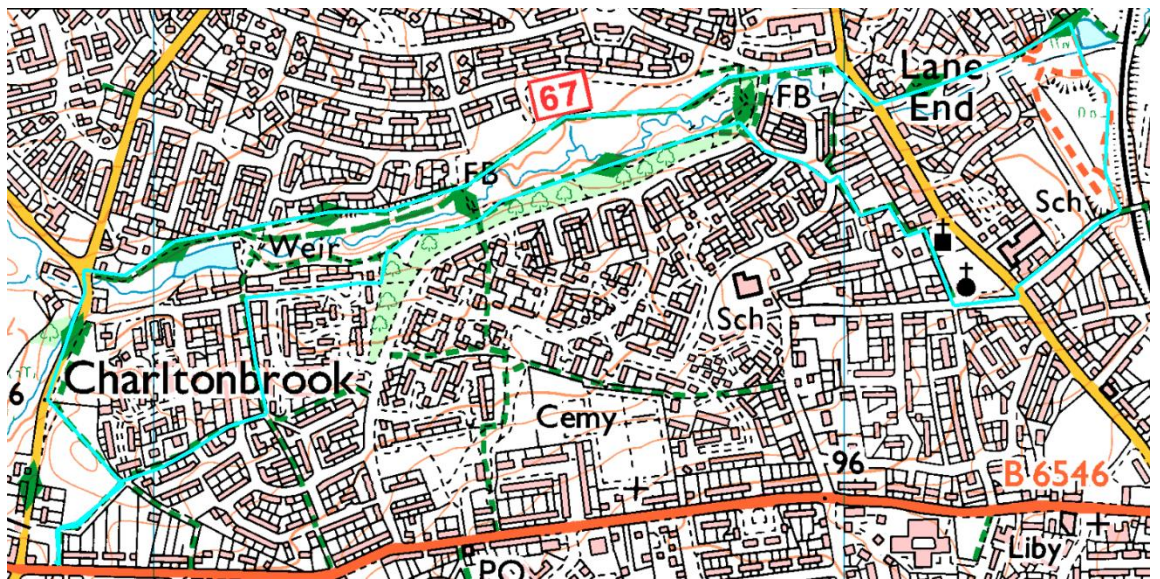
130 – Charlton Brook and Thorncliffe Pond – 2.8 miles

A grade 1 walk this week! It has a little bit of climbing but mainly on tarmac and hard gravel paths. Based on the Ecclesfield Parish Council leaflet number 4 - A Walk Round Charlton Brook and Thorncliffe Pond (see <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/sites/default/files/docs/parks-sport-and-recreation/walks/charlton-brook-and-thorncliffe-pond.pdf>), but extended just a little bit.

We start on Burncross Road, near the Acorn Pub (out on the A61, right on Bracken Hill (signposted Burncross), right at the Give Way then stop just past the bus stop).

Clockwise

Take the ginnel up beside the pub and follow round the side of Burncross Recreation Ground (which is wet enough to have its own swans...) Bear left at the top, across the grass and through the trees to come out beside The Bridge Inn.



Cross Charlton Brook and turn right on the TPT, and follow this path for nearly a mile till you come out on School Road near the Barrel Inn.

Going to cheat now; this is copied from the leaflet: Past the pub, turn right on Lane End and turn left down Bridge Inn Road. Where this road bends right, carry straight on down a track (marked Trans Pennine Trail) to a green metal gate with an A frame gate beside. Go through and turn right over a metal bridge beside Thorncliffe Pond. Follow the path across another bridge, up some shallow steps and keeping the railway on your left, continue to follow the path round to a metal railway bridge. At the bridge take the path up to the right, up onto Mafeking Place and continue to the end of the Road. Lound Hall is on your right, with Lound Junior School beside.

Cross (with care) and turn up Housley Park at the side of St. John's Church. Immediately at the end of St. John's Church, turn right down the public footpath. Follow the path along the back of the former church until you reach a lane (Ribble Croft). Turn left and continue round on the path to reach Sherburn Gate. Turn right and follow Sherburn Gate to reach Blackburn Drive.

Cross the road and the grass to turn left on the footpath which goes above the stream. Follow this, bearing right where it splits then turning left, to come out on Stanley Road. Turn right down the road and left on Charlton Brook Crescent then turn right into the cul de sac, straight on the footpath between the houses. At the end turn right and right again and follow this path back to the cars.



Risks

- 2 fairly busy roads to cross and a bit of walking on pavements and quiet roads. Watch out for cars, bikes, etc.
- No stiles but a few steps. Most paths are good, but some may be wet.
- Some parts may be muddy and wet grass, so boots recommended.

Charlton Brook

The wet, marshy ground near the brook may have given this area its name. In 1453, it was recorded as 'Cherking brooke'. 'Chirkin' is a medieval word meaning 'squeaking' or 'squelching.' For more information visit the Friends of Charlton Brook website – www.friendsofcharltonbrook.org.uk

Charlton Brook Dam

The dam was created by Newton Chambers & Company Ltd. in 1870 to provide water for Thorncliffe Iron Works. Amy Jones lived at Charlton Brook when she was a child. She remembered people coming from all around to swim in the dam in summer and skate on the thick ice in winter. (From J. & M. Jones (2004) *Picturing the Past.*)

Charlton Brook Hamlet

In the mid 1950s there were about 50 houses, 2 shops, a farm and a pub here. It was a small, close-knit community, with some families having lived there for several generations. Some of the houses in the hamlet were demolished when new housing was built.

Charlton Brook Foundry

An iron foundry also operated near here until 1990, making cast iron manhole covers and grates.

It is thought that Stanley Road was built around 1880 by Jabez Stanley, the co-owner of the Iron Works. Nothing now remains of the works.

Thorncliffe Pond

The pond, fed from Charlton Brook, is thought to have been constructed to store water for Chapel Furnace, which operated in the c16th and c17th. The furnace was situated off Station Road. The water was used to turn a water wheel to work bellows to keep the furnace burning at a high temperature for iron smelting. It is thought that some of the iron was used to make cannon balls for Cromwell's army in the English Civil War (1642 – 1651). In later years Chapel Furnace and the pond became part of Newton Chambers' Ironworks. A pump house was constructed near the pond (remains of pipework can still be seen) to provide water for cooling the furnaces.

Lound National School

The building on the corner, now restored and used as offices, was originally a school. The first Lound School was built with an endowment from Anne Sylvester in 1711. It was replaced in 1845 by the present building which became Lound National School. It later became the Sunday School for St. John's Church and Lound Board School was built on the neighbouring site.

St. John's Church

The church dates from 1860. It was closed in 2000 because of structural problems but has been restored and turned into offices.

Mount Pleasant Methodist Church

Mount Pleasant Methodist Church stands next to St. John's Church. It was built in 1866 to replace an earlier church. Thomas Newton, a founder of Thorncliffe Ironworks and a staunch Methodist, laid the foundation stone. The building has now been converted to offices and living accommodation.