

Step Out at SWFC

The Wednesday Walk on Thursdays



161 – Nancy Pond and Tankersley Fan – 2.3 miles

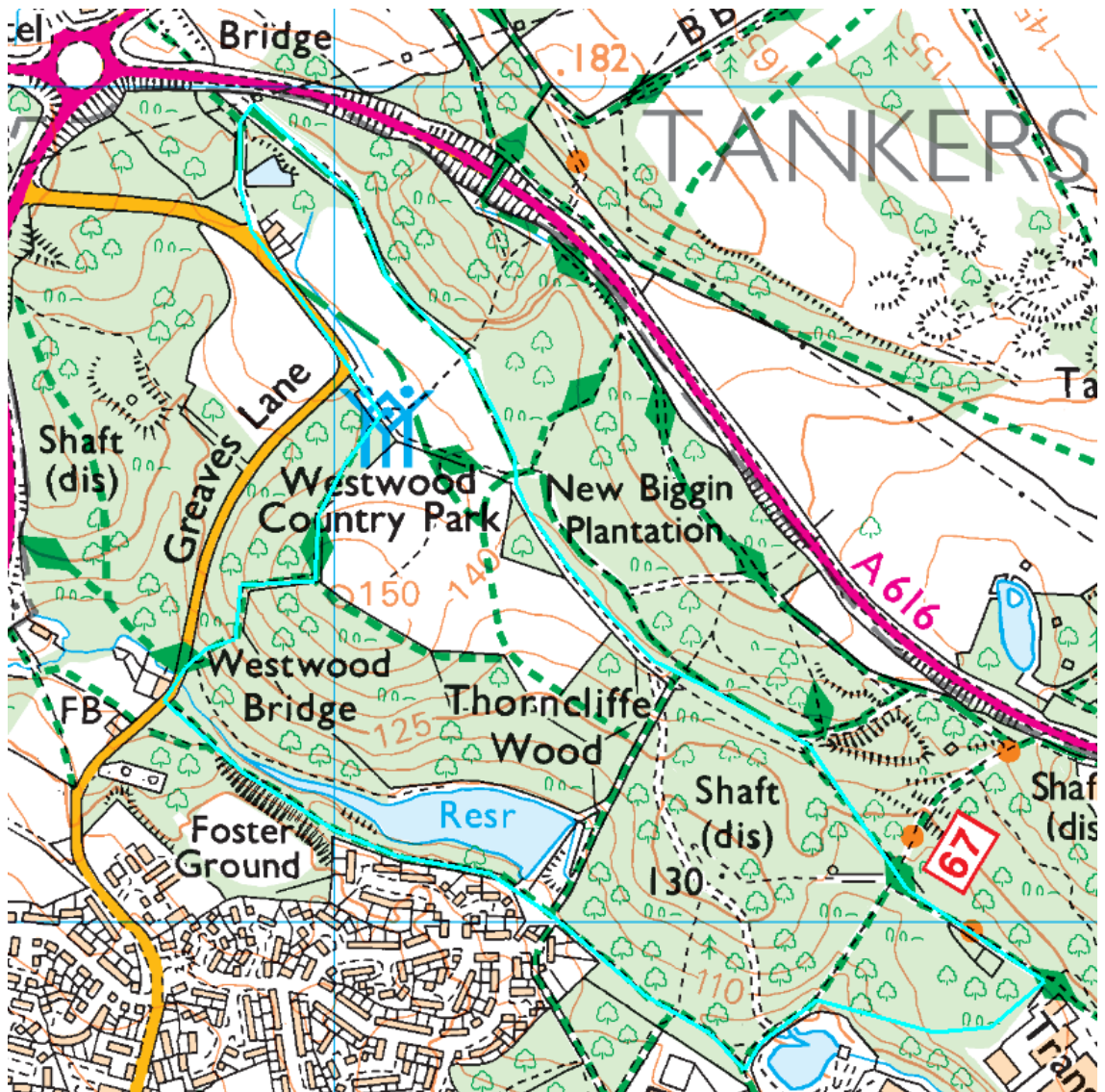
A short and fairly level walk this week, with woodland trails on old railway lines and a bit of road walking. There is one short but fairly steep uphill, which can be avoided (except for the drivers) and should not be too muddy (despite the rain) but don't wear your best trainers! No stiles, no steps, and mainly downhill so Grade 1.

Park just off Greaves Lane, at the top of the hill – probably easiest to find if you go out on the A61 as far as Tankersley, go right round the roundabout to head back towards Sheffield, then after a few yards turn left. After about a quarter mile, there is a sharp right bend and a parking area on the left.

Clockwise

From the cars, head back along the road towards Tankersley, past Nancy Houses and bear right on the public bridleway. Pass Nancy fish pond and bear right on the path round the back of the pond as it joins the old railway track-bed.

On the left is the site of Tankersley Colliery while on the right is the site of Westwood Coking Works, both long since gone. As we pass the meadow on the right, Westwood Station would have been on the left and shortly after, the track going off to New Biggin.



At the crossroads, bear right down the old inclined plane leading down to the site on Tankersley Fan – a steam powered fan used to force air into the mine shafts – and after the next crossing, the site of Bridge Houses. Follow the path to the edge of the new industrial estate, then as it turns left, take the footpath on the right which drops down to Thorncliffe Pond. Past the pond, bear right along side Blackburn Brook and follow up to the car park at Westwood fishing lake, then straight on keeping the lake on your right till you come out on Greaves Lane. Turn right, cross Westwood Bridge, then turn right onto the footpath on the other side.



We now have the only serious uphill section of the walk, and since we will be driving down Greaves Lane to get home, only the drivers really need to do it! The others just need to ask their drivers to pick them up beside the bridge.

For the drivers (and those wanting the challenge), follow the path to the junction, then turn left up the hill, and keep taking the left hand path where you have an option. You will eventually drop down to rejoin the main track, just by the parking area. Alternatively, at the top of the woods, turn right and head to the very top of the hill to admire the view across to Grenoside (and get blown away if it's windy), then drop down across the grass to return to the cars.

Risks

- No road crossings. A couple of hundred yards of quiet roads to walk along.
- No stiles, no steps, a vigorous climb at the end (which is optional) but generally fairly level.
- All paths are gravel, well walked, should not be muddy or slippery.
- Watch out for dogs, bikes, horses, etc