

Step Out at SWFC

The Wednesday Walk on Thursdays



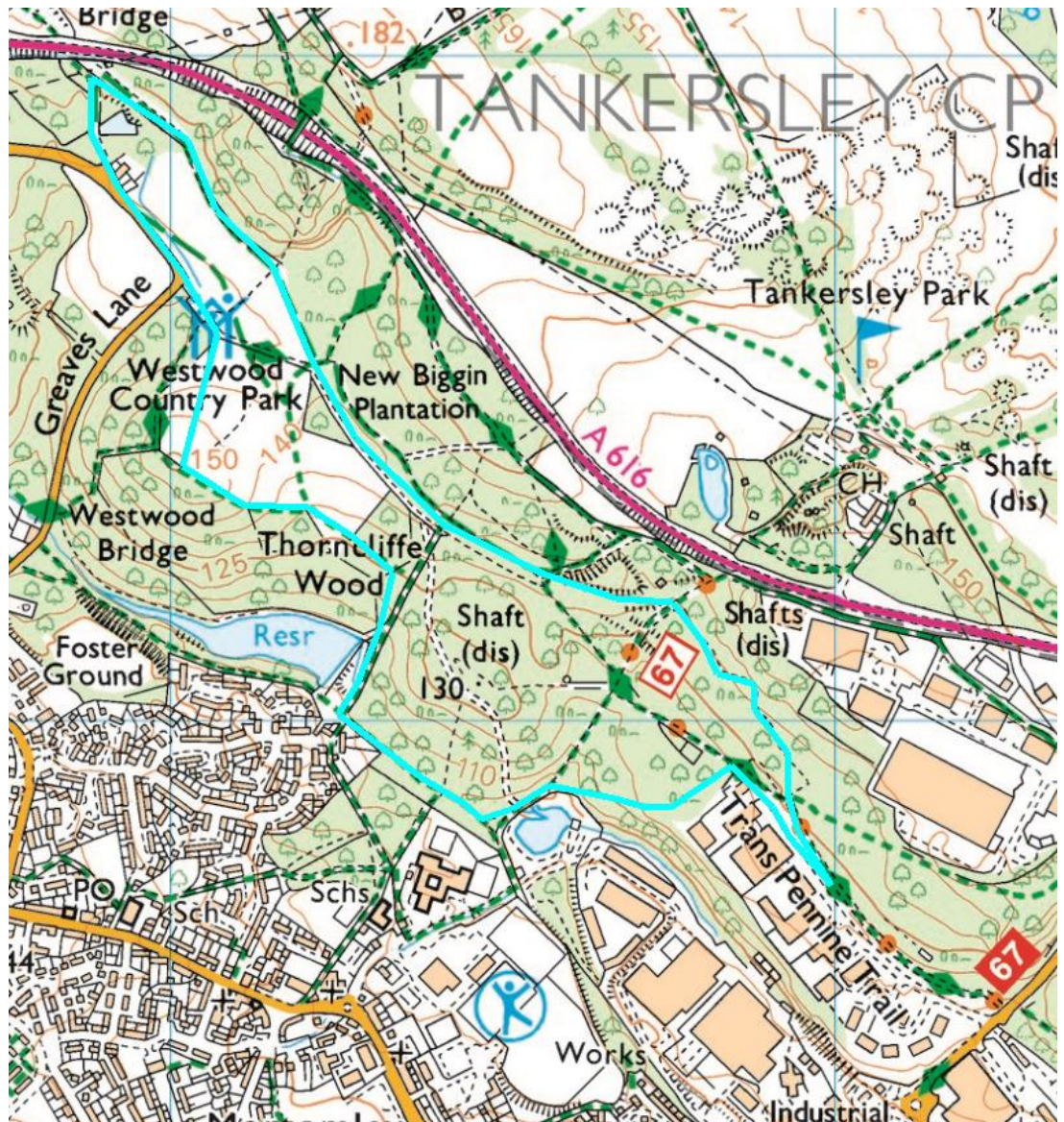
195 – Churchill Way to Nancy Pond – 2.5 miles

I'm cheating a bit this week, taking most of an existing walk and reversing it – and starting at a different place as well. This is basically walk 161, reversed, but instead of starting at Greaves Lane and walking to Thorncliffe Business Park, we are parking in Churchill Way and walking to Nancy Pond. It's fairly level, with woodland trails on old railway lines and a bit of road walking but a couple of rough, steep uphill so bring your sticks. Should not be too muddy (despite the rain) but don't wear your best trainers! No stiles, no steps, but Grade 2 for the scrambles.

Park just off Churchill Way (Chapelton, Station Road, left on Cart Road, under the bridge, right at the roundabout up the hill then first left) and park on the right.

Counterclockwise

From the cars, carry on along the road, then head right up the bank to the TPT path at the top. Turn left then where the tarmac bends left, bear right on the smaller path. Follow this, bearing left where possible but avoiding the steepest banks till you come out on the trail at right angles; turn left and find the remains of the railway bridge, turn right up the slope to the old railway line, and follow this up to the field near the top of the hill.



Where the main track bears left, go rightish and continue to follow the old railway right through to Nancy Pond. Walk round the fish pond and come out on Greaves Lane, turn left and head back into Thorncliffe Park when the road bends right. Depending on the weather, you can either head up to the top of the hill then turn left and drop down towards the dam, or you can follow the track then turn right through the trees and drop down to the dam. Either way, cross the bridge below the dam (over Blackburn Brook then opposite the car park, turn left and follow this path through towards Paces.



Where the road splits, bear left then turn left and start heading uphill. Here you have a choice – either bear right on the narrow path or go straight up the main path then turn right on the wider path. The narrow path is shorter, but it has several steep climbs which may become scrambles if the ground is wet. The other path is wider, well maintained and longer (and not as much fun!)

Either way, you will come out on the edge of the industrial estate, and you can cut through to Churchill Way and back to the cars.

Risks

- No road crossings. A couple of hundred yards of quiet roads to walk along (depending on where you park).
- No stiles, no steps, a vigorous climb at the end (which is optional) but generally fairly level.
- Most paths are gravel, well walked, should not be muddy or slippery but some are quite steep and may be slippery if it's wet.
- Watch out for dogs, bikes, horses, etc