Introduction
The Shire Brook Valley is in the South East of Sheffield about 4 miles from the city centre. The general information in the booklet covers the whole of the valley shown on the map above. The four walks in the booklet are based around the middle part of the Shire Brook between Norburn Springs and the Birchington Road Landfill Site. The area is crossed by footpaths and LCC bridleways, most of which can be walked if not busy and are well signed. However some areas are very busy, running up to the main roads, and get through traffic so that sometimes may be difficult, dangerous or unhygienic. There are walks along some of the paths so that you can get out and admire the view. The walks have been planned to reflect some of the valley’s industrial past and the variety of wildlife that there is. As well as the historic, environmentalists have been involved along the course of the walk to help ensure something of the path is preserved for the future.

For further information contact: Footpaths, Woodlands & Countryside, Stannington Farm, Park Road, Sheffield, S8 9SI. Telephone 0114 251 5000

Large print version available on request.

Footpaths
Some of the footpaths and bridleways that cross the area are very old routes. They linked the old villages of Hadotherham and Woodhouse and the farms and mills that were built across the valley. Some of these ancient footpaths are now bridleways. Footpaths exist to protect the landscape and to give interest and enjoyment to the countryside for all ages and all seasons. The footpaths are also a means of transport for people who have mobility problems. The walks are taken from the footbridge on Occupation Road at the Shirebrook Valley Visitor Centre. There is a small car park here which makes it easy to start at this point for any of the walks.

Old Boundary
The Shire Brook is an old historical boundary stretching back over 1600 years. It separated the ancient kingdoms of Northumbria and Mercia, and for 500 years until 1610, was the boundary between Yorkshire and Derbyshire. In 1867, the city of Sheffield expanded its boundaries and the land around Birkington and Hadotherham became part of Sheffield. In the sixteenth century the land became known as the Shire Brook. In the early eighteenth century map it is called Birkington and some sections have been known as “White Oaker”.

Water Wheels
The area’s water wheels were key to early industry, providing power for turning water wheels. In the early days of the nineteenth century there were five water-powered wheels in the area along the Shire Brook. The earliest ones were built in the late eighteenth century. By the mid-nineteenth century there were five water-powered wheels in the area, supplying the needs of the large industrial developments. These powered the wheel of the greater part of the Shire Brook Valley. The water wheels were attached to the sawmills and there are still some remains of the water wheels in the area. In the late nineteenth century the area became known as “White Oaker”. The water levels changed over time to suit the needs of water power. Each water wheel powered a different industry.

Nature Reserve
The Shire Brook Valley Local Nature Reserve was designated in 1998. This reserve is a large patch of land which is very rich in wildlife and is an important wildlife site. It is a very good place to visit if you want to walk in the countryside. The reserve is very rich in wildlife and is a good place to stop and enjoy the view. The Shire Brook Valley Local Nature Reserve has been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and is a Local Nature Reserve (LNR).

Sewage Works and Landfill Sites
Several large sewage works were opened in the mid-nineteenth century along the valley to cope with the increasing population and need for clean public health. These were the origins of all the sewage works that have been built in the area at the end of the nineteenth century. The sewage works changed in the early 1900s and a new treatment system was developed to turn the site into a wildlife area. Some of the old sewage tanks have been replaced by new ones and the manager’s office is now the Vale Centre. A large pond on the site of the old buildings shows the history of the valley, starting with the dinosaurs and going up to the present day. The Shire Brook is a very important route for wildlife, and is one of the many places where wildlife can be seen.

New Housing
Much of the land on the side of the valley has been built for housing. By the mid-1960s, fields were covered and hedgerows removed at the Haskerdene housing estate, which was built on the site of the old sewage works. The new estate is now protected from future development as Green Belt.

Woods, Hedges and Trees
There are many woods and trees in the area, including many different species. There are also some old fields and meadows which have been converted to woods and trees. There are also some large open spaces, including the Shire Brook Valley Local Nature Reserve. The reserve is very rich in wildlife and is a good place to stop and enjoy the view. The reserve is very rich in wildlife and is a good place to stop and enjoy the view.

Walks in the Shire Brook Valley
The Shire Brook Valley is in the South East of Sheffield about 4 miles from the city centre. The valley has a variety of wildlife and is very rich in woods and trees. The valley is a great place to walk in and is a very good place to stop and enjoy the view. The reserve is very rich in wildlife and is a good place to stop and enjoy the view. The reserve is very rich in wildlife and is a good place to stop and enjoy the view. The reserve is very rich in wildlife and is a good place to stop and enjoy the view.
1. Leave the car park by the main entrance and go left along the route past you to reach the first path on your right which is signposted as the Orange Walk. Bear right here.

2. Ignore the Three Peaks Trail (TPT) sign and turn right and go straight ahead through the gate on the left and onto an area of young woodland. This zone was planted on the site of the old sewage works settling tanks. Follow the path as it leads into the route of anciant lanes. Some signs of ancient hedgerows can be seen on either side of the path you will pass the hedge bottoms. At the top of the hill you will find a water leveler looking to the right and into a reedbed verge. Cross this expanse you can look back at the valley towards Hesbrooke Moor and Blackley Dale.

3. Walk on the verge along the two tracks you reach wooden hoarding and a sign pointing to the right towards a watermarked path. As you pass the junction you will see an information sign about the TPT and its route to the railway seat. Turn right here and continue on the TPT following the route to the right of the railway seat and then back to the bottom of Sally Clark’s Meadow.

4. At the end of the meadow you come to a T-junction where you take the path on the right and follow this for approximately 3/4 mile - allow 30 to 45 minutes (easy walking).

5. The path continues to cross over Stone Lane and joins the TPT turning right and walking the short distance until you see a sign guiding you back to the car park.

6. At the bottom of the path you take up the former Brightton Road footfall site. This zone is now a Mediterranean style, with TPT turning right and following the route along the road and heading towards the big bridge. As you pass under the bridge you can see the train seat at the top of the hill, which you then pass over to the railway seat and then back to the bottom of the hill.

7. The path continues to cross over Stone Lane and joins the TPT turning right and walking the short distance until you see a sign guiding you back to the car park.

8. After passing through this area you will come to a concrete outfall and wooden bridge. Go over the bridge and shortly after you will pass a large sign pointing to the right towards a watermarked path. Follow this path to the right of the railway seat and then back to the bottom of the hill.

9. The path eventually reaches the S fan and into Oxford Park, where you can see the TPT and its route to the railway seat. Turn right here and continue on the TPT following the route to the right of the railway seat and then back to the bottom of the hill.

10. The path continues to cross over Stone Lane and joins the TPT turning right and walking the short distance until you see a sign guiding you back to the railway seat.

11. Turn right onto the wide path and the woodland gradually gives way to open countryside, looking over the valley to your left. You can see the path to the left of you and we descend into a small area of woodland. The path continues to cross over Stone Lane and joins the TPT turning right and walking the short distance until you see a sign guiding you back to the railway seat.

12. The path continues to cross over Stone Lane and joins the TPT turning right and walking the short distance until you see a sign guiding you back to the railway seat.

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14. The path continues to cross over Stone Lane and joins the TPT turning right and walking the short distance until you see a sign guiding you back to the railway seat.

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