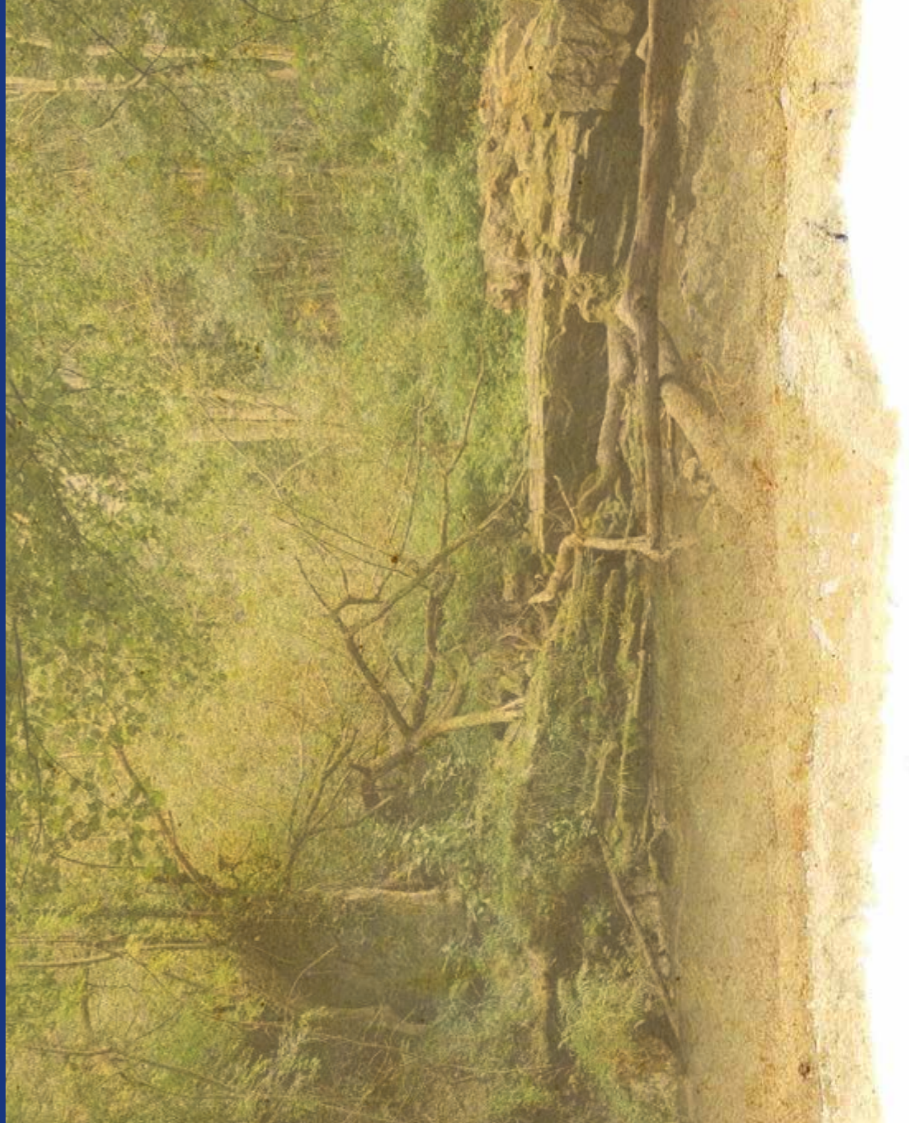




Mosborough History Meeting Group



WOODLAND AND WILDLIFE

Moss Valley's rich heritage uncovered

MOSBOROUGH WALKS #3

This self guided walk covers 4.4 miles of country views from Mosborough around the Moss Valley. Discover the valley's past industries and find out about the rich natural habitats that now thrive in the area – thanks to its industrial past.

Allow 2 hours to complete the trail.

Suitable all-terrain footwear is advised as the walk takes in footpaths which can be muddy in places.



www.mosboroughhistory.co.uk

Check out the [website](http://www.mosboroughhistory.co.uk) for details of more walks

Parking for the walk can be easily found in the area around Mosborough.

For local bus details, visit www.travelsouthyorkshire.com

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All photos thanks to Mosborough History Meeting Group/ Mosborough History Group Facebook unless otherwise stated.



UNCOVER THE HIDDEN HISTORY

of Mosborough's industrial past with this self guided walking trail



Take in countryside views, explore the Moss Valley and discover fascinating facts about the area.

Imagine the Moss Valley as a hive of industrial activity. For over 1,000 years, this valley teamed with industries dependent on the power of the water from the Moss brook.

Today, it is a tranquil haven for wildlife where flora and fauna thrive in the landscape that past industries have left behind.

INDUSTRIES

Iron making was a major industry for the valley after George Stowell started his Iron Works at Foxstone Wood in about 1640.

Eight water wheels throughout Moss Valley were used to power grinding stones for producing cutlery, flour, sythes and sickles.

The local woodland was coppiced for producing charcoal used in the iron smelting process.

Notable names involved in iron works here were Thomas Cowley, who was a sicklesmith in the early 1600's, the Turner family in the 17th century and the Staniforths until the end of the 18th century.

COAL MINING

Industrial activity in the valley intensified when iron smelting switched from using charcoal to coal. By the 19th century there were numerous collieries in the area – some surviving into the late 1970s.

Seldom Seen Engine House is one of the few remaining sights of this industry to be seen. The engine house is thought to date back to between 1855 and 1875 and housed a huge winding wheel.



Coal was mined here and transported on a railway to Renishaw, where there were huge iron works.

AGRICULTURE

Nowadays, the Moss Valley is predominantly agricultural. Until recently the valleys had a number of dairy farms operating, now sadly in decline.

Much of the land is used to grow grass, which is used as hay or silage to feed animals during the winter.

WILDLIFE

Although industry has left its mark on the Moss Valley, today it is a home rich in flora and fauna.

The ancient woodland provides a habitat for many birds, animals and flowers.

Look out for bluebells and wood anemone in spring and catch sight of buzzards circling high above the trees.



The woods immediately in front were planted from the Victorian era and were once the dumping ground for local ash pit collections. The fields to your left are called 'Canada Fields' so called as they reminded local people of the big open spaces in Canada, which would have been new to people's knowledge in the late 19th century.



'Seldom Seen' is an example of a steam driven beam engine. The spoil heaps from the colliery can be seen all around the site and are now covered by woodlands. Note the different levels to the old engine house.



The river was extensively used to power local sickle making industries from the 16th century.



There has been a recorded mill on this site for over 1,000 years. A short distance away just beyond the mill are the remains of the Gas Works, first opened 1860.



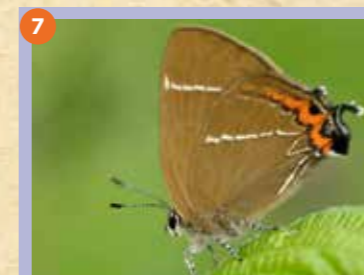
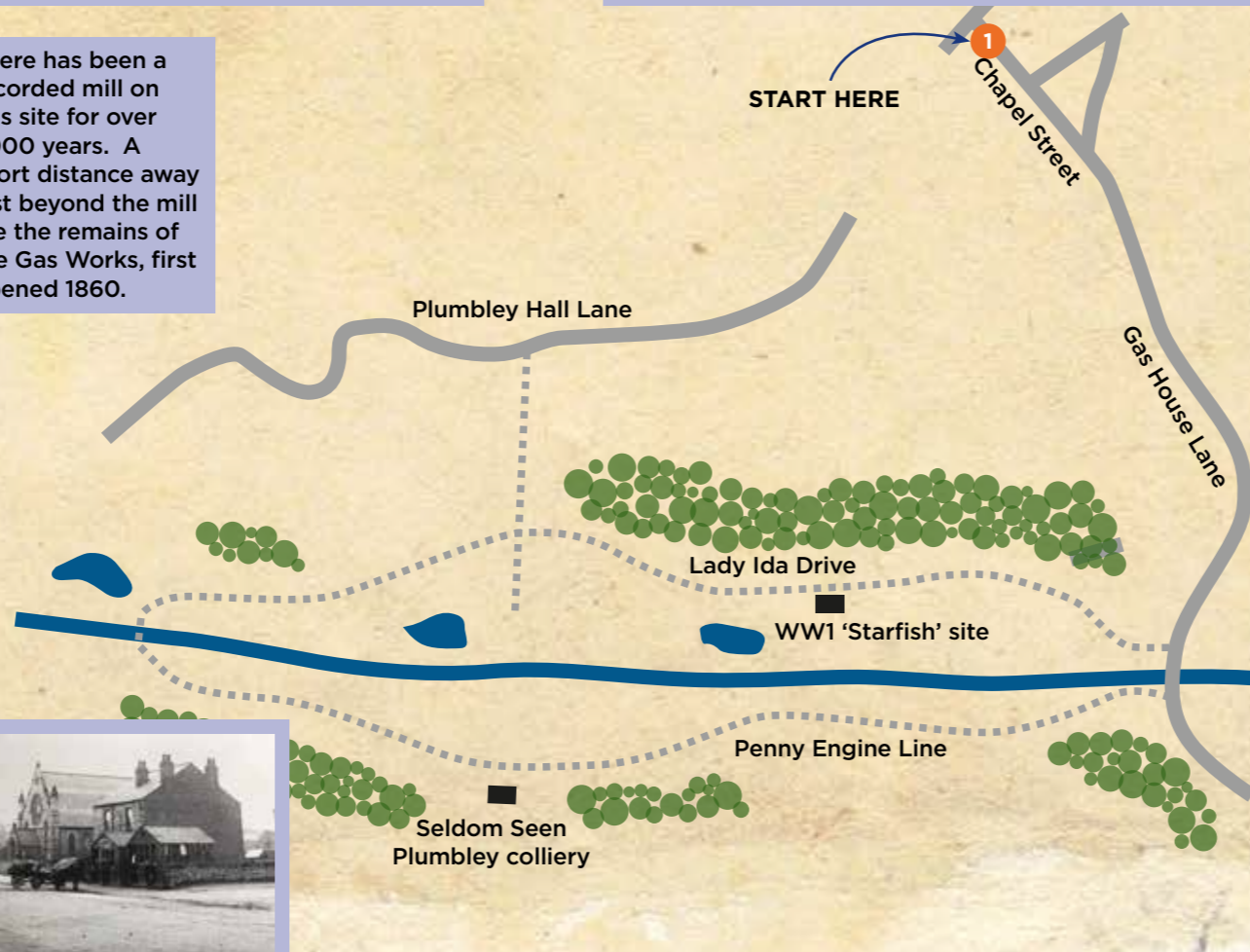
The square looking building is called the 'Summer House'. This early 18th century building was constructed in the same style as Mosborough Hall.



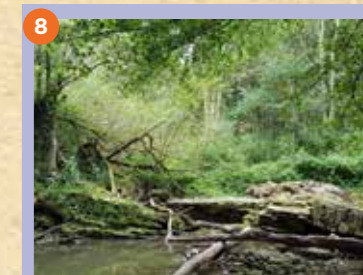
The Bake House has five doorways, each from different periods in history. Saxon, Jacobean, Georgian, 20th Century, and one that is difficult to date (Formerly No 29).



Chapel Street



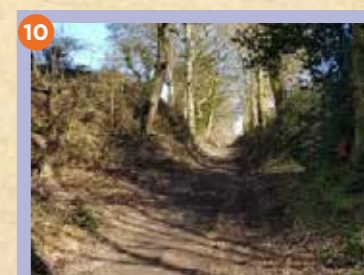
Other plants such as bluebells, wood anemone, hazel and marsh marigolds grow in abundance and are an important site for these nationally important species.



Fields Wheel Dam



Never Fear dam



The tramway would have transported goods and materials from the valley bottom in what was once a hive of industrial activity.



WW2 shelter. Known as 'Starfish sites' and housed lights, which were used to divert German bombers away from Sheffield.

1 Start at Chapel Street/ Cadman Street. You will see a triangle area of green which is known as 'Lambicks' - a pond which would have been seasonal. On the corner of Cadman and Chapel Street, there were once two wooden huts which were shops, a butcher's and a fruit and vegetable. Rather than Chapel Street it was called Market Street. Walk up Chapel Street and in front of you is a raised area (known as Primrose Hill). This was once the site of one of Mosborough's many inns, the 'Old Blue Bell' and a number of cottages. The village stocks stood here too.

2 From here walk towards South Street and head towards Gas House Lane. Notice the interesting buildings on the left side, and the Alma on your right. Continue onto Gashouse Lane, the former road that led from Mosborough down into Eckington. As you follow the road it can become narrow at the bottom section and vehicles can still use this road. On both sides of the road you can see signs of the old hedges that lined the road and were once laid by craftsmen. Look out for birds such as robins, finches and sparrows.

3 At the bottom of Gas House Lane the River Moss passes Park Mill. To your left are the remnants of old cottages and the corn mill. The road bears to the right along a straight section that once formed the 'Penny Engine Line'. This transported coal from Plumbly Colliery along a rail section passing over what now is Renishaw Hall golf course and joined the main railway by the Eckington/ Renishaw Station. Its name was derived as people could pay a small sum of money to travel along the line for one old pence or penny.

Suitable all-terrain footwear is advised as the walk takes in footpaths which can be muddy in places.

4 Carry on straight ahead. To your left up the hill, is the Castle Hill estate in Eckington, reputed to be the site of a strategic defensive system dating back to the Roman era. (81AD)

5 Walking through the woodland, you will come to Plumbly Colliery or 'Seldom Seen' engine house as it is locally known (left hand side).

6 Back on the track, continue until you reach the wooden bridge over the River Moss - formally a stone bridge (Kele's Wheel Bridge). Here the remains of a Carlton Dam can be seen. Continue straight ahead on the track with the river on the right hand side. As you look down, notice an extensive water 'goit' once used to power the industries making the sickles.

7 Extensive masonry can be seen that once controlled the flow of the water. These are no longer in use but the damp conditions they create support a huge range of ancient woodland plants such

as wild garlic (ramsons). These are sometimes known by their local name as 'Stinking Nannies'. The path starts to rise upwards for a short walk after the colliery - keep to the route directly in front of you.

8 To your right looking down into the river bottom you will see the remains of Fields Wheel Dam (Upper Carlton Wheel), constructed about 1780. This is a huge dam that once stretched across the valley bottom.

9 The path reaches some open fields on your left - follow this until the path reaches footbridge across the Moss. To your left is Never Fear Dam.

Here there are many paths that all lead back towards Plumbly Lane and Mosborough in the distance. Once over the bridge keep to your right over the stile that takes you alongside the river, now bear right and through Twelve Acre Wood.

10 The path reaches a field, cutting diagonally across it. Directly in front of you are the remnants of an old tramway. Once over the stile you can see how the tramway cut through the hillside. Following the path, pass through Cadman Wood. Look out for the oak tree that hangs over the edge of a small quarried stone area. Eventually

you reach an open area leading past Ladybank Wood.
11 Continue until reaching a shelter (right hand side) from the Eckington Decoy village used during WW2. Eventually you reach the bottom of Gas House Lane. At this junction there was a small drift mine until the late 1970's. Turn left and head back towards Mosborough along the road back Chapel Street.