

Frickley Country Park

The Frickley Country Park is a 75 hectare (180 acres) public open space located on the former Frickley Colliery pithead and tip.

Over £7 million has been invested by the National Coalfields Programme to transform the derelict site into a safe and attractive open space. The transformation has been managed by Yorkshire Forward and Wakefield Council. The park now boasts water features, a bridleway, footpaths and cycleways, as well as sports pitches and landscaped green areas. Over 70,000 trees have been planted as part of the comprehensive landscaping scheme. It is a public recreation and nature reserve for you to use and enjoy.



Frickley Colliery - 1924



The end of shift - 1993



The derelict site in 1995



History

The Carlton Main Colliery Company sank the Frickley shaft in 1903 and the first Barnsley seam coal was mined in 1905. In its heyday the pit employed over 4,000 people. Following its closure in 1993 the pithead buildings were cleared and plans commenced for the creation of the country park. There are several features in the park recording its history and heritage - these are shown on the plan over the page.

Future developments

- Three grass platforms have been prepared for sports pitches in an area close to Frickley Athletic Football Club. Further work will be carried out in the future to enable their proper use for sports events.
- An area has been reserved for allotments that, depending on funding, will be created in 2010.
- A new electricity sub station will be constructed at the Doncaster Road - Frickley Lane entrance, replacing the existing sub station close to the southern boundary. The old site will then be landscaped as part of the Country Park.
- In the future Frickley Country Park will be managed and maintained by a partnership involving local organisations.



Access and Opening

The Country Park is open to the public every day of the year. For walkers, cyclists and horse riders there is an extensive network of footpaths and a bridleway crossing the Park. Disabled access is generally good; however some of the slopes on the former tip are steep due to the lay of the land.

For more advice on access for people with limited mobility please contact the Country Park Rangers on 01924 303980.

Getting There

Bus

Route 485 from Wakefield via South Elmsall bus station, travels along Westfield Lane and terminates on Broad Lane.

Routes 36,46,47,223,249 and 496 all stop at South Elmsall Bus Station from which a 10 minute walk will bring you to the entrances off Doncaster Road.

Train

The closest train station is South Elmsall on the Wakefield to Doncaster main line.

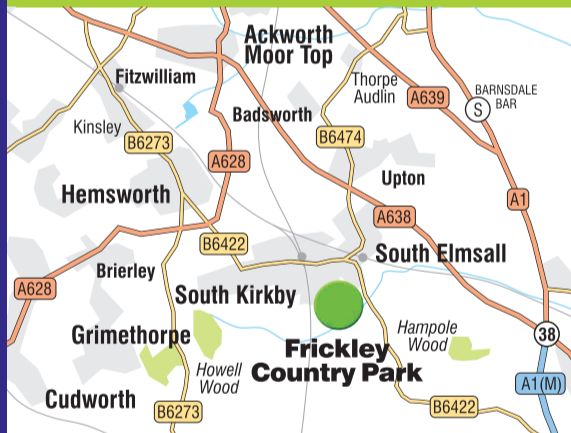
Car

Car parking is available off Doncaster Road alongside the Frickley Lane bridleway.

You can help

We need members of the public to help us look after the Country Park. If you see any unauthorised motor vehicles, or acts of damage and vandalism, please contact the Wakefield Council 24 hour phone line - 08458 506 506. You will not have to leave your name or contact details.

If you have any other general enquiries about the Country Park please contact the Country Park Rangers on 01924 303980.



The Country Park Code

- Protect plants and animals
- Take any litter home with you
- Keep dogs under control and clear up any mess they make
- Consider other users of the park
- Ride horses and cycles but not motorcycles or quad bikes

Motor Cycles and Quad Bikes

The Country Park is designed for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. For health and safety reasons it is not to be used by unauthorised motor vehicles. Any person found on site with a motorcycle or quad bike (other than mobility scooters) will be reported to the Police who can seize the vehicle and prosecute the owner.



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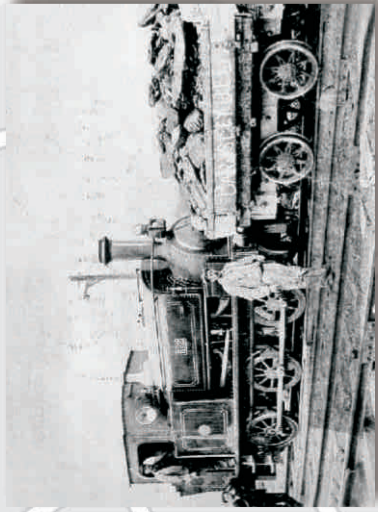
Frickley Country Park



Frickley Colliery and tip has been transformed into a creatively landscaped country park.



Frickley Country Park Site Features



First coal drawn, Frickley Colliery - 1905

A. The Timeline

The exact depth of the colliery shaft (652 metres - 2139 feet) is represented by a straight line path that allows visitors to walk from the 'top' of the shaft down the tip slope to the 'bottom' - located at the point where the No. 2 shaft is capped. The four coal seams that were worked at Frickley are highlighted along the way at the exact depth at which they were mined.

B. Colliery Buildings - Footprints

Raised platforms mark the location of the former Frickley Colliery buildings around the shafts. On the site of the No.2 shaft is a small hard-surfaced performance space with seating. This is also one end of The Timeline - the equivalent of the bottom of the shaft.



Colliery Buildings - Footprints



C. The Shale Disc

This is an area of exposed colliery spoil and shale providing a reminder of conditions before the reclamation took place. Over time natural vegetation will establish itself and reclaim the land to create a specialised habitat.



The Shale Disc

The largest pond in the Country Park

D. Drainage Ponds

There are a number of ponds along the southern edge of the park. As well as providing a habitat for wetland plants, animals and birds, the ponds are a vital part of the drainage system of the country park. The largest pond is designed to hold water that will reduce the risk of flooding along the Frickley Beck.

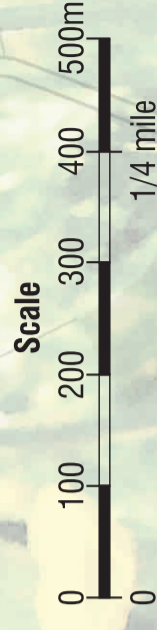
The ponds are fenced off to protect the plants and animals and to ensure the drainage system can work. Fishing is not permitted. Visitors to the park should be aware of the dangers of open water and not attempt to enter the water.

E. Stromatolite Mounds

On the top of the former tip are seven 5 metre high grassed mounds which represent the stromatolites that have been discovered in the South Elmsall area. Stromatolites are the prehistoric fossilised remains of bacteria that were active in the tropical forests of between 1,000 and 500 million years ago. This high point of the park, some 40m (approx 130 ft) above the Frickley Beck, provides excellent views to the surrounding countryside.

- A. The Timeline
- B. Colliery Building Footprints
- C. The Shale Disc
- D. Drainage Ponds
- E. Stromatolite Mounds

- Viewpoint
- Grassed Areas
- Trees & Shrubs
- Sports Pitch Platforms
- No Public Access
- Bridleway
- Footpaths & Cycleways
- SESKU Ringway Path
- Access Points
- Car Park



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