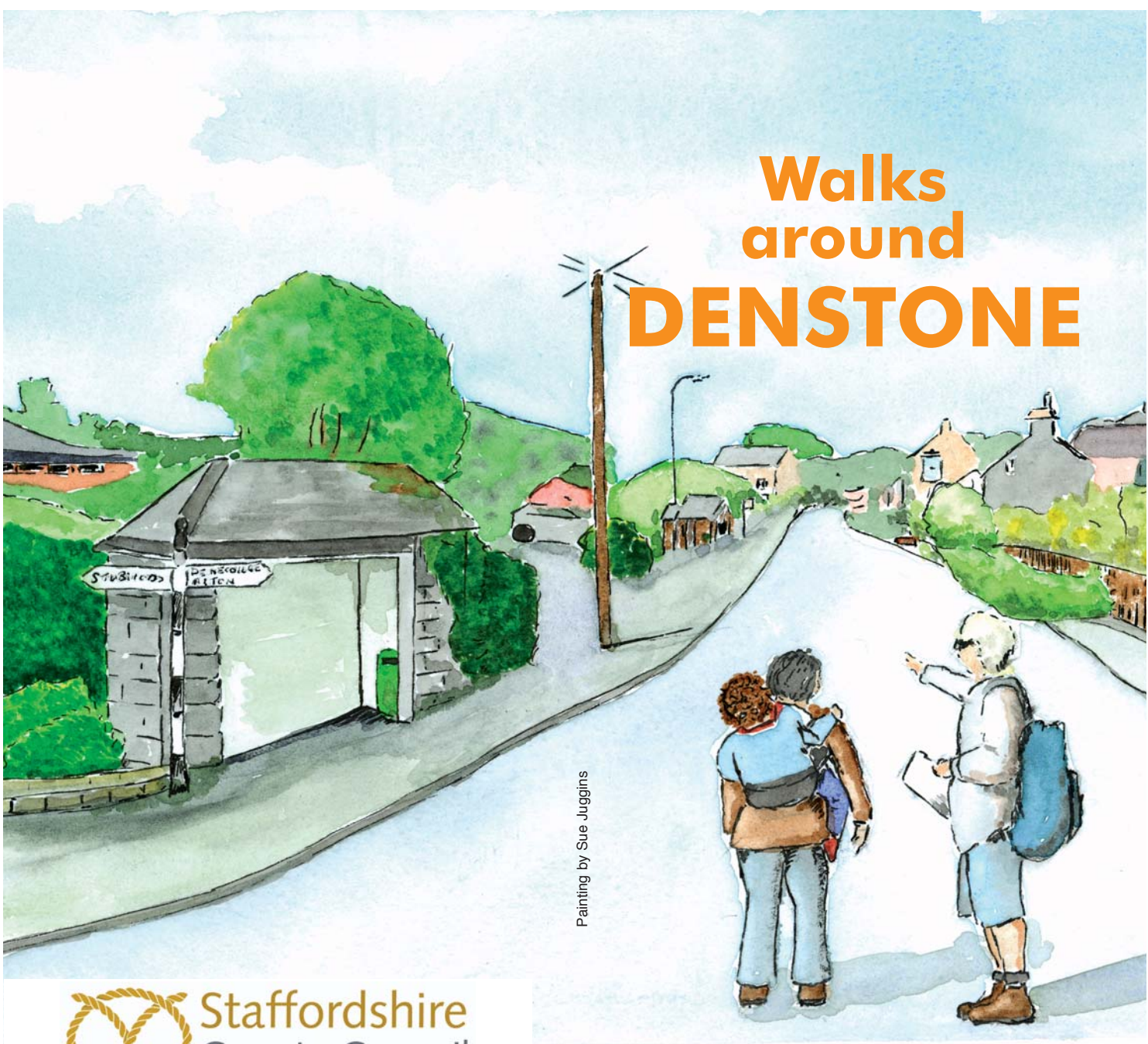


Denstone is 8 km (5 miles) north of Uttoxeter via the B5030. Bus services from Uttoxeter to Ashbourne and Derby (Trent Barton 'Swift'), Uttoxeter to Hanley (First Potteries 32A) and Uttoxeter to Alton Towers (Service 30) pass through the village. For times contact Traveline 0871 200 2233

Car Parking and toilet facilities are available by the Village Hall.

Starting Point

Walks around DENSTONE



Painting by Sue Juggins

DENSTONE
PARISH COUNCIL

 **Staffordshire**
County Council
Community Paths Initiative

Typeset & Printed by Hawksworth Graphics & Print Ltd., Uttoxeter.
Telephone : 01889 565234

Distances & Times

The Village Route	2.5 km (1.5 miles)	45 minutes
The College Route	4.0 km (2.5 miles)	1.5 hours
The Churnet Route	9.5 km (6.0 miles)	3.5 hours

All times are approximate and may vary with conditions underfoot, time spent at points of interest or taking refreshment, and your own level of fitness.

Type of Walk

The Village Route
The first part of this walk is a gentle stroll along level pavements to the Church and back and introduces some of the history of the village. The second part involves short sections along quiet roads, only parts of which have pavements, followed by a path across fields. The field path may be muddy and is rough in places but it provides excellent views over the village and to the Weaver Hills beyond.

The College Route
This route starts off as the Village route but, instead of the path across fields, climbs gradually up a track (which may be muddy) towards Denstone College. The walk provides further insight into the history of the village and even better views.

The Churnet Route
This provides a further extension beyond the College and down to the Churnet Valley. It allows a closer look at the route of a disused canal and railway line parallel to the River Churnet. Parts of this route may be muddy, and the descent to the Churnet is steep and may be slippery.

Refreshments

The Village Stores (01889 590 397) sells snacks and soft drinks. The Tavern (01889 590 847) serves meals and bar snacks. Denstone Farm Shop (01889 590 050) sells local produce and has a café. Refer to the Denstone Village website (www.denstonevillage.org.uk) for details of these and other facilities in the village.

Useful Maps

Landranger Series:
Sheet 128 - Derby and Burton-on-Trent
or Sheet 119 - Buxton, Matlock etc.

Explorer Series
Sheet 259 - Derby etc.

Clothing & Footwear

Care has been taken to ensure that the routes are enjoyable, free from obstruction and easy to follow. Path conditions will vary with the seasons so strong waterproof footwear is recommended. Waterproof clothing should be taken unless you are certain that the weather is settled.

Further Information and Feedback

If you would like further information about the Community Paths Initiative or you have encountered any problems on your walk, please contact:

Environment and Countryside
Development Services Directorate
Riverway, STAFFORD ST16 3TJ

Tel: 01785 277240

Acknowledgments

The production of this leaflet has been funded by Staffordshire County Council Community Paths Initiative and Denstone Parish Council.



The Countryside Code

Respect
Protect
Enjoy

Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available

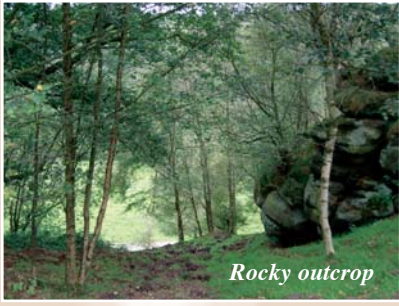
Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under effective control

Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead and be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs

Walks around DENSTONE



Rocky outcrop



Old buildings



Old railway line

The Village Route

From the car park entrance (1), turn right. Cross Oak Road to the War Memorial (2) then cross road to gates near the old railway. Continue along the road past Heywood Hall to T-junction (3). Turn left along main road to the Church (4).

The development of Denstone owes much to Sir Thomas Percival Heywood. He came to live at Doveleys, near Rochester in 1846 at a time when Denstone was known locally as 'Denstone in the Dirt'. Lady Margaret Heywood described it as 'the most neglected of hamlets' and established a Dame School. Sir Thomas set about developing the village and creating a Parish. This involved lengthy negotiations with the Church Commissioners. The Church is one of the finest examples of the work of George Street – an architect of the 'Gothic Revival School'. It was consecrated in 1862. In 1870 the village school was built. The Vicarage, a Curate's house (now 'Three Gables') and a Provost's house (now 'Heywood Hall') were all built at around this period. The fountain was erected in 1900 in memory of Sir Thomas as part of the village water supply piped from a nearby spring.

Go through the gate near the Church porch and down to the old railway line. Turn left and return to the village. Look out for the information boards situated at each end of the old railway platform. At the War Memorial (2), turn left along Oak Road. Just before a sharp bend in the road, turn right up a track. Follow this track for about 100m to a squeeze-stile (5) on a corner.

There were once three public houses in Denstone. The Tavern (which was known for a while as 'The Railway Tavern'); The Crown was the house near the fountain; The Royal Oak (from which Oak Road got its name) was opposite Oak Farm but was demolished in 1965. There was a garage (originally the building to the left of The Tavern then more recently opposite the Bowling Green) and the original Post Office was at the back of Brook House. Several of the houses in Oak Road used to be shops. Oak House was a baker's then a butcher's and slaughterhouse. Lilac Cottage was a 'Boot and Shoe Warehouse' and Willow Cottage (now 'Old School House') was a Dame School. There were also two grocers, a joiner, a smithy and a wheelwright.

Go through the stile. Keep the hedge to your right until the path descends to a bridge over a stream. Cross this and bear left across to the corner of the small field. Pass between the stream and the houses to meet the road at (6). Turn right and follow the road back to the car park.

Places of Interest:

The Tavern – This was built in 1669. For a while it was known as the Railway Tavern but it has now reverted to its original name. The building to the left was the original 'Denstone Garage'.

The Fountain – This was built in 1900 as a memorial to Sir Thomas Percival Heywood. Water was also piped to roadside taps and to some properties in the village. Peacelands used to be 'The Crown', an alchouse.

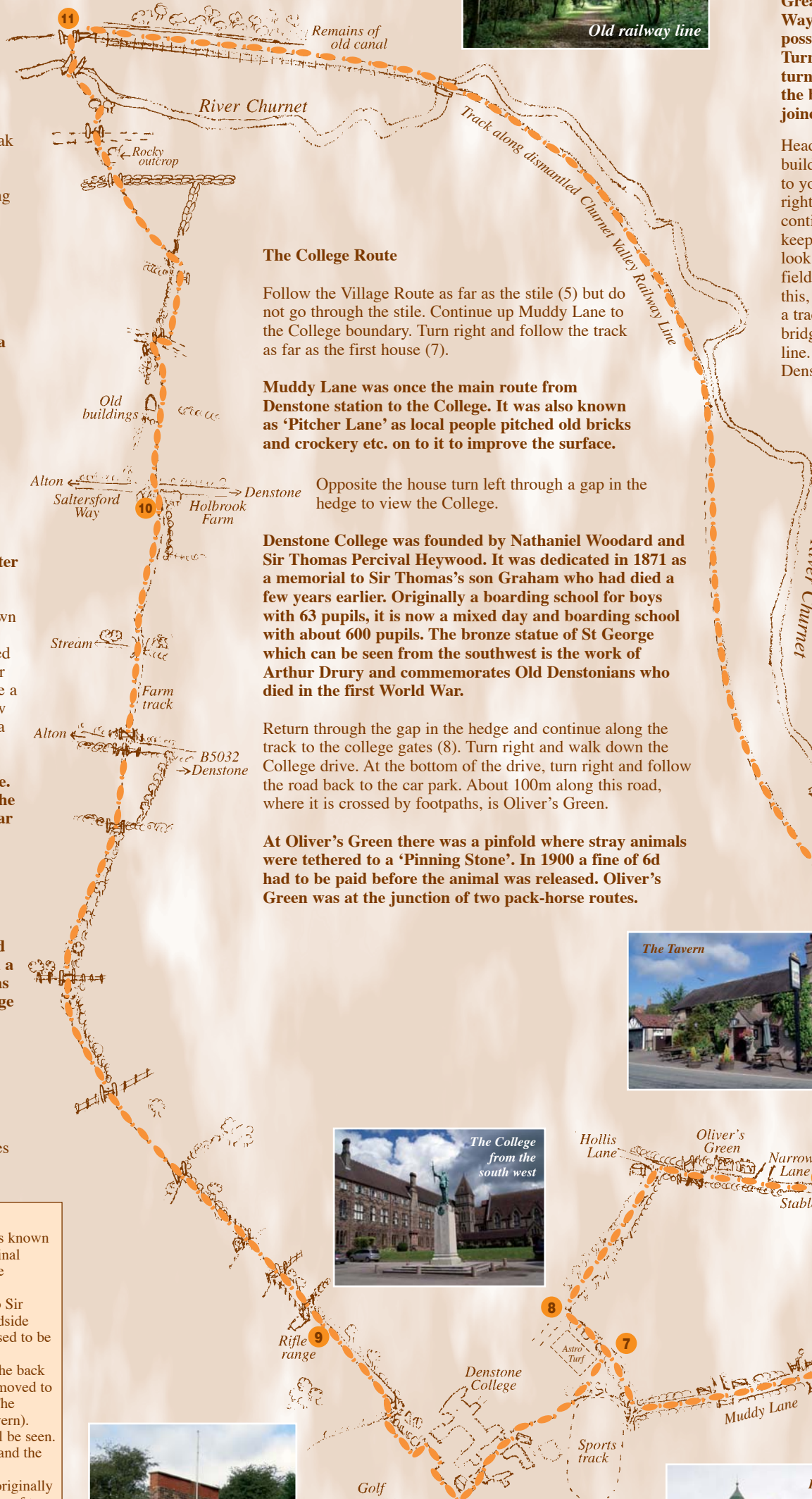
Brook House – Denstone's first Post Office used to be the back room. When the railway closed in 1964 the Post Office moved to an extension built onto the old Station Master's house. The present Post Office is next to the shop (opposite The Tavern).

Railway Station – The remains of the platforms can still be seen. The Gatekeeper's house was to the East of the platform and the Station Master's house was the other side of the road, Heywood Hall – (formerly Heywood House) This was originally the Church Lodge. It has been a school and was the home of two Heywood sisters until 1951.

Three Gables – (formerly All Saints) was built as a Curate's house.

The Old School – This was in use until 1998 when the new school in Oak Road was opened.

All Saints' Church – This was designed by George Street and said to be his favourite Church. The features and fittings show his attention to detail.



The College Route

Follow the Village Route as far as the stile (5) but do not go through the stile. Continue up Muddy Lane to the College boundary. Turn right and follow the track as far as the first house (7).

Muddy Lane was once the main route from Denstone station to the College. It was also known as 'Pitcher Lane' as local people pitched old bricks and crockery etc. on to it to improve the surface.

Opposite the house turn left through a gap in the hedge to view the College.

Denstone College was founded by Nathaniel Woodard and Sir Thomas Percival Heywood. It was dedicated in 1871 as a memorial to Sir Thomas's son Graham who had died a few years earlier. Originally a boarding school for boys with 63 pupils, it is now a mixed day and boarding school with about 600 pupils. The bronze statue of St George which can be seen from the southwest is the work of Arthur Drury and commemorates Old Denstonians who died in the first World War.

Return through the gap in the hedge and continue along the track to the college gates (8). Turn right and walk down the College drive. At the bottom of the drive, turn right and follow the road back to the car park. About 100m along this road, where it is crossed by footpaths, is Oliver's Green.

At Oliver's Green there was a pinfold where stray animals were tethered to a 'Pinning Stone'. In 1900 a fine of 6d had to be paid before the animal was released. Oliver's Green was at the junction of two pack-horse routes.

The Churnet Route

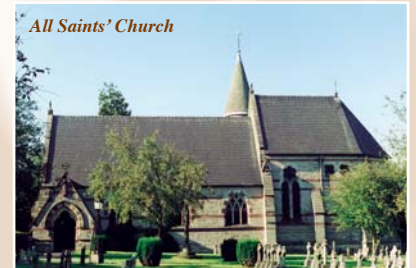
Follow the College route as far as the house (7). Go through the gap in the hedge and pass between the astroturf pitch and the running track. Head towards the pavilion and the school Chapel. Pass to the left of the Chapel and tennis court, left then almost immediately right by the Economics building then down towards the golf course. Turn right and follow the top edge of the golf course to the field boundary. Take the footpath to the right. After 20m turn left over a stile and aim towards a small red brick building (9) (the rifle range).

Continue in the same direction through two gates and three stiles. After the third stile follow the line of the hedge as it swings right. Pass a small marshy area to reach another stile. Cross this stile, keeping the hedge to your right. Pass through a gate and down to the road. Cross the road (care!) and follow the track to Holbrook Farm (10). Pass to the left of the farmhouse and cross Saltersford Lane.

'Saltersford Lane' or 'Salter's Way' is an ancient trackway which is paved in places. It was used by packhorses carrying salt from Cheshire to Derbyshire and beyond. (On a map of 1795 it was marked as a Great Road). It now forms part of the Staffordshire Way. With the aid of an Ordnance Survey map it is possible to use Saltersford Way to amend the walk. Turning right will lead eventually back to Denstone; turning left will lead to the top of Alton Village. From the bottom of the hill in Alton the railway line can be joined and followed back to Denstone.

Head up across a field and to the right of some old buildings. Continue in this direction, keeping the hedge to your left. Cross the stile in the corner of the field, turn right and immediately cross a second stile. Turn left and continue gently downhill in the same general direction, keeping the hedge to your left. Halfway down the field look for a stile in the hedge and cross into the left-hand field. Cross this field diagonally to another stile. Cross this, then descend steeply past a rocky outcrop and across a track, to a footbridge over the River Churnet. Cross the bridge and continue through a stile/gate to the old railway line. Turn right and follow the railway line back to Denstone.

In the past, the River Churnet was heavily polluted by copper working and other industries. It now passes through one of the prettiest parts of Staffordshire and is frequented by otters. The canal linking the Potteries to Uttoxeter was built in 1797. Much of this section of the canal was filled in when the railway was built in 1849 but some strips of standing water can still be seen. Although the railway passed through Denstone, there was no station in the village until the College opened in 1873. The railway line closed in 1964.



All Saints' Church



The Tavern



The College from the south west



Rifle Range



College Pavilion & Chapel



Denstone First School



Fountain