

# Shaped by Coal: Alfreton to Oakerthorpe audio trail map



## Directions to:

### 1 Alfreton Leisure Centre

#### Address | Phone

Church Street, Alfreton, Derbyshire,  
DE55 7BD | 01773 523325

#### Bus

The main bus terminus can be found on Hall Street. King Street (A61) is served by the following services 1, 96,97,98, 160 and the Red Arrow from Derby and Chesterfield.

#### Train

The nearest train station is approximately 1 mile east of Alfreton town centre - served by a regular bus and taxi service.

#### Car

Permit holders are entitled to park at the leisure centre. Alternatively, plenty of car parking is available nearby in Alfreton.

### 2 Alfreton Hall

Exit the leisure centre and cross over the zebra crossing. Head along the footpath and turn left at the white house, all the time keeping the Alfreton Primary Care Centre on your left hand side. Listen to track 2 upon reaching the Polygon Centre a few hundred metres further on.

### 3 Alfreton Park

Continue ahead and along the tarmac path through the woodland. Turn left at the notice advising 'horses must be kept on the track provided for them' and listen to track 3 when you have a view of Alfreton Hall to your left.

### 4 Ironstone and Red Ochre

Continue along the track until you reach the road entrance of the park, with the cricket ground on the right. Turn left, carefully cross the road and head down the public footpath opposite, signposted to Pentrich and Oakerthorpe. Head through 2 kissing gates and around the right hand side of the field edge. Go through a third kissing gate and to the left hand side of the pylon.

Pass through a fourth kissing gate, along the often damp path and over two small, narrow bridges. Follow the path uphill and under the power lines, turning left at the junction soon after. Listen to track 4, just ten metres further on when you have sight of the pond down to your right.

### 5 Brickwork Close

Continue along the path as it merges with one from Highfield House and listen to track 5, 150 metres further on where the path splits.

### 6 The 5th tee

Rather than follow the former tramway spur, take the left hand path and listen to track 6 when you reach the post and wire fence besides the 5th tee.

### 7 Speedwell mine

Follow the path, cross over the Wildlife Trust stile and take a sharp turn left, back on yourself. Head past a pond on your right and listen to track 7 when you reach the small brook, on a right hand bend, where evidence of stone bridge footings can be seen.

### 8 The pond

Head down the six steps, and continue along the path that follows Oakerthorpe Brook - the southern boundary of the reserve. Listen to track 8 when you reach a distinctive pond, with a wooden platform, on your right. On the way you may be lucky enough to see or hear a water vole plopping into the water.

### 9 Oakerthorpe nature reserve

Follow the path around the pond and turn left onto the main footpath. Listen to track 9 at the gate by the road.

## 10 Wingfield Manor colliery

We are now going to exit the reserve and turn right to walk along the grass verge, facing the oncoming traffic. After 50 metres, carefully cross the road onto the footpath opposite and continue in the same direction (do not cross the small bridge). Listen to track 10 after entering Shaw Wood on the left, approximately 30 metres further on.

## 11 Rykneld Street

Cross the bridge and the grassy area beyond it and turn right into the woodland. Follow this path gently uphill and listen to track 11 at a point where a small path heads into the field on the left.

## 12 South Wingfield village

Don't go into the field, instead go uphill along the path that brought you to this point. On reaching the next corner of the field, follow the fenceline until you reach a stile on your left. Turn right, head down the steps and listen to track 12 when you arrive at the stile on the other side of the wood.

## 13 Bell pits and Bess's windows

Don't cross the stile, instead return the way you came and immediately turn right and head through the woodland with the railway on your right. After crossing the little brook listen to track 13 and continue walking.

## 14 Yew trees

Continue along the path for several minutes and listen to track 14 when you reach the obvious path junction.

## 15 Strelley's house

Turn left and head uphill. Turn right at the bench and head along the path on the right hand side of the phone mast. Follow the field edge as it turns 90 degrees left and then right at the large sweet chestnut tree. Continue straight on from here and through the woodland. Listen to track 15 just before you enter the car park of the large building called Hollybank House.

## 16 Highfield colliery

Head down the drive and carefully cross the main road. Rejoin the public footpath on your right and follow it as it turns 90 degrees left. Go through the black metal gate into Oakerthorpe Nature Reserve and cross the narrow bridge – another good place to see evidence of red ochre. At the interpretation panel, cross over the main path and head into the golf course.

Turn right as indicated by the yellow arrows and cross the fairway by the 6th tee, which will be on your left. Listen to track 16 when you reach the trees in the uneven ground.

## 17 St.Martin's parish church

When you are ready, continue along the public footpath, across another fairway and exit the golf course via the concrete 'caution' sign warning oncoming walkers. Turn left at the defunct stile and follow the field edge, keeping the hedge on your left.

After several minutes of walking, carefully cross the road and turn right. Rejoin the public footpath to Alfreton by turning left after less than 100 metres. At the end of the field turn right and cross another stile. Follow the footpath for approximately ½ mile, crossing two more stiles and before long you will join a vehicular track.

Upon reaching a farm on your right, cross the stile and head towards the old, ornate bench. Cross over the stile to the right of the bench and listen to track 17 in the churchyard.

## 1 Return to the leisure centre

Head through the churchyard and down the road. Turn right and return back to the leisure centre.

The route is along mainly level, but at times uneven paths. There are short sections with steps. Busy roads need to be crossed. OS map advised.

Distance: **7.5km/5mi** Allow: **3 hours+**