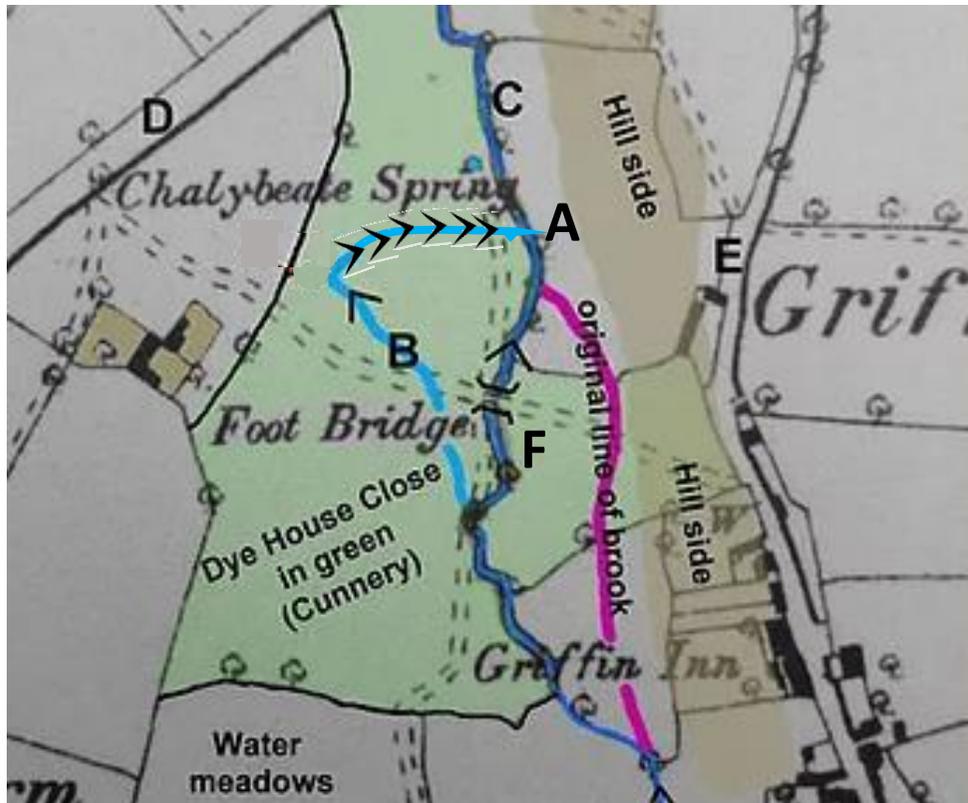


HERITAGE TRAIL

DYE HOUSE CLOSE The Cunneries



- A Site of Andrew Sharpe's Dye House mentioned in his will of 1733, which possibly included a Fulling mill
- B Leat cut into the bank, crossing the valley on the earth embankment to provide the water power to the site of the Dye House.
- C Area called Cartbrook giving the local name for the brook
- D Rempstone to Ashby Turnpike Road
- E Site of Messuage (dwelling) on Dye House Close
- F Footpath, raised into a causeway either side of the footbridge over the brook

The village name is Old Scandinavian gryfja 'a deep valley, a cleft' and dammr 'a dam' and means 'A dam across a deep valley' This indicates the partition of East Mercia into Danelaw after the Viking invasion of 873. Danelaw covered the counties of Leicestershire Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire and explains the difference in accent with the West Midlands.

The place names in the valley indicate possible Historic links. The area is known as the Cunnery where Rabbits were farmed probably linked to the Breedon Priory. The Chalybeate spring (Greek for iron water) rises from the coal shales. There are a number of mineral springs bearing this name and in 1606 Dudley Norths physician claims this form of spa waters cures:- *the colic, the melancholy, and the vapours; it made the lean fat, the fat lean; it killed flat worms in the belly, loosened the clammy humours of the body, and dried the over-moist brain.*

There is evidence that the brook that runs along the valley was diverted to what is believed to be a Fulling Mill; which would be used to clean and prepare woollen cloth for dyeing. Wool would be sorted, spun and woven in the village prior to dyeing and finishing, a very water intensive process. Finally the cloth would be stretched and dried on Tenterframes on the Tentus (Tenthouse).

Andrew Sharp was carrying out the trade of "Shearer and Dyeing of Cloth" prior to 1733 and he had a Dye House equipped with coppers and ovens. The names of the fields either side of the brook are Dye House Close. The footpath below is raised into a causeway either side of the footbridge to ensure a firm surface above the water meadow.

Click [here](#) for further information on the Woven Woollen Cloth Industry in Griffydam.