

areas of interest DIDSBURY & NORTHENDEN



Autumn Crocus

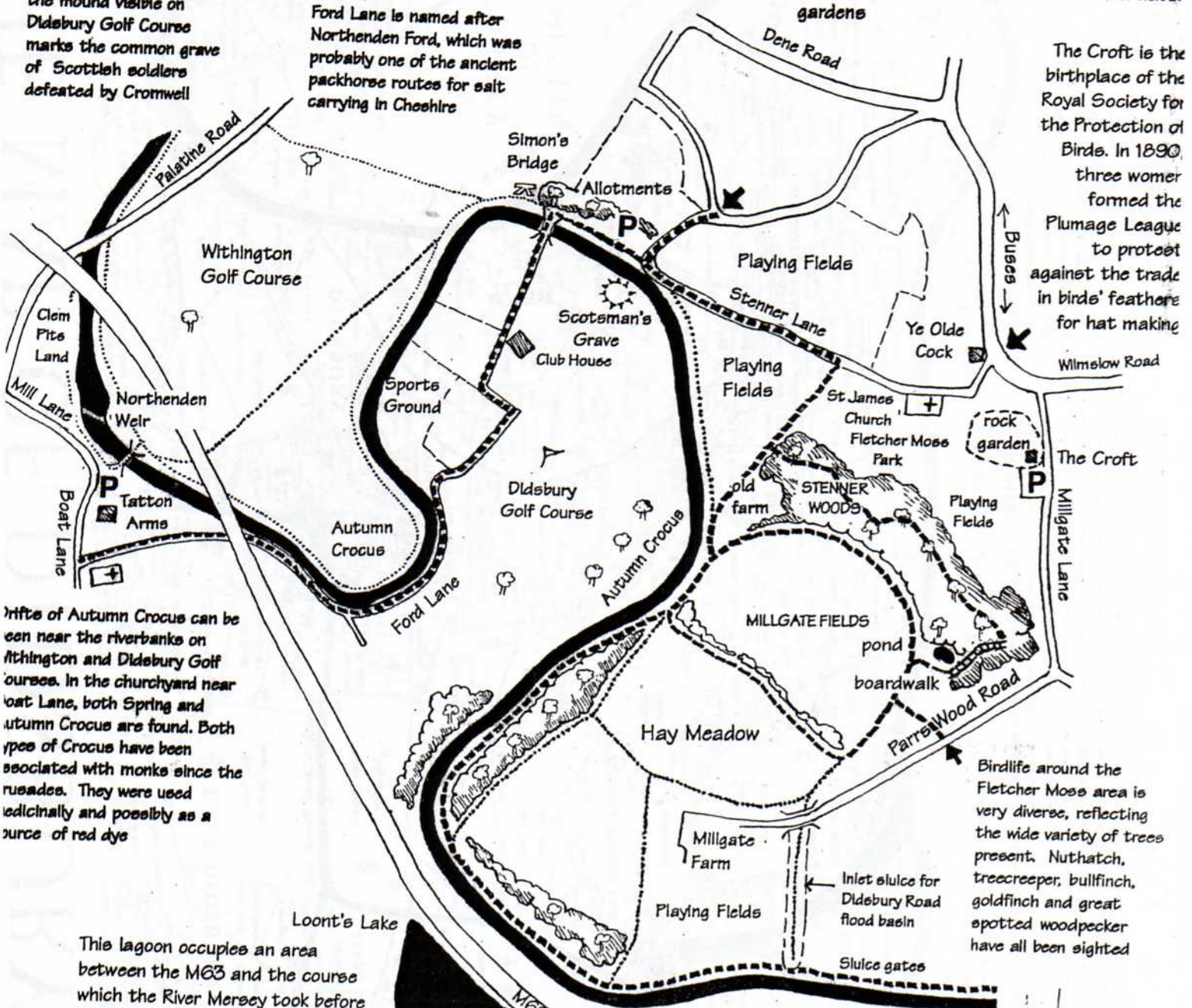
Simon's Bridge was built in 1901 with money from Henry Simon. It replaced Northenden Ford and was built to improve access to Floor's Field. The church collected the rent for this field and used it to pay for blankets and clothes for the poor of the area

Fletcher Moss, a minister, local historian and keen gardener, left the land which bears his name to the council in 1919. Many unusual and colourful plants from all over the world can be seen in these terraced rock and water gardens

During the Civil War, a skirmish took place near Didsbury. It is said that the mound visible on Didsbury Golf Course marks the common grave of Scottish soldiers defeated by Cromwell

Ford Lane is named after Northenden Ford, which was probably one of the ancient packhorse routes for salt carrying in Cheshire

The Croft is the birthplace of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. In 1890, three women formed the Plumage League to protest against the trade in birds' feathers for hat making



Trifoliate leaves of Autumn Crocus can be seen near the riverbanks on Withington and Didsbury Golf courses. In the churchyard near Boat Lane, both Spring and Autumn Crocus are found. Both species of Crocus have been associated with monks since the Crusades. They were used medicinally and possibly as a source of red dye

This lagoon occupies an area between the M63 and the course which the River Mersey took before the motorway was built. It is an important undisturbed stop-over place for migratory wildfowl and a nesting site for Great Crested Grebes and Mute Swans

Birdlife around the Fletcher Moss area is very diverse, reflecting the wide variety of trees present. Nuthatch, treecreeper, bullfinch, goldfinch and great spotted woodpecker have all been sighted

The first mill at Northenden dates from 1510 and was sold to Robert Tatton in 1539. The nearby weir was built to ensure sufficient water reached the mill race, and a weir still exists here today. However, the last mill was demolished in 1966



Key

- P** parking
- ➔** main access points
- multi-purpose path
- other footpath

Walking Guide 2 shows many of the footpaths in this area and gives details of self-guided walks. Available free of charge from the Mersey Valley Wardens