

# **Stannington Troughs Walk**

## **Water, Walls and Walks in the Sheffield Landscape**



Water plays a significant part in the Lakeland area of Sheffield, most obviously in the rivers and reservoirs which abound here. Less apparent are other water features such as water mills, wells, troughs and drinking fountains; all have fascinating stories to tell. Most of the mills driven by water power, which existed in this area, were submerged when the large supply reservoirs were built. However remains of some ruins can still be found along the length of the river Loxley. Many more functioning water troughs still exist however, and this leaflet gives some indication of the more interesting examples, with a guide to walking a local trail visiting some of these in and around Stannington on the edge of Sheffield.

### **Description**

This walk visits a numerous diverse set of troughs in the old part of Stannington, taking in a route which also goes past two unusual burial grounds.

Length – 2.3 miles

Grade - Well marked paths, some stiles, steady ascents. Parts can be muddy and slippery

Start - Upper Gate Road near Stannington library.

Grid Reference SK 302 886

Maps – OL1 Dark Peak

Parking - Upper Gate Road near the library

Public transport – Bus service number 81 stops near the library

Public Toilets – none on the route.

Park on Upper Gate Road near the library.

## Directions

Go up Upper Gate Road to the junction with Bankfield Lane where you will find a decorative trough inset into high stone walls. **Figure 1**



Follow Bankfield Lane to its junction with Stannington Road. Almost opposite, Spout Lane runs down to the right. Go down Spout Lane where there is a trough inset into the wall on your right. **Figure 2**



Further down on the left is a much larger set of 3 troughs. These troughs are interesting, given that the lowest is very wide and home to various water plants. It has been suggested it was used for washing milk churns or as the village well. **Figure 3**



Retrace your steps back up to the main road and turn right. There is a small inset trough on the right. **Figure 4**



Cross the road and walk down as far as Underbank Chapel where Riggs Low Road goes up to the left. Go 150m up this quiet road to access a footpath heading up onto the ridge and through the recently created Natural Burial ground to emerge onto Riggs High Road. Interestingly, on the opposite side of Riggs High Road is an early Quaker burial ground which you may want to see.

Turn right on Riggs High Road and after 50m find a footpath sign on the left. Go across the field until you reach a footpath crossing left to right. Turn left back towards the village and carry on until you reach the road at the junction of Reynard Lane and Hopwood Lane. Take a small detour along Reynard Lane to find another trough built into the wall. **Figure 5**



Retrace your steps back to Hopwood Lane. Go 150m down Hopwood Lane to find a large attractive trough with a stone boundary indicator. **Figure 6**



Turn back up Hopwood Lane (which turns into Oldfield Road) and carry on, ignoring turnings to right and left until you reach School Lane. Go along School Lane which leads onto Church Street. There is a concrete (replacement?) trough by the junction now used as a flower planter. **Figure 7**

Go past Christ Church and Lomas Hall on the right which brings you back onto Uppergate Road and the starting point.



## Map



## History of Stone Troughs

Most troughs were built for watering stock and are found both within and along the edges of fields. They can also be found in the enclosures attached to field barns where they held water for over-wintering cattle. Many troughs are set into field walls so that they can serve stock in two fields; these often have a sandstone divider or bars across the middle, sometimes a divider or bars will be present in a wall, sometimes the stone trough will have been replaced by a galvanised one.

Troughs are also found alongside roads and tracks, often fed by a natural stream or spring, and sometimes by a piped or culverted supply. Roadside troughs will also have served moving stock but were primarily intended for horses.

Some troughs originally associated with other agricultural and industrial uses still survive.

It is a general belief that in addition to the Bradfield troughs being principally used for household water, they were also used to provide horses, donkeys and mules with a drink, and in more recent times would have been used by steam road vehicles that needed to replenish their water supply.

Four troughs on Loxley Road are particularly interesting. The upper troughs have a canopy, which would have enabled only the householders to collect water, stopping animals' access to the water and avoiding contamination. The lower troughs were there to provide animals with a drink. Along the front of these lower troughs is a row of 'Kicking Stones' – there to prevent animal hooves from damaging the troughs.

