

Worrall Trough 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.

Walk Description

This short walk takes you from the village of Worrall, across open fields to an unusual washing trough and well. Open views from this walk present a wide panorama stretching from Wharncliffe Woods down into Sheffield.

Length - 1.0 miles

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

Start - Corner of Haggstones Road and Kirk Edge Road. Parking on the road.

Grid Reference - SK 308 920

Maps – OL1 Dark Peak

Parking - Car Park (free)

Public transport – Buses (service 57) stop at the corner of Haggstones Road and Kirk Edge Road

Public Toilets – none on the route.

Directions

The walk starts at a large, interesting set of troughs at the corner of Haggstones Road and Kirk Edge Road which have been recently restored. Although their precise origins and uses are unknown it is likely that they provided a water supply to the village as well as watering for horses at this busy crossroads. **Figure 1**



Go up Kirk Edge Road to the junction with Top Road. Wellhouse Farm is on the right - perhaps the name indicated a water source as old maps mark a well in the field in front of the farm but there is nothing visible there now.

Turn right down Top Road and after 100m turn left along Town Gate Road. Continue past Towngate Grove and after the right bend take the wide path on the right through the metal barriers.

The path opens onto Walshaw Road. Follow the road down for 100m to the junction. Take the marked footpath opposite between the walls.

Go down the path for about 100m to reach the Tungate well and washing trough where there is a pleasant sitting area and information board. Some local people used to believe the spring water had medicinal properties and possibly collected and used it to cool those ill with fever. The troughs and area around them have been restored and planted using Lakeland Landscape Partnership funding.

Figure 2 and Figure 3 (before and after restoration) and Information board



Continue on footpath to emerge on Boggard Lane. Turn right then right again at the junction with Haggstones Road to return up the road to the starting point. Notice the carved bridges in the stone sign for Worrall on the other side of the road. These suggest the importance of the bridge over the River Don at Oughtibridge in the valley below.

A History of Stone Troughs

Most troughs were made to provide animals with drinking water and are found both within and along the edges of fields. Some may be set into field walls so that they can serve stock in two fields and there will be a stone or metal divider down the middle of the wall. Troughs can be made of a variety of materials, carved from a solid block of stone or constructed from metal or concrete. Those found alongside roads and tracks are often fed by a natural stream or spring, although there may be a piped or culverted water supply.

In addition to roadside troughs being used to provide horses, donkeys and mules with a drink, in more recent times they would also have been used by traction engines and other steam road vehicles that needed to replenish their water supply. Householders might also have drawn water from a trough and relied on this source before the coming of mains water piped direct into the home.

Four troughs on Loxley Road are particularly interesting examples. The upper troughs have a stone 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.



This route is distributed in association with Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership