

Acknowledgments

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Waterrough & Old Sheffield/West Riding Boundary Stone, Bingley Lane, Stantington



Ewden Valley from Healds Lane

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Bradfield Boundary Walk

Bradfield Boundary Walk

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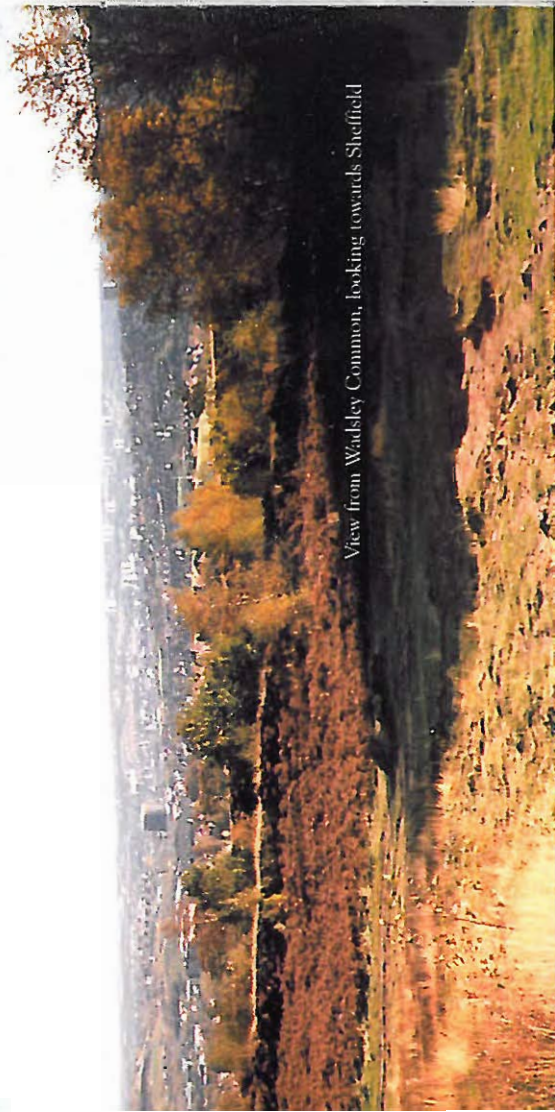
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Middle: Waterwheel, Little Matlock Mill
Bottom: The Rocking Stones, Upper Derwent Valley



The Rocking Stones,
Upper Derwent Valley



The Boundary Stone,
A57 at Moscar



View from Wadsley Common, looking towards Sheffield

Introduction

Bradfield Parish is probably the largest civil parish in England covering 56 square miles. It includes many villages and hamlets all with their own historical interest linked by over 100 miles of public footpaths.

The Boundary Walk, 49.5 miles in total (46 miles if taking the alternative route at Oughtibridge or 55 miles if taking in the section to Swains Head) is unique, and takes in some of the most beautiful countryside in England ranging from fertile valleys in the south and east to the open moorland and the last great wilderness in the north and west.

The details of the route are given as close as possible to the boundary using existing Public Footpaths, Bridleways, Lanes and Roads.

The Parish boundary from Swains Head to Langsett crosses Howden Edge towards Outer Edge and down Harden Clough. However the landowner has requested that we omit this section from the walk due to it being an area of SSSI, SPA, SAC within ESA and an alternative route is given by using the Cut Gate track to Langsett via Mickleden Edge and Brookhouse Bridge.

The terrain of the walk is mixed and varied with the section from Slippery Stones to Langsett being the most difficult as this is mainly on open moorland. It is recommended to avoid this section in adverse weather conditions. An escape route can be used from Swaines Head by following

a line of stakes down Far Small Clough which leads directly to the A628 road at Saltersbrook. The remainder is fairly easy walking with a mixture of hills and dales, villages and hamlets.

Moorland Protection

Much of the moorland and blanket bog on this walk is of international conservation importance, and is covered by several designations including Sites of Special Area for Conservation under European legislation. By their very nature these areas are extremely fragile and can be extensively damaged by insensitive use. Please avoid the blanket bog in wet weather and avoid disturbance to ground nesting birds during the Springtime by keeping to the main routes.



Public Transport

Most of the area is served by public transport and we recommend the Rural Transport Map for South Yorkshire produced by South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Department Tel 0114-2211324. For travel times Tel 01709-515151



Car Parking

Off street parking along the route is available at the following points:

- Langsett Barn at Langsett (toilet facilities beside barn)
- Glen Howe at Wharncliffe Side (toilet facilities in park)
- Rural Lane at Wadsley

- Rivelin Bridge near to Post Office (1.5 miles from route)
- Wyming Brook at Redmires Road
- Redmires Reservoir at Redmires Road
- Cutthroat Bridge on A57 road (1.0 miles west of Moscar Lodge)

On street parking close to the route is available at:

- Midhopestones
- Oughtibridge (toilet facilities in park)
- Middlewood
- Loxley
- Stannington
- Kings Tree - Howden (for Slippy Stones) no parking at weekends or Public Holidays

Equipment

It is essential that you are prepared for your walk with suitable clothing, strong walking boots, compass, map and sufficient food for the route.

Route Planning

It is essential that you plan your route using the undermentioned maps. You may wish to cover the route in several sections by making a round walk back to your starting point or alternatively return to your starting point by other means. There is no public transport between Slippy Stones and Langsett Barrn. For your guidance distances are shown between locations on the step-by-step route

Maps

Two useful maps, which should be used in conjunction with the walk, are: -

- 1) Outdoor Leisure 1 - The Peak District Dark Peak Area
- 2) SK29/39

Both are available from local bookshops

The maps shown in this booklet are not to scale and should only be used for guidance.

Caution!

There are two sections along this route that are considered extremely dangerous, particularly with regard to the volume of fast moving traffic. Both are in the Oughtibridge area, the first being the section between Station Lane and Oughtibridge Lane after crossing the railway bridge.

There is no footpath on either side of road, which is narrow, and one should take extreme care when negotiating this section. The second section considered dangerous is at the top of Oughtibridge Lane where there is a blind S bend when crossing the top near to Birley Edge.

An alternative shorter route is given from the bridge at Oughtibridge to rejoin the main route near to the Middlewood Tavern for anyone wishing to avoid these two sections.

Historical Notes

To make your walk more interesting we have given a brief history of places of interest along the way. These are marked with a subscripted bold number in the walk text. The relevant information can be found in the section marked Historical Notes 1 - 23 on pages 17-20.

Bradfield Archives

All profits from the proceeds of this publication will go towards the upkeep and maintenance of the recently formed Bradfield Parish Archives which are a unique collection of documents, books, photographs etc. covering the workings of the Parish over the last 500 years and are housed in the Parish Offices, Mill Lee Road, Low Bradfield, Sheffield S6 6LB.

They are available for the public to research information every Thursday throughout the year (except Public Holidays) 9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Country Code

- Close all gates and keep to public paths
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences and walls
- Unnecessary noise should be kept to a minimum
- No litter should be left behind
- Take special care on country roads
- Respect all wildlife, plants and trees
- Leave livestock, crops and machinery well alone

- Safeguard against the risk of fire
- Help to keep water clean
- Dogs should be kept under control and on leads at all times
- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work
- Closure of routes at times of shooting seasons
- Closure of routes at times of fire risk
- Paths etc. may be closed by government directive in emergency

Walking in Safety

- Although the walk has been described in detail no walk in the countryside can be considered to be completely free from risk
- Some sections of the route are by or cross busy roads
- Take care and remember traffic can be a danger on country lanes
- Take care in areas where there are livestock and farm machinery
- Be aware of possible changes in weather conditions particularly on the moorland sections of this walk
- Bradford Parish Council cannot accept any responsibility for injury, loss or damage to persons or their property whilst undertaking the walk

The Boundary Walk

From Langsett Barn (SE 213-005) car park walk beside the barn and follow the lane through the community to the A616 road beside the Waggon & Horses public house, then turn right and right again over the reservoir embankment (signposted Strines & Derwent Valley). Cross the reservoir embankment and take the first footpath sign on the left towards the Water Treatment Works. (0.5 miles)

Pass through a pair of gateposts and a step stile on the left into a wooded area. The path runs beside a series of old wooden posts descending to run alongside the Little Don River. Do not cross the river but go through the next stile to a direction post and go straight ahead until the road is reached (from Upper Midhope). Turn left onto the road to Midhopestones passing Midhope Hall Farm¹ and the church of St. James the Less² and continue to the T junction at "Ye Olde Mustard Pot" public house. (2.25 miles)

Turn right to The Smithy³ and left into Oakes Lane, continue for approx. 0.75 miles then take first footpath sign on right leading to Wind Hill Farm. Pass through the farm buildings and gate. At second gate climb wall stile and turn right up

to Long Lane. Cross lane and follow path along left hand edge of the plantation until reaching direction post with numerous arrows. Turn right at this post, through broken wall and bear left along faint track passing trig point until reaching lane (marked on map as Healds Lane) (2.5 miles)

Continue ahead towards Bolsterstone passing Hunger Hill and Low Flat Farms. At Waldershaigh Farm take the footpath on the right into the farmyard between the buildings. Follow footpath rapidly descending to the valley bottom taking the right hand fork at sign in wooded area until reaching Yew Trees Lane then turn right along the tarmac road until reaching Broomhead Bridge which crosses Ewden Beck. SK 254 - 963 (2.0 miles)

Continue along the road, keeping to the side of the reservoir and turn left at the Public Bridleway sign beside the reservoir. Pass the reservoir embankment and continue down to the head of Morehall Reservoir⁴ bear right along Jack Lane until reaching Jack House, which is on the left. Just beyond the house take the footpath on the left into the woodland eventually emerging at the South Yorkshire Sailing Club buildings⁵ (2.5 miles)

Take the flagged footway and track diagonally to the right that takes you through the woods, stiles and open fields into Townfield Lane to the hamlet of Brightholmlee. Turn left onto the road and down to the last building on the left. Turn right into Storth Lane and continue ahead until reaching Glen Howe⁶ with the park on the right and the car park on the left.

SK 294 - 943 (1.5 miles)

Continue past Glen Howe Car Park joining Green Lane and continue straight ahead following road signs towards Oughtibridge. Bear left near telephone box and continue down Cockshutts Lane until reaching T junction at the main Sheffield to Manchester road at Oughtibridge. (1.0 miles)

Turn right, cross the road then left into Orchard Street (beside White Hart Inn), turn left over the bridge⁷ over the River Don at Station Lane. (0.25 miles)

(Due to the fact that the next section of the route is dangerous (see note in introduction under heading "Caution") you may wish to consider an alternative route - this being to descend the steps on the right of the bridge and continue beside the riverbank until reaching the footbridge over the river and rejoining the full route at this point) (1.0 miles)

Cross the bridge and continue up Station Lane, over the railway bridge,⁸ ** after approx. 100 yards take footpath on left marked "Public Footpath to Wharcliffe Woods" opposite Oughtibridge Hall⁹ (0.5 miles)

** At this point there is no footpath on either side of the highway and extreme care should be taken at all times to ensure public safety.

Follow the works road leading towards Woodend then bear right on path crossing Sough Dyke, continue along track to right until a wooden post with red and yellow bands is reached. Turn right at sign "Permissive Path / Bridleway" and continue to a T junction of paths, go forward and left up slight incline to the end of the woodland where another T junction of paths is reached. Continue ahead over the stile and along the edge until the path reaches the S bend at the top of Oughtibridge Lane. ** Cross the road and continue along Birley Edge keeping a wall on the left until reaching the next road. (1.75 miles)

** At this point take extreme care when crossing the road as there is a "blind S bend".

At next road junction bear sharp right to the first footpath on left and right at next footpath sign to eventually emerge alongside houses

The Boundary Walk

at Royds Row. Turn left onto the road and in approx. 50 yards turn right over the stile and continue to next step stile. Climb stile and turn right and after approx. 10 yards the next stile is beside open gateposts. Turn sharp left across the gate opening and continue along the path beside the wall that is on the left passing through open stile passing an electricity pylon. Continue forward to farm building at Underhill (note plaque marked "John Carr Fletcher AD 1897") (1.5 miles)

Pass through the gate in left hand corner that continues into a green lane, there is a large factory on the left. The path continues through a wooded area before crossing a stone railway bridge. Descend stone steps and turn right, continue ahead along service road leading to a factory. Just before reaching the factory gates bear left, cross the footbridge (those who have chosen the alternative route at Oughtibridge should rejoin the main route at this point) and ascend the steps to the main road opposite the Middlewood Tavern. SK 317 - 920 (1.0 miles)

Turn left along Middlewood Road North then turn right up Langsett Avenue (just before Supertram Terminus) until reaching its junction with Worrall Road. Cross the road into Well Lane then right into Rural Lane to car park on left. (1.5 miles)

Go through the car park and continue up the main footpath through the old sandstone quarry. Turn left at top of steps beside sports ground with Wadsley and Loxley Commons¹⁰ to the right. Keep the sports ground on the left and after crossing the main footpath keep a wall on the left until entering woodland. Follow the track into the woodland and descend the stone pathway (The ravine on the right was the former bottom mine) until reaching Bower Cottage on the left. Bear left at the cottage and then right over vehicle deterrent then take the right track which runs beside Wisewood School fields emerging on Rodney Hill at Loxley¹¹ at the old Sheffield / West Riding Boundary. SK 315 - 902 (1.0 miles)

Cross the road and turn right then left at Public Bridleway through parkland that was reclaimed during the 1970s from an old ganister quarry. Cross Studfield Hill and continue beside wall down to Loxley Road. Cross Loxley Road, turn right then left into Low Matlock Lane passing a derelict steelworks that is on the right. And continue ahead until reaching Little Matlock Rolling Mill¹². (1.0 miles)

Just before reaching the mill Riverdale Cottages are on the right. Bear left at the cottages, down to the river¹² beside the mill and cross two

footbridges and then ahead up to the steep path to the Robin Hood Inn¹⁴. SK 310 - 893 (0.25 miles)

Take the tarmac path beside the pub car park leading to Myers Grove Lane. Turn right onto the road and continue up to Wood Lane, cross the road, take the path beside Anvil Close leading into a sports field. Go diagonally right across the field up the right hand side of three tower blocks of flats to the Pharmacy on Stannington Road. (0.75 miles)

Cross the road continue past the Sportsman Inn up Oldfield Road for approx. 0.75 miles and turn left into Nethergate. Continue to the end of Nethergate to its junction with Hopwood Lane. SK 299 - 881 (1.0 miles)

Turn Left into Hopwood Lane and continue ahead (the road later changes its name to Bingley Lane). Revell Grange¹⁵ is soon reached on the right, just beyond this bear right onto the unmade road, continue for a short distance, take the second footpath on the left beyond Bingley Seat. The path continues through woodland running below and parallel to Rivelin Rocks or Roughs which passes through a nature reserve and emerges on the A57 Sheffield to Manchester Road opposite the embankment of Rivelin Dams. SK 276 - 869 (2.0 miles)

At this point the Parish boundary goes through the reservoirs and over restricted moorland and an alternative route has been selected.

Cross the road to the old Sheffield / West Riding Boundary Stone and continue along the reservoir embankment, bear right and continue until reaching a stile on the left. Climb the stile and continue beside the stream up Wyming Brook until reaching the top then turn right onto Redmires Road. (1.25 miles)

Continue along the road until it ends beside Redmires Reservoir then turn right up the track marked Public Bridleway which rises steadily until reaching the well known landmark of Stanage Pole. SK 246 - 844 (2.25 miles)

From the Pole the track continues along Stanage Edge (Keep to the highest track beside the fence) eventually reaching the trig point at High Neb and shortly after this the Parish is rejoined at Crow Chin. (2.0 miles)

Along this section of the route one can note that there are numbered depressions in the rocks. These were cut during the 1920s to find work for the employees of the landowner during the recession at a cost of 6s 8¹/₂d to provide drinking points for the moorland birds. The Derwent

The Boundary Walk

Valley now opens up ahead in the distance and the track passes a disused quarry from where our route can clearly be seen direct to the A57 road at Moscar. Upon reaching the road, cross over and turn right until reaching the old Bradfield Boundary Stone¹⁶ at the entrance to the driveway of Moscar Lodge¹⁷.
SK 232 - 879 (2.5 miles)

Go up the driveway and over the stile, the old Moscar Cross Guidepost¹⁸ stoop is on the left, continue beside the wall gaining higher ground and pass through a gate and then descend on to the Strines / Sugworth Road. Then turn left to the T junction.
(1.0 miles)

Turn left, cross the road to the track opposite leading to Moscar House Farm (this track is part of the old Mortimer Road), go through the farm yard and in a further 200 yards meet a cross roads of paths.
(0.75 miles)

Take the right footpath sign marked "Peak District via Derwent Edge to Derwent dated 1933", continue up the well worn track eventually reaching a large stone cairn at another cross roads on Derwent Edge.
SK 203 - 880 (1.75 miles)

Turn right onto Derwent Edge which is a well worn and eventually flagged footway, (the trig point on Back Tor is clearly visible for some distance ahead and one should head towards that point) passing rock formations with curious names such as Wheel Stones, White Tor, Salt Cellar, Dovestone Tor and Cakes of Bread. A junction of footpaths is reached at a point on the O.S. map marked Bradfield Gate Head, just before reaching Back Tor.
SK 198 - 907 (2.25 miles)

Take the track towards the Derwent Valley to a large cairn at Lost Lad then to Lost Lad Hillend where the track rapidly descends via a stone stairway. At the bottom of the stairway continue along the well defined path bearing right before a fence and stile are reached. Cross the stile and keep the wall to your right. Continue until meeting a wall ahead, turn left and head downhill towards the reservoir. At the finger post turn right and follow the obvious route, gradually descending past the ruins of Bamford House. The path eventually enters the trees through a gap in the wall, and descends onto the service road round the upper reaches of Derwent Reservoir¹⁹.
SK 171 - 919 (2.0 miles)

Turn right along the service road passing the turrets of Howden Reservoir embankment and the reservoir until reaching the packhorse bridge at Slippery Stones on the left⁶.
SK 169 - 952 (3.0 miles)

Do not cross the bridge but continue ahead keeping the River Derwent on the left until reaching a footpath sign No. 160 marked Langsett and Flouch,^{**}, take the right hand path which leads directly to the well known and well worn route marked on the map as Cut Gate.

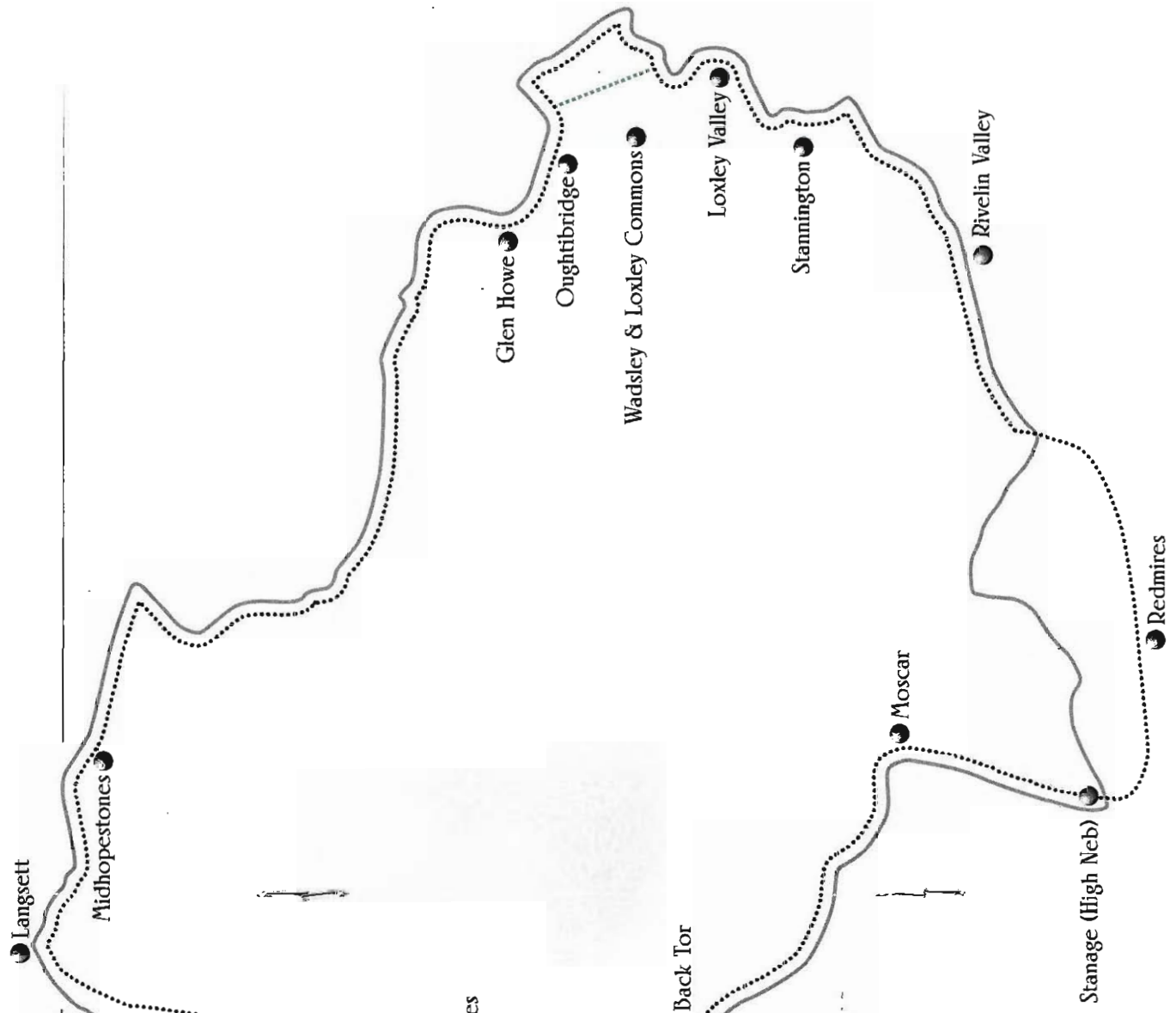
Continue up Cut Gate, at the summit there are two large stone cairns before descending down the other side on Mickleden Edge to Brookhouse Bridge.
SE 197-006 (5.5 miles)

From Brookhouse Bridge there is a choice of two footpaths, the first by turning right after crossing the bridge, the second by climbing the short steep bank directly ahead of the bridge and then turning right. Both run parallel to each other either eventually leading into Langsett Barn car park.

SE 213 - 005 (1.0 miles)

******For those wishing to go to Swains Head²² the outermost western part of the Parish take the track to the left marked with a yellow arrow and then left again at "National Trust - Howden Moor" sign. Continue up the broad footpath beside the River Derwent passing the streams of Broadhead and Stainery Clough. The footpath narrows when Lands Clough is reached and becomes boggy near to Coldwell Clough but is well defined as it continues through bracken before reaching Hoar Clough. Ignore the path on the right which leads directly into Hoar Clough but continue ahead passing below The Shepherds Meeting Stones²¹ to eventually reach a cross roads of paths at a broken post at Swains Head., SK 133 - 983 (4.5 miles)

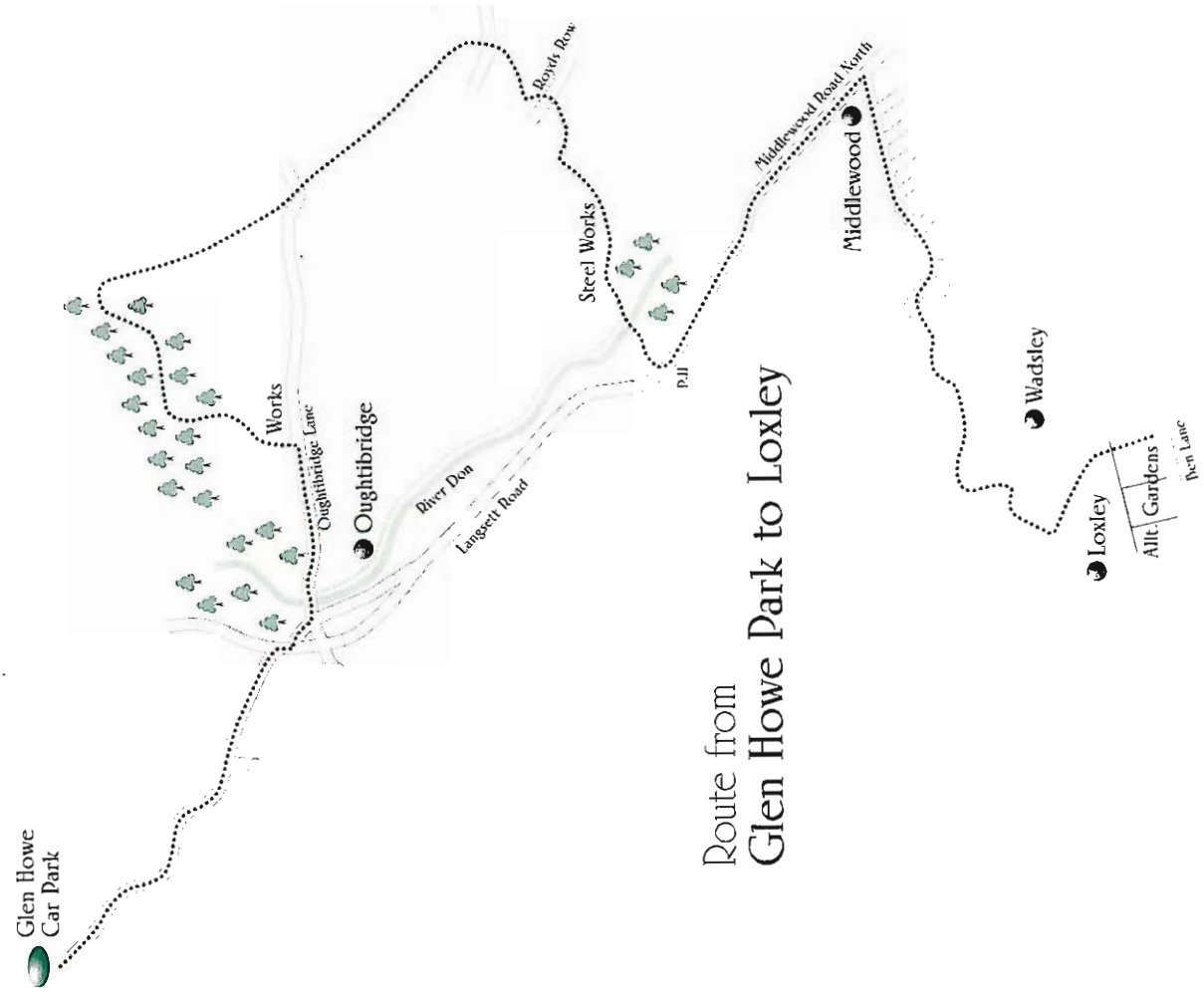
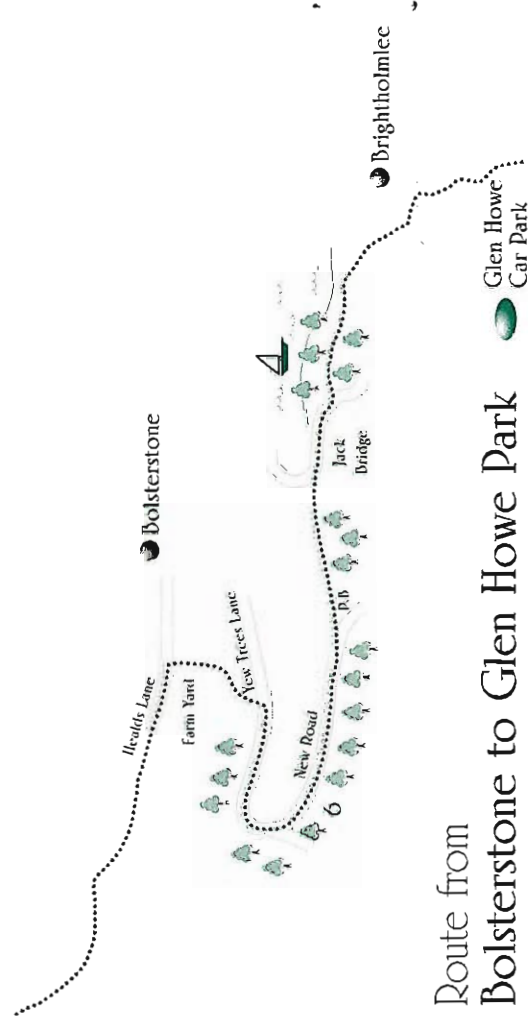
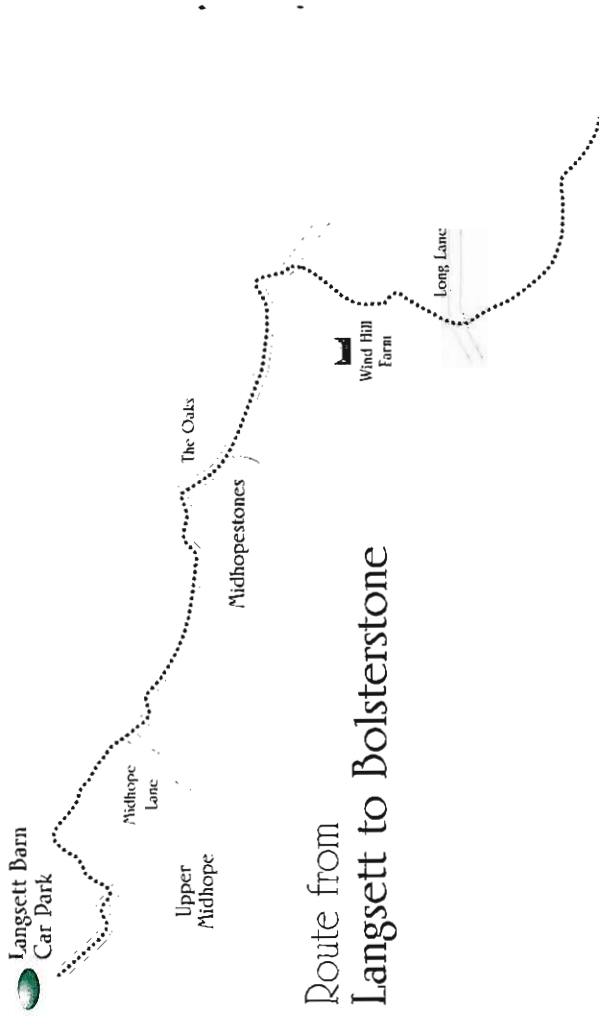
Return via the same route and rejoin the walk.



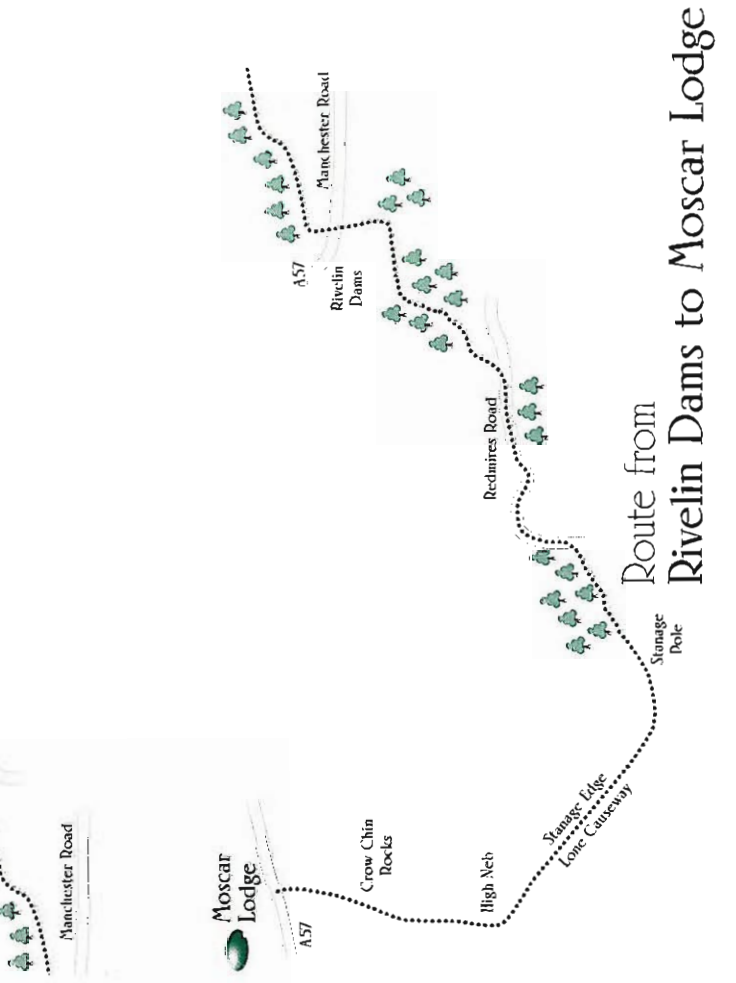
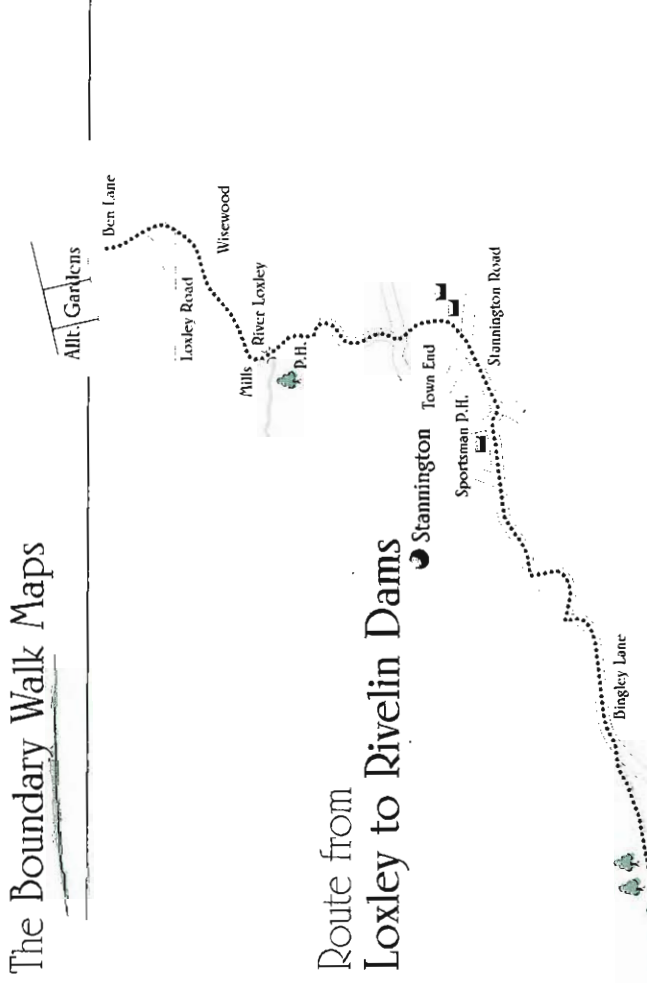
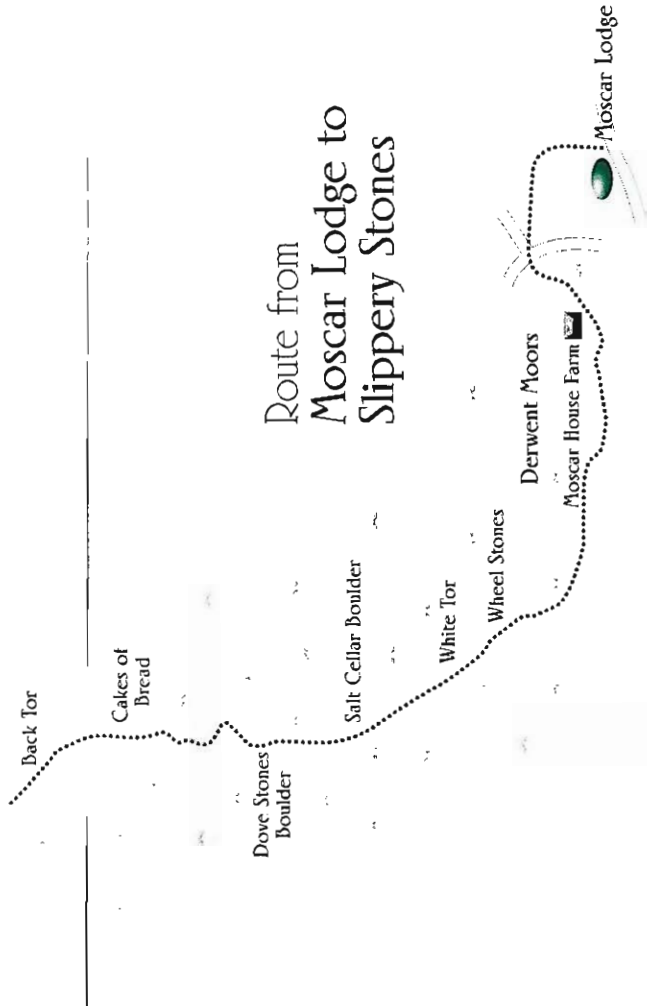
Bradfield Boundary Walk Maps

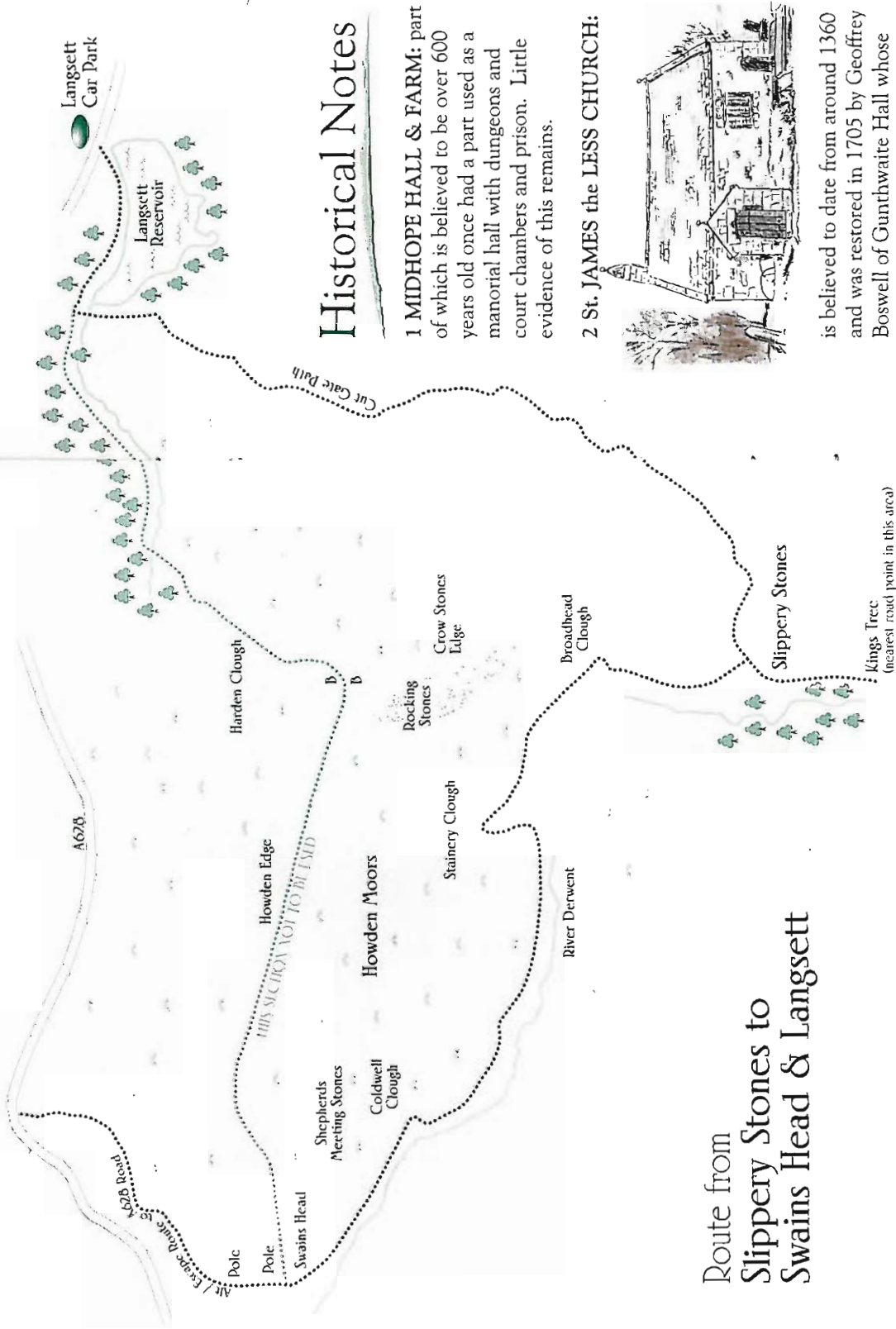
- Route of Walk
- - - - - Alternative Walk
- Parish Boundary

The Boundary Walk Maps



The Boundary Walk Maps



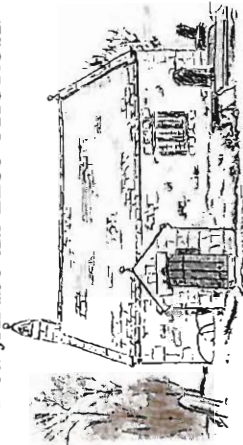


Route from
Slippery Stones to
Swains Head & Langsett

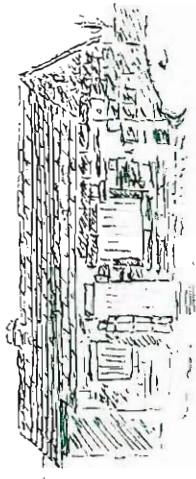
Historical Notes

1 MIDHOPE HALL & FARM: part of which is believed to be over 600 years old once had a part used as a manorial hall with dungeons and court chambers and prison. Little evidence of this remains.

2 St. JAMES the LESS CHURCH:



is believed to date from around 1360 and was restored in 1705 by Geoffrey Boswell of Gunthwaite Hall whose Coat of Arms can be seen over the porch. Inside are boxed pews bearing the names of local prominent worshippers. The church is in the Diocese of Wakefield.



3 MIDHOPSTONES SMITHY: is believed to date back to 1723 and is now owned by Bradford Parish Council. For many years was in the ownership of the Bramall family. A stone inscribed "G.B.1788" on the north east corner is understood to relate to George Bramall upon completion of his apprenticeship to John Bramall.

4 EWDEN VALLEY RESERVOIRS: were completed during the 1930s after many years of construction due to an underground spring creating a problem of stability on the Bolsterstone side of the valley. The Parish Boundary runs through the centre of these two reservoirs. The upper reservoir (Broomhead) is used for drinking water whilst the lower (Morehall) is used as compensation water, which allows fishing and sailing to take place.

5 EWDEN VALLEY: contains many old and varied buildings. At the head of the valley is the Broomhead Hall Estate. The hall was demolished in the early 1970s and for many generations was the home of the Remington-Wilson family.

6 GLEN HOWE PARK: was given to the people by Joseph Dixon and John Mills in 1917 and is approx 19 acres. The tower was built c1881. The pack-horse bridge in the park over Tinker Brook was originally the New Mill Bridge (site now under the reservoir) erected in 1734, rebuilt in its present position in memory of Joseph Dixon in 1929

7 FORGE LANE COTTAGES: date from the 17th century and stand at the junction of Orchard Street and Station Lane at the end of a narrow lane leading to the old forge. The footings of the original bridge built 1729 can still be seen on the riverbank at the entrance to Forge Lane.

8 THE RAILWAY: now a single track line operating only as far as the steelworks at Stocksbridge was originally constructed in 1845 as the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway Company as a passenger and goods line via the Woodhead Tunnel later becoming the Great Central Railway, London North Eastern Railway and finally British Rail. The line was electrified to Manchester in 1953 and closed to passengers c1970 and to goods c1981. The station at Oughtbridge was the only railway station in Bradfield Parish.

9 OUGHTBRIDGE HALL:



is one of the oldest buildings in the area and dates back to the 16th century and contains original furniture from that period, some manufactured locally at Onesacre. The adjacent farm is believed to date back to around 1530.

10 WADSLEY & LOXLEY COMMONS: cover quite a large area. The Sandstone Quarry provided the stone for the Wicker Arches. A gibbet was erected on Loxley Edge in 1772 where the body of Francis Fearn was hung following his execution at York for the horrific murder of Nathan Andrews, a watchmaker from Sheffield. Clay and Ganister mining also took place underneath the commons and ceased operations around the late 1930s

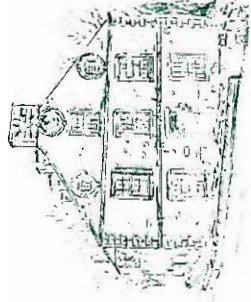
11 LOXLEY - ROBIN HOOD: everyone is familiar with the story of Robin Hood or Robin of Loxley as he is often called. He was reputedly born at Haggis Croft now the site of Normandale House (approx. 100 yards from the start of the Loxley section of this walk) and later said to

have lived in the woods near to the Robin Hood Inn.

12 THE GREAT SHEFFIELD FLOOD: occurred on the night of March 11th/12th 1864 when Dale Dyke Reservoir embankment above the village of Bradfield burst, releasing over 600 million gallons of water down the Loxley Valley, continuing its course through Malin Bridge, Hillsborough, Owlerton and Neepsend causing the loss of over 240 lives as well as demolition and destruction of properties and structures.

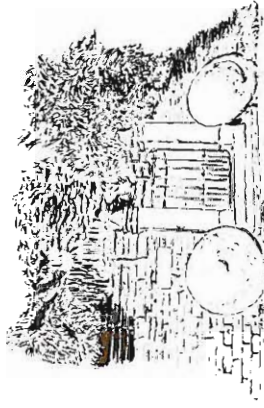
13 LITTLE MATLOCK ROLLING MILL: which we pass when crossing the River Loxley. The mill built in 1732 was totally destroyed in the flood and rebuilt on its present site in 1882. It is believed to be the last surviving original water powered rolling mill in Europe. Although the mill was converted to electricity around 1955 the waterwheel still remains in place by the side of the mill. The mill ceased production at the end of 1999 and has recently been purchased with a view to being put back into operation in the near future with the waterwheel being used in some capacity.

14 ROBIN HOOD INN - LITTLE MATLOCK:



was built in 1804 by Thomas Halliday who was known for building several other substantial properties in the area. The inn was designed with the purpose of attracting the gentry of Sheffield and beyond by creating water gardens and woodland walks etc. in the area which reminded him so much of Matlock in Derbyshire that he named it Little Matlock.

15 REVELL GRANGE:



it is believed that the original building dates from the sixteenth century and took its name from the Revell family who came to the area from Ogston in Derbyshire around that time.

16 BOUNDARY STONE: marks the line where the boundary crosses the A57 Sheffield to Manchester road. It is thought to be the only one of its type on the entire boundary.

17 MOSCAR LODGE: was built in 1872 as a shooting lodge for the steel entrepreneur Mark Firth whose inscription can be seen on the side of the house. Later it was used as an orphanage but is now a private house.

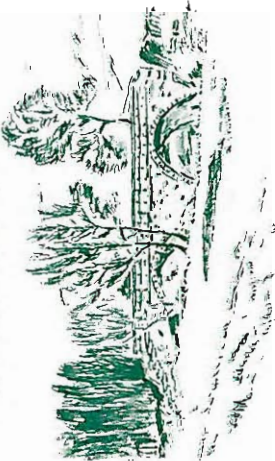
18 MOSCAR CROSS STONE: stands at the top of the lane beyond

Moscar Lodge and is believed to have been used as "White Cross Stone" in Charlotte Brontë's "Jane Eyre".

19 HOWDEN & DERWENT

RESERVOIRS: were completed around 1912. Whilst under construction a temporary village was built, including a school and shops for the workers and their families. A railway operated to the site carrying passengers and goods from the mainline near to Bamford Station (a few remains can be seen around the Fairholmes area and are marked on information boards accordingly). The reservoirs have a special place in history when they were used by the Royal Air Force to practise low level flying during WWII in preparation for the attacks on German reservoirs under the command of Wing Commander Guy Gibson and were also used in the film "The Dambusters"

20 SLIPPERY STONES:



The Bridge here was originally in the village of Derwent. When construction work commenced on the Ladybower Reservoir the bridge was taken down stone by stone, numbered and rebuilt at Slippery Stones in 1959. Photographs of the

reconstruction and drawings are housed in Bradford Parish Offices.

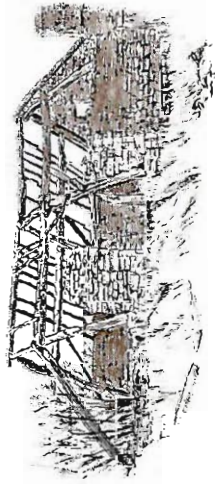
21 SHEPHERDS MEETING

STONES: are thought to be where stray sheep were rounded up and sorted. Local shepherds would meet at this point to collect their lost sheep.

22 SWAINES HEAD:

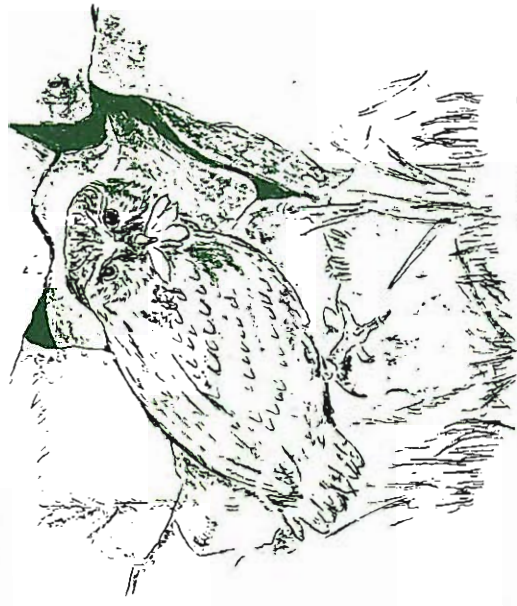
is the outermost western point of the parish near to the point where the old Derbyshire and Yorkshire boundaries meet. It is also near to the point where three major rivers have their source, River Derwent, River Etherow and Little Don River which joins the main River Don near Deepcar.

23. CRUCK BARN:



there are many of these on our route some dating from the 14th century. The word crook refers to their type of construction i.e. oak timbers supporting an arched construction on its own base. No nails were used, only oak pegs. The one drawn here is passed at Wind Hill Farm between Midhopestones and the Ewden Valley.

Wildlife



Little Owl



Lapwing



Curlew