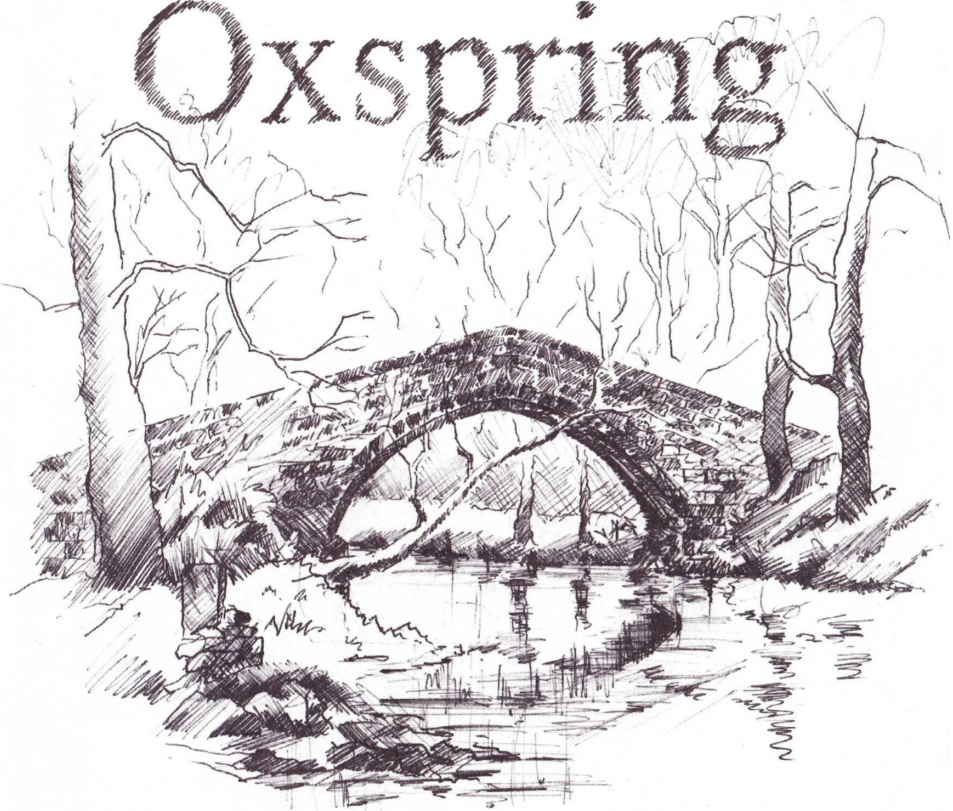

Walks
in the Parish of
Oxspring



Willow Bridge, Oxspring.

CONTENTS

Contents	1
Introduction	2
The packhorse road through Oxspring	3-5
<u>Walk No. 1</u> Oxpring Village Walk	6-10
<u>Walk No. 2</u> Back Lane & Berrywell	11-12
Oxspring Parish Map	13-14
<u>Walk No. 3</u> Storrs Lane & Blacker Green Lane	15-16
<u>Walk No. 4</u> High Oxspring & Royd Wood	17-18
<u>Walk No. 5</u> Oxspring Boundary Walk PART I	19-22
<u>Walk No. 6</u> Oxspring Boundary Walk PART II	23-26



Land owners boundary Stone



Hayloft door in farm barn in Back Lane

INTRODUCTION

The Parish of Oxspring is about 12 miles north west of Sheffield in the foothills of the Pennines. It is a rural community with about 1000 people living here. The rock underneath is Penistone flag, a kind of sandstone, but a band of clay gives rise to many springs and wells in the area. The parish is cut roughly in two by the River Don. Predominantly agricultural, fields are bounded by dry stone walls, hedges are few and most of our woodland is confined to the river valley. The paths in our parish pass through some attractive areas of countryside.



Our aim with this collection of walks is to encourage people who rarely walk and are not familiar with our paths to venture out into the surrounding countryside, hopefully enjoy themselves, and then want to repeat the experience.

The first walks are quite short, strolls even. They can easily be done by the whole family in a spare hour on Sunday afternoons or summer evenings after tea. We hope they will build your confidence and stamina and eventually enable you to create your own longer routes.

For those people who walk regularly and know our paths we hope some of the historical information contained in this booklet will be of interest to you and make your walking more enjoyable.

Although our paths are good and well walked we recommend strong footwear. The walks in the book follow public rights of way and are waymarked. We have confined our walks as far as possible to paths in our parish. If you wish to extend your walks into surrounding parishes we recommend the use of Ordnance Survey Pathfinder Series 715, Barnsley and Penistone (2.5 inches to 1 mile). This map can be purchased locally.

We have attempted to cover as many of our footpaths as possible in creating these circular walks. New footpaths are rarely created but old ones can easily be lost. The best way to retain our paths and keep them open is to walk them. We hope this booklet will go some way to achieving this.

Oxspring Heritage Group.

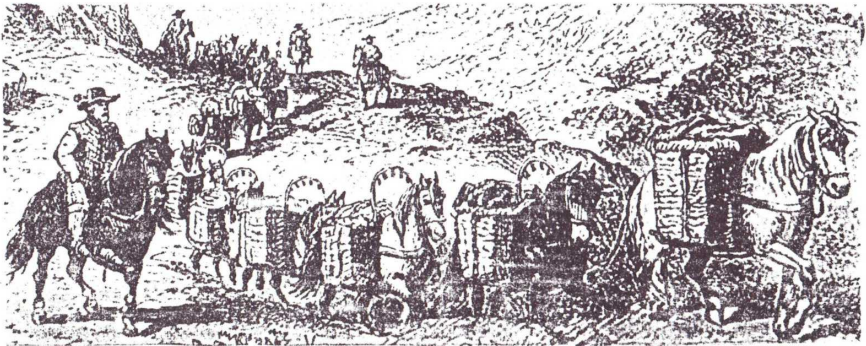
THE PACKHORSE ROAD THROUGH OXSPRING

The first two walks in our booklet use Back Lane and Willow Lane. These lanes form part of an ancient packhorse route and as such deserve a detailed mention at this point.

PACKHORSES

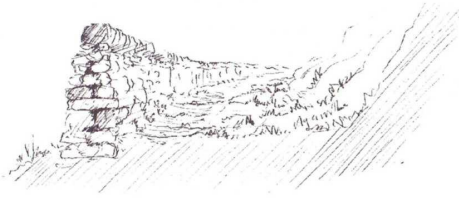
Old records show us that packhorses were being used at least 800 years ago. The monks first began using them from about 1100 and they remained in service until the the 19th century in hillier regions of Yorkshire. Any horse which carried a pack was called a packhorse and several breeds and crosses were used by packmen and carriers. Most carrying was undertaken as a part time occupation so the horses that worked on the farms were also employed on the roads. Sometimes Galloways were used. These were a sturdy Scottish breed, no more than 15 hands high. They became known as 'Gals'. They could carry up to about two and a half hundredweight and conveyed their burdens in packs fastened to a

wooden saddle or in tough square pannier baskets. Cloth was transported by just slinging the pieces over the animal's back. Usually packhorses travelled in teams of 20-40. Packhorses were muzzled to stop them grazing along the way or falling out of line. They often carried little bells, or the lead horse, known as the bell horse, might have a large bell hanging around the neck. This helped the other horses to follow in dark or misty weather. Bells also warned opposing teams of approach where there were restrictions or narrow or precipitous sections of track. The Middle Ages saw the growth of the woollen industry and trade in the north. The nature of the land meant that packhorses which were suited to hilly terrain were the only practical means of transport and became vital for many goods for the best part of 500 years.

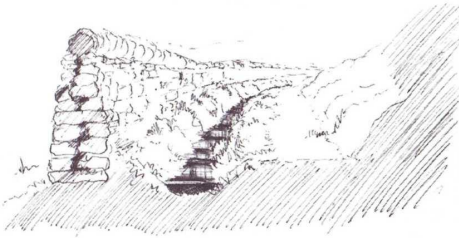


A team of packhorses

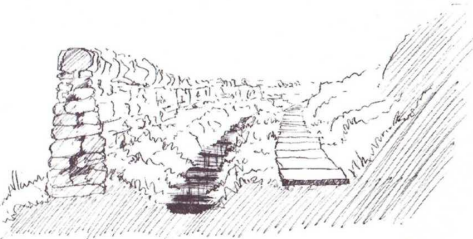
THE PACKHORSE ROUTE



Packhouse route starts to erode land.



Gullies are formed which act as drains in bad weather.



Causey stones laid next to an existing gully.

The packhorse route through Oxspring came from Bradfield via Unsliven Bridge and Dyson Cote, through Oxspring to Silkstone and Cawthorne, and so on to Wakefield and Leeds. The goods on the route were possibly associated with the manufacture of iron and textiles. The manufacture of woollen cloth was widespread in South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire before the industry became concentrated further north. There was a fulling mill at Oxspring by 1306. The route crossed the River Don at Willow Bridge, which is just wide enough to let a line of ponies cross. The bridge was built in about 1734, probably to replace a wooden bridge, and is a grade 2 listed building.

HOLLOWAYS & CAUSEYS

Packhorses, almost as sure footed as goats, were suited to hilly terrain. Therefore packhorse roads took the shortest route even if it was very steep. Where the incline was too steep the route zig-zagged up the hill. This can be seen in the section of Willow Lane directly after the bridge. With constant use by the ponies routes became

'holloways' and the level of the route sank below the surrounding land. Often on steep slopes (as can be seen at the bottom section of Holly Lane) they cut deep into the subsoil and they formed gullies for heavy rains and served as natural drains for the land alongside. In bad weather they became unusable and if land was available alongside another track was formed. The problem of worn and sunken surfaces was tackled by laying down a single or double line of flagstones known as a 'causey'. These sandstone flags or causey stones were usually 2 feet wide and could be found on the side of hills where holloways were formed.



Original causey stones near willow bridge.



Restored section of causey.

When Willow Bridge was built in 1734 it is thought that the whole route was upgraded and this is the possible date for the laying of the causey stones which paved the route from Willow Bridge to the top of Holly Lane. Over the years many of the stones have been broken, stolen or merely covered by soil and undergrowth. The only large remaining section of original stones is to be found near Willow Bridge. Stones in this section which were missing have been replaced by stone slabs but are obviously not as worn as the originals. Other small sections of stones also exist in Holly Lane.

On O.S. maps the whole of the bridleway north of Sheffield Road is called Willow Lane, but the upper part climbing the steep valley side is known locally as Holly Lane. The evergreen holly which is found in the hedge provides year round protection from the weather and was probably planted by man for this reason. Walking up Holly Lane, especially in winter, and experiencing the warmth and stillness produced by the dense holly hedge it is not difficult to imagine the line of packhorses with their bells ringing, climbing the steep valley side.

Thanks to Dr. David Hey for historical information.

OXSPRING VILLAGE WALK

Walk No.1

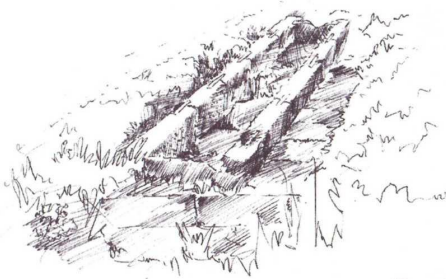
Distance: 1.75 miles

Car Parking: Waggon and Horses car park.

Although this is the shortest of our walks it is probably the most interesting historically.

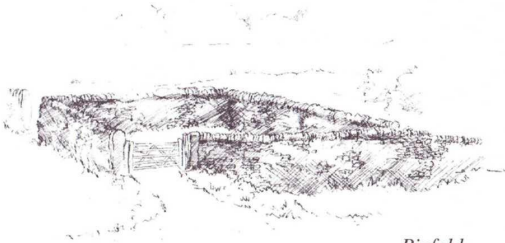
From the car park turn right along Sheffield Road towards Thurgoland.

The old stone trough was used originally for



Trough

watering animals. The stone channel and cistern where water entered the trough and the lip at the opposite end to allow water out can still be seen. Older Oxspring residents can remember steam engines filling their



Pinclose

tenders from the trough. Over the wall behind the trough was a dam which provided water for the trough and a mill. The site of the mill can be seen later in the walk.

Walk further down the road for 20 yards.

On the right is a pinclose, a square of land enclosed by a dry stone wall. Here animals could be safely sheltered overnight whilst the drovers rested locally.

Retrace your steps towards the Waggon and Horses and continue along the main road through the village.

The Waggon and Horses was originally a farm. The ceiling beams at one end are made from railway lines and it is thought that the farm was converted into a drinking place for the workforce during the building of the railway in the last century. It was originally called 'The Industrial'

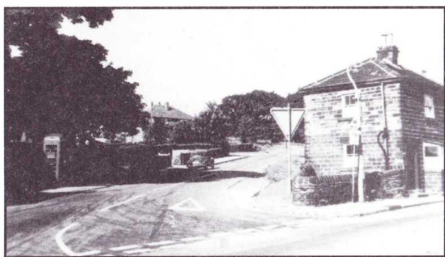
Toll Bar Farm, the L-shaped building before the junction, was one farm house and adjoining farm buildings. At one stage they housed the village cobbler and a butcher. Various stone features in the walls show the original barn doorways and upstairs access doors.

Cross the junction, keep on the main road.

The grassed triangle with the flowerbed was the site of the Toll Bar cottage. The toll road ran from Thurgoland Bank Bridge to Penistone Church.

Continue along the main road.

Oxspring school was built in 1880. The main building has been little changed on the outside. It is a typical Victorian school with high windows.



'Toll Bar Cottage' at the junction of Roughbirchworth Lane and Sheffield Road

At the end of the school boundary on the main road is a spring fed trough. It is one of many in the village which were used for drinking water. The water in this trough was piped from a spring beyond the railway cutting. A specially constructed pipe was put in when the railway was built. This was finally broken when the railway was electrified.

Cross the road and follow the main road until you reach the bridleway next to Willow Bridge Bungalow.

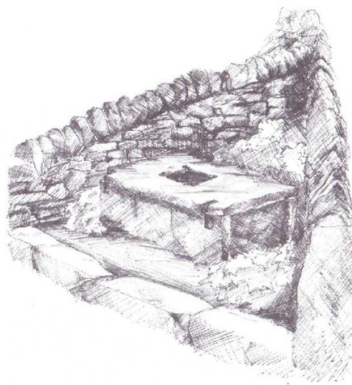
The view to the right is of the wooded valley of the River Don and Oxspring Rocher. At the far side of the river a mill race ran parallel to the river. Unfortunately much of it has now disappeared.

Turn right down Willow Lane.

Willow Lane formed part of the packhorse route. Halfway down Willow Lane on your left, notice the dip in the field, which possibly outlines the original route the packhorses took joining Willow Lane to the other part of the route at Back Lane. Willow Bridge is a packhorse bridge built over the River Don in about 1734.

From the bridge look downstream towards the left hand bank.

The line of the mill race is marked by a line of trees running parallel to the river. Large stones on the river bank mark the remains of the sluice gate, and stones from the weir, which was destroyed in the 1950's, can be seen in the river itself. The weir raised the level of the water in the river to fill the mill race. The race ran to the mill situated by



Spring fed trough at Oxspring, now disused.

Oxspring Village Walk



Willow Bridge.

the road bridge over the River Don at Bower Hill.

Return to the Bridge and follow the path, turn right at the fork (not over the stile).

This 'dog leg' was for the benefit of the packhorses taking the steep incline from the river. From Willow Bridge to the bend in the lane is the longest remaining

section of the original sandstone causey stones which originally ran from Willow Bridge to the top of Holly Lane. The stones which were missing have been replaced.

Proceed up the path to the field boundary and turn left up the hill.

This section of Willow Lane is known locally as Holly Lane because of the holly trees in the hedgerows which flank each side of this packhorse route. The dense holly would provide shelter from the weather. Look for causey stones. Springs can be seen in wet weather.

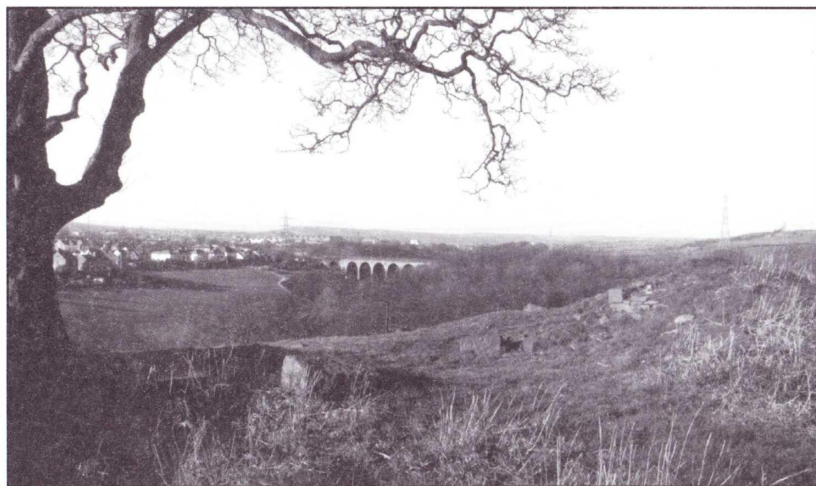
At the top of the lane turn right, over the stile, and keep the field boundary wall to your left up to the gate, then head for the solitary sycamore tree.

A good view of the village and the field patterns at the opposite side of the valley can be seen as you walk. The land on that side was common land until Enclosure in 1852. The

field pattern has been unchanged since then.

Oxspring Manor is now derelict. It was originally a hunting lodge built by Godfrey Bosville in the 16th century. It was a post and truss timber frame with stone cladding. Remains of the fireplaces and timbers can be seen amongst the rubble. Ridge tiles and dressed stones can be seen in the dry stone walls. The well is still there in the corner of the field. This site is supposedly the site of the original settlement of Oxspring which is mentioned in the Domesday book of 1086. Up the valley to the right can be seen Oxspring viaduct, the wind turbines at Royd Moor and the tower of Penistone Church in the distance.

Return to the nearby field gate.



The remains of Godfrey Bosville's "Oxspring Manor" with views of Oxspring Viaduct and Penistone Parish Church in the distance.



The remains of Oxspring Manor.

Go through. Go over the stone stile to the left of the next field gate straight in front of you. Keep the field wall to your left and cross two further fields and stiles until you reach Manor Lane. Climb over the stile in the wall on your right opposite the first bungalow. Strike out across the field to reach the stile hidden in the trees at the end of the wooden fence. Over the stile cross the drive and down the steps with the handrail.

Turn left at the foot of the steps.

The area on the right is the site of Oxspring Mill. The mill race which began at Willow Bridge here filled the mill pond. It provided the head of water to turn a water wheel. The water was then directed back into the River Don. It is thought the mill race and original mill dated from medieval times.

Continue forward to reach Bower Hill, cross the road and go over the old road bridge.

A Penistone Parish Terrier 1829 mentions the new bridge over the Don at Oxspring. In 1641 the people of the parish were "cited to court" for permitting the bridge near Oxspring Mill to be "in great ruïne and decay" This bridge was built to carry traffic across the River Don. The road was widened and a new bridge built in the early 1960's. Unfortunately when the road was re-aligned part of an old corn

mill had to be demolished.

On the left is Bower Dell Riverside Picnic area. A sewage works was built on this land in 1926 and operated until 1970 when a new works was built on another site. The area was bought by the Parish and reclaimed to create a picnic area and nature reserve. The far wall and fence of Bower Dell marks the Parish boundary.

Cross the road and walk up Roughbitchworth Lane until you reach the entrance to the dog walking lane on your right. (on the edge of the village green). Walk down the lane to the river.

By the river on your right is a spring fed trough. An underlying band of clay gives rise to several springs in Oxspring, as the name suggests.

Retrace your steps to the lane and back down to Bower Hill. Turn right towards the Waggon and Horses and your starting point.

The row of cottages on your right (Bank View) was built in the 1920's from the stone of a mill which stood on the site. The mill was supplied with water from the dam behind the trough seen at the beginning of the walk. The mill was later steam driven and a tall chimney built on the site. The house on the left before the junction was originally the village smithy.

BACK LANE & BERRYWELL

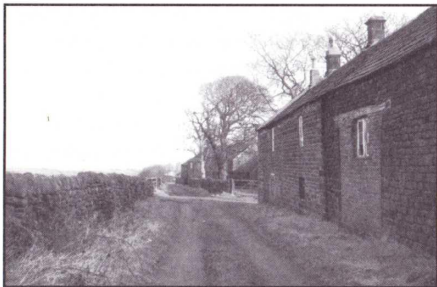
Walk No. 2

Distance: 2.75 miles

Car Parking: The Willows, Sheffield Road Oxspring, or alternatively park at the Waggon and Horses and walk along Sheffield Road until you reach the Willows.

(The Willows is the estate of bungalows on the main road towards Penistone. Turn left at the end of them.)

Follow the Bridleway sign at the end of Psalters Drive over the railway bridge, follow



Farm buildings in Back Lane exhibiting Elizabethan features

the path keeping the field walls on your left.

Note the regular shapes and sizes of the fields along the way. The original medieval field pattern is preserved by enclosure and has remained the same since 1852. Looking back occasionally as you walk along this path you have a good view of the valley and the settlement pattern of the village.

Continue up the lane past Sycamore Farm. Follow the lane until you reach the farm buildings on your left.

These farm buildings and the next group up

the lane have Elizabethan features. These include the dove cote in the gable end of the building, chimney stacks, gable cornices and stone mullions to some of the windows.

Turn right over the stile in the wall. The footpath goes straight across the middle of the field.

On the horizon to the left is the wind farm at Royd Moor. On the right is Emley Moor mast and in the middle distance Penistone Church tower.

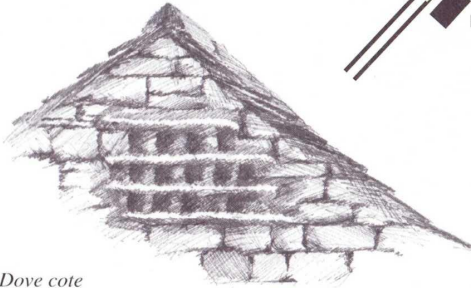
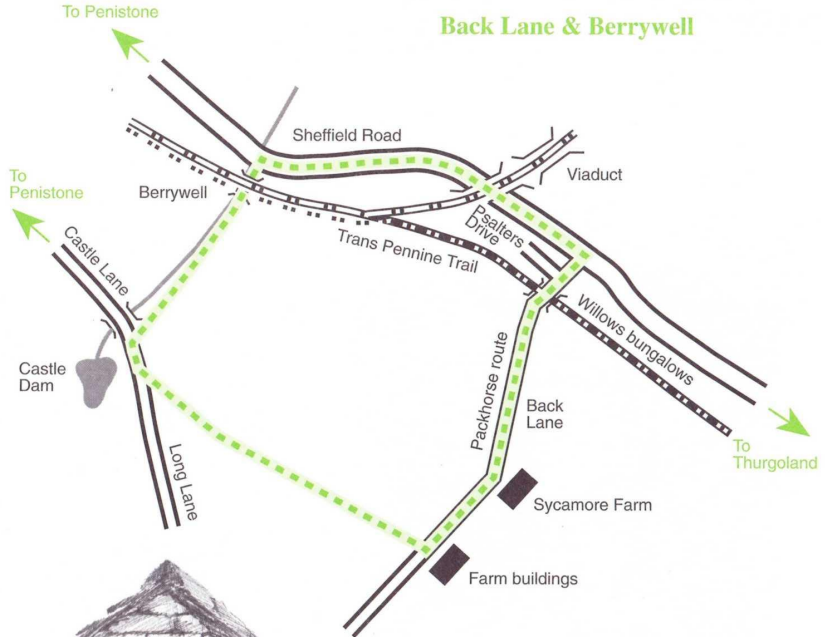
Go over the stile to the right of the gate and keep the field walls on your right until you reach the next gate. Over the stile next to the gate follow the next field wall until you reach the next gate.

Over the stile next to the gate cross the piece of waste ground diagonally. Join the road at Castle Dam and turn right down the road for 25 yards. Turn right over the stile onto the public footpath between the stream and the wall.



Elizabethan stone mullions in blocked up window in Back Lane

Back Lane & Berrywell



*Dove cote
in gable end in Back Lane*

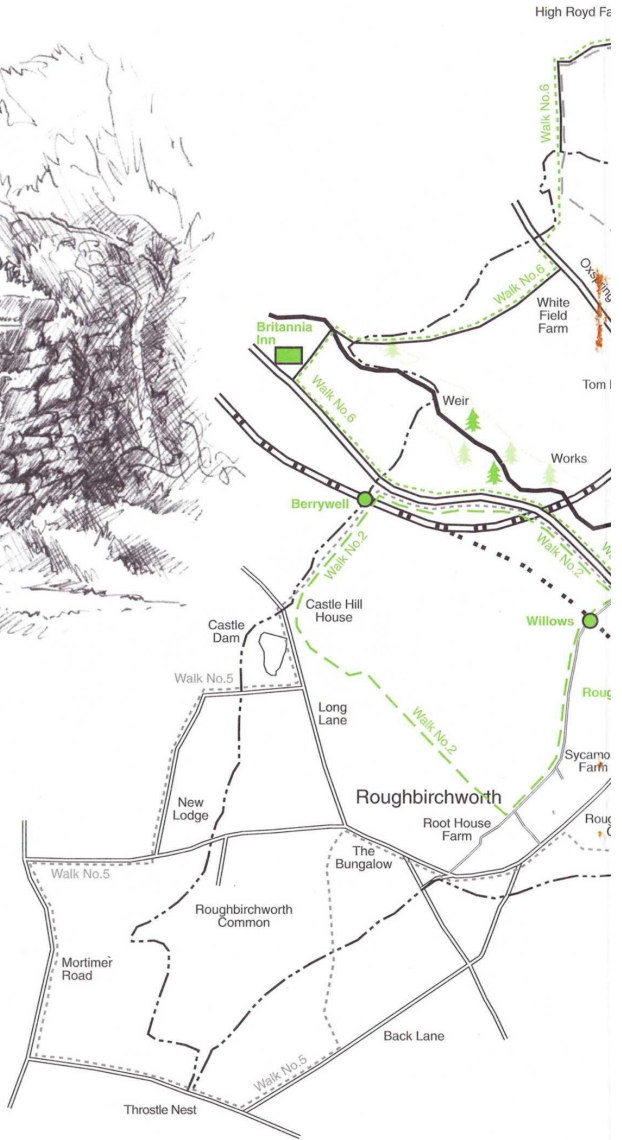
Follow the footpath and cross the stiles keeping the stream on your left until you reach Berrywell. Turn left and follow the path under the railway bridge until you reach the road. Turn right and follow the road back to the starting point at the Willows.

Alternatively there is a pedestrian access at Berrywell onto the disused railway line which is part of the Trans Pennine Trail. Exit at the Willows or Roughbichworth Lane in Oxspring.



*Elizabethan stone chimney on farm
buildings in Back Lane*

OXSPRING PARISH MAP





- Walk No.1 (dotted line)
- Walk No.2 - - - - - (dashed line)
- Walk No.3 (dotted line)
- Walk No.4 - - - - - (dashed line)
- Walk No.5 (dotted line)
- Walk No.6 - - - - - (dashed line)
- Boundary ————— (solid line)
- Start point
- Access to Trans Pennine Trail



STORRS LANE & BLACKER GREEN LANE

Walk No. 3

Distance: 2.75 miles

**Car Parking: The Travellers Inn,
Four Lane Ends, Oxspring.**

Leave the car park and walk along the main road (A629) sign posted Huddersfield, Penistone, Manchester for 500 yards.

Turn down the lane on your right marked by the second public footpath sign. Follow the lane for 0.75 miles.

Where the lane veers sharply to the left

right keeping the wall to your right and the edge of the wood to your left.

Continue to follow the path through the wood down to the footbridge over the stream.



continue straight on and follow the track to Lower Storrs Farm. Climb over the stile to the left of the house and follow the path keeping the wall on your right.

Strike out left across the centre of the field towards the wood. (The field is often split with an electric fence, keep this to your left).

Go over the stone stile in the wall and turn

The Travellers Inn, Four Lane Ends.

This is the lowest point of the Parish at 450 feet above sea level.

Follow the path up the bank until you reach the stile in the corner of the field. Keep the hedge and the fence of the field boundary to your left until you reach Lower Coates Farm.

Storrs Lane & Blacker Green Lane



Clays House Farm just off the A629.

Over the stile turn right up the lane, over the two railway bridges for almost one mile until you reach Far Coates Farm at the top of the hill.

Continue along the lane to the main road. Turn right and walk down the hill along the road back to the Travellers Inn.

HIGH OXSPRING & ROYD WOOD

Walk No. 4

Distance: 2.75 miles

Car Parking: The Travellers Inn,
Four Lane Ends, Oxspring.

Leave the car park and walk along the main road (A629) sign posted Huddersfield, Penistone, Manchester for 800 yards. Cross the stone stile at the third public footpath sign that you come to - at the side of Jockey House Farm.

This was originally an inn on the Packhorse route from Derbyshire to Wakefield after crossing the River Don at Willow Bridge.

Bear left across the field to the stile in the wire fence. Cross the next field diagonally to the stile in the corner of the field.

Over the stile the path follows the fence and hedge of the field boundary, keep this on your right. After passing the gap in the stone wall almost at the end of the field boundary, bear diagonally right over the rough ground towards the elderberry bushes. The stile is hidden in the bushes.

At this point Oxspring railway tunnel is beneath you.

Go straight across the middle of the field heading towards the three trees in the next field. Cross the stile and walk straight ahead across the middle of this large field. Go through the largest gap between the three trees. The stile is in the centre of the boundary wall.

The path follows the hedge and wall of the next field; keep this to your left. Cross the

next stile again following the field boundary and keeping it to your left.

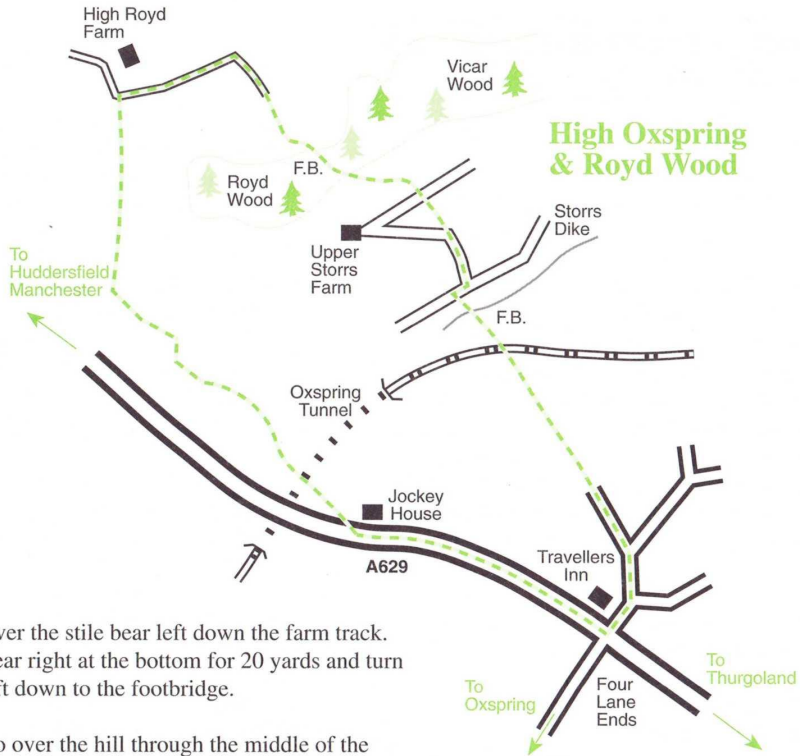
Cross the next stile. Cross the rough ground and next field diagonally right. (at this point the path crosses arable land and is not always obvious) Head for the far right corner of the field in line with the farm buildings in the distance.

Cross the stile and keep the field wall to your right. Over the next stile turn right into the lane. Walk down the lane for 500 yards. The lane bends right at the bottom.

Go over the stile to the right of the gate in front of you. Keep the wall on your left until you reach the stile.

Cross over the stile. Cross the field diagonally right towards the wood. The stile is in the middle of the boundary fence. Go over the stile.

Follow the path through the wood and cross over the footbridge. Over the stile at the end of the wood cross the field diagonally right (head towards the roof of the farm in the distance) through the barbed wire fence (there is no stile here) to the stile in the hedge. Cross the next field heading for the pylon.



Over the stile bear left down the farm track. Bear right at the bottom for 20 yards and turn left down to the footbridge.

Go over the hill through the middle of the field and over the railway line. Climb the hill to the stile in the corner of the field straight in front of you. Walk straight forward keeping the field wall to your left.

Over the stile into the next field keep the wall to your right. Follow the lane and where it

joins Coates Lane bear right until you reach the main road. Turn right and walk down the hill along the road back to the Travellers Inn.



Jockey House Farm adjacent to the A629

OXSPRING BOUNDARY WALK I

Walk No.5

Distance: 5.5 miles

Car Parking: Waggon and Horses car park, Sheffield Road, Oxspring.

This walk using public footpaths follows Oxspring's Parish boundary as closely as possible. The whole boundary of approximately 10 miles can be walked in one go. In this booklet, we have split it into two halves. Part one follows the boundary south of the River Don and part two north of the River Don. Many thanks to Pete Hopkinson who devised this walk and researched the history associated with it.

Take the lane to the right just after the playing field fence (signed public footpath). Under the old railway continue until the lane bears left.

The railway was opened in 1845 and closed in 1983. Joseph Locke was the engineer. Oxspring had a station which was opened principally for the trade from Oxspring Corn Mill.

Turn right along the top of the field keeping the wall on your



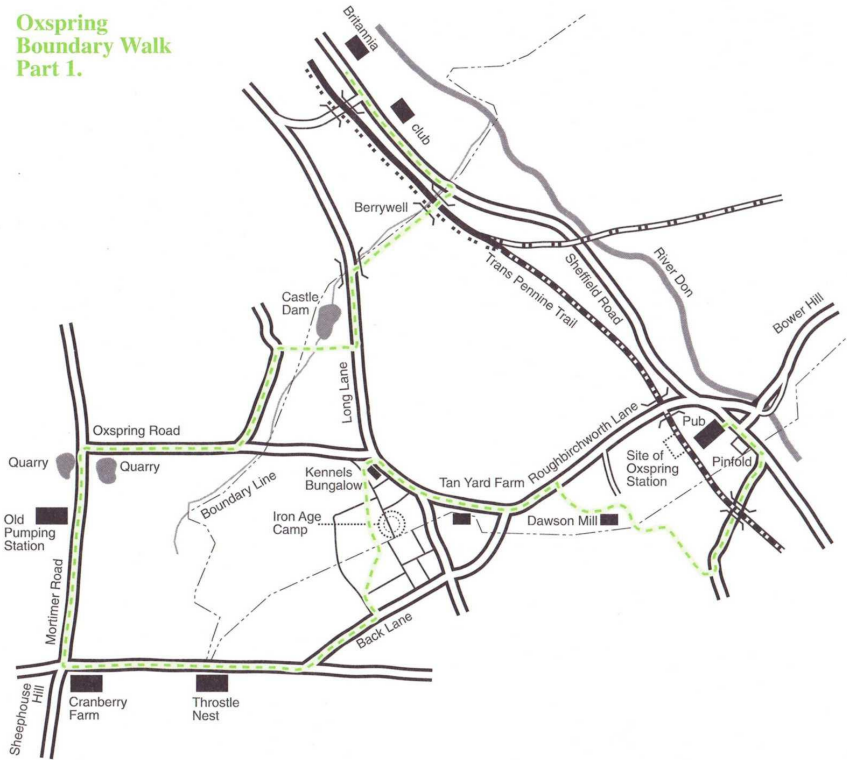
Waggon & Horses Inn

Turn right out of the Waggon and Horses car park and walk down the road for 100 yards towards Thurgoland.

Look for the pinfold, a small walled enclosure. The left hand wall of the pinfold marks Oxspring's boundary with Hunshelf.

left. 20 yards from the corner of the field is a stile. Climb the stile and follow the path around the corner keeping the wall on your right until you come to a stile.

**Oxspring
Boundary Walk
Part 1.**



The stream by the wall marks Oxspring's boundary.

Climb the stile and follow the path signs through the garden of the bungalow.

This was the sight of Dawson's Mill which is thought to have been the corn mill for the Manor of Roughbichworth. The pond here provided the head of water to drive the water wheel. By 1838 it had been converted into a woollen mill.

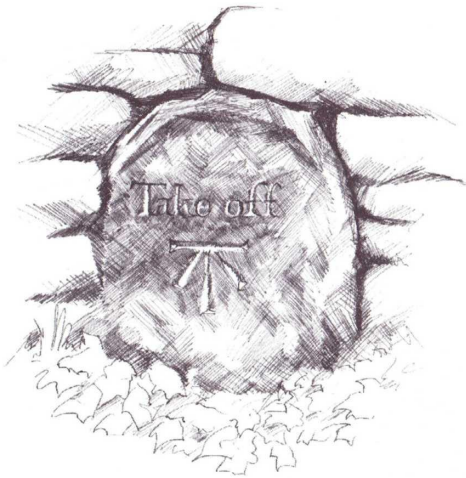
Follow the way markers across the garden and over the stile in the wall to the left of the bungalow. This will take you diagonally to your left across the field to the next stile. Over this stile turn right up the wall side until you climb the stile into Roughbichworth Lane. Turn left and walk for 200 yards until you reach the fork in the road. Go right along Long Lane (signed Penistone) and continue along the road for 0.5 miles.

On your right notice Manor Farm dated 1576. On your left look for the boundary stone in the field. On the Oxspring side are the initials GB which almost certainly stand for Godfrey Bosville and EW on the Hunshelf side which may mean Earl of Wharncliffe.

Just past Tan Yard Farm which is on your left notice the narrow gateway. This is a remarkable example of a surviving medieval gateway. Look carefully and see how the gate was barred by snecking a wooden bar into the holes in the gatepost. You can see the snecking slot in the right hand post.

Further along the road the kennels bungalow on your left was the site of an isolation hospital known locally as the Red Hospital.

At the road fork take the stile on your left marked Hunshelf. Follow the bungalow fence to the stile over the wall. Over this turn left through the field to the next stile which is in the middle of the field wall. Over this go straight across the field to the next stile, again



"Take off" stone at top of Sheephouse Hill

situated in the middle of the field wall. As you walk through the field look to your left.

A slight depression in the ground can be seen and this is the site of an Iron Age camp/fort "a circular area 1.5 acres was surrounded by a ditch with inner and outer banks and there was a well defined entrance at the lower northern side" (Preston 1954)

A wall containing the next stile is the boundary. This wall runs in an almost straight line from Tan Yard to Throstle Nest. The boundary with Hunshelf was long disputed and finally agreed in 1756.

Over the stile veer right to the next stile which is in the corner of the field wall. Over this follow the field wall to the road. Turn right into the road and walk along the road until you reach the junction. Here turn right.

Along this road on your right is the narrow neck of land bounded by a stand of trees and is known as Throstle Nest or Bleak Royd in old boundary surveys. This is Oxspring's highest point at almost 1000 feet above sea level. It is thought that this curious narrow neck of land which reaches the road here was designed to allow Oxspring access to this important medieval highway. However, one story has it, that the body of a man was found here and Oxspring

took the responsibility of burying him and so claimed the area for the parish.

Further along the road on the left is Cranberry Farm. This was formally an Inn mostly frequented by butchers, cattle dealers and drovers who brought cattle along this road to the market at Rotherham.

Mortimer Road was built as a toll road by Hans Winthrop Mortimer, Lord of the Manor of Bamforth. It ran from Grindleford to Bridge End, Penistone and opened in 1806. Coming up Sheep House Hill the wagons were assisted by chain horses 'at a penny a time' to a point at the top of the hill where the chains were taken off. The 'Take off' stone is still there.

At the crossroads turn right and walk down the road for 500 yards and take the next right along Oxspring Road. Continue for 500 yards and take the lane on the left by the farm. When the lane forks go right for 50 yards. Leave the lane at the bend and go over the stile. Turn right and follow the path through the fields to the road.

Castle Dam was built as a reservoir to run the waterwheel at Kirkwood Mill. It was formerly known as the Hawksworth Dam after Jonathan Hawksworth owner of the mill in the



Castle Dam and feeder stream.

early 1800's. The boundary here is the wall to the left/ west of the dam. The stream which leaves the dam to run the Kirkwood Mill then serves as the boundary. There is a boundary stone at the side of the road near the stream.

Turn left down the road for 300 yards. Turn right over the stile onto the public footpath. Follow the footpath along the field edges keeping the stream on your left until you reach Berrywell. Turn left and follow the path under the railway bridge until you reach the road.

To the right a stone at the side of the road over the stream marks Oxspring's boundary with Penistone.

At this point you may turn right and walk back along the road to your starting point at the Waggon and Horses. Or use the Trans Pennine Trail access at Berrywell. Exit at the Willows or Roughbirchworth Lane.

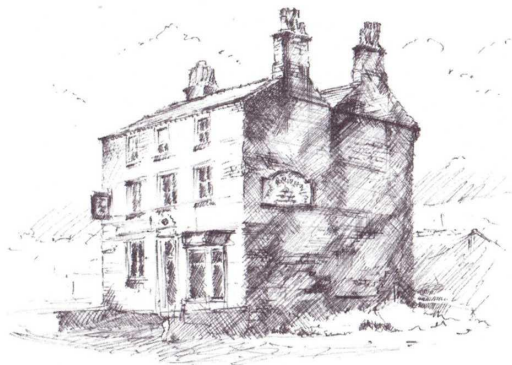
Alternatively you may turn left through the village of Springvale until you reach the Britannia Inn. From here continue the second half of the boundary walk.

OXSPRING BOUNDARY WALK II

Walk No. 6

Distance: 5.5 miles

**Car Parking: close to Britannia Inn
Springvale.**



The Britannia Inn, Springvale.

Immediately before the Britannia Inn, turn right following the road down to the Dumpit site. Take the path to the left of the Dumpit site, crossing the River Don over Boulder Bridge. Turn right alongside the river.

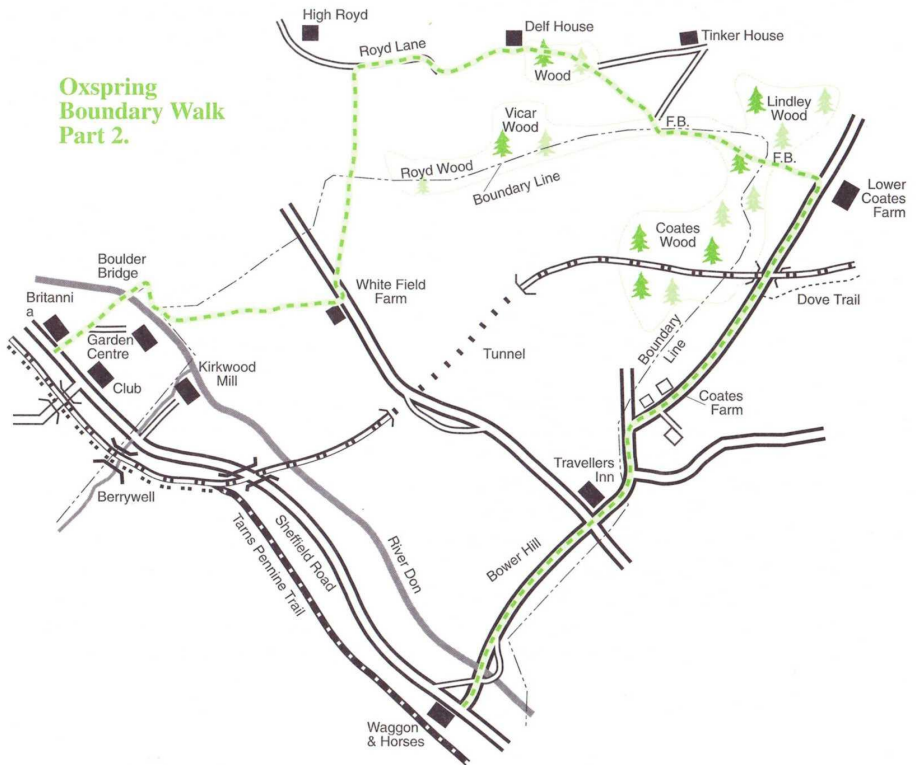
In 1495 William Wordsworth Vicar of Penistone on his death bed gave 12 pieces of silver to build a bridge over the River Don called 'Boulder Brig'. Oxspring boundary is the modern bridge a few yards down river at the entrance to the Nursery.

Keep the Nursery fence to your right and follow the track up to the field gate. Cross the stile and follow the rough cart track across the fields to the farm by the main road on the horizon.



Boulder Bridge.

Oxspring Boundary Walk Part 2.



At one time this track was paved and some of the old stones remain. Look across to Penistone viaduct, built in 1849 from stone quarried from Walk Mill Bank situated behind the Wire Mill in Oxspring village.

Cross the main road, noting the spring-fed trough to your right. Follow the pavement to your left for 20 yards up to the footpath sign. Turn right over the stile, cross the field heading for the top left hand corner.

The hedge on your left is Oxspring's boundary.

Climb over the stile, bear to your left across the next field, heading for the stile to the left of the two trees on the horizon.

The field you have just crossed is shown on the 1850 map as 'View Field' and is still called that by the farmer. From the next stile a wonderful all-round vista can be seen extending from Barnsley, through Stainborough, High Green, Wharncliffe Side, Hunshelf and Penistone. On a

clear day distant views to the east are possible, including several power stations in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire.

Cross the stile, bearing left across the rough ground and the field, heading for the stile in line with the grey-white barn. Cross this stile. Keep the field wall to your right. At the end of the field climb the stile and turn right down the lane for 500 yards. The lane bends right at the bottom. At the bottom of the lane turn left through the field gate. Follow the track down the field with the hedge to your right until you reach the farm buildings.

Take the stile to your right before the farm. Keep the field wall to your left for about 20 yards until you reach a stile into the wood. Continue down through the middle of the wood following the path. At the bottom climb the stone stile into the lane. Turn immediately right, climb the wooden stile into the field, turning left and following the hedge down the field. Enter the wood by the stile at the side of the stream. Follow the path to a footbridge.

The stream here is Oxspring's boundary.



Typical section of dry stone walling.

Climb the bank continuing along the footpath keeping the hedge and the field wall on your right.

There is a boundary stone with the letter B on it at the side of the stream. It cannot be seen from the path.

Ignore any side-tracks and follow the path down through the woods to cross a footbridge.

The stream at this point is not the boundary. The boundary runs along the top of the bank, it becomes the stream higher up. This is Oxspring's lowest point at about 450 feet above sea level.

The path then zigzags up the steep bank to lead you to a stone stile in the corner of the wood. Climb the stile into the field and head for the farm buildings keeping the hedge to your left. Cross the stone stile into the lane, turn right and follow the track up the hill, crossing the railway bridge.

This is the bridge which gained some notoriety during the Stephanie Slater kidnapping case. The railway still running was opened in 1854, but much more important to the railway enthusiasts is the disused line on which the famous Beyer-Garrett worked. This was the most powerful engine ever to operate in Britain and was built in 1925 especially for the 1-40 gradient on this line.



Beyer-Garrett steam locomotive

Continue past the farm at the top of the hill. Stay on the lane until it joins the road. Turn right, following the road down the hill past the Travellers Inn.

The boundary is the wall which goes in between the terrace cottages and the bungalow, and continues to follow the stream / ditch to the left down Bower Hill.

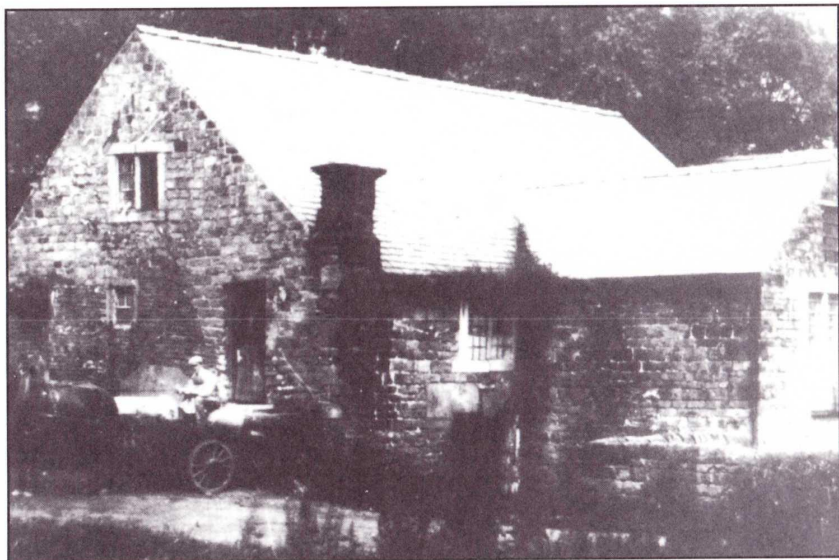
Cross the main carriageway and go down Bower Hill.

Notice the stone trough at the entrance to the allotments on the right.

Continue down the hill until you reach the Waggon and Horses. If you began your walk at the Britannia Inn turn right at the junction and walk along Sheffield Road until you reach your starting point at Springvale. Alternatively join the Trans Pennine Trail which uses the disused Sheffield to Penistone railway line at the bridge on Roughbichworth Lane. Exit at Berrywell, Springvale.



Old road bridge at Oxspring



Oxspring corn mill in its working days. Demolished in early 60's to make way for new road bridge.

Text: Judy Wainwright, Christine Ward, Chris Booth, Bill Coles.

Photography: Bill Coles.

Design & illustration: Bruce Freeman

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