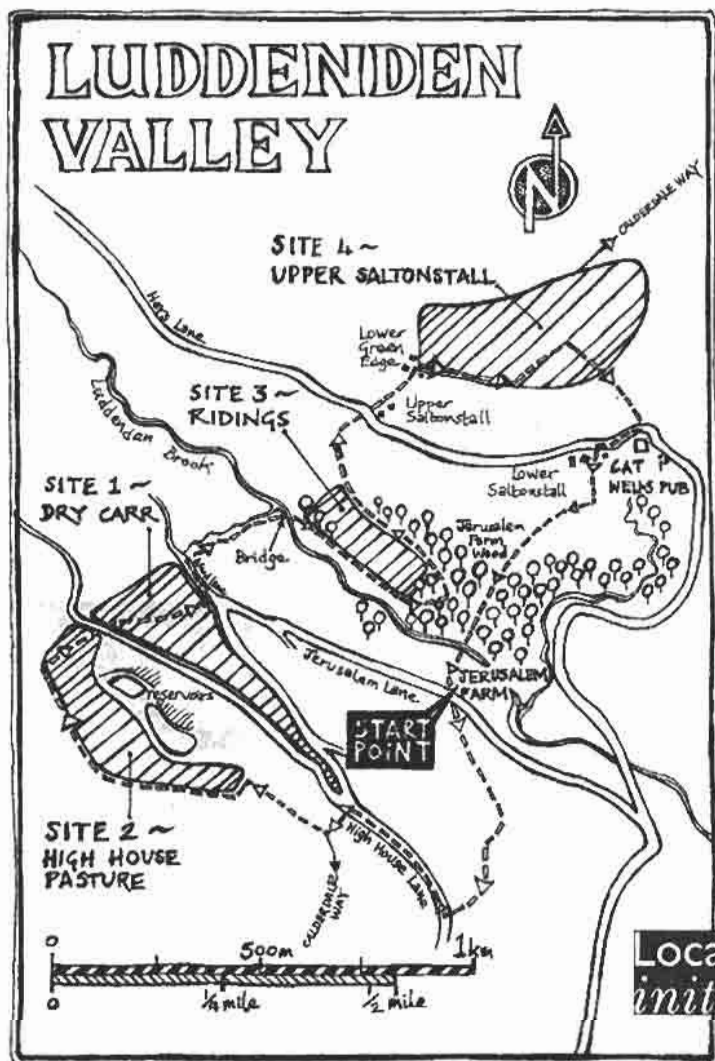


Luddenden

One of a series of walks exploring the history and ecology of the Calder Valley and the influence of a diverse and independent people.

Echoes of Elmet



Local Heritage
initiative

Start: Jerusalem Lane, opposite training centre.

Follow way marked Calderdale Way Link Path right through a gate, uphill to top left corner of field.

Follow along the wall to left, past a farm onto a track. Continue along to High House Lane and turn right.

At the junction with the Calderdale Way go left. **Dry Carr Site 1** is down the other track to your right. After continuing up the Calderdale way, turn right over a stile and along the wall.

Go through the stile (metal gate) at the end to reach **High House Pasture Site 2**. Return through the stile and turn right behind the wall. Turn right again at the corner. Stay close to the wall and go right at the next stile and down the field, to the bottom right corner, accessing a track via another stile.

Turn left and right almost immediately, down a tarmaced track. Arrive at a hairpin bend, but bear left down Wood Lane.

Where the road crosses a stream, turn right down a path following the stream through a number of stiles and bearing right towards a bridge at the bottom.

Cross the bridge and carry on, going left at a waymarked path diagonally uphill. You are now below a series of fields known as the **Ridings Site 3**. Continue along the path under some trees and into Jerusalem Farm wood, turning left along the boundary wall. Pick up a track to your left, accessed through a gate. Continue up the track

(Calderdale Way) and up past a house to your right. Continue up the road to emerge on Heys Lane.

Continue up Calderdale Way through Upper Saltonstall, turning right at a path opposite the second farmhouse. Continue along here for a few hundred yards, through a stile and gate, turning right, down across the fields of **Upper Saltonstall Site 4**. Cross a stream and go right down towards two white stones, aiming for a stile opposite the Cat i' Wells pub.

Call in at the Cat i' Wells pub. From here, go left along the lane and left at waymark through a farm, down across some fields. Go right at the stile/gate and down across the fields to enter Jerusalem farm wood. Head down through the wood to Wade Bridge. Here turn left back to your finish point at Jerusalem farm Carpark.

By Public Transport. Get a bus to Luddenden Foot and walk up to Luddenden Village. From here take the path behind the church to Booth and thence to Jerusalem farm via Jerusalem Lane. **Finish**

Thistle



Site 1 - Dry Carr

Dry Carr and High House Pasture are two sites that make an interesting comparison. Both are close to the moorland edge but High House Pasture has been subject to more recent management as grassland, while Dry Carr is distinctively a heath land area, dominated by heather and bilberry, with some encroachment by scrub. It could be maintained by careful removal of many of the birch saplings. The stands of heather are semi mature and careful inspection underneath the canopy reveals star mosses and lichens.

Site 2 - High House Pasture

High House Pasture forms an area of in-bye (below moorland) acid grassland just below the moor and is the site of an abandoned reservoir, that is believed to have been used to supply water to the mills in the valley bottom. The reservoir itself is fascinating; it is slowly being colonised by Ferns, shrubs and small trees.

The area has been lightly managed by grazing and provides a good mix of habitats, with flushes and a variety of flowering species. Continued light grazing would prevent the encroachment of scrub, and maintain the variety of grasses and wildflowers. Look out for sphagnum moss in the wetter areas and bell heather, red clover, coltsfoot and tormentil are among the flowering plants.

Site 3 - The Ridings

The Ridings are a group of fields that were cleared of woodland, probably in the 16th century and were used for

growing grain, in what was a much more isolated and self-reliant economy. Oats would have been the main crop. Roads in the area were no more than packhorse or cart tracks and were virtually impassable for most of the year. A visit to a local market town would have been the furthest the vast majority would have travelled.

Site 4 - Jerusalem Farm

A recently designated national nature reserve, with a campsite and other facilities, it is one of the most accessible and interesting sites we have looked at. The woodland itself has been felled and restored several times but now benefits from protection and careful management. The interpretation boards throughout the woods give information useful to the many visitors and point to the different uses that the wood has been put to. Charcoal burning took place in an earlier age and would have been an important local resource. The Beech trees were probably planted in the 18th and 19th centuries and are not native to the North of England.

Site 5 - Upper Saltonstall

The Hamlets of Upper and Lower Saltonstall are some of the oldest existing settlements in Calderdale and are frequently mentioned in the Manorial Court Rolls, which have proved an invaluable source of information throughout the project. The name itself is probably of Viking origin, "tonstall" referring to cattle farms and probably willow - "sallow" is an old name for willow.

On your way down from Upper Saltonstall, going towards the Cat i'

The Wells Pub, you will come across the White Rocks, two stones that are regularly painted white on the first Sunday in May; Paul Bennett (The Old Stones of Elmet) quotes sources which suggest this has been going on since at least 1889. One local vicar, the Rev. Hawkins described the Luddenden valley (1808) as "so full of witches as to beg belief". This may give us a clue as to the identity of the mysterious stone painters! The holy well, also the focus unorthodox religious belief, that gives the pub its name, is just across the road.

Other places of interest in the area.

Castle Carr

A ruined 19th century folly at the head of the Luddenden Valley with what was reputed to be the largest fountain in Europe at the time. It is powered by gravity from reservoirs just above and although it is not accessible to the public, spectacular displays of the fountain take place once a year or on special occasions. The site is now mainly used for the breeding of game birds. The rhododendron, although forming a display of purple and pink in spring, is invasive and restricts re growth in the wooded areas.

Water and the Luddenden Valley

When Halifax was a large and growing town, the corporation needed more water to supply the mills and clean water for the population to drink. The Reservoir at Widdop, built in the 1870s and which required a 5 and a half improvised tramway, and settlement

for the workers to live in, was to supply much of this extra water via the Luddenden valley and thence to Halifax.

Luddenden Village

An attractive village further down the valley and an alternative start/finish point for the walk. The Lord Nelson provides facilities for the weary walker and Jerusalem farm is easily accessible by walking along the brook to the village of Booth and then past the chapel and in to the wood from the opposite side to the study centre.

Nell Nook

According to the West Yorkshire Archaeological survey, Nunnery, at Nell Nook, and founded in 1598, was in fact a countryside brothel and it seems there were many more in medieval England than was once thought, usually located close to towns or on important trading routes.

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