

A WALK IN THE PEAK

Sunday 6th August 2006

Meet: Grindleford Station 10.45am

(dress according to local weather conditions!)

The legendary Grindleford Station Café is open for breakfast to fuel hungry walkers and climbers!



Transport:

By train:

From Sheffield station: 09.33 arr Grindleford 09.48

10.26 arr Grindleford 10.42

Trains usually depart from Platform 2c; tickets can be purchased on the train. (From Tapton Hall of Residence, bus no. 52 goes to the centre of Sheffield, from which the train station is a short walk.)

By car:

Parking available on the road to Grindleford station and at the station – it gets busy on Sundays.

Extra parking: turn left down track opposite café.

The walk:

Padley Gorge, Millstone Edge, Over Owler, Carl Wark, Longshaw Estate
This walk, considered by many to be one of the most interesting walks in the Peak District, passes through varied terrain including: woodland, heather moorland, a rocky gorge, stream, typical Derbyshire rock edges, pools. We will see the site of an ancient fort, old quarries and transport routes. This area was a centre for the millstone industry.

Returning to Grindleford Station in time for the 15.08 train to Sheffield.

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For those with their own transport or who do not need to get back to Sheffield it is worth noting that Padley Chapel is open from 2-4pm on Sunday afternoons. The chapel is just a few minutes walk up the lane from the station.

Padley Chapel

History

The manor house at Upper Padley was built on the late 13th and early 14th centuries. It is situated on the north bank of the River Derwent, within a mile of Grindleford Bridge.

The original owners came from Normandy with William the Conqueror. Their family name was De Bernac. They were given the lands of Padley, Grindleford and Hathersage by William for services rendered. They settled in Upper Padley, where their descendants started to build. They eventually changed their name to Padley.

When the sole heiress, Joan Padley married Robert Eyre of Highlow, there was already a fair sized manor house. Robert & Joan extended the buildings including the gatehouse.

It was through the marriage of another heiress, Ann Eyre to Sir Thomas Fitzherbert, that the manor passed to the Fitzherbert family. Thomas was a staunch recusant and spent the years 1559 to 1591 in various prisons. He died in the Tower of London on 1st December 1591. Thomas had granted tenancy to his brother John, and so Padley Manor became a missionary haven for priests for almost thirty years.

In 1588, Padley was raided by the Lord Lieutenant of Sheffield, the Earl of Shrewsbury. On the 12th July, two priests were found. They were Nicholas Garlick and Robert Ludlam. They were immediately sent to Derby Gaol. As a result of their trial, the two priests were found guilty of high treason and were sentenced to death. They were hung, drawn and quartered on St. Mary's bridge, Derby.

hallam.lms.users.btopenworld.com/Padley.htm

Millstones

The earliest known quarrying for millstone production on the Longshaw Estate was at Yarncliffe Quarry in 1466, during the reign of Edward IV. Yarncliffe (then known as Ernclyf from the Old English Earn, meaning Eagle) was at that time owned by the Eyre family of Padley Hall. Two brothers, Ralph and Robert, appeared to share the expenses and the profits equally between them.

They employed two millstone makers, one of whom went by the name of Jankyn Stonhewer, presumably one of a long line of stoneworkers. Stones were measured in 'hands', the upper stone being fifteen hands the lower stone being sixteen hands. Although there is some doubt about the exact size of a hand at that time 18th-century records of stones being sold at Bawtry indicate that a hand would have been 3 5/8 inches. This would give a millstone nearly five feet in diameter. Sometimes just a single pair of stones was sold, sometimes two or three, and on one occasion it is recorded that 21 or 22 stones were sold to the same purchaser at one time.

Yarncliffe continued to be quarried (although presumably not continuously) until 1939. At the time of the 1927 sale it was let to a Mr Henry Child at £40 per annum, and in the 1930s it was taken over by John E Nadin & Co Ltd who ceased production on the outbreak of the Second World War.

There is no physical evidence remaining of millstone making at Yarncliffe, but the Longshaw Estate boasts what is probably the most photographed group of millstones in the Peak District, near to the entrance of Bole Hill Quarry, just below the Surprise View. These stones were removed from the quarry before it was taken over by the Derwent Valley Water Board.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/.../w-longshawestate-history/w-longshawestate-history-millstones.htm ©National Trust

Millstones served three purposes: grinding grain for flour, grindstones for the cutlery trade, and for pulping timber for paper production. All three industries enjoyed times of prosperity and periods of decline.

Millstones for grinding wheat faced competition from the late 16th century onwards from stones from both France and Germany, which produced finer, whiter flour, but periods of war between England and France boosted domestic production.

Production of grindstones for the cutlery industry was virtually wiped out following the invention of Carborundum (silicon carbide) in America in 1891. This new product was not only cheaper, but also safer. Flaws in millstone grit could cause a grindstone to explode, resulting in severe injury or death to the grinder.

Stones for pulping timber for the paper industry were exported all over the world between the 1890s and the 1950s, (with the exception of the war years) with a few being exported as late as the 1970s.

Other abandoned millstones can be found on the Estate in Bolehill Wood and in a small quarry at the top of Padley Gorge. They vary greatly in diameter and thickness; some are only partly made, presumably because some flaw was found in the stone part way through production. The frustration of the millstone maker who had nearly finished a stone before discovering such a fault can only be imagined.



Carl Wark

This is an ancient fortress whose primitive fortifications can still be seen, merging with the moorland and bracken. It is a prominent outcrop of gritstone in the vally threaded by Burbage Brook, hemmed in on the east by long line of Burbage Roacks, on the northwest by the loftier Higger tor, and to the southwest by the sloping moor that terminates abruptly at Millstone Edge. Sloping up from west to east, the crest ends in a conspicuous prow. Carl Wark can be reached by many tracks through the bracken, and most directly from the bridge over Burbage Brook.

www.highpeak.co.uk/hp/h_carlbd.htm