

Step Out at SWFC

The Wednesday Walk on Thursdays



155 – Storrs and Stacey Bridge– 2.5 miles

This is a walk for if you are feeling a bit stiff because it can be cut short in a few different places. Start at Rowel Bridge (out on Loxley Road, past the garden centre then turn left and down the hill), we walk up to Storrs Hall then a long downhill and back beside the river. Grade 2, a bit of rough ground and after the rain it will be wet but shouldn't be too muddy, but there is a ford (so waterproof boots are a good idea).

Clockwise

From the car park, cross the bridge and take the footpath on the right, then bear left beside Stoneface (watch for the statues). Follow up the hill, out of the woods and bend right then left across to Storrs Hall. Go through the garden then turn right behind the houses. Follow the path, bearing right (downhill) where it splits, across the fields till you come to the track (the end of Storrs Green).

Cross the track and over the stile to the rough (and usually wet) track which drops steadily down along the top edge of a field. At

the end of the field bear left, round the slope and cross Sykehouse Brook, then bear right and drop down to Stacey Bridge. Over the bridge turn right beside the river and follow the riverside path back to Rowel Bridge – see below.

Risks

No road walking but some areas where there may be traffic so watch out for cars, bikes, etc.

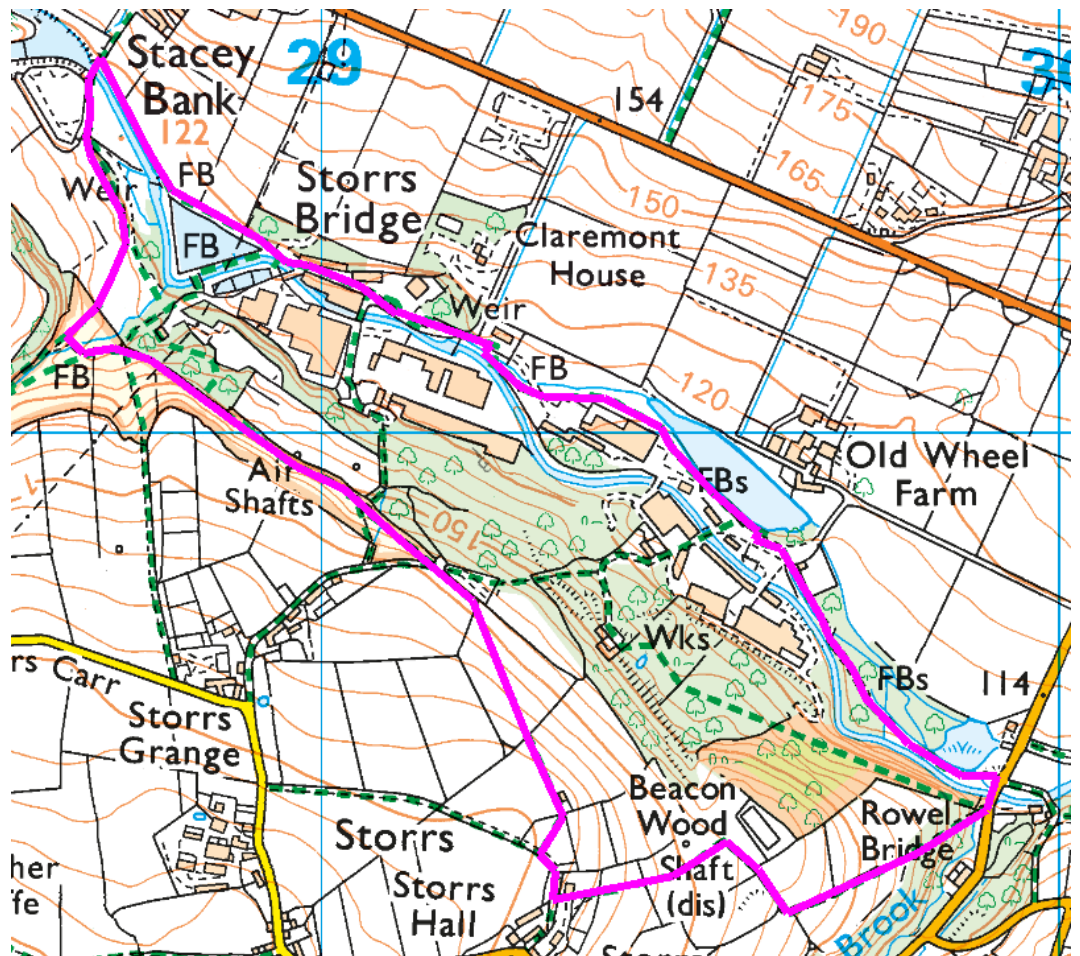
A few stiles (with steps)

Footpaths (mud, slipping, tree roots, steps, etc).

Some walking across grass (which may be slippery if wet)

Some walking beside the river and mill ponds, so take extra care, especially where the path is narrow or eroded.

The ford will be slippery, take care crossing it.



The following is taken from the Bradfield Walkers are Welcome publication 'A WALK DOWN THE LOXLEY VALLEY TAKING IN THE ROUTE OF THE GREAT SHEFFIELD FLOOD OF 1864', see <https://bradfield-walkers.org.uk/walks-around-bradfield/sheffield-flood/>

23. The concrete construction on the left is known as "The Compensation Reservoir", it was built shortly after WWI to supply additional water to keep the mills on the river working at times when Damflask Reservoir was low. The water in the compensation dam was pumped up from Blackburn Meadows Pumping Station as treated water; it became redundant in the 1970s. This was also the site of Stacey's Wheel washed away in the flood and never rebuilt.

24. Cross the bridge, turn right and continue beside the lefthand bank of the river reaching the "three corner dam", the footpath now goes along the left-hand side of the dam between the dam and the head goyt. The dam was built as an extra dam for Swift's Rolling Mill that operated near to the redundant refractory site which we shall shortly pass through. The head goyt fed the main millpond (now drained and built on) for that mill.



25. Continue ahead and then drop down to the roadway and go through the redundant refractory works formerly Thos. W. Marshall.

26. Just before the road turns left look for an opening in the wall on the right, go through it and down a few steps to the footpath between the head goyt of Loxley Old Wheel pond and the River Loxley.



27. About 100 yards along this path on the left is a squarish flat-topped stone with inscriptions on it. It is known as the "Weir Level Stone" relating to an agreement in 1825 when a maximum amount of water could be drawn from the river for production purposes. A mill-owner thought that by drawing more water than necessary from the river would halt production of his competitors further down the valley so this agreement had to be made and strictly adhered to.

28. Continuing ahead more redundant refractory buildings are on our right, to the left the goyt opens up into the Old Wheel Pond, one of the largest in the Loxley Valley, that served a forge at the far end of the pond which was rebuilt after the flood.

29. Take care along this section of the footpath as it is very narrow. About half way along the pond the path drops to the right and leads to the tarmac road.

30. Follow the road to the left, this is where Thos. W. Wragg started his clay crushing and firebrick processing before moving to the larger now redundant site. Parts of the mill were still in use until the 1970s before being demolished and also several workers cottages were on the adjacent site and also opposite.





31. As the road bears left look for a wall stile in the right hand corner, go over the stile and a concrete footpath appears. Continue along the footpath, through the woodland, there is a bowling green on the left and then the silted up/overgrown pond formerly Rowell Mill pond is also on the left.

32. Eventually we reach a motorised road, Rowell Lane that takes traffic to Stannington and Storrs from the main Loxley Road.

33. Turn left onto the road. The area on the left was the former Rowell Mill that was decimated in the flood but rebuilt and

operated until the 1930s before falling into disrepair and finally demolished during the 1960s. During the early 1980s Sheffield Countryside Management installed a replica pentrough and information board on this site as well as tidying the area in general, but now only the pentrough remains with a few remnants of its former workings.