



Getting Around and About

Explore the Stone to Steel landscape
in the footsteps of bygone communities



Heritage Trails

- 1 Town Heritage Trail
- 2 Bolsterstone to Midhoptstones
- 3 Parsonage Farm and Townend Common
- 4 Forge, Craggs and Heath
- 5 Glen Howe and More Hall
- 6 Oughtibridge Rambles

Other Heritage Handbooks

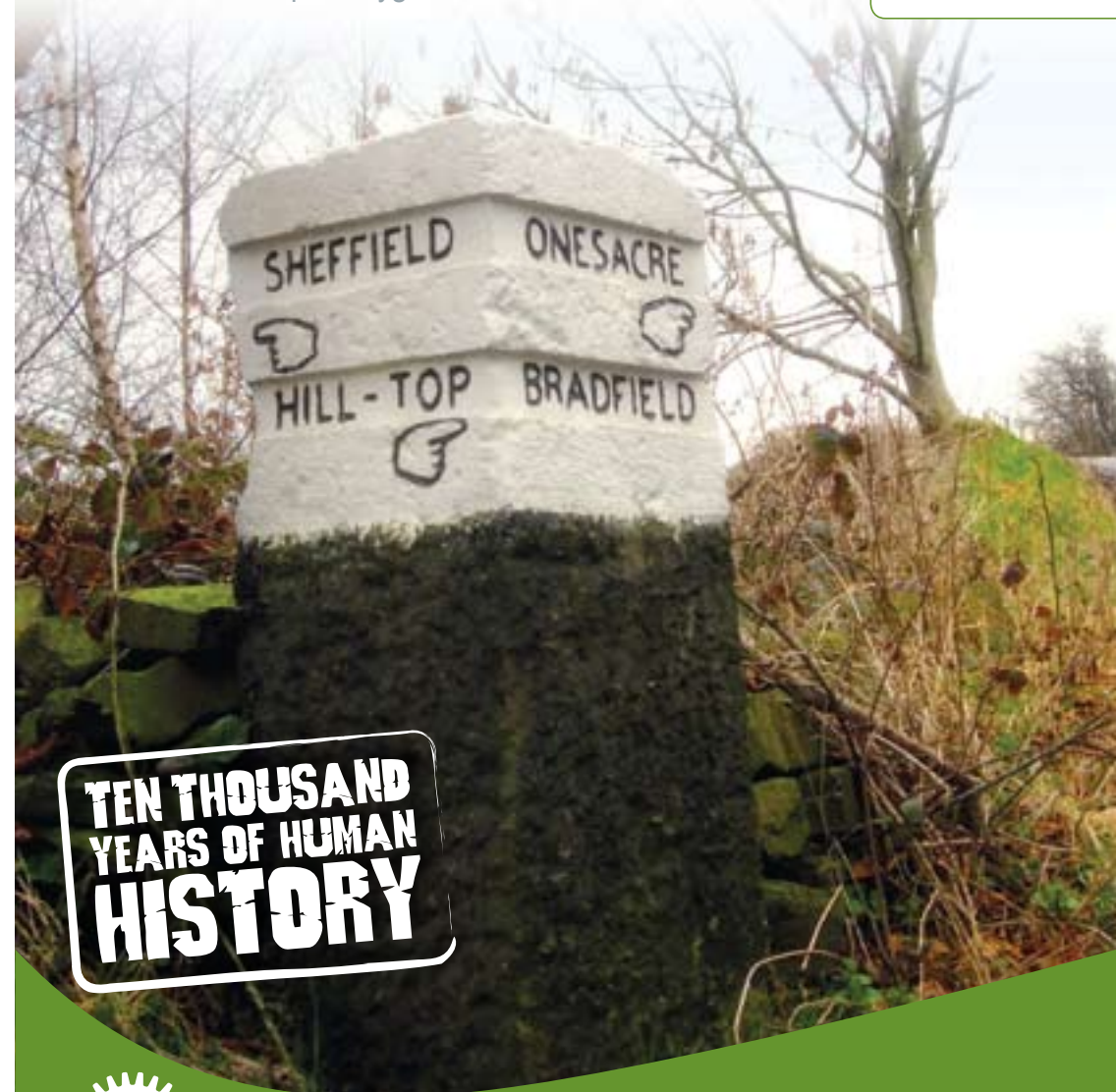
Steel Valley Life
Hidden Treasures
Patterns in the Landscape

All leaflets and guides available to
download from the Stone to Steel
website: www.stonetosteel.org.uk

For more information and to find out
about volunteering please visit our
website: www.stonetosteel.org.uk
email: info@steelvalleyproject.org.uk
or write to us at : Steel Valley Project
The ARC, Manchester Road,
Stocksbridge, S36 2DT

**Stone to Steel is a project
celebrating 10,000 years of human
history in the Upper Don Valley.**

It is a partnership between the
Steel Valley Project, South
Yorkshire Forest Partnership and
Sheffield City Council that covers
an area of approximately ten
square miles around Stocksbridge.
It encompasses the towns and
villages of Stocksbridge, Deepcar,
Wharncliffe Side, Oughtibridge,
Bolsterstone, Midhoptstones and
Grenoside. Stone to Steel is funded
by the Heritage Lottery Fund.



**TEN THOUSAND
YEARS OF HUMAN
HISTORY**



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Many of the paths, lanes and roads that we use today date back to ancient times. Farm tracks, drover's lanes and cart tracks were created as people travelled and traded between communities. Today, people also use these routes to get out and about for enjoyment, health and environmental benefits. Discover and enjoy the unique character of the Stone to Steel landscape by exploring these ancient routes!

Salt Routes, Turnpikes and Packhorse Trails!

From nomadic hunters following animal movements to medieval traders taking goods to market, people have created regular routes to pass through the countryside.

As trade and travel increased after medieval times, and the open countryside was enclosed by dry stone walls, so defined tracks emerged connecting farmsteads and hamlets.

Popular routes became well-used by 'trains' of horses bearing packs and pulling carts. Salt, for example, (needed for pottery glaze, soap making and many chemical processes, as well as food preservation) had been transported across the Pennines from Cheshire to Yorkshire on pack horses for centuries. These popular routes were improved with stone paving and drainage to enable faster and more enjoyable journeys.

Turnpikes were roads built and surfaced by private companies who then charged travellers a toll for their use – old tollhouses can still be seen along Manchester Road around Oughtibridge. We still follow these routes today as our main roads!

Yorkshire Milestones

Milestones are a locally distinctive feature of our landscape, often with unusual spellings of place-names! The first guideposts and marker stones were erected by the Romans, but many in the Stone to Steel area date from the 18th Century, after an Act of Parliament required local Justices to erect guideposts to aid travellers in finding their way about the countryside. These marker stones were used to inform travellers of direction and distances, to help coaches keep to schedule and for charging for changes of horses at the coaching inns. The distances were also used to calculate postal charges before the uniform postal rate was introduced in 1840.

There are around twenty-five milestones still surviving in Stocksbridge and Bradfield Parish – have you seen any?

Victorian Railways

The arrival of the railway was a momentous event in the history of the Stone to Steel area. This new line was built from Sheffield to Stocksbridge via 'Outy Bridge' and Deepcar, alongside the River Don, and completed in 1845. The railway route, known as the Woodhead Line, went all the way to Manchester via the Woodhead Tunnel under the Peaks.

The railway connection was crucially important for the development of the area. It was a key link to the steelworks in Stocksbridge and enabled them to start producing larger and heavier pieces like railway axles. People from the city also started to visit this area for fun and fresh air. Wharnccliffe Craggs became a popular destination, and children from the poorhouses and ragged schools of Sheffield took regular outings via the railway to play football and picnic in Glen Howe Park.

Public Rights of Way and Open Access

We still follow in the footsteps of our ancestors as we use the network of footpaths, bridleways and byways to



access and enjoy our scenic landscape. Although their use has changed largely from people travelling for work, market and worship, to recreational pleasure, they are as important to local communities as they have ever been.

In 2000, a new Act was passed in Parliament that allows the general public access to countryside that is dedicated as mountain, moor, heath or downland, as well as 'common' land. This right of open access allows people to walk across land that may be under private ownership, and gives us the right to responsible enjoyment of our countryside.

The Stone to Steel Heritage Trails are six recommended routes for exploring the countryside of the local area – visit the website for more information!

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1 The Salt Route

A spur of an ancient salt route across the Peaks runs alongside Whitwell Moor into Bolsterstone. Local place-names testify to this ancient expedition – from Salter's Brook in the Peak to Salt Springs Farm on the Salter Hills.



2 The Trans-Pennine Trail

The Trans-Pennine Trail is a modern successor to the ancient routes. The whole Trail links the North and Irish Seas, but the local stretch invites walkers, cyclists and horse-riders to explore Wharncliffe Woods and beyond along old tramways and forestry tracks.



3 Yorkshire Milestones

The Milestone Society was formed in 2001 to record milestone data, to research their history and to raise public awareness of the need for appropriate care of them. Who used our local milestones, and why are they here?

4 A Packhorse Bridge

Glen Howe Park is home to one of the oldest surviving stone packhorse bridges in the area. Built in the Ewden Valley in the 17th Century, it was moved stone by stone to where it now spans Tinker Brook when it was threatened by the building of More Hall Reservoir.



View Points

1. Steel Valley Walk
2. Whitwell Moor
3. Wantley Dragon Wood
4. Wharncliffe Crags
5. Birley Stone

Further Information

- Yorkshire Milestones
- Rambler's Association
- Don Valley Railway
- Stone to Steel Heritage Trails
- Peak District National Park Authority

For more information visit our website: www.stonetosteel.org.uk