

Padley Geocross V43

PADLEY AND BOLEHILL

Padley became a 'boom-town' twice, once in 1893 when the railway line was built through the Totley Tunnel and a second time in 1901 when the Bole Hill Quarries were developed into a short-lived 'super-quarry' to provide the gritstone needed for the castle-like walls of the Howden and Derwent Dams.

Today visitors hike through Padley Gorge but without realising that they are crossing the massive underground Derwent Valley Aqueduct, taking water from the Derwent and Howden Reservoirs down to the cities of Nottingham, Derby and Leicester.

Visitors follow the gorge of the Burbage Brook without knowing that the valley upstream might have been dammed in the 1950s to form the Burbage Reservoir, and that much of the stream water now passing down Padley Gorge might have been diverted to serve the needs of the thirsty city of Sheffield.

North Bole Hill Coppice now joins ancient Oxhay Wood, home to Greendale Farm, a very old woodland farm at least 1500 years old, long before the Enclosure Acts. This is a farm deep within the woods, where the farm stock grazed in the forest and moorland, and the few walls that exist have lasted for well over a thousand years.

The route of the Padley Geocross V43 is shown on the map below.



Start at Surprise View car park.

OS ref SK 24582 80263

Veteran Beech

W3W instructs.pleasing.buns



The south of three massive Beech trees planted close to the old boundary wall. Planted deliberately because beech are not native to this area. They do grow well in exposed locations and are often planted for shelter. Someone with a long vision planted these beech trees 250 years ago.

The wall marks the boundary of enclosed woodland close to Greenwood Farm. East of the wall the land is open moorland.

Probably 250 years old and showing signs of decay and branch loss. The branches are very wide spreading and low, touching the ground. The canopy spread is about 30 metres. This is typical of a beech which has always grown in open space, not within a wood.

OS ref SK 24365 80233

Massive millstone

W3W mourner.blanks.touchy



Three of many large millstones which lie in the vicinity of Greenwood Farm. No longer needed and just as good now as the day they were finished and ready for sale. Some of the abandoned millstones are massive, over 2 metres diameter.

One lies on the east boundary fence of a small conifer plantation by the farm buildings. The other two are close to the farm access road, and hidden in bracken for most of the year.



Greenwood Farm doesn't have fields close to the farm. There are small pens for holding stock, but not what we now think of as farm fields.

OS ref SK 24317 80233

Stone trough

W3W voter.slope.scrub



A well built arrangement of small millstones as buttresses built into the dry stone boundary wall to create a small embayment.

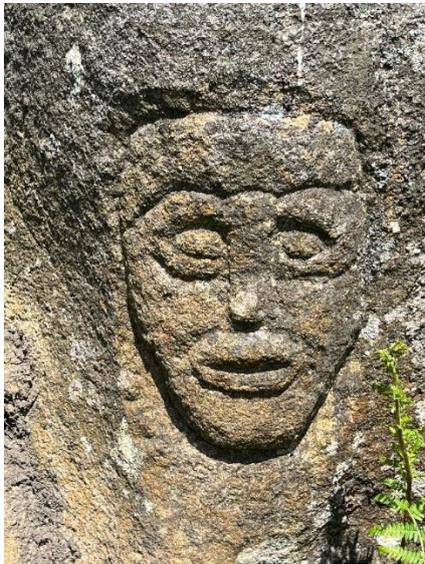
The National Trust own Greenwood Farm, part of the Longshaw Estate. Greenwood is an ancient 'woodland' farm, possibly 1500 years old. The farmland includes a large area of gritstone moorland, Lawrencefield Moor, extending to the National Trust's Longshaw Estate. It also covers Bolehill where prior to 1900, a large number of small quarries produced high quality millstones with parallel sides better named as 'grindstones'.

A large portion of the Bolehill quarries, 52 acres was sold by Mr Shuttlehurst of Hathersage Hall to the Derwent Valley Water Board in 1901 to provide a source of high quality gritstone needed to face the Upper Derwent Valley Howden and Derwent dams.

OS ref SK 24377 80143

Carved face on boulder

W3W invoices.drummers.corded



Usually hidden in tall bracken, not many people notice this crowned head carved on a trackside boulder. The round eyes are reminiscent of medieval paintings.

The track was the main route between Padley and Hathersage. It passes the medieval Padley Hall (Padley Manor House) which was a great house in the Elizabethan period.

Greenwood Farm dates back to medieval times, between 1500 and 500 years ago. As a working farm it is interesting because there is very little cleared land around the farmhouse. It was a woodland farm, established a long time before the Enclosure Act farms of 200 years ago. Some of the boundary walls have massive stones at the base, whereas more recent 'Enclosure Act' field boundary walls tend to have similar sized stone throughout.

When I first found this carved face I thought it was medieval, carved to help travellers on their way to Padley. It was in fact carved around 1998 by the tenant farmer who lived at Greenwood Farm.

OS ref SK 24411 80035

Gate posts and chamber

W3W withdraws.bubble.airstrip



Of the thousands of people who visit the Ladybower, Howden and Derwent reservoirs, only a few are aware of what happens to the water.

Firstly 25% is sent by gravity flow through the 4.5 km Rivelin Tunnel beneath Bamford and Stanage Moors to Sheffield's Rivelin reservoirs.

The remainder is treated in the Bamford Water Treatment Works filter beds to drinking water standards. The Derwent Valley Aqueduct then carries the water in two buried pipes, passing through Padley Woods, on the way to the cities of Nottingham, Derby and Leicester. It flows by gravity with a number of siphons to cross valleys, and travels 45km south to a covered service reservoir at Ambergate. From there it is divided between the cities of Nottingham, Derby and Leicester. The water passes through raised rectangular access chambers. There are also a series of valve houses built of stone with domed steel access chambers, often mistakenly called 'pump-houses', which they are not.

OS ref SK 24502 79778

Step Rock – path crossing stone channel

W3W adopters.protect.starting



The Dervent Valley Water Board tidied up a number of small streams which crossed the route of the aqueduct. This one has been led through a stone channel. The mystery is the carved steps up the massive boulder, and how did the boulder happen to settle in an unnaturally vertical position, over the stream.

OS ref SK 24557 79628

Water Board gate

W3W tiptoes.strumming.devotion



Derwent Valley Water Board was formed in 1899. The Howden Reservoir opened on 1 January 1912, and the Derwent Reservoir followed in 1916.

The DVWB did things properly, and built them to last. These fine stone gate-posts and the green painted iron gate are over 100 years old and lasting well.

The reservoirs and aqueduct are now owned by Severn Trent Water.

OS ref SK 25042 79111

Padley Valve House - door

W3W stands.reforming.cheaper



A well known building at the edge of Upper Padley at the entrance to the dramatic scenery of Padley Gorge. People recognise it as something to do with the water pipeline but most think it's a pump-house. It is actually a remotely managed valve house, enabling the flow in the pipes to be adjusted according to demand. It has the same green paint as other Derwent Valley Water Board metalwork, and a very attractive barrel-shaped roof.

The blue aerial on the left relays commands to adjust the valves.

OS ref SK 25100 78876

Padley Mill – bridge centre

W3W grab.turned.mile



Upper Padley Corn Mill is a Grade II Listed Building and was built around 1750. It was formerly a water powered corn-mill, later a saw-mill and wire-drawing mill. It is now a private dwelling. The turbulent Burbage Brook crashes down Padley Gorge and exits under the arched stone bridge. It will have wrecked a few millwheels over the years.

OS ref SK 25121 78804

Totley Tunnel west portal

W3W scans.goats.salsa



The Totley Tunnel was completed in 1893, linking Sheffield and Manchester. It brought the opportunity for people to live in the Derbyshire villages of Grindleford and Hathersage, and commute to work in Sheffield by train. It created a rapid boom in country villa housing in both villages, dramatically changing their character.

In 1893 this was the second longest rail tunnel in Britain, 4.8km (3 miles).

OS ref SK 25147 78978

Derwent Valley Aqueduct crossing Padley Gorge

W3W behave.dance.tapes



The aqueduct drops down to just above river level in Padley Gorge where a broad stone bridge carries the pipes across the Burbage Brook. The pipes then emerge on the east bank and rise in height to pass behind the villas on the hillside. This is a siphon, and has a height difference of some 45 metres.

OS ref SK 25227 79203

Padley Gorge footbridge – east side

W3W reds.mercy.nails



Positioned nearly high enough to escape the floodwater, this bridge has been rebuilt a few times. It is very hard to find.

OS ref SK 25239 79254

Stone bench

W3W brain.path.flash



A basic rustic bench but being in a quarrying area, made from enduring stone. It could do with a bit of paving around its base.

OS ref SK 25134 79238

Barrel vaulted store - door

W3W ports.united.crop



This solid stone walled small building with a barrel vaulted brick roof is a long way from anywhere. It might have been used as an explosives store. There are no windows but plenty of ventilation. Explosives were used in the building of the Totley Tunnel, and in the Bolehill quarries.

It could also be part of the pumping system for the Bolehill quarries. A ram pump delivered 73,000 litres (16,000 gallons) of water a day to the Bolehill quarries while the Howden and Derwent dams were being built. This was needed for the steam driven traction engines and the haul engine. Water was stored in tanks at the top of the incline. The water was taken from the Burgage Brook and raised 111 metres by a ram pump.