

Ogden Edge

A Piethorne Valley Walk



Little Owl, Denshaw

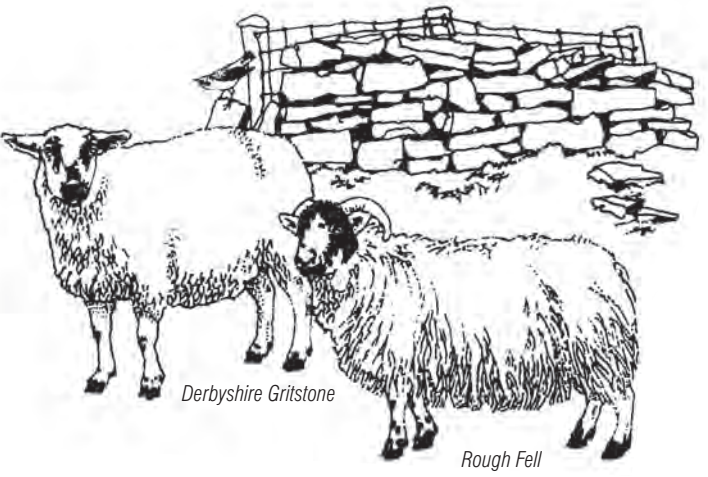
A walk through a traditional Pennine hill village, leading to open moorland before returning to the shelter of the valley. High level reservoirs, farming and traditional stone buildings are all features of interest.

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6 Piethorne Plantation

Piethorne Plantation, which is about ninety years old, was probably planted about the same time as *Bluebell Wood*. The variety of trees makes it a suitable home for numerous woodland birds. There are also *grey squirrels* present and their *nests* or *dreys* can be seen in some of the trees. On the ground are piles of sticks, twigs and branches placed there deliberately to provide a home and cover for other small mammals. This is the only plantation in the valley where *Sweet Chestnut*, *Laburnum* and *Lime trees* can be found.



The Country Code

- Leave no litter
- Keep to footpaths
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees
- Fasten all gates
- Use stiles and gates to cross walls and fences
- Safeguard against all risk of fire
- Keep dogs under control
- Respect the life of the country
- Go carefully on roads
- Safeguard water supplies

4 Ogden Edge

On the higher parts of the moor sheep are everywhere, the majority being *Derbyshire Gritstones*. Other breeds which can be seen from time to time include *Dorset Horn*, *Swaledale* and *Rough Fell*. It is important to remember that the countryside is the farmer's livelihood, and care should be taken not to disturb stock, especially at lambing time. Here, it is possible to see different species of birds, *lapwing*, *meadow pipit*, *skylark* and *curlew* are quite common. If you are lucky you might see a little *owl* perched on a wall or fence post. The arrival of the beautiful *wheatear*, returning in the early spring from *Africa* to nest on the moors is always a welcome sight.

5 Rooden Reservoir

One of the deeper reservoirs, at 79 feet, *Rooden* collects water from a *catchwater* contouring along the valley side and also from the overflow of *Readycon Dean Reservoir*, about a mile to the east. Underneath *Rooden* runs the tunnel from *Denshaw* and this system illustrates how neighbouring valleys can be linked into the provision and treatment of drinking water. Built between 1894 and 1901 at a cost of £131,624 *Rooden* has a capacity of 265 million gallons.

Rooden was dug from the moor and all the peat removed was placed in a "reservoir" which can be seen in the valley between *Rooden* and *Hanging Lees*. It has its own embankment and the enormous amount of peat filling the valley floor, most of it removed and spread by hand, emphasises the challenge facing the engineers and labourers of the late 19th century.



For further information contact:
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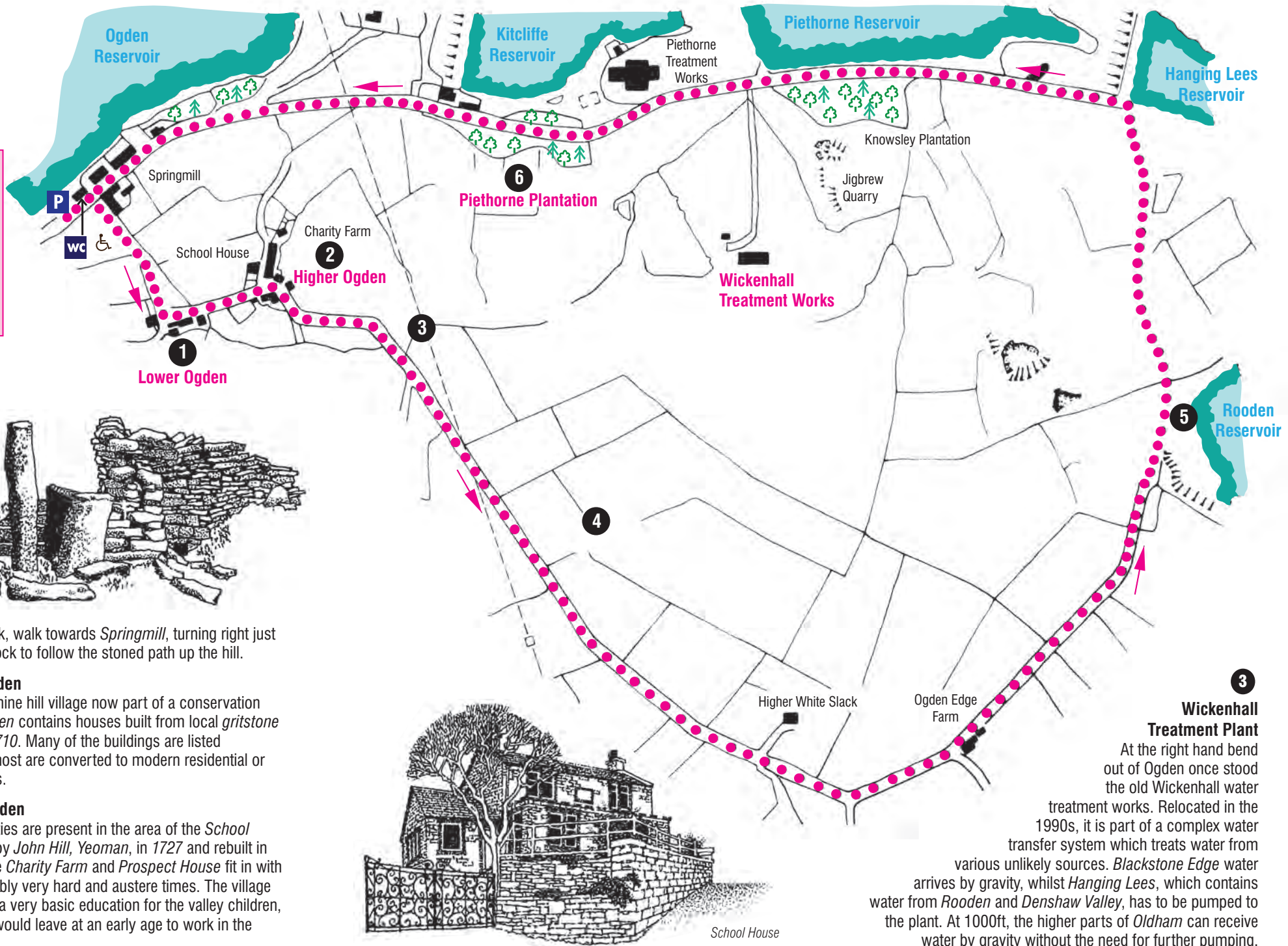
North

Key

Parking
Facilities for Disabled Persons
Toilets

P ♿ wc

..... Route



Stoned path

From the car park, walk towards *Springmill*, turning right just past the toilet block to follow the stoned path up the hill.

1 Lower Ogden

A traditional Pennine hill village now part of a conservation area, *Lower Ogden* contains houses built from local *gritstone* dating back to 1710. Many of the buildings are listed properties and most are converted to modern residential or commercial uses.

2 Higher Ogden

More old properties are present in the area of the *School House* founded by *John Hill, Yeoman*, in 1727 and rebuilt in 1857. Names like *Charity Farm* and *Prospect House* fit in with what were probably very hard and austere times. The village school provided a very basic education for the valley children, many of whom would leave at an early age to work in the mills.



School House

3

Wickenhall Treatment Plant

At the right hand bend out of Ogden once stood the old Wickenhall water treatment works. Relocated in the 1990s, it is part of a complex water transfer system which treats water from various unlikely sources. *Blackstone Edge* water arrives by gravity, whilst *Hanging Lees*, which contains water from *Rooden* and *Denshaw Valley*, has to be pumped to the plant. At 1000ft, the higher parts of *Oldham* can receive water by gravity without the need for further pumping.

This route follows waymarked public footpaths, and is a medium difficulty walk. Stout footwear is recommended for this route.