

A walk around Salterforth's Industrial past

Fact File – Parking is available in the Anchor Inn Car park if using the Inn, or on the canal wharf across the road from the Inn. The nearest public toilets are in recreation ground in the centre of the village. Food is available in the Anchor Inn.

The walk is circular and just under 5 miles, it includes many stiles, some uphill sections and some areas of uneven ground which could be boggy in wet weather.

Map – OS OL21

Starting at the Anchor Inn



The Anchor Inn around 1890

Built around 1655 on the old pack horse route used by drovers and Salters. Originally called the Travellers Rest. When the canal was built in 1770 – 1816 the road had to be raised to accommodate the bridge crossing. The then first floor became the cellar as the old cellars became waterlogged, the original first floor became the bar area and a new storey was added on top of the building and this became the upper rooms, The original cellars, front door and many other features are still in-situ along with the famous stalactites and 'mites. These can be viewed by arrangement with the landlord.

The road runs in front of the white building between it and the small single storey building with the advertising on its side.

1. To start - Take the canal towpath behind the Anchor Inn. Note just at the first bend in the canal a concrete wharf with iron rings, this is all that remains from the WWI ammo. Stores. After about ½ mile you will see on the far bank of the canal a wharf now used by a canal boat club but which used to be a boat building yard dating to the early days of the canal. Later in the 1880's the wharf was used to load barges with stone from the quarries up on the hillside, the stone was brought down from the quarry on the left hand side via a tramway operated by an overhead cable. The stone was of good quality and was transported to Wigan and Manchester and it is said that it was used in many fine buildings there. It was a 2 day trip to Wigan by horse drawn canal barge.

We will be looking at the quarries later in the walk.



SALTERFORTH BOAT YARD 1930'

The old boat yard, drawn by Frank Fisher, c1960 with Booth house farm in the background, the walk will be passing just above the farm.



The boat yard c1890 and 1920's

2. Continue along canal bank for around $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, until you reach bridge No. 149 at County Brook. At the bridge, cross over the canal and follow the footpath away from the canal towards the mill. This is still a working weaving shed, built in the late 18th century firstly as a water powered mill then steam but now using modern electric powered looms. It is owned by Mitchell Interflex who weave a wide range of fabrics see their web site for more information at

www.mitchell-interflex.co.uk

3. At the mill turn left up the road. On your left opposite the mill you can see that the wall is supported by reused mill sandstone flag flooring taken from inside the weaving shed when the mill was modernised. The holes in the stones are where the looms were anchored to the floor. Outside working hours there may be a locked gate across the road but there is a small opening on the right of the gate for walkers. Pass on your right the remains of the dam system - the lower dam nearest the mill has now been concreted over to form a car park but the upper dam, higher up the lane, is still visible along with the dam sluice-gates. The drum shaped concrete blocks which line the lane are reused road blocks from the 2nd world war, these were moved from the top road to Barnoldswick where they were installed in WWII to protect against invading troops attacking the shadow factories manufacturing air craft.
4. Where the line of blocks finishes and the road turns to the left, take the small pathway on your right (marked "historic waterways circular walk") down to a small packhorse bridge across the stream. Once across the bridge follow the footpath keeping the fence to your left.
5. Through 5 stiles/gates until you reach a field with young trees. Keeping the fence line to your right then
6. Take the path between the 2 quarry spoil heaps. Take care as the footpath is rocky and uneven
7. Go through a small wall gate and then across the meadow continuing in the same direction, past Booth house farm on your right,
8. Go through 2 stiles/gates into a garden lawned area, walk directly across the lawn to the houses and keeping these to your right follow the track to the road. The first of the buildings was the quarry warehouse now a converted house, the small cottages were originally farm labourer's cottages and pre date the quarry which was started in the 1880's. On your left was once a large quarry pit, several hundred metres deep this was filled in during the 1960's



9. At the road turn right down the hill for 20 metres and take the signposted footpath hidden in the trees take care as the footpath is not easily found, on the left. On your left is Sagar's quarry, this quarry was connected to the canal via a curving railway reaching the canal around the modern road bridge. Traces of this railway can still be seen across the fields on your right. See photograph below. The new road to Barnoldswick replaced the bridge in the foreground. **If you wish to shorten the walk at this point you can continue down the lane which brings you back to the Anchor Inn in around ¾ mile.**



10. The path climbs up a flight of steps through a wood. At the top of the quarry over the wall stile, this can be a bit tricky, keep the fence line on your right.
11. Again keeping to the contours of the hill until just past a barn go through the gate and follow the wall on your left into a green lane in the far corner of the meadow, leading to Dye house farm.
12. Keeping the wall to your right walk up hill following an ancient road way to a gate. Following the old road.
13. Go through the gate then turn right to join the bridle way.
14. Turning right follow the track downhill to the main road.
15. At the road, cross over taking care as visibility of oncoming traffic is poor. There is a traffic island to your left use this for a safer crossing.
16. Take the footpath down the track-way sign posted "Marina Way" following the track down the side of the West Craven High School grounds. Just past the school grounds take the stile into the field on your right.
17. Follow this path until you reach the canal, turning right onto the tow path for around 100 metres until you reach the old stonework of the dismantled railway on your left.
18. Around 50 metres after the stonework take the small path through a small gate on your left - opposite the marina, following this path straight across a track and through an overgrown section, then, follow the path across 2 meadows which will lead you back into Salterforth village at Lane Ends Farm.
19. Turn right towards the village past the Junior School on your left

20. Then turn left into the second lane past the school, sign posted “The Bridle Path” – opposite “Cross Lane Cottages” these are painted white.
21. Follow this lane between the cottages until you reach the road by the Inghamite chapel and the old Quaker chapel.
22. Cross the road taking care here as it is on a blind corner. Into the mill car park, cross this noting the old “Jinny Well” this was once the main water supply for the village. Cross the main road again and take the lane back towards the Anchor Inn.

Some early photos of the centre of the village of Salterforth



The old bridge in the centre of the village, the main road was built in 1929. This lovely old bridge had to be demolished to make way for the road.



The view from the old mill chimney. The large building in the foreground is Broadstones Farm. This was demolished when Silentnight created their car park



1960's the centre of the village and the wooden hut, once the post office and general store. Salterforth at that time had 4 shops. The other 3 were – the Co-op (the shop on the end of Park view seen in top photo), a Bakery on the end of Cragg Row, and Mrs Bellamy's – a general store, across from Maypole Square.

We hope you have enjoyed your walk. If you wish to know more about this area's history, look at the Earby and District Local History Society's web site www.earbyhistory.co.uk there are also links to the oneguyfrombarlick site about the quarries

We have meetings in the New Road Community Centre, Earby on the 3rd Tuesday in the month at 7 -9 pm, September to May. Entry £1:50 includes tea and biscuits. Non members welcome.

Membership is £7.00 per annum and includes a quarterly magazine, access to member's pages on website, and reduced entry to Tuesday meetings.

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