

The Ancient Township of Midgely with Luddenden

1.

Ellen Royd dates back to 1555, although the present house contains some more recent parts. The word *-royd* was the anglo-saxon expression for a man-made clearing. The names of a number of the surrounding houses, and some of the fields, also contain the word *-royd*, examples being Tray (tree) Royd, Oats Royd, Han (land) Royd houses, and Little Royd, Great Royd and Stoney Royd fields. The Anglo-Saxon name for a natural clearing was *-leah* or *-ley*, and houses containing this name are found surrounding the village centre. Examples of these are Turn Lee, Ferney Lee and Brearley. It is probable that the village grew by the man-made clearings in the centre eventually joining up with the natural surrounding clearings. The name Midgely itself thus refers to a midge clearing.

Many other Anglo-Saxon words are found in the names of houses and settlements in the Luddenden valley, such as *-greave* (a woodland area e.g. Greave House), *-grove* (also woodland e.g. Holly Grove) and *stubbing* (a woodland clearing for agriculture e.g. Stubbings). This suggests there was a strong Anglo-Saxon presence in the area. There are very few Viking words such as *-by* (a farmstead or village), *-rake* (a steep path) or *-thwaite* (a piece of land taken into cultivation). These all occur on the southern flanks of the Calder Valley, suggesting that the Vikings settled mainly on the southern side.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, a piece of stone, shaped somewhat like a chair, was found in the garden at Ellen Royd. This had always been known as the *boggart's* chair, a *boggart* being a dialect word for a species of the small people who could be quite helpful to humans, especially around the house, although they could also be very mischievous. It was realised that this was the original font from the first St. Mary's Church in Luddenden. During the Civil War in 1643/44, a skirmish occurred when Royalist troops from Halifax attacked a Parliamentary force stationed at Heptonstall. They were beaten off and pursued back to Halifax. Many of the Royalist force were Scottish Roman Catholics, and as the font was seen as a symbol of Catholicism, it was broken by the pursuing soldiers, along with the base of a Churchyard cross which was also found in the garden. They had probably been taken there by the Churchwarden for safe keeping, who lived at Ellen Royd at the time. You will be able to see these in the Church.

2.

Many of the small roadside cottages throughout the walk, like the ones to your right known as Lane Ends, reflect the industrial history of the area and were built for local mill workers. Between 1850 to 1890, Oats Royd mill, located between the villages of Midgley and Luddenden, expanded greatly. Increased employment opportunities attracted families from outside the township, including Halifax and Todmorden locally, but also as far afield as Lancashire, Derbyshire, North Yorkshire and even Ireland. John Murgatroyd first built a terrace of houses for his workers at Oats Royd, close beside the mill. Soon after this, as the firm prospered, he began to look for other sites suitable for further housing. In Midgley, the physical layout of the village was added to by building 12 cottages at Lane Ends, followed by 30 cottages along Thorney Lane and 6 at Yew Trees, both being further up the village.

Lane Ends cottages were built back to back, a type of housing which started in the 18th century, and which was particularly common in the upper Calder Valley. The cottages on Thorney Lane were a mixture of 'through' houses and back to backs. Specifications of these houses indicate that homes built by Murgatroyd's were generally well built, and that when looking at tenders, they did not choose the cheapest tender, but the ones which gave best value. In the larger houses along Thorney Lane, fireplaces were installed in both bedrooms and attics, not that common in buildings of this type. In 1881, Lane Ends tenants were paying four shillings and sixpence, whilst the cheaper back to backs at Yew Trees were two shillings and fourpence. Often, a whole family would be working at the mill, and total wages, which were paid fortnightly, in such a case may amount to perhaps three pounds ten shillings.

Murgatroyd's also rented terraces of cottages from other landowners, but often these would not be built to the same high quality as the ones they had built. Just below Lane Ends stood a row of back to earth cottages. These were often very damp, and lacked sanitation, and most of this poor quality housing was pulled down in the clearances of the 1950s and 60s. All that can now be seen is a lot of saplings behind a wall. A number of farms that you will pass on the walk were also owned and rented out by Murgatroyd's. Almost all of these have now been sold off into private ownership, and today are some of the most desirable houses in the area.

One of the conditions of renting a Murgatroyd house was that a member of the family had to be employed at the mill. This often meant that girls in particular would have to work there after leaving school to keep their parents in their house after reaching retirement.

It was also not uncommon for households to supplement their income by selling goods from their front room. Almost every terrace of housing in the area had one such shop, as can be seen in the photographs of Lane Ends and Providence Place.

3.

The present day Midgley Community shop was originally the central shop of the Midgley Co-operative Society. The Society was founded in 1861, at what is now Doves Rest in the centre of the village. This was a meeting place for the Midgley Radical Association and Chartism, and the Co-operative Society was one of a number of self-help groups in the village. Its members were the ordinary

working people of Midgley, and a large part of their social life was built around the events organised by these different societies and the Chapel. The Co-op supplied everything for the household. Huge blocks of butter, lard and cheese were cut, weighed and wrapped in greaseproof paper. Sugar, flour and other dry goods were weighed out into strong blue paper bags. Large non-food items were kept in the back of the shop – these included essentials such as paraffin, purple methylated spirits for lighting lamps, hand shovels for coal, and other miscellaneous hardware. Apples were individually wrapped in squares of soft tissue paper, and this served a very useful secondary purpose as toilet paper. Next to the grocery department was the clothing section, which sold a variety of clothing, underwear and boots and shoes. Designer fashions did not exist in those days, and most people in the village would buy almost all their clothing at the local Co-op. The Co-op also supplied farm goods and foodstuffs for the animals. During the 20th century, the shop had a delivery wagon which was kept in a garage across the road, and which would deliver all bulky goods to the farm or house in question.

Across the road from the Co-op building stood, in what is today a private garden, Midgley Co-op hall. This was opened in 1871, and was used for a wide variety of social and educational purposes. The function room was on the top floor of the hall, whilst below were 8 back to back houses. Access to some of the houses was along a balcony, so that locally it was known as the grandstand. Social functions held in the hall included numerous concerts and dances, with top local dance bands such as the New Californians. The local Oats Royd Mill Brass Band played regularly for both concerts and also the Old Folks Teas. It became a centre for the Yorkshire Penny Bank, and a day school was held there before the Board School at Lane Ends had been built.

Alongside the Co-op Hall was the village cobbler's shop, where boots, shoes and clogs were repaired – non of the present throwaway mentality. A pair of shoes would be worn till it was no longer possible for it to be repaired, and children's footwear would often be handed down to younger brothers or sisters. At the junction of Tray Royd Lane and Towngate stood the village fish and chip shop, in what is today a private garden, and opposite was the village butcher's shop. It was only when the first bus service to Midgley from Halifax commenced in the mid 1920s that most people's horizons started to extend beyond the village.

4.

Following the Black Death or Bubonic Plague outbreaks of the 14th century, the population in the area began to increase. A tax return of 1379 showed the population of the Midgley township was about 185, and it took almost 100 years to return to its previous level of around 300. The increasing population and better climatic conditions however meant that marginal land just below the higher moorland was cleared for farming. This often resulted in small irregular-shaped fields like those that can be seen in front of you from the bus terminus. During the second half of the fifteenth century, the location of the woollen industry in Yorkshire underwent rapid changes. Previously situated around

York and Beverley, it gradually shifted to rural areas of the West Riding, where the labour was cheaper, and there was plenty of running water for the various processes involved. The poor quality land meant that from mediaeval times through to the nineteenth century, almost everyone, from the very rich to the very poor, in some way was involved with both textile manufacture and farming. This is called the *dual economy*. Land which was not good enough for farming was suitable for pasture for the small scale weaver/farmer to keep a cow or a pig and a horse on. Just below the gentry were people we now call yeomen clothiers who had quite large numbers of cattle, sheep and pigs, but also had large numbers of outworkers producing textiles.

The main material produced at that time was a coarse cloth called *kersey*. The carding and spinning of the yarn was done by women and children at home, and this was then stretched and strengthened outside on a frame by means of hooks fixed to posts in what was called a stretchergate. The long straight strip of land in front was a stretchergate. The yarn would then be woven by the husband, finished off by the clothier, and sold. Sales were very extensive and cloth was exported to Europe or sold at fairs such as Bartholomew's Fair in London. Between 1524 and 1545, tax collected in the area rose by a factor of four due mainly to the growth of the industry. The money made by these yeomen clothiers was often put into the fine houses which still exist, and Great House, just across the road from the bus terminus, is one of these.

5.

Between 1830 and the outbreak of the first World War, numerous public houses and ale houses flourished in the village. The earliest public house in Midgley was the Lord Nelson Hotel, formerly Scout Head Inn, but renamed in honour of Lord Nelson after his victory at Trafalgar. Although there was a rising evangelical zeal to counter the perceived evils of alcohol and especially cheap gin in the early parts of the 19th century, the brewers had an influential vote, and farmers wanted a market for barley and hops. The Beer Act of 1830 allowed any person in the Rate Book to open their house as a beer shop on payment of two guineas to the local excise. No justice's licence was required, resulting in a dramatic rise in the number of beer sellers.

Public houses sprang up in Midgley to serve a growing population of agricultural workers, mill employees and quarry men. The former Delvers Arms is a reminder of the importance of quarrying in the local economy in Midgley. Demand for stone grew rapidly in the 19th century. Mills were being built along with houses for the workforce, roads made and repaired, and many town centre developments nationwide also used Midgley flags. In addition to these public houses, there were the beer houses too where ale was sold from the front room.

Not everyone welcomed the consequences of the growth of public houses and beer houses, however. Local historian and lifelong Methodist H. W. Harwood, writing in 1903, complained that "It was drink first thing in the morning and last thing at night. The poor women and children had to exist the best way they could. There were midnight 'carousels', all night sittings, local extended

weekends and lax, loose ways. Sport centred around the 'lowest of public houses', when pigeon shooting, rabbit coursing, cock fighting, billeting and knur and spell matches were over, the hard drinking would begin."

Although the public houses may have been viewed with dismay by some, they did serve another purpose. In 1837, the Midgley Radical Association was formed in response to the imposition of the new Poor Law in 1834. Major events were held at the Shoulder of Mutton pub, including an anniversary dinner in September 1838. A contemporary newspaper reported that "despite the infiltration of conservative operatives, it was attended by happy villagers until midnight.

By the time of the last century, the numerous pubs and ale houses began to close one by one. The Weaver's Arms closed in 1906, The Delver's Arms 1910, The Royal George 1919, The Lord Nelson 1932, The Shoulder of Mutton 1956 and finally The Sportsman in 1990. The end of an era.

6.

The circular stone-walled enclosure on the left just before the track onto the moor is the Midgley Township Pinfold. Common land belonged to the Lord of the Manor, but he had to permit those living in the Manor to use the common in certain specific ways. The most important of these was the right of grazing. This was strictly regulated by the Pinder, who was appointed by the Township. Any stray or trespassing animals on the common were impounded in the pinfold, and a charge was imposed for their release. The pinfold was, therefore, an integral part of stock control. It was also important to prevent cattle wandering onto the arable and meadow areas within the town fields, and again, any strays would be impounded.

Climatic conditions, poor acidic soils which reduce nitrogen available to the crops and the high altitude limited what could be successfully grown on the upland pastures of Midgley moor. During an economic depression in 1862, a project was set up for the poor and unemployed to grow produce on Midgley moor. This did not work out, however, because of this poor soil, and the height which exposed it to the weather. The section walled round for this is today still known locally as Bracken's folly, after the owner of the nearby paper mill who encouraged the project. Midgley probate records from the 16th century suggest that cattle farming predominated, with only a small amount of sheep. Arable farming has been mainly restricted to the growing of oats, with a small amount of potatoes. From 1100A.D. to 1300A.D. the average temperature was about 1.5 degrees Centigrade warmer than today, and the rainfall about 15% lower. Growing oats would therefore have been much more productive than in later times. The pattern of livestock farming remained fairly constant over the centuries, with a number of farms keeping pigs and horses. Midgley farms were characteristically small due to the practice of dividing estates into 3 parts—one third each to the widow, the children and to the specific wishes of the deceased person. It is not known when the pinfold, which stands on one of the old routes onto the moor was built, but it is marked on the township map of 1806. The last

pinder was John Scott, who died in 1869.

7.

Round about 7000 B.C., the ice which had covered Britain during the ice ages finally melted. Gradually, global warming allowed forest cover to extend over the whole country. Pine and birch, until then the prevalent species, gave way to the more temperate species of trees, such as oak, ash, lime and beech. The tree stumps and roots occur commonly at the base of the more recent peat. The forest and the wildlife it supported were then exploited by extended family groups. The tools and weapons of these Mesolithic peoples were made from flint or chert, and have been found widely on the local moors. Although there were small changes from time to time, the climate stayed drier and warmer, rather like central France today. For several thousand years, Midgley moor was an area of considerable activity. Sheep, goats and cattle were herded there, and the moorland was an area of pasture. Piles of stone created when patches of land were cleared for planting exist, and the recent find of a flint sickle shows that cereal crops were grown.

The later Neolithic and Bronze age people again used and left behind identifiably shaped flints, and many arrowheads lost during hunting together with the scrapers and knives used to butcher their prey have been discovered. The discovery of Bronze round about 2000 B.C. led to more widespread clearance of the moorlands and people began to have possessions. Ceremonial burial and cremation rites of the dead took place. At Greave House, mentioned earlier in the walk, two burial urns were discovered with a herring bone decoration containing burned bones. Above the Mount Skip golf course at the edge of the moor, a round barrow was discovered containing an urn and the skeleton of a man. Other such remains are also present on the moor.

Round about 250 B.C., the climate deteriorated to something like that today. The local uplands then saw the decline of tree cover, which led to leaching of the nutrients from the soil and the growth of a blanket covering of peat. Today, the moor is prized for both its recreational value and for grouse shooting. In the more recent past, the moorland has helped to provide for the everyday needs of local people. There were bilberries to be picked during the season, and even today, bilberry pie is always called the 'queen of all pies'. The moor always provided fuel through the digging of peat, and heather bundles were used for kindling, as well as fodder for animals. Moss from the moor was used to pack the gaps between roofing slates, and was collected during the second World War for use as an antiseptic.

8.

The houses that you are passing now were built for people working at the large house on the right, Broadfold Hall. This was the home of the Murgatroyd family, owners of the Oats Royd mills. It was built in the Italianate style in 1877 by John Murgatroyd, founder of the business, after a previous mediaeval building was demolished, and shortly before he died in 1880. Workers in service for the family at the hall were allowed these houses as part of their wages. It is

recounted how at one time there was no running water or electricity in them, although both these were present in the stables for the horses.

Originally, the Murgatroyds living at Green Edge in Warley were active in the textile trade as early as the seventeenth century, and in 1787 when the Halifax Piece Hall opened, John Murgatroyd of the same address was listed as a cloth merchant and rented one of the rooms there. His son, also called John, by the mid 1830s, had cloth woven by over 700 hand weavers, and in 1846 he bought the Oats Royd and Thorney Lane estates. Here, he erected his first mill, and he was sufficiently far-sighted to realise that the future lay with steam power and not water power, which was far too unreliable. Over the next 40 years, the business expanded greatly. The mill was extended in 1851 and 1855, when cottages were built for the workers also. In the late 1850s, warehouses were built on the opposite side of the road, and these extensions continued, culminating in a huge new weaving shed there in 1887. By the 1870s, the firm was exporting large amounts of cloth to the continent and Germany in particular, and to this end had acquired a warehouse in Bradford, the centre of wool trading. The firm finally closed down in 1982, and a large fire in 1989 totally destroyed the east mill at right angles to the road.

The Murgatroyds were always seen as very good employers for the times they were in. Whole families would work there from leaving school until eventually retiring, and in a long-service competition run by the Yorkshire Observer in 1927, five of their employees won £10 each for having over sixty years service. The family established themselves in life in the area, and gave freely to local appeals. When times were bad, for example when work stopped because of coal strikes, they paid their employees sums of money because of the distress on a number of occasions. When there were special celebrations within the family, such as weddings, they paid their workers a sum of money dependent upon their number of years of service, and always took part in the various functions put on by the firm for their employees. Finally, when the last members of the family left Luddenden in order to live near their children, they gave substantial donations to local organisations, and were genuinely missed in the area.

9.

On the left of the rough tarmac track, you will see the ruins of Dean Mill, now a landscaped garden. The first mill in the Luddenden valley, built about 1440, it was originally a fulling mill. After a piece of cloth had been woven by hand, the finishing processes were then carried out. Fulling consisted of pounding the cloth until the fibres of wool hooked closely together so that it became thickened and had a felt finish. Initially, this was done by trampling on it with the feet, but later, big wooden hammers powered by a water wheel were developed to beat it. The cloth would then have the nap raised by rubbing it with teasels, and finally, the long threads would be removed by cropping, or trimming off with large shears. The 'Luddite' risings took place during the Napoleonic wars around 1812 when the cropping process was mechanised, and the hand croppers broke into mills, and smashed the cropping machines. Eventually, however, by 1850 Dean Mill had converted to paper making, and this continued until the 1930s.

Many surnames arise from the jobs which people in the middle ages performed, or from where they lived. A person called Clough lived by a stream, a Webster was a weaver, a Fuller or a Walker was a fuller, a Lister was a dyer.

Further along the track to Luddenden, by a terrace of houses, you will come across the remains of another textile mill, Peel House mill. This was owned by a family called Ambler, and it is on record that the owner Mr. John Ambler, then aged in his sixties, would rise early and walk to Manchester with samples of his material for sale. After taking lunch, he would then walk home again, arriving late evening – a total of almost 50 miles in the day.

There were at one time 12 mills on the Luddenden brook all using water power. Normally, the water from the river would be taken down a channel called a 'goit' to fill a dam just above the factory. Water from this would then be run off to turn the water wheel. During the summer months, however, there was not sufficient water to fill all the dams, and the mills further down the river would have to stop work. As a result, three large dams were built at Cold Edge on moorland above Wainstalls to augment the supply from the river. It is said that when an apprentice to the Cold Edge Dams Company came out of his time, there would be an initiation ceremony. He had to run down the hillside from the dams and get to Booth bridge before the water which had been let off by opening the sluice gates of one of the three dams. If he didn't arrive first, he could expect to be tarred and feathered or something equally unpleasant.

10.

The date of building the first Church on the site in Luddenden is not known, but it was shown on a map of this area made in 1599 by Christopher Saxton, the most eminent map-maker of his time. Initially, it did not have full parochial rights, so baptisms, weddings and funerals could not take place there. These were granted in 1624, so this meant that there would be a font for baptisms and a large stone cross. As mentioned previously, however, these were broken by Parliamentary soldiers during the civil war and taken by the Churchwarden to Ellen Royd. The broken font of 1624 is on the left by the altar inside the Church, (which is always open during daytime) and is shaped like a chair. The base of the cross is on your right as you walk along the bottom path out of the churchyard towards the Lord Nelson. The picture of this Church, shown on the print by the Halifax artist John Horner in 1823 showed the building to be in a rather dilapidated condition, and it was pulled down in 1816 and the present building erected in its place.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, the Church of England could only accommodate about 13% of people in the Church, so during this time, many non-conformist churches (i.e. those whose structure and services did not conform to those of the Church of England) were established. These religions were especially strong in the northern industrial areas, and Luddenden was no exception. By 1765, there was a non-conformist Chapel at Booth, and by 1840 two more in Luddenden, one in Midgley and one in Luddendenfoot. You will pass the two Methodist Chapels (as the non-conformist buildings are always termed in the north) as you pass through the village.

11.

A house called Newhouse was shown on the site of the present Lord Nelson on the 1599 map by Saxton mentioned earlier. This would have been a timber house, and the present building was rebuilt in stone in 1634 by Gregory Patchett. His initials and the date can be seen above the door (spot the mistake in this!). In the 1730s it became an inn, and was originally called the White Swan, but the popular victory of Lord Nelson at the battle of Trafalgar in 1805 resulted in the name change. An unusual feature is the long stone seat for customers outside the door of the building. The property was bought by Michael Stocks of Upper Shibden Hall in 1863 for his Shibden Head brewery. This was taken over by Samuel Webster's in 1933, in whose ownership it remained until very recently when it was taken over by a large conglomerate, and much to the disgust of locals, Webster's ceased to exist.

The Lord Nelson Inn soon became the most important hostelry in the village, and in 1781, one of Calderdale's earliest lending libraries was established there. There was a wide variety of titles in the library, and by 1889, it contained 1515 books. There were the latest fiction books by authors such as Charles Dickens and Anthony Trollope, and political, scientific and theological treatises. During the periods of political unrest in the 1830s, it was thought necessary to "purge the shelves of seditious and deistical works" for fear of inflaming people. In the first half of the 19th century, the library attracted people from quite a wide area, and it became a meeting place for the poets and other leading artistic people of the area. The most famous of these was Branwell Bronte, dissolute brother of the famous Bronte sisters. For some time, he was working as station master at Luddendenfoot. Although he never became a member of the library, he borrowed extensively from it through his friends there, and by staying until late in the Lord Nelson reading the books.

The inn also has many historical links with the Church across the road. Many meetings of the Church have been held there, as also were the Midgley Township meetings. Finally, the meetings to elect a 'Mayor' of Luddenden are always held there. In 1862, the locals objected to moves to elect a local board for Halifax, which would include part of Luddenden. Resolving not to lose their local democracy, they promptly elected their own mayor and corporation. Now a charitable group, through the 'Mayor's Day' gala, and other activities, it raises large amounts of money for local organisations.

12.

Like most similar villages, Luddenden for most of its history was very self-sufficient. The introduction of the bus service to Midgley in the mid 1920s had an enormous effect, and for the first time, people could easily go as far as Halifax, and beyond if they wished. Despite that, there was a wide range of shops in both Midgley and Luddenden, and most things could be bought locally. Like Midgley, Luddenden also had its own Co-operative Society, with its shop up New Road on the way to Midgley also stocking a wide range of goods. The houses across the road from the Lord Nelson, and those on the same side

going round towards the bridge, were all shops. Across the road, was Wormald's grocery – when converted to a dwelling in the mid 1970s, the developer thought it appropriate to name it Hamilton House after Lord Nelson's lady friend! The first house past the Lord Nelson was Hillyard's butchers shop. As can be seen from the photograph, hygiene standards were not quite what they are today. Next door was a shoe repairer. In the building with the large window just before the bridge was Wormald's greengrocery. Facing you as you go across the bridge, in the double fronted house was Jack Tattersall's (affectionately known as Tatt's) electrical shop. Until in many cases the late 1950s and sometimes even beyond, many people did not have electricity in their homes, just gas. In that case, radios had to run off very heavy rechargeable lead batteries called accumulators, and these had to be taken to Tatt's for charging up after they had gone flat. One local man now in his 80s recalls how, as a boy, he had to carry their accumulator down from a house in Midgley just below where you came down from the moor to Tatt's to get it charged, and then back again a day or so after.

There were also a number of shops on High Street. On the junction with Stocks Lane stood Sayles' drapery, haberdashery and general clothing store. This had an enormous stock of goods, and was greatly missed when it finally closed down in the mid 1990s. Similarly, the Post Office further along the street, which had been run by one family since the 1920s also closed down at a similar time, and these were the last of the shops in Luddenden.

13.

As you pass through the garden, there is a Heritage feature, constructed by the Luddenden Conservation Society in 2005, giving information on the former Corn Mill which stood there, and across the road, a second feature about Murgatroyd's mill at Oats Royd. The Luddenden (or to give it its proper title) the Warley Manorial Corn Mill was first mentioned in 1274, but this was on a different site, possibly further down the river. The Saxton map of 1599 shows at Lane House "here stood the old mill". In 1379, permission was given for a replacement mill to be built in Luddingdene. Renovations were carried out in 1633, and the door lintel from that time was stored when the mill was finally demolished in 1975. The grinding stone used in the feature is a French one, as these were the hardest and best. The stone actually continued to be exported to England even during the Napoleonic wars. The Lord of the Manor owned the grist soke or compulsory right to have all corn grown in the manor ground at the corn mill, and the miller would keep a portion called the multure. This monopoly came to an end in the early 18th century.

The housing estate Bluebell Walk was built on the site of Lindley's nut and bolt works, which closed in 1983 but which since about 1900 had also provided much employment for the village. At the end of the path through the wood, just before you cross the stream, you will see the remains of an old dam on the left, and in front of you the entrance to a goit or watercourse which supplied the mill at Luddendenfoot with water. The abstraction of water led to a dispute between the owners of mills on either side of the river in Luddendenfoot, with each one accusing the other of taking part of their water supply. This led to murder and

cases in the High Court in London, and it was for the latter that Saxton prepared the maps in 1599 and 1601. The area in front of you is Lane House. If this mill was indeed the corn mill, one can see how the size of the stream running down the hillside became inadequate to provide sufficient power for the mill, and had to be moved further up the valley to Luddenden. The packhorse bridge would have been for access to the mill, and its sides are very low so that the packs could spread out over the walls of the bridge.