

On your left is Furnace Grange Farm. The original furnace, where the iron from the bell pits was melted down by the monks, was in Bank Wood, between here and Bentley Grange on the north bank of the beck.

Climb over the stile and walk forward across the field, bearing a little left, to a wooden stile leading onto a concrete roadway. Over the stile turn left up the road for 20m, then turn right following the roadway uphill towards the mast for half a mile, with views of the former mining village of Flockton to your right.

In 1969 the first television mast at Emley collapsed under the weight of ice which built up during freak weather conditions. This resulted in the building of a new tower which at 1080 feet is the tallest concrete structure in Europe.

Follow the lane to Clough Road, the main road between Emley and Flockton.

Short-cut 2

if you turn left along Clough Road it will take you back up into the village.

Two large houses across the road face you. Turn right, then left just past them into Kirkby Lane. A few metres up this lane, on your left, is Kirkby Grange. Take the right fork and follow the lane as it twists and turns for half a mile heading towards the mast almost directly in front of you.

This ancient trackway is flanked in parts by very old hedgerows. You can tell this by the variety of trees and shrubs in the hedges. See if you can spot hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, elder, holly and ivy, as well as wild garlic, dog's mercury, bluebells and "lords and ladies".

After half a mile you will come to Upper Crawshaw Farm. Just before the farm buildings turn left into the field. You should see the church directly in front of you. Follow the edge of the field and the wall for some 300m until it bears right over a "crooked" stone stile. Turn left to face the church again and walk round the field, with the hedge on your left, until you come to a waymarker post. Follow the well-trodden path towards the church, cross the metal rung stile and walk down to the footbridge across Outlane Dike. Walk up diagonally to the right-hand corner of the wall, continuing over the stone stile into the lane and up into Church Street, emerging by the War Memorial.

St. Michael's Church is thought to date from the 14th century. The remains of an earlier Norman church are displayed inside. In 1380 the people of Emley were



wanting a new and larger church for the growing village population. The money to build this new church was raised by the sale of church ales.



Turn right onto Church Street as you exit from the front of the church lane and you return to the Post Office and Stone Cross to complete the trail.

This trail was originally researched by the children of Emley First School, with help from the then Emley Footpath Society.

The leaflet was up-dated by Denby Dale Walkers are Welcome Group, with finance from the East Peak Innovation Partnership (EPIP) via the Rural Development Programme for England, jointly funded by Defra and the EU and managed by Yorkshire Forward and with a grant from Denby Dale Parish Council. Second update October 2023.

Emley Village Trail



Getting Here

Emley is well connected by Bus services. We would encourage you to travel by public transport so as to minimise your environmental impact



Emley is served by buses from Huddersfield and Wakefield

There is a small village car park Opposite the Village Stores.

Look out for the Emley Village Trail way markers to help guide you around the trail.



Denby Dale walkers are Welcome

Please check out our website for further information. We are supported by Denby Dale Parish Council.



Walking in the East Peak



Walking in and around Denby Dale

Emley Village Trail



The Village Trail is approximately 3 miles long. Allow a couple of hours for a leisurely stroll. Stout footwear is advisable.



Emley Village Trail

Although there is evidence of a Danish settlement in the area in the 9th and 10th centuries, the earliest written reference to Emley that we are aware of is in the Domesday Book of 1086, when William the Conqueror ordered a survey to be made of all England. There were three families living in Emley then. In 1203 Emley was known as “Emmesleia”. Historians think that a person called Emma or Eama may have lived here. “Leah” is the name given to a forest glade or clearing. Emma and Leah would probably be the origin of Emley’s name.

Emley was granted a Royal Charter in 1253 to hold weekly markets. The Stone Cross in the centre of the village is the remains of the Market Cross, the upper part of which was destroyed during the Civil War.

Start: Emley Cross by Village Stores

Leaving the white Stone Cross behind you walk down Church Street passing St. Michael’s Church on the left.

Note the cross in the churchyard wall by the War Memorial. This was the symbol of the Knights Hospitallers who owned much of the land around Emley. The aim of this ancient monastic order was to care for the sick and to raise funds to protect the pilgrims in the Holy Land during the Great Crusades. The cross was removed from a cottage which stood near the former Co-operative store, now the Village Store.

Turn right onto School Lane and walk past Emley First School on your left until you reach Rodley Lane.

Follow the lane for about 150 metres, then bear right on Thorncliffe Lane. Pass Thorncliffe Farm on your right, then go over the stile on the right (by the big steel gates), past the farm buildings on the right and over the stile into the field. Go through this field with the hedge on your right and over the stile into the next field (usually muddy here). Go forward (50 metres) towards the tree.

Thorncliffe Lane is a very old road. It used to be stone-flagged and was the main road from Emley to Wakefield. In January 1643 Parliamentarian troops, after raiding the church and collecting 55 sheep and other things from Parson Farington, proceeded to Thorncliffe, the home of Mrs. Farington’s sister Mrs. Hare.

When you reach the big tree, follow the field boundary to a gap in the hedge (not easy to spot) and steps down the wall into the lower field. Turn left, go over



the stile into the field. Go along with the hedge on your left and over a stile into a large field with scattered trees. Bear half-right towards the bottom right-hand corner of the field.

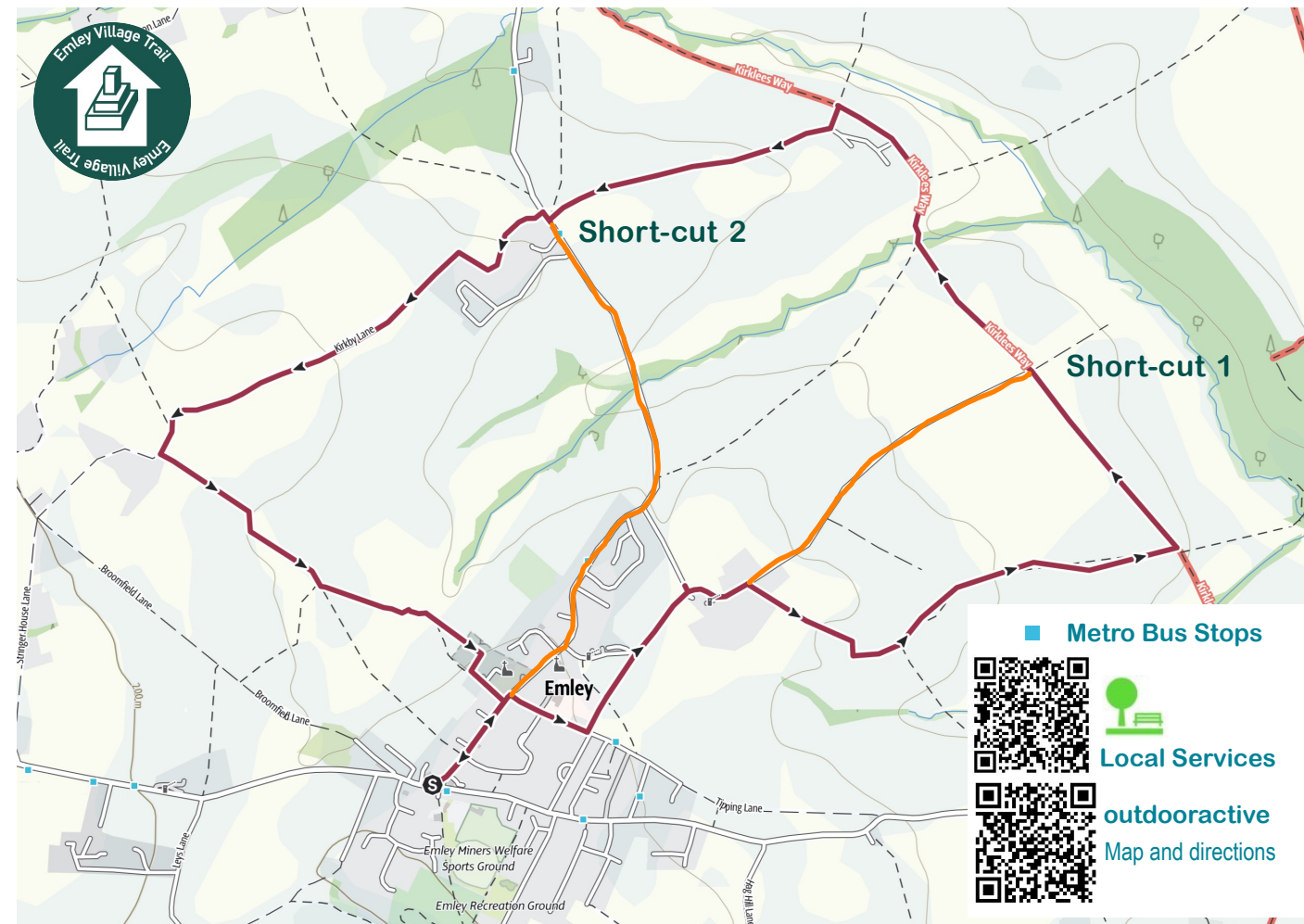
As you walk across the field you will see the remains of ancient bell-pits on your left (now fenced off).

Iron ore was mined in these pits from a “black band” of ore known as the Tankersley seam which ran through local coal seams. Iron was mined and processed by the monks in Emley long before the industry became important in the Sheffield area. Once melted down using charcoal from local woods, iron ingots were taken by packhorse through to Wortley Forge on the River Don to make iron wares.

Continue across the fields for 300 metres or so, until you find a gate and wooden stile just left of a clump of holly trees. Through the stile keep the fence on your right and continue straight ahead for 150 metres to the next stile at the bottom of the field. Do not climb over this stile, but turn left and follow the fence.

This section of path is part of the Kirklees Way Long- Distance Footpath which runs for 72 miles around Kirklees District.

The wide open fields in this area were open-cast mined for coal and restored in the 1960s, as were Bank Woods over to the right which were replanted with conifers. The open farmland here is ideal for some species of bird and if you look and listen you are likely to hear skylark and lapwing and maybe a curlew if you are lucky.



Follow the fence and hedge on your right over two stiles bringing you on to the bottom of Leisure (Lezzes) Lane.

In the 13th century there was a Monks’ Hospice or Infirmary for the poor and lepers in Emley. The Hospice was known as “Lezzes” or “Lazar’s” taking its name from Lazarus who was brought back from the dead by Jesus. This is the probable origin of the name Leisure Lane.

Short-cut 1

If you turn left up Leisure Lane here it will bring you back to Thorncliffe Lane where you can retrace your steps into the village.

Otherwise cross the lane and immediately opposite cross the stile into the next field. Continue forward, following

the Kirklees Way, crossing the next wooden stile and walking down the slope in the field. Pass the wooden gate and cross a metal- rung stile under the trees. Bear left under the trees, over the small stone footbridge (or “clapper” bridge) across Clough Dike.

The wooded ribbon of the dike provides a well-used haven for wild animals, plants and birds. In spring, look for lesser celandine and wood sorrel on the stream bank and keep an eye out for flocks of finches and tits in the trees above.

You cannot see the next stile yet, so walk diagonally across the field heading for the right of the two big oak trees in the hedge in front of you. When you get to the stile by the right-hand tree, turn left and follow the hedge to the corner.