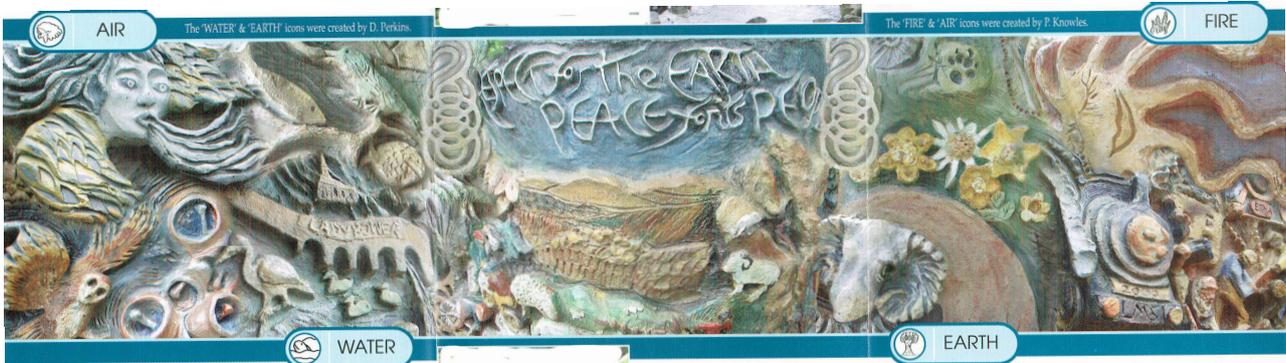


BAMFORD touchstones Sculpture trail



In 1999, Bamford Village (like most others in UK) wanted to make something special to mark the Millennium. Local artist Jenny Mather suggested a Sculpture trail around the village based on the 4 Elements of Air, Earth, Fire and Water since we have near us: plenty of Air in the peaks, lots of Earth around in our rural setting, Fire in the form of the old Cotton Mill which became the work place of Carbolite Furnaces (and now converted into flats), and mega litres of Water in the reservoirs.

Enthusiasm was generated and an organising committee set up with the artist, a Peak Park ranger, a money raising whiz and an engineer; grants obtained and plans drawn up

Jenny organised 2 weekends when we had a marquee on the Village Hall lawn; over the 2 weekends hundreds of villagers came and made small clay models on one of the 4 Themes. She then collaged these onto clay slabs from which rubber moulds were made and resin slabs cast to make the 4 Touchstones. (Lots of experimentation with resin and grits to get the right gritstone type consistency) Each one has a front and back, the backs having a map of the trail and a few pictures. On the village green the 4 fronts are curved into a cylinder with a stainless steel top again showing the route round the trail..

On a cool wet Saturday morning in early 2001 the Trail was inaugurated by a large band of villagers plus our local MP. At each touchstone an appropriate 'ceremony' was held. At FIRE we let off fireworks, at EARTH a tree was planted, at WATER all drank local Grindleford spring water and at AIR we released helium balloons.

With funding and practical help from:

Local Heritage Initiative, Heritage Lottery Fund, Nationwide Building Society, High Peak Borough Council Community Arts, High Peak Ranger Service & Sustainable Development Fund, The Countryside Agency, Hugh & Ruby Sykes Trust, Severn Trent Water. Bamford & District Historical Society, the Duke of Devonshire Trust

Timing: anything from 1½ to 3 hours



KEY

- Green Route suitable for some disabled access
- Blue Route includes some steps and moderate climbs
- Red Route includes a very steep incline, with some loose terrain
- - - Footpaths, Cycleways and Bridleways (Refer to an OS map for more detail).
- Parking
- Telephone
- Toilets
- Post Office & Information Point
- Pubs/Refreshments
- View Point
- Bus Stops
- Places to stay

Bamford Touchstones

- Bamford Touchstone, incorporating all four elements Air, Water, Earth and Fire.
 - Air
 - Water
 - Earth
 - Fire
- Did you spot all these elements on the central touchstone?

Your guide for the Touchstone Trail

Start at 'The Green' in the centre of Bamford, this is marked with an (S) on the map above. Start walking up the slope onto Fidler's Well, continue to walk up the hill onto 'Leeside Road', better known as 'The Clough', where you will start the hardest part of the walk. You will reach point (A) on the map where the 'AIR Touchstone' is situated. Continue to climb, then turn left at the top. Start to walk down 'New Road', known locally as 'Bunny Lane', you will probably see lots of rabbits

in the fields on either side here! Turn right at the bottom of this road and walk along the main road, the 'A6013', passing the 'Yorkshire Bridge' pub on your left. Cross the road at Ladybower memorial and follow the path along the top of the dam wall. Look straight ahead toward point (B), where the 'WATER Touchstone' is located. Turn left here and walk down the lane, then take the right fork along the disused railway track, now a bridleway and cycle route. The railway track was

created to construct the three Derwent reservoirs. Cross 'Carr Lane' and go up the small incline continuing through a gate until you reach the 'EARTH Touchstone' (C). Carry on along the trail, then turn left and down over a stile. Go down the steep hill bearing right then follow the track past a farm building on your left. Follow the path across fields towards the 'Mill Bridge'. Cross the bridge where the 'FIRE Touchstone' is located (D). Be careful not to miss it! The bridge and stepping stones

are regularly flooded after heavy rain, so take care! Go up the iron steps, walk between the buildings then turn right and then left up 'The Hollow', please respect the residents' privacy here, as this is a Private Road. Cross the 'Main Road' at 'Old Post-Office Row' onto 'The Green' where you started.

This walk should take you about 2.5hrs to complete.

The Touchstone Trail

Now you need a good walk to stabilise all that information.



Start on the village green with its 2 Significant markers - the Queen Victoria stone and the unified touchstone.

You can head round the trail either way but we're going to



do the more serious up part first. From the Touchstone (1) head up the right



hand road and after about 30m you reach this junction (2) - straight on takes you up Bamford Clough or Leaside Road; a tough grunt! (Officially the Clough is closed because of exposed electric cables - more of this at the end.) You

need to turn left here, with the Primary School on your left and heading towards the Anglers Rest (3), Our community



owned pub and cafe which will provide you with well deserved and needed refreshment at the end of the walk .Carry on up the Main Road until you pass West Lees Road (next on the right); then look for this footpath sign (4)



and follow it up to the top and turn left out of the gate into the field. Look up towards Bamford Edge and see if you can spot the aptly named 'Cannon Rock' (5). Follow

the obvious track across the fields until you reach the gate that signs you right. Here's the gate where the path turns right (6). Head up towards the



'catch your breath' rock (7); a good place to sit and look out over the valley. We are going to leave the rock, hop over the wall stile and trek diagonally left up the hill and out onto the road - called New Road



Here you have a choice. The trail goes left down hill but you can turn right, get to the top of the hill and then either turn right again and down the Clough a short way to see the AIR touchstone (8), or, just after the Clough entrance go left over a stile and out onto Bamford Edge with magnificent views over the Ladybower Reservoir.



Back on the recommended route: head downhill, keeping eyes and ears on high alert for traffic coming up and down the hill, usually too fast. Looking ahead you can see Win Hill (9), another great walk. At the bottom (10) turn right and walk past the Yorkshire Bridge Pub (11) until you



reach the big memorial monument which records the history of the 3 Dams.. (12)



Carefully cross the road (13) and head across the Dam wall, admiring the reservoir and 'plug hole' overflows. (14)





At the other end of the wall you will meet the WATER Touchstone (15) as you turn left and head down the narrow road. And you'll notice some fairly worn Touchstone



Trail signposts as well now on the route.

Heading downhill it's fairly obvious where you fork right, (16) it's signed Touchstone Trail and you are now on the old railway track which carried workers and materials from the main railway line along the valley up to the site of first dam to be built in the early 1900s. Soon you will come to a path up to the top of Win Hill; very steep and stony!



Don't go up it, ignore the attractive and inviting sign at the bottom. (17)



Eventually you will come to the crossing of the road, beware of speedy vehicles. (18) The path continues obviously on the other side of the



road. Keep going till you meet the EARTH Touchstone with its multiplicity of sheep. (19) and (20). The path turns left off the track at the signed point (Look for the red marker). (21)



It can get a bit muddy here so pick your way carefully down and across the fields towards the Mill. There are often sheep



or cattle in the fields so please dogs on leads. (22) The Mill was originally a cotton mill owned by the Moore Family. William Cameron Moore paid for the Church and Rectory to be constructed in 1860. After cotton it was used by the Carbolite Furnace Company and is now residential dwellings. Cross the

footbridge over the river Derwent and then across the stepping stones.

Make sure you study the Fire touchstone in the middle of the bridge and check the back side to spot our local dentist's conception of 'fire'. (23)



Keep going across the stepping stones and turn right at the top of the wide gravel path, continuing (24) on right leaving The Hollow on your left. Make sure you don't miss the opening in the wall



that leads the path up by the side of the first house on the left. (25)

Turn right into Victoria Road and then left at the end onto Main Road (26)



Go up the road past the Church (usually open for some quiet reflection).

Recommended that you now call into The Anglers for some refreshment.

Going Round the other way

Head down the Main Road until you reach the right turn into Victoria Road

(A) Just past the last house on the left there's a footpath down. At the bottom turn R into Mill Lane but beware of traffic coming up the lane, often quite speedily; follow the touchstone trail signs round the smooth surfaced lane (branches off L at the bottom of the rough Hollow, L again near the end to cross the river by the stepping stones (don't miss FIRE (23)) and out into the field. (B) The path is well marked across a couple of fields, up the bank and at the top turn R onto the old railway track. (C)



Then it's a lovely walk, passing EARTH (19), with Bamford Edge on your right up to and across the Dam and WATER (15), turning R at the end to go along the road past the



Yorkshire Bridge Inn and then left up New Road.

It can be a bit tricky to spot the footpath turn off - it's the third drive leading to the second house (D), called Thie Veg (the sign is set back down its drive). You can continue up the hill turning R down the Clough to see AIR (8) but DO NOT attempt to go right down the Clough unless you are very sure footed and used to steep slippery descents

A few meters down this drive is the footpath sign



leading you diagonally down the field (E), over the wall and although downhill shouldn't affect your puff, it's worthwhile sitting on the lookout rock and enjoying the view



over the valley.

Follow the path down, turning L at the next gate and after a couple of fields you'll spot the gate (F) on the R leading you out onto the road where you turn L and then soon L again into the Anglers for some refreshment. Alternatively, ignore this gate, hop over the stile ahead and you'll see the gate through which the original walk came



The Clough - or Leaside Road

This stretch of the trail is not for the faint hearted or weary legged or those of unsure footing DO NOT attempt to go down The Clough unless you are a seasoned member of the Bamford Mountain Goat Society; it's a very rough track and after rain can get rather slippery.

Before being closed it was a regular route for off roaders who have seriously damaged the surface.



So, here's the info you need: Just after leaving the central Touchstone, instead of turning left towards the

Anglers Rest, continue straight on up the road, which becomes a track and you will see the barrier blocking vehicles but allowing walkers who pass through the gap at the left. Then its up and up and up.



There are a couple of benches on which to rest a while if you so need Eventually near the top the view to the left opens up and you can see over to Win Hill and towards Hope and Castleton and as you look ahead the AIR stone comes into view And then the upper barrier is visible with, on the right, a rather amusing sign for the benefit of

those who have sprinted up. Continue to the road and turn left onto New Road and trundle gently down hill to join the other route at Thie Veg.



Alternatively if you turn right onto the road and walk gently up to the crest of the hill you will see the style that leads you out onto Bamford Edge; a highly recommended extra to the walk if you have the energy - and probably a good idea to have the relevant OS map as well