Who were the Luddites.

Luddites were working men who were fearful when their livelihood was threatened by the introduction of machines. The Luddites after whom the Luddite Trails are named, were mainly local croppers. Hand shearing of unfinished woollen cloth required huge skill and the cropper was one of the highest paid of all the textile craft people. Croppers used enormous shears on the woven cloth, which had previously had its nap raised, and sheared it to produce a fine finish.

A machine called a cropping frame could replace four hand croppers and thus work 24 hours a day. This led to unemployment, poverty and starvation.

A cropping frame hated by the croppers.

The Luddite Trail comprises two parts which together commemorate the route taken by the Luddite marchers from the Dumb Steeple to Cartwright’s Mill at Rawfolds, Liversedge, on the night 11/12 April 1812. The trail description also notes other features of interest along the route. The trail can be followed by anyone reasonably fit and provides an introduction to some of the history and geography of the Spen Valley.

Start: On the footway outside the Three Nuns Pub, Leeds Road, Mirfield (A62). The trail can be started anywhere but follow it in a clockwise direction.

Distance & Time: 5 miles (8km). Allow 2 hr 30 minutes.

GR. & Post- code: SE 181 211, WF14 0BY.

Nearby parking is difficult. Before parking in the Three Nuns car park please seek permission.

Bus Service: Buses 202, 203, 220, 229 & 278 all pass nearby.

Finding your way:

i) A copy of the Ordnance Survey map Explorer 288. (Optional)

ii) A on-line.gpx file is available for those walkers who have Ordnance Survey maps in electronic form.

iii) The trail is waymarked using discs.

Note on the design of the Waymarking discs.

The image on the disc represents two crossed sledgehammers called Enochs. These were carried by the Luddite hammermen to smash the hated cropping frames. The hammers were manufactured by Enoch & James Taylor of Marsden who also made the cropping frames.

A copy of the Ordnance Survey map Explorer 288. (Optional)

Enoch did make ‘em, and Enoch shall break ‘em. [Note on the design of the Waymarking discs.]

The image on the disc represents two crossed sledgehammers called Enochs. These were carried by the Luddite hammermen to smash the hated cropping frames. The hammers were manufactured by Enoch & James Taylor of Marsden who also made the cropping frames.

Lousy Thorn Farm: The Luddite Trail

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**Dumb Steeple** (or Doom Steeple). The origins of this obelisk are obscure. Some suggest it was a place where sanctuary could be claimed. Others suggest it is a parish boundary stone, marking the threefold intersection of Mirfield, Clifton and Hartshead parishes. On the night of 11 April 1812 it was the muster point for about 150 Luddites. The field to the north of the obelisk was the marshaling area for the force prior to moving off to Cartwright's Mill at Rawfolds.

**Three Nuns Inn.** This inn has probably stood on this site since early in the 16th century.

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**The Three Nuns Public House.** Standing on the footway facing the Three Nuns, turn left and follow the busy A62 for 400 metres to the **Dumb Steeple**. A blue plaque here gives some information relating to the Dumb Steeple and the Luddites.

**Return to the Three Nuns.**

On the eastern side of the car park is a path which follows an old lane in a northerly direction. Follow the path. After 700 metres ignore a path off to the right. After a further 300 metres, where the track forks, take the lane to the right [Cross Hills Lane] and follow it into Hartshead village, emerging by Cross Hills Cottage at a bend on Hartshead Lane.

Cross the road and proceed straight forward. Pass (or call at) ‘The Gray Ox’ pub. Continue forward past Peep Green Lane up Church Lane and arrive at **Hartshead Church.**

Pass the church and follow the road round to the right to the cross roads. These are sited in the former extensive Hartshead Moor. (The information panel erected by the Spen Valley Civic Society explains the extent of Hartshead Moor at the time of the Luddite attack here in February 1812.)

Cross the road carefully and go forward along Hare Park Lane. After 400 metres you will arrive at a small **Friends (Quakers) burial ground.** This is marked on older maps as ‘The Sepulchre’ (an ecclesiastical/biblical name for a tomb). Take the footpath at the front right corner of this graveyard: cross the stile and proceed along the green lane.

Ignore the first path entering from the left-hand side just before an electricity pylon. A little further on at a field gate, turn left. Follow the path down the side of the field, keeping the hedge on your right. At the bottom turn right and follow the path, pass through a squeeze stile onto Clough Lane. Turn right, pass a house called ‘Wheatfields’ and go forward past the cemetery. On reaching Triangle Farm on the left, cross the road carefully and go down the unmade lane. (This is a bridleway known as **Bullace Trees Lane** and is marked with blue arrows.) Keeping on the lane go forward passing through two green field gates until the church in Roberttown is reached.

Turn left, cross Church Road carefully and opposite the Community Centre (just before Roberttown Grange) turn right down School Street. On reaching Roberttown Lane, turn right and walk down to the **Star Inn.** (The plaque placed here by the Spen Valley Civic Society tells the part the pub played in the history of the Luddites.)

At the Star Inn turn right along Commonside until a public footpath sign is reached before the school. Turn left through a squeeze stile, and follow the path through a second stile and pass into a field. Keeping the hedge on the left, pass a small wood and go through a third stile, continuing with the fence to the right, to a fourth stile at Prospect Road.

Cross the stile, turn left and follow Prospect Road, passing the Hartshead club/pub on your right. At the bottom cross Fall Lane carefully, pass through the stile and go straight ahead across the field, passing between two very old stone gateposts. Continue forward to an upright stone pillar. At this pillar turn left and walk down a hidden green lane. At the end of the lane pass through a stile and follow a boardwalk over marshy ground until a bank with steps is reached on the left hand side.

Go up the steps, emerging on Hartshead Hall Lane. Turn right and follow the road, past Hartcliff stud farm and **Hartshead Hall,** to a field gate immediately ahead. Pass through the gap between the gate and the wall and follow the path, keeping the wood on the left-hand side. At the end of the wood there are three paths. Take the centre one going over a stile and follow the path which crosses the field down to another small wood where there are two stiles. Continue forward across the field towards marshy Brook Shrogg which is again crossed on a boardwalk, followed by a stile and a footbridge. Follow the path, emerging on to the A62. Turn right and go downhill to the Three Nuns, back to the starting point.
The Luddite Trail Part 2

The Luddite Trail comprises two parts which together commemorate the route taken by the Luddite marchers from the Dumb Steeple to Cartwright's Mill at Rawfolds, Liversedge, on the night 11/12 April 1812. The trail description also notes other features of interest along the route. The trail can be followed by any reasonably fit person and provides an introduction to some of the history and geography of the Spen Valley.

**Start:** Junction of Primrose Lane and Cartwright Street, opposite Royd's Park, off the A638. The trail can be started anywhere but follow it in an anticlockwise direction.

**Distance & Time**
5 miles (8km). Allow 2 hr 30 minutes.

**GR. & Postcode**
SE 198 245, BD19 5LS.

**Parking:** There is ample roadside parking.

**Bus service**
Bus Service 268 stops nearby.

**Terrain:** Stout footwear is recommended as some paths can be muddy at times.

**Refreshments:**
The trail passes several Fish & Chip shops, the Garden Coffee Lounge on Clough Lane, Hightown and the Shears Inn, where the Luddites met.

**Finding your way:**

i) A copy of the Ordnance Survey map Explorer 288. (Optional.)

ii) An on-line .gpx file is available for those who have Ordnance Survey maps in electronic form.

iii) The trail is waymarked using discs.

**Note on the design of the Waymarking discs.**

The image on the disc represents two crossed sledgehammers, called Enoch. These were carried by the Luddite hammermen to smash the hated cropping frames. The hammers were manufactured by Enoch & James Taylor of Marsden who also made the cropping frames.

'Enoch did make 'em, and Enoch shall break 'em'
Towards the Windy Bank cross roads. (The information panel Moor at the time of the Luddite attack there in February 1812.)

Cross the area between Cartwright Street and the River Spen was the site of the road carefully and follow the footway on the right hand side of Hare Park Lane. After passing the small Friends’ Burial Ground, where Hare Park Lane bears left keep going forward and follow the straight lane. Walk down Cartwright Street and cross the bridge over the Spen. Turn right along the river edge and after 50 metres turn left over the raised footway.

At Upper House Farm go forward through the stile and cross the yard. Exit through a gate and enter a field. Keep going forwards keeping the wall on the right hand side. On nearing a bridge on Clough Lane look for a metal stile to the right. Go over the stile and follow the Liversedge Wykebridge Road. The track arrives at Lady Well Lane.

Turn left so the church grounds are on the right hand side. At the junction with Church Lane cross the road and follow the footway left.