

The following information was submitted on January 6, 2008 @ 4:31 pm:

-----  
Grid Square: SD9728

Date Submitted: 06:01:08

Reported Started: fromDec 07

Report Finished: To Jan 08

Overall Assessment: The square is bounded to the south by Hudson Mill Rd, which is an unmade road with vehicle access to Lumb mill Cottages.

This is paralleled on the other side of Colden Water by a number of paths which run east to west from Hebble Hole to Lumb Mill Cottages. From the most northerly point of these paths, at the top of Foster Wood, paths run south-north up to Great Lear Ings; Higher Slater Ings and Popples Common. The square includes most of Popples Common. On part of the Common, to the south of Long Causeway there are several paths which are paved and well maintained, leading to farms. There are paths in the northern edge of the square which run south-north from Widdop Road through to the path running along the top of Hardcastle Craggs.

#### Paths in Foster Wood and Bob Wood

On the western side of the square the path comes from Hebble Hole having run along the dam-side and enters the square just after the dam. It is very muddy in all conditions. Having crossed a broken dam wall the path appears to split in three. The definitive path is the middle one and a few yards into the square it climbs up a steep bank where it is badly eroded. Using the path from the opposite direction it is virtually impossible to walk down safely. The northern diversion to the path is a safer route. The southern diversion to the path is very narrow and runs alongside a steep drop. Care is needed to by pass trees which are right on the path.

In a short distance this path is joined by another coming from the west and is a broad path which is in good condition until the quarry to the north where it is a quagmire whatever the weather. The paths split here one going along the top of the wood which is wide but again muddy in most conditions. The southerly path drops down to the river at Bob Mill. Before it returns along the mill dam it is again wet in all weathers.

Just before the mill chimney to the south, the path crosses a narrow stone bridge with an unguarded drop down to the mill site. There is a path descending to the mill site (which has some interesting industrial archaeological features), but it is not a definitive path.

The definitive path turns up the hillside past another quarry and reaches steps ascending to a junction of five paths (known as Pike Stone Bank). At this point there is a bench facing east with views down to Hebden Bridge. Most of the five paths are in good condition; with the exception of Murkin Lane which runs up to Popples Common this path is almost always waterlogged. Shortly before reaching Popples Common the path to the east, behind the houses is always overgrown especially with nettles in summer. Access to Slack Top is over a narrow stile and through the garden of Poppyfields House.

Just over the stile by the bench at the five lane junction, the westerly path to Pike Stone Cottages is frequently flooded by an overflowing trough. Between this trough and the cottages is a very old stone path way. This has recently been cleared as for a time it was overgrown and resulted in an alternative path being trodden parallel to it. It is important that walkers keep to the flagged path to; a) keep it clear and maintain its use; b) to allow the erosion created by the new path to recover. Pike Stone Cottages are in the process of renovation and the path behind the cottages is subject to icing.

A set of steps has been cleared between this path and a parallel path above the quarry; it is way marked and descends between the two cottages. The steps are well trodden and are overgrown towards the bottom care needs to be taken.

The steps join a muddy wet track at the bottom.

#### Popples Common

Whilst the map shows definitive paths across the common, some of these are difficult to follow, until the westerly edge where there are good way marked paths sign posted to Heptonstall Moor. There is a long comfortable bench with panoramic views over Heptonstall to Emley Moor, which is well worth a

visit on a clear day! The most northerly path is elevated and has scenic views over Hardcastle Craggs and towards Widdop.

#### Hudson Mill Road and Lumb Mill Cottages

Entering the square from the east Hudson Mill Road is an unmade road which splits with a left hand fork going up to Jack Bridge and the right hand fork going down and crossing the river by Lumb Mill Cottages. On the latter are steep paths leading off it in both directions. It then climbs out of the valley, a rough and uneven road leading to Lumb Bank; (the Arvon Centre), it is then a steep, tarmaced road to Heptonstall, and is known as Lumb Bank Lane.

The left hand fork climbs out of the valley and runs along the top of a steep bank which drops down to Colden Water. After the quarry on the left there is a way mark sign which leads up the hillside and is joined by a path from the right. The path runs along the top of the quarries and out of the square.