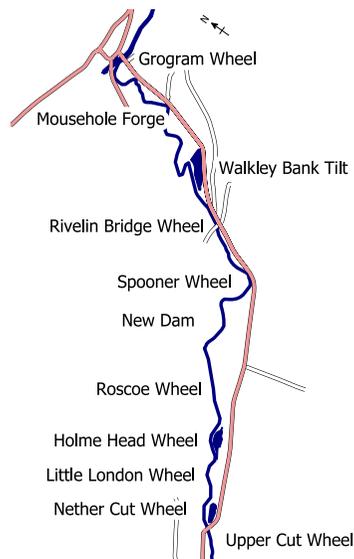




# Rivelin Valley Walk



## Grogram Wheel

From Malin Bridge the first dam you would encounter would be the Grogram wheel, known affectionately as the Groggy amongst the locals it was used for the grinding of cutlery. Later to become a source of extra power for the blowers at the huge Mousehole forge complex. Thegroggy was the only wheel damaged in the valley by the great Sheffield flood.

## Mousehole Forge

The Mousehole forge (1628 – 1933) became know world wide for its manufacture of its famous anvils. Dating back to 1628 when it was a lead mill and converted to an iron forge in 1664. Anvils from the Mousehole forge won gold medals in 1851 at the great exhibition at Crystal Palace. The original anvil at Gretna Green is said to have been manufactured at the Mousehole forge.

## The Walkley Bank Tilt

The Walkley Bank Tilt (Havelock dam 1750 – 1950) was on land owned by the 12 capital burgesses of Sheffield and its history as a cutlers wheel can be traced back to 1750. The wheel was converted to a tilt forge in 1762 and then a wire mill in 1901. Oil engines were introduced in 1907 and electricity introduced in the 1920s.

## Rivelin Bridge Mill

Rivelin Bridge Mill (The Hollin Mill 1794 – 1909). Used mainly as a cutlers mill for most of its working life, but in its latter years was also used for grinding optical glass. The mill was converted to a flour mill in 1868 by Mr John Wilson who also owned the flour mill at Malin Bridge.

## Spooner's Wheels

Spooner's Wheels (1794 – 1930). Two mill houses and two wheels stood on the site of the café and the dam was located where the children's play area now stands. Use mainly for the grinding of files, saws, scythes and cutlery. Part of the complex was also used for forging knives.

## New Dam

The New Dam (1853/4 -1930), was as its name suggests the last dam to be built in the valley and its purpose was to act as a supplementary water supply for the Spooners wheels. The dam was turned into an open-air swimming pool in 1909. The water was always arctic cold and only the most hardy braved the elements. The building used as changing rooms was burned down by vandals in 1930, which prompted the pool closure.

## Roscoe Wheel

Roscoe Dam Wheel (Hoole's – Holme Intake or Willow Dam 1725 – 1936). Used for the better part of its life as a grinding hull for fender and saw, the largest grinding wheels in the valley were used, some measuring up to 7ft in diameter. The mill had an upper storey that was used for the polishing wheels. One of the main cart tracks

running through the valley ran past the Roscoe mill linking Hallam Head with Stannington and onto Bradfield.

## Holme Head Wheel

Holme Head Dam (1794 – N/K), has some of the best examples of a Pen trough and wheel spindle still remaining, and there is still a good example of an overflow, which still exists. Largely overgrown now, the dam was one of the largest and the mill employed some 15 men.

## Little London Wheel

Little London Wheel (1752 – 1911), leased for 21 years with part of the river by Mr Robert Greaves in 1752 for an annual rent of £1 with a liberty to erect a cutler's wheel. In ruins by 1903 it was leased for a nominal sum to a Mr Samuel Dawson (a file grinder) it was empty by 1907 and knocked down in 1911.

## Nether Cut Wheel

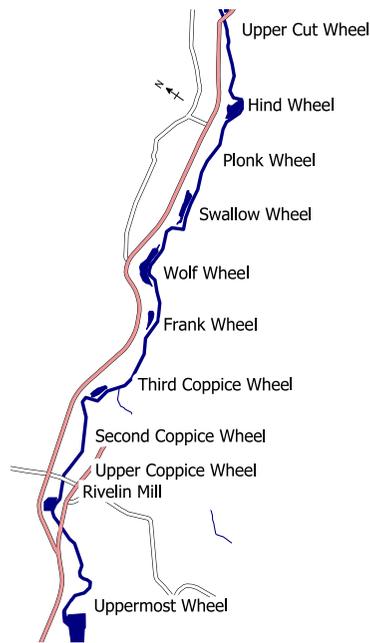
Nether Cut (New Wheel 1718 – 1954, Re-built around 1771) This mill was attacked in 1874 during the Rattening offences for using non-union labour in the grinding of scythes. The Kay family took the lease around 1920 and carried on grinding here until 1940. The shell of the building remained until 1954 when it was knocked down due to safety issues.

## Upper Cut Wheel

Upper Cut Wheel (Glen bridge). Some of the best remains of a wheel pit can be found at this wheel which was only a small wheel employing some 8 men with an annual rent of £7 per annum. The dam for this wheel was long and thin and was said to be used for the hire of rowing boats.



# Rivelin Valley Walk



## Hind Wheel

Hind Wheel (Iron Wheels) (1581 – 1920s), the oldest dam in the valley having first being recorded in 1581 and having been re-built around 1820. Two wheels ran from here one 11ft6" x 5ft the other 12ft x 5ft6" each running 8 grinding trows. In the 1830s one of these wheels was turned over to the making of steel strip for ladies stays.

## Plonk Wheel

Plonk Wheel (Saw Bridge, Siddall, or Bobby Wheel 1737 – 1814). The wheel pit was recorded as having a fall of 13ft 42 and by 1794 was running 5 trows employing 8 men. By 1852 the property list shows the owner of a ruined mill as a Maria Kirby who after a long dispute with the Water Company accepted £500 for it. For some reason the Water Company never resold or allowed the mill to be used again and it could have been abandoned as early as 1814.

## Swallow Wheel

Swallow Wheel (1692 – 1905). The wheel pit can still be seen today and on a dry day the stone floor and foundations can still be seen. Its first occupier was a Joseph Swallow a cutler from Stannington and the lease was held in a trust for years for the Swallow children. A huge increase in size around 1794 saw the wheel running 13 trows and employing 18 people.

## Wolf Wheel

Wolf Wheel (Rocher Wheel 1722 – 1930s). One of the biggest dams along the valley the Wolf wheel measured 15ft x 6ft and in 1830 worked 17 knife trows and 2 razor trows. James and Samuel Windle owned the wheels between 1810 – 1852 during this period they also built the houses that stand above the river still called the Windle houses today.

## Frank Wheel

Frank Wheel (1737 – 1905) The dam of the Frank wheel is still in a fair condition but heavily silted, used for the grind of cutlery in its early years in 1854 it had been converted to a paper mill. The last known lease on the mill was between the corporation and Horatio and Thomas Marsden in 1889.

## Third Coppice Wheel

Third Coppice wheel (Paper Mill 1758 – 1905) The mill had the longest tail goit in the valley, the reason for this is that the wheel pit was set below the level of the river and to prevent backwatering from stopping the wheel the water had to be taken a long way down the river before being reintroduced. Four men at four trows were employed grinding cutlery in 1794, but by 1814 the mill had been converted to a paper mill. Paper making required good clean water and this was brought across from black brook by means of a conduit just above the waterfall.

## Second Coppice Wheel

Second Coppice (Middle Coppice or Darwin Wheel 1736 – 1905). Built by Joseph Spooner a Grinder in 1736 he held the lease for 47 years. Known locally as the Darwin wheel after the widow Darwin became a sub tenant in 1815. It included a grinding mill and a wire drawing mill. Also included in the complex were shops stables and dwellings.

## Upper Coppice Wheel

Upper Coppice (1736 – N/K). All of the three coppice mills followed on to each other and must have been undistinguishable as separate mills. Owned by the Norfolk estates they failed to sell the mills despite extensive repairs after the last lease ran out in 1794 until 1854 when the water company bought all of the coppice wheels. The Upper Coppice was then rented to a Mr William Rose and Mr Samuel Fox (the founder of the giant steelworks at Stocksbridge).

## Rivelin Mill

Rivelin Corn Mill (1600 – 1950). This mill was always used for the grinding of corn and was owned by the Earl of Shrewsbury. By 1709 the records show a Mr Richard Morton as the owner who had fallen into arrears and had let the mill fall into disrepair. In 1711 Mrs Crapper, Ibbotson, Revill and Barker took out a lease for 21 years on condition that the mill was rebuilt. Difficulties with the water supply meant that grinding could only take place for ¼ hour per day.

## Uppermost Wheel

Uppermost Mill (1751 – 1885). Leased around 1751 and described as newly built the wheel had a fall of some 15ft. Totally re-built around 1772 and an increase in rent suggest that extra buildings had been added. The mill was abandoned and demolished around 1885.