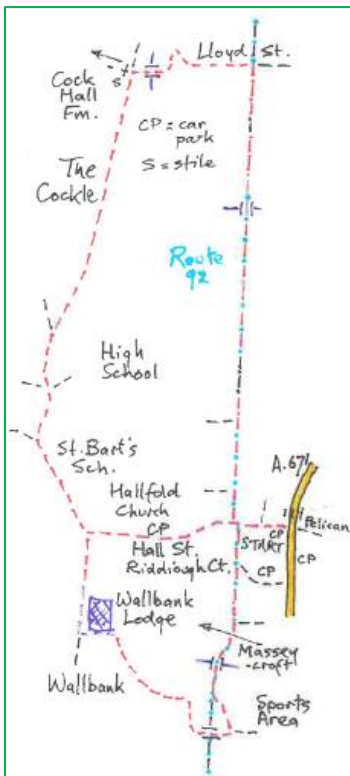


Simply lovely little Walks

THE COCKLE AND HALL FOLD

Parking as Stroll 5

Hall Street



Often in

narrow valleys like Whitworth, your views are restricted by houses. This walk proves how unusual/lucky we are in that respect.

40 metres down Hall Street, turn right onto Cowm Park Way. Locals used to call it 'new road', because not so long ago it had been a railway – the last train ran along here in the 1960s. Now it doubles as part of [National Cycle Route 92](#), which in Whitworth runs from Healey Dell to Britannia; and, obviously, as a road. But, as roads go, if you look left (west), and up, that's an attractive view, is it not?

Beyond the houses on the left, cross the river – this is one of a goodly number of bridges that the Spodden passes under in its winding journey from the hills

above Shawforth to its junction with the Roch. This little watercourse once provided power to many of the 17 cotton mills in this valley. Where the river disappears underground in modern Whitworth is often where a mill once stood. To the left here stood Orama Mill, the name preserved in a street name on the new estate.

Take the first left, onto the newer part of Lloyd Street, and seek out a snicket at the far right-hand corner. This twists its way to a narrow bridge, beneath Cock Hall Farm. Note the flagstone walling, a Whitworth signature – restored splendidly as part of the careful conversion of the farm itself into housing.

Turn left up the footpath. This is The Cockle – a corruption of Cock Hall – a well-walked footpath, though not so much now there is no longer a gate into the high school. But imagine working there and having that view, the whole east side of the valley, with Brown Wardle as its centrepiece – what an uplift to your day!

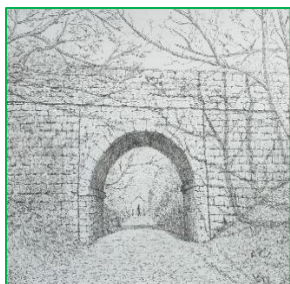
At the very top turn left on a roadway that winds between Handel Street and Water Street – a touch of high culture! – up to Hall Fold. Turn down past St Bartholomew’s School, then left at the bottom onto Hall Street.

NEARBY REFRESHMENT Two cafes, and a chippy, at the top of Hall Street.

POSSIBLE WALK EXTENSION Rather than turn onto Hall Street, go straight on beside Wallbank Lodge, home to a pair of black swans, often a heron, and, if you’re very lucky, a kingfisher. Turn left along the Rossendale Way footpath, which soon turns right and hides. Beware a short set of steps, and a minor landslip at its far end – easily passable, but concentrate.



Kingfisher by Mary Cawley. Is your luck in?



Bridge below Wallbank by Peter Williams
You’ll cross this neat structure and turn left

You’ll pop out onto Eastgate. 20m. ahead is an ex-railway bridge, and your easiest route is to cross, turn left, and join the track/road over the river (again!) and up the ramp past Riddiough Court – once the site of a coalyard next to the railway – to Hall Street. JF

