

Tag Cut

The path you are currently walking on is named Tag Cut. This area was dug out in 1756 and opened as the site of the original canal which then formed part of the waterway from the East to West coast of England. This transport route enabled wool and cotton to be traded between Yorkshire and Lancashire, with the wool heading to Liverpool and the cotton to Hull.

However, the barges were presented with a navigation problem as they were unable to negotiate what was then a meander in the River Calder as well as the weir, next to the site of a former mill. To resolve this challenge, shallows were dug out to enable barges to continue on their journey whilst cutting across the meander, hence the name Tag Cut. Remember to look to your left as you walk through the darker wooded area to view the remains of the canal.

The canal itself was not used for long but helped transport good quality locally quarried sandstone, later made into flags, to Lincoln and London, all of which was funded by local wealthy industrialists.

Nowadays, what remains is a thriving nature corridor. The rust-coloured water originates from an old iron mine located on the far side of the stream. Bluebells, crab apple blossom, marsh marigold and yellow flag iris grow here and if you are lucky enough, a darting kingfisher can be seen on this stretch.

Local folklore claims a man named Tag, the driver of a coach and horses team, came to a gruesome end after a wire had been deliberately strung across the pathway. His ghost apparently haunts the route, accompanied by the eerie sound of hooves and clanking wheels!