



## MEDIEVAL BRIDGE ON THE TELO

You can find this point of interest in Argegno - Path 1 - Stage 2 and in Argegno – Path 2 – Stage 1

### INFORMATION

**Location:** the medieval bridge connects the two banks of the Telo torrent, flowing down from the Intelvi Valley

**Paving:** cobblestones

**Architectural barriers:** none

**Access:** from a small deflection of our route following via Cacciatori delle Alpi, walking under ancient arcades. Pay attention to the bridge parapet

**Services:** parking available for a fee (payment totem in Piazza Roma)

**Leisure and food:** Café, Restaurants and shops in Piazza Roma and in the adjacent area

### DESCRIPTION

*(Silvia Fasana)*

The ancient bridge on the Telo is probably one of the most characteristic architectural elements of Argegno. The entire structure dates back to the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century; in the 18th century it underwent some changes, but it still shows the shoulders of the old handwork. From the bridge, with our backs to the lake, we can see how the Telo torrent has deeply carved its bed in the rock before reaching the level of the lake. On the steep rocky hillside ancient buildings and factories hang, pointing out the important role of the torrent in the life and in the economy of Argegno. Facing the lake, on the hydrographic left of the torrent, we can observe an impressive wall made up by sedimentary and hard rocks of marine origin. These rocks represented the seabed of an ancient sea which occupied the area during the Secondary Era, bent by the heavy movements (orogeny) which gave rise to the Alps. This series of rocky layers is characterized by an evident sincline fold, that is to say with the convexity downwards. Beyond the rocky wall we can glimpse the remains of the ancient forge used by a smith with mallet. It was built in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century by the brothers Francesco and Domenico Peroni, who canalize the Telo waters in order to raise and to lower the mechanical mallet and to make the forge ventilation system work. It is possible that the iron worked in Argegno came from the mines of the Albano, Cavargna and Morobbia valleys. Farm tools and object of daily use, decorative and horseshoes were produced. The forge was closed in 1968 after the death of its last smith, Domenico Peroni.