



BAILDON
Walkers *are* Welcome



LOCKDOWN WALK ROUTE NUMBER 3: May 2020.

OVER THE GALLOPS TO ELDWICK AND BACK

A circular, quite energetic walk, of 7½ miles. The walk description starts and ends at the Potted Meat Stick in the centre of Baildon, but for those of you who are familiar with Baildon, there are opportunities for you to link into or out of the route at several other places – or to adapt it to your own interests. The walk does require you to cross several stiles! This route has been written up during lockdown, so we have avoided using any long ginnels or paths which are narrow and where there are not good sight-lines to allow a one-way system to operate. You should be able to easily stand aside and avoid close contact with other walkers throughout this walk. Remember to take care and stay at least two metres apart. Please take care to close all farm gates.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION.

Walk up Northgate (following finger post to THE MOOR). Just before the cattle grid, leave the road, taking the diagonal track to the Left, passing round the front of the Golf Club building and through a gate onto the moorland at the edge of the Golf Course. Take the track bearing Left and continue straight up to the trig point on the top of Baildon Moor. Having admired the 360 degree view, continue in the same direction as you descend towards the right hand corner of Dobrudden Farm Caravan Park (*photo 1*). At the corner, Turn Right, taking a clear grassy, and initially level path. You are aiming to get to the road junction at the top of Shipley Glen, where Glen Road intersects with Bingley Road. As this junction starts to come into view below to your Left, either take a (quite steep) descending path to the Left, or, if you prefer, stay on the good path you are on, to reach Bingley Road and then turn Left down the grass verge to the junction.



1. Descending towards Dobrudden



2. Turn Left after crossing the second gallop

Cross Bingley Road with care and, almost straight away, take the first signed footpath leaving the road to your Right. Continue ahead and pass through a gate. Cross the horse gallop, going ahead, on a grassy path to the Left of a gallop. Very soon, cross another gallop and turn Left by an isolated hawthorn tree (*photo 2*). Walk on the grass adjacent to the gallop. As the gallop bends to the Right, cross it and continue ahead (by another

isolated hawthorn tree), passing to the Left of some holly trees ahead, and crossing another gallop to reach and cross a stile in a wall. Continue heading in the same direction towards a wall-corner, turning Right just before the wall to pass through a gate on to a short broad track between a wall and fence, with a tree plantation on your Left and houses at 90 degrees to your Right. Pass through a second gate on to a tarmacked lane. Soon turn Left, crossing a stile, on a path clearly marked as Dales Way Link Ilkley (*photo 3*).



3. Signed path "Dales Way Link, Ilkley"

4. Eldwick Reservoir

Walk with wall on your Left to pass through a narrow tree plantation (*stiles each side*) to emerge at the rear of a farm. Continue ahead, over another stile, through a courtyard, on to a tarmacked lane. Look out for the next walled field boundary on your Left, turn left through the gate, initially following the wall and then heading diagonally across the field to a gate to the Left of a bungalow. Pass through the gate and continue ahead to emerge on to the Otley Road, above Eldwick. (*Harry Ramsden Pub is just a little further up the road – sadly not open at present*).

Cross the road and turn Right on the verge for a short distance to take a signed track on your Left. The next section of the walk is on walled tracks, but there are many "passing places" should you meet someone coming the other way. When you reach the wall of the Eldwick Reservoir, (*photo 4*) do not continue across the reservoir wall but continue descending to the Left. Cross stepping-stones over stream (*very solid stones*) and continue on an undulating, historic route (*notice the ancient stone trods underfoot*). At a cross-track, turn Left and descend to a lane. Turn Right and continue to pass The Acorn Pub (*also sadly closed at present*) and arrive at T-junction with main road into Esholt. Turn Right and cross this road when safe to do so. Turn Left into Saltaire Road and continue down this pleasant lane to the bridge over Lode Pit Beck.

Take the Left-hand of three tracks rising from the other side of the bridge and continue to ascend towards Glen Road, and a large blue sign for Crook Farm Caravan Park. Cross Glen Road and turn Right along the entry road to the Caravan Park. Just before the entrance, take a rising path to the Left, following the boundary wall of the Caravan Park. Look out for a gate with footpath sign on the Right and pass through to descend a path through trees that will bring you into the far end of the Caravan Park. Turn Right down concrete steps, past caravans, over a cross-path and descend down more steps to reach a stile in the wall and pass through onto open moorland fields. Take the level path ahead with wall on your Left. After passing through a metal gate continue ahead, but in a little while, look out for a fenced enclosure above and to your Left and a rising path leading up to it. Take this path around the top of the fenced enclosure and pass through a gate into a rough pasture just below a Dove Hall. Take the stile on your Left out on to the Lane and turn Right to descend. Turn Right down Hope Lane and Left onto West Lane. Take the Right fork down Westgate, to arrive back in the centre of Baildon.

Baildon Walkers are Welcome. May 2020. Chris and Mervyn Flecknoe