



BAILDON
Walkers *are* Welcome



LOCKDOWN WALK ROUTE NUMBER 5: May 2020.

ESHOLT, GUISELEY, HAWKSWORTH CIRCULAR. (BLUEBELL WOODS AND GOLF COURSES)

A circular walk of 7½ miles. The walk description starts and ends at the Baildon Railway Station, 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. As this route has been written up during lockdown, we have tried to avoid narrow ginnels and footpaths. There is one short section of constrained ginnel during this route (as you leave Guiseley) but it is short enough to be able to reverse and operate a one-way system if someone is coming the other way. Remember to take care and stay at least two metres apart. As all cafes are closed, we recommend that you take water, or perhaps a coffee flask, and something to eat.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION.

Take the rising steps at the far end of the station platform and turn R to cross the footbridge over the railway line. Immediately turn Left on to a track and continue ahead to reach Roundwood Road. Cross when safe to do so and take the first road on the Left (Langley Lane), and Right again, soon, into Hollin Head. Continue on pavement to the end of the housing on Left and turn Left on track (Lonk House Lane). Cross stile and descend, bearing Left by War Memorial. Pass through two gates to descend on stony to track to Tong Park Reservoir (*photo1*). Continue around the end of the lake, through gate, across footbridge, and turn Right. (*You are now following the route of The Welcome Way*). Almost immediately, take rising path on Left. Continue ascending on this path alongside the Golf Course, with good views back towards Baildon (*plus an adjacent seat / photo2*). Continue ahead across a Golf Club cross-path, through a small plantation of trees and go forward to a crossing of stony tracks. Take the level track ahead and swinging Right (following white arrows) and passing farm building on your Right. Where the main track turns sharp Left, continue ahead on to a grassy track through trees. As you approach the Golf Course again, look out for, and go across a stile to your Right (*signed*). Go Left through the first wall gap, following the footpath roundel. Bear Right initially and then curve Left around the edge of the field. Head for and pass through a signed gap in the wall and start descending, on to edge of the Golf Course, (*photo 3*), passing a post with 150 on it. Soon bear Left to follow a path through woodland before again descending Right with wall of Hollins Hall Hotel on your Left. Ignore cross-path and continue to T-junction at bottom. Turn Left, through gate on to made up road, and follow ahead, turning Right across the railway line, and descending to main Hollins Hill / Otley Road. Cross with care, ahead to track (*Cunliffe Lane / photo4*). Continue on this track as it bears Left and eventually arrives at road into Esholt at hamlet called “Bunkers Hill”. Go Left on pavement to arrive at centre of Esholt.

Just before The Wool Pack pub, turn Left on track and, at the top, go Left and almost immediately Right on a rising path, passing through a gate into woodland. Turn Right and follow the main track, passing over two footbridges and continue as it undulates above and parallel to a road below. (*Beautiful bluebell woods / photo 5*). The track passes through a cross-wall and soon you arrive at a split in the track. Take the Left

track rising, initially into pine trees. At the top of the rise, continue to follow the main track as it bears Left and again comes into deciduous woodland with lots more bluebells carpeting the ground. As you approach a wall with open fields beyond, turn sharp Right, descending down a steepish, stony track. Cross footbridge at the bottom and bear Left. Pass through gateposts and turn Left to pass under railway bridge. Continue ahead on this rising stony track to arrive at a road with houses opposite. Turn Left and continue with houses on your Right and fields on Left, as the road becomes a track. Continue ahead, ignoring turnings, to emerge onto Park Road in Guiseley. Turn Right and immediately Left into Back Lane, and then Left again into Fieldhead Road (*quiet roads*). Bear Left into Hawksworth Avenue, and at the end take the ginnel at the top (*looking and listening for anyone coming the other way*). Continue ahead to arrive at the main A657 Otley Road. Cross with care to continue ahead on Southway. Our route takes us on the quiet roads through Tranmere Park. Continue on Southway, ignoring side roads, as it arrives eventually leaves Tranmere Park at a T-junction with Thorpe Lane. Turn Left and soon cross to turn Right at a footpath sign.

Go through gate and continue on gently rising path with wall on Left and excellent views across Wharfe valley to the former High Royds buildings and Menston to your Right (*photo 6*). Continue until you can see a quarry ahead, beyond a wall. Turn Left through a gate and take path on Left descending through woods. (*There are many paths – take your pick, and just keep gently descending – beautiful bluebells*). Exit through a gate on to the pavement alongside the road through Hawksworth. Turn Left passing the “Hawksworth” village stone and cross the road to a footpath sign alongside a wide gate into a yard. Pass round the gate and veer Left to enter the Bradford Golf Course (*photo 7*). Follow path descending diagonally across the Golf Course, which is marked by green posts with yellow tops (*photo 8*). Leave through a stile into a belt of trees and emerge on to edge on another Golf Course (*Hollins Hall*). Continue ahead, descending, to re-join the route you took on the outward leg of your walk. Turn Right at T-track and continue ahead to return to the Tong Park Reservoir and the station by the same route as your outward journey.

	
<p>1. Tong Park reservoir</p>	<p>2. Seat on Golf Course</p>
	
<p>3. Descending to pass Hollins Hall Hotel</p>	<p>4. Cunliffe Lane</p>



5. Bluebell woods above Esholt



6. Views towards the former High Royds



7. Entering path through Bradford Golf Course from Hawksworth



8. Follow these posts across the Golf Course

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