



BAILDON
Walkers *are* Welcome



LOCKDOWN WALK ROUTE NUMBER 7: November 2020.

WOODS, RIVERBANK, AND CANAL.

A circular walk of 4 miles. The walk description starts and ends on Bracken Hall Green outside the Countryside Centre. Remember to take care and stay at least two metres apart. As cafes may be closed, we recommend that you take water, or perhaps a coffee flask, and something to eat.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION.

Head up (North) along Bracken Hall Green, passing to the Right of two trees and a line of four seats and gradually working your way over the Left of the Green. Continue ahead, keeping fairly close to the edge of the escarpment and woods below, passing another four seats close together. A little further on, just before two seats together (opposite a wide metal gate in the wall on the far side of Glen Road), turn Left on a grassy path and almost immediately Left again to descend almost back on yourself, on a rough but gently descending path down into Shipley Glen through woodland.



From Bracken Hall Green take descending path just before two seats



Descending path into Shipley Glen

Near the bottom, bear slightly Right to descend to iron railings around a former millpond. Turn Left and descend three steps (Lode Pit Beck is to your Right). Take clear path Left, rising above and away from the stream. Soon, look out for and pass through a metal gate on your Right and cross a stile. Take the descending path across open ground, veering initially Left around woodland edge, and crossing 2 streambeds on wooden planks, before veering Right and descending with woods and the Beck on your Right, to emerge through a gate on to Coach Road (a rough track at this point). Turn Right over Lode Pit Beck and very soon pass Left beside a wide gate signed "Private Road. Bradford Amateur Rowing Club", to follow a track towards the River Aire. Approaching the Weir, which formerly provided power to the Hirst Mill, turn Right to pass in front of the Rowing Clubhouse.

Continue along the riverside path until it rises and bears Left to a T-junction with the canal towpath, by the end of the aqueduct over the river. Turn Right for about 200 yards and then take the bridge over the canal. Go straight ahead, leaving the towpath and

curve Left on a track. Circuit behind cottages as the track becomes a path which rises and brings you back to the canal-edge, (on the opposite side from previously). Turn Right along the wide tarmac path on the aqueduct over the river and then bear Right into Hirst Wood.



Follow a rising wide path uphill into the woods. At a path junction bear Left, still rising. At a fork in the path with a large holly tree in the middle, you have a choice of paths. Take either Left or Right fork enjoying these spectacular woods, on a broad, level ridge. Both paths will lead you in about five minutes, into a large open area (with plenty of tree trunks to sit on for a refreshment break). Continue on in the same direction as previously, as the path begins to descend, to emerge through a gate into a car park. ** Bear Left to cross the swing bridge over the canal.

*** {Option to go straight ahead out of the car park and cross the road to visit the Hirst Wood Nature Reserve, before returning to the route. The Nature Reserve was created and is looked after by local residents. A short distance up the road to the Right you will find the Higher Ground Café when it is able to be open}.*



Turn Right and follow the canal towpath towards Saltaire. As you approach a road bridge over the canal and mill buildings ahead of you, turn Left to the pedestrian bridge over the River Aire into Roberts Park. *(Option to spend some time in the Park)*. Continue ahead. Do not exit through wide gateposts to your Right by the adventure playground, but instead take the rising path ahead, following it around the outer edge of the Park to reach a pedestrian exit gate on your Right and emerge on to Coach Road. Cross at the pedestrian crossing and turn Right for a short distance. Bear Left to cross the school car park, diagonally, to a metal exit gateway, and descend steps to go Left on a tarmac path towards the lower station of Shipley Glen Tramway (wall and fence on Left and grassy field on Right). Follow the track that rises alongside the tramway track. Passing the top station, continue ahead on the pavement of Prod Lane to pass the Glen Pub and Tearoom and return to Bracken Hall.

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