



**BAILDON**  
Walkers *are* Welcome



## **LOCKDOWN WALK ROUTE NUMBER 8: November 2020.** **HIKING TO HIGH ROYDS**

A circular walk of just over 7 miles which begins and ends at the Potted Meat Stick in the centre of 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. Take care to stay at least 2m apart from other people. As cafes may be closed, we recommend that you take water, or perhaps a coffee flask, and something to eat.

This return-route includes at least 13 stiles on the return leg, all of which are passable, but not necessarily in brilliant condition. There are also some very muddy patches. If you don't like stiles, and don't like walking through mud, this return-route is not for you. You could miss the stiles and most of the mud by returning after a little wander in the former High Royds estate, the same way that you went out.

From the Potted Meat Stick, walk up Hall Cliffe passing the Library and St John's Church on your Right and the Community Garden on your Left. At the mini-roundabout, cross and walk along Ladderbanks Lane. Continue as it becomes a track and emerged at a viewpoint. Take the descending bridleway to your Left. Pass through two gates at a cross-track and descend, through a third gate, to Tong Park Reservoir (Pt A). Turn Left, through another gate, to cross a bridge over Gill Beck. Take the footpath going Right and immediately bears Left up a rising path parallel to a stone wall on your Left. Continue ascending with Hollins Hall Golf Course to your Right. Go ahead over a Golf Course track, through a small glade of trees. At a crossing of tracks, go ahead, bearing slightly Right, gently rising with buildings to your Right. Follow the track as it takes a 90 degree turn to the Left, ignoring a path which continues ahead. This track crosses Bradford Golf Course and emerges on to Hawksworth Road. Cross the road, turn Right, and soon cross Thorpe Lane and turn Left up the pavement. At the brow of the hill, cross back to the other side, and pass through a gate and turn almost immediately Right to pick up a path descending through a belt of trees, parallel to Thorpe Lane (Pt B). To avoid any muddy or blocked sections of this path, you can veer into the field on the Left but beware of possible broken barbed fencing wire. (If very muddy you may prefer to continue on the pavement down Thorpe Lane.)



Pt A: Tong Park reservoir



Pt B: Field gate on Thorpe lane

Cross the entry road to Hawksworth Estate Office Park, and continue ahead, down steps, in the same direction. Approaching the White Cross Road junction, bear Left on the

signed footpath to emerge on to the main A65 road, through a pedestrian gate (opposite Aldi and near the Whitby Whaler). Turn Left along the pavement for around 150 yards and then take the first Left on a road into the former High Royds estate (Pt C), crossing to the far-side pavement. Soon, turn Right at track by a lake (Pt D).



Follow this track along by the lake until it curves Left and then Right to a cross-track with cricket ground ahead. Turn Left on a gravel path towards the cricket pavilion (Pt E).



Before the pavilion, take a rising path to the Left to join a largely traffic-free road going Left (gardens and former High Royds grand buildings to your Right). Continue over an estate cross-roads to arrive at a more major intersection with the main building of the former High Royds to your Right and the site sales office to your Left.





At the next junction, notice street sign for Wharfedale Avenue to your Right. Stay on the road as it bears Left and soon cross the road to pick up and join a surfaced track. Stay on this track as it circuits around the edge of the High Royds estate. In about half a mile pass a beech wood on your Right. When you start to see the roofs of new housing in the distance ahead. Look out for a "Permissive Path" sign and turn Left to cross a stile and follow this path to cross another stile and join a farm-lane. Turn Left, passing through a pedestrian gate alongside a metal farm gate. Continue on this track, which can be muddy towards two side-by-side farm gates. Pass through the gate on the Right and head diagonally up to your Right towards a stile (Pt G), (recently planted trees beyond).



Pt G. Stile.

View back from the top of the hillside above Pt. G.

Take the rising path Left. The ascent here is quite steep but the view from the top is worth the effort. Pass ahead through a small belt of trees (stiles at each end) and into an open meadow. Continue ahead to go through a gate and descend on a path to emerge on to Main Street, at Hawksworth. Cross with care and go slightly Left and then immediately Right on to a stony drive between houses. Bear Right across courtyard to a stile into a field (view towards Baildon ahead). Continue on this descending path, passing over several stiles and through a small patch of woodland. Golf Club fairway on your Left. Before long, your path bends Right and passes over a stream to a stone stile (beware of wire on the stile). Cross and turn Left to continue descending initially and entering woods (take care over tree roots) to arrive just above Gill Beck. *(If the conditions in the stream allow, you could cross the stepping-stones and continue ahead, always in the same direction, to ascend to Baildon. However, at the time of writing up this route, the stepping-stones were largely submerged and so, not recommended).*

Turn Right over stile (Pt H) and follow the clear path (sometimes muddy) parallel to Gill Beck. Continue on this path, until you it leads you across the beck on a footbridge. As the path begins to rise, look for and cross a stile to join an ascending footpath, signed "White House" (Pt I).



Pt H stile

Pt I. Footpath sign to White House

The path rises to a wall and then ascends steeply with wall on your Left, up to a gap-stile in a stone wall. Continue ahead on clear paths over fields, rising towards the "White House". Just below the White House, emerge through a narrow exit and turn Right and to go through a narrow gate. Turn Left uphill and arrive at the driveway to the White House. Turn Left a short distance. Almost opposite the far end of the property take a rising path on your Right, ignoring path off to the Left, to aim for the top of the hill, near a trig point. Continue ahead on path alongside the road (Eaves car park to your Left), through a gate by the cattle grid back into Baildon. Continue ahead over road junctions and you will soon find yourself back at the Potted Meat Stick.

*Chris Flecknoe and Jan Thom. November 2020.*