



BAILDON
Walkers *are* Welcome



LOCKDOWN WALK ROUTE NUMBER 1: April 2020.

FROM GILL TO HOPE HILL.

A circular walk of 5 miles (8 kms) with total ascent of 708 feet (216 metres) which will notch up more than your daily 10,000 steps, whilst covering some of the highlights of our local countryside. The walk 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. It could also be walked in two halves.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION.

First Half: Cross Hall Cliffe (following finger posts to The Moor and Toilets) and walk up the Right-hand side of Northgate. Continue ahead, over several junctions. Just before the cattle grid, by The Shroggs Club, bear Right on to a footpath which runs to the rear of housing, to join and bear Right onto a lane just before a house and garden called “Strawberry Fields”. (After prolonged wet weather this path may be very muddy in which case you may prefer to continue ahead on the path beside the road, beyond the cattle grid, to turn Right into the lane to “Strawberry Fields”).

As the lane descends, take a footpath off to the Right towards a five-bar gate (marked No Entry) and then turn immediately Left, on to a descending footpath to a path-junction. Bear Right through a gate and continue to descend and pass through a second gate into open countryside. Continue ahead keeping a large bush to your Right. As the path swings to the Right, turn Right to join a cross-track just before three large trees. Follow this level track to a pedestrian gate alongside a 5-barred metal gate. After a further 100 metres approx. turn Left through further gates to descend to Tong Park Reservoir. At the bottom, turn Left and go through gate at the top of the Reservoir. Cross bridge and turn Left. Follow this path alongside Gill Beck as it meanders through “Spring Woods” for about a mile, continuing through a gate and over two stiles. *(Beautiful in all seasons, but especially when the ground is carpeted with bluebells at the end of April and beginning of May)*. Sometimes there is a choice of a higher or lower route – take whichever seems the best, so long as you always keep not too far from the Beck. Ignore cross paths and continue ahead until the path eventually takes you over a wooden bridge over Gill Beck. Almost immediately after the bridge, cross a stile on your Left on a path signed “White House”.



Bluebells in Spring Woods



Bridge across Gill Beck

Ascend on this path as it curves Right, to join a wall and rise to a clear opening ahead in a stone wall. Continue ahead over a field to pass through a gap in another wall, and go over a cross-track and a stone bridge over a small stream. Ascend towards the White House (*clearly visible ahead*) initially with fence on your Left, cross over a stile and then follow the clear path between a fence and stone wall. Emerge just below the White House. Turn Right through a narrow gate. (*At this point you have walked 4.5kms or 2 and three-quarter miles – just a little more than half-way. There is the option to return to the centre of Baildon from here by turning Left and rising up past the White House to the Eaves car park and ahead into Baildon centre*).

Second Half: To continue on the whole route, take the level path with wall on your Right to go ahead to reach the Hawksword Road. Cross with care to footpath opposite, which soon joins the main track across the Moor towards Sconce. Take the track to the Right as far as a junction with sign which says Millenium Way 16 on it. Turn Left here, rising, to cross the fairway of the Golf Course, heading to Left of a hut with adjacent seat (*good place for a rest with lovely view*). Continue on rising track to Left of the hut, and continue ahead, ignoring cross tracks and paths, alongside the edge of a fairway and rough grassland. Pass a post which says 150 on it, and soon afterwards, take a rising path on your Left. Head uphill towards road signs, and seats at the car park near the top of Bingley Road.

Cross with care and take the first wide track, rising, just to the Right of the metalled track to Dobrudden Farm campsite. Continue ahead up this track, ignoring cross tracks, to the trig point at the summit of Hope Hill on Baildon Moor. (*Fantastic 360 degree panorama*).



When ready to move on, continue ahead in the same direction on a broad track which circuits the flat summit of Hope Hill. At the far end of the flat area, take the second grassy path going off to the Right (*take the direction towards Listers Mill chimney which you can spot in the distance*). As a view of Saltaire begins to open out before you, swing Right to pick up a steep descending path which will bring you down to pass through a metal gate into a short rough, walled track. Pass through the gate at the far end of the track and turn Left on to metalled lane, passing farm on your Right. Continue through gates by two cattle-grids, and descend on lane to junction with Hope Lane.

Descend Hope Lane to T-junction with West Lane; turn Left and follow West Lane towards the centre of Baildon. As road starts to descend and swings to the Left, take the Right fork down Westgate and return to the Potted Meat Stick.

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