



**BAILDON**  
Walkers *are* Welcome



## **LOCKDOWN WALK ROUTE NUMBER 2: May 2020.**

### **BIRCH CLOSE IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK**

A circular and fairly level walk of 4.5 miles (7.3 kms), 262 feet (80 metres) ascent, mainly on good tracks. 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. This route has been written- up during lockdown, so we have avoided using any long ginnels or paths which are narrow. 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 2 metres apart.

### **ROUTE DESCRIPTION.**

Walk up Northgate (following finger post to THE MOOR and TOILETS). After passing The Angel pub and Pickles Café, turn Right into “The Courtyard” a cobbled lane leading into East Parade. Continue ahead along this historic part of Baildon to the end. Turn Left up 5 steps into Heather Road. Continue to T-junction with Jenny Lane. Cross Jenny Lane to the other side and turn Right. Soon turn Left, through a yellow gate to cross the playing field, passing the Rugby Club to your Right. At the far end of the playing field, descend some small steps into a short, narrow track. At the end, go through a gate and descend a few steps before turning Left, rising to join a lane. Almost immediately take the first footpath on your Right, to walk on an undulating path half-way up the cliffs passing former small quarries.

Continue ahead. When you see the White House to your Right, take the path that descends to the access road to the White House and walk along it to the junction with Hawksworth Road. Cross this busy road with care and take the broad and clear path which heads across the bottom of the Golf Course towards Sconce.

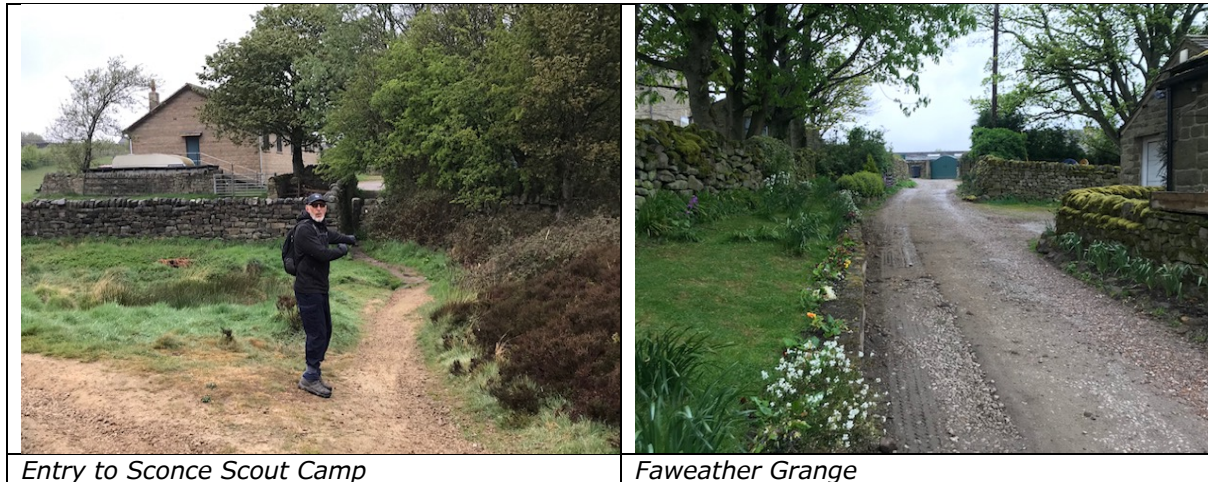


*View from above the White House*



*Start of the path across towards Sconce.*

After crossing some duck boards, and where the main track bends to the Left, continue ahead, crossing a small stream to pass through a squeeze stile and metal gate into the grounds of Sconce Scout Camp. Pass through another squeeze stile at the far end of the site, and turn Left to walk up Sconce Lane. Continue as it winds to the Right to pass stables and Grange Barn. Where the track divides in front of a large green gate, take the Lefthand fork, to pass Faweather Cottage and Farm.



Continue on this good track / lane, around some bends to soon pass more cottages at the hamlet of **Birch Close**. Passing through a metal gate, go ahead across the horse gallops and turn Left to walk parallel and just above the gallops. At a cross junction of the horse gallops, cross the gallop and turn Left to walk alongside a gallop, heading for a clearly visible wooden gate on to open moorland. Continue through the gate and take the gently rising path ahead with a fence on your Left. Follow the track as it turns to the Left, continuing to follow a wall. After the track bears Left again and begins to descend, there is a large flat stone, at the end of a Golf Club fairway, suitable for taking a coffee break. You are now going to head Rightwards, towards some historic wooden holiday cottages which are clearly visible along the fairway. When the Golf Club is in operation, take the rough path initially descending Left towards a little towards a conifer plantation, before veering Right to approach the cottages. If the Golf Club is not operational, then walking along the edge of the fairway towards the cottages is much more pleasant.

After passing several of cottages, and by a large monkey-puzzle tree, take the excellent broad track rising to the Right. Continue on this track (*splendid views*) to eventually emerge around a metal barrier opposite the former reservoirs by Bingley Road. Turn Left on a footpath and continue parallel to Bingley Road until you soon see a public footpath sign on a post on the other side of the road, beyond the wall of the former reservoir. Cross with care and take the signed footpath across rough ground, heading towards Baildon. At the Golf fairway, bear Left to pick up a stony track which will lead you back towards the centre of Baildon. Continue ahead, leaving the Moor and Golf Course, through a small gate, passing The Golf Club building (The Old Waterworks). On reaching the road, turn Right and continue into the centre of Baildon.

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