

### Country code

When you are walking, please follow the country code and remember you are walking across other people's land.

Please keep to public paths, leave gates as you find them, keep dogs under control, take your litter home and take care on roads. Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.

### Public Transport

Please use public transport as often as you can.

The Colne Valley has a regular train service (Huddersfield to Manchester Victoria) with stations at Slaithwaite and Marsden. For details contact the Northern Trains: website at [www.northernrail.org](http://www.northernrail.org) or phone Ticket Sales on 0844 241 3454, or Customer Relations on 0845 000 0125..

The Colne Valley has frequent bus services. For details contact the West Yorkshire Metro: website at [www.wymetro.com](http://www.wymetro.com) or phone 0113 245 7676. (Metro also provide details of local train services) Most of the local buses are operated by First Bus. For details check the website at [www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/calderdale\\_huddersfield](http://www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/calderdale_huddersfield) or phone 0845 604 5460. Local timetables are also available in the Public Library in Golcar.

### Food and Drink

There are cafes and pubs available on or near the route of the walk.

### Accommodation

Details of local accommodation are available from the Kirklees Council website at [www.kirklees.gov.uk/visitors/accommodation](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/visitors/accommodation) or by phone on 01484 221 000

### Disclaimer

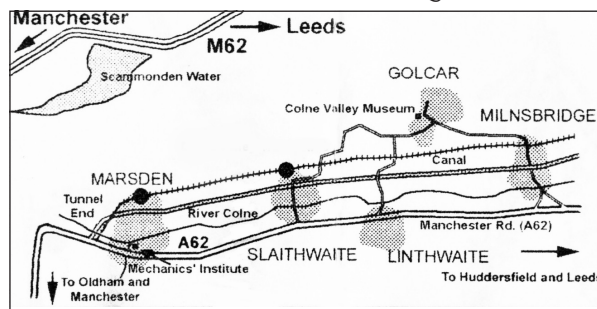
Golcar and Slaithwaite Walkers are Welcome, together with the original leaflet author and leaflet artist, have attempted in all good faith to provide adequate safety warnings and they cannot in any way be held responsible for any claims arising from damage to person or property. It is in the best interest of walkers to observe these safety warnings. Please note that the walking route as described in this leaflet does not imply a right of way. In some cases this walk takes advantage of permissive paths. The definitive guide to local rights of way can be accessed by contacting Kirklees Council website at [www.kirklees.gov.uk](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk) or phone 01484 221 000.

### Acknowledgements

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- Colne Valley Museum for their support

### The Colne Valley



Original leaflet published by Colne Valley Trust in 2001.

Leaflet updated and republished by Golcar and Slaithwaite Walkers are Welcome, October 2015.



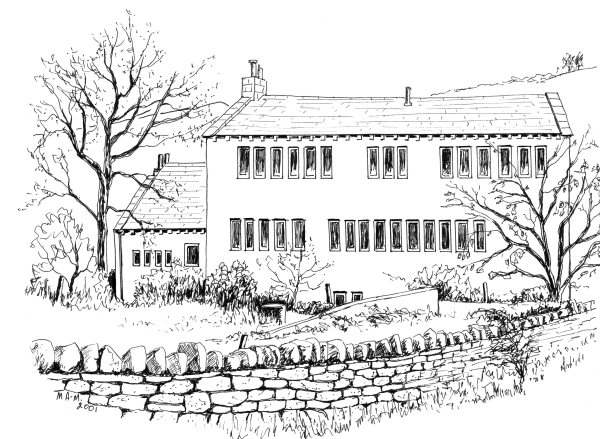
[www.golcarandslaithwaitewalkers.org.uk](http://www.golcarandslaithwaitewalkers.org.uk)

# The Colne Valley Trail

*A series of Countryside and Village Walks*

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## Golcar – Milnsbridge Circular



*A fairly strenuous scenic walk which links many of the settlements of the Lower Colne Valley*

## Golcar Milnsbridge Circular

*A surprisingly scenic route, using both sides of the valley. In some places it is rough or steep and at times, parts may be overgrown. Please take care. Boots are essential.*

**Distance:** 8 miles

**Time:** Allow 4 to 5 hours

*The start of the walk can be reached by catching either the 303 or 304 bus from Huddersfield Bus Station.*

*Use Explorer map 288 (Bradford, Huddersfield and East Calderdale) to add to the information shown on the leaflet map.*

**Note:** *The first part of the leaflet describes the walk starting from Golcar and the second part gives details of the walk starting from Milnsbridge.*

### Starting at Golcar

1. Start at Town End Golcar. Walk past the shops, towards the church and go down Cliffe Ash (nearly opposite the church) turning sharp left at the bottom into Small Lane. Just before a five road junction, take the path on the right down the side of a converted small mill (Clay Well sign on the side). The path may be overgrown and the steps at the bottom can be slippery. Take care as there is no pavement when you come out onto the road (Brook Lane). Turn right, cross with care and go down the steps nearly opposite the bus stop. Cross the footbridge and go forward. Squeeze past the barrier and go up the path. Bear left between holly hedge and fence, then up a short driveway to the road. Turn left and continue as far as Low Westwood Lane by the school. As you turn down the lane, notice the inscription 'Wellhouse Schools 1880' on the gable end. Just below this, go left and then down to pass the end of Hope Terrace. After the bottom house, the way veers left on a muddy footpath and crosses the railway by way of a footbridge. Turn left into an area of trees. Follow the path diagonally across, ignoring a narrow path on the left and out to another path.

2. Turn right for a short distance, then, at a gap in the wall, go left into the trees, soon descending steps to a landscaped grassy area. *This is Appleyard, the site of a former sewage works. Notice the double viaduct.* Cross the field, veering towards the viaduct, to the stile and gate hidden in the trees. At the track, go right and follow it to where it meets the road. Take the steeply descending lane on the right (Ramsden Mill Lane), passing Bankfield Mill, a former loomshop (c.1840). Continue forward on the footpath and cross the canal bridge. Bear left, then right, over the river

then straight ahead between the works premises to a path bearing left up hill. (For a quick and easy way to Milnsbridge, follow the canal towpath to the left.)

3. Continue up the path and where it meets another path, just past the railings, turn left (chimney on the right). This is level at first through trees, then rises diagonally through a bramble and raspberry thicket and nettles, before emerging on Manchester Road. A less challenging alternative uses the main track (still Ramsden Mill Lane) up to Manchester Road.

4. In either case, turn left on Manchester Road and walk as far as the Milnsbridge sign. Cross with care and go up the long flight of steps, by the bus stop, to a road (Yew Tree Lane). Turn left and go up to Cowlersley Lane. *There, notice the old cottages on the right.*

Turn left and go down as far as a lane on the right, between a small supermarket and a bus stop. Follow it, but where it turns to the right, keep straight ahead across the grass to a housing estate and go forward to the far end of Ayres Drive where a footpath starts. As you climb you can enjoy the extensive view on the left.

At the cross-paths, take the left hand one. A few yards after passing a terrace of houses, turn left down a path. Leave this after another few yards, by turning right to pass between stone gateposts and then enter an area of woodland. Descend diagonally and emerge at the fence corner to join a path. Turn right and follow it past a millpond, through the churchyard and out onto a narrow road (Deep Lane).

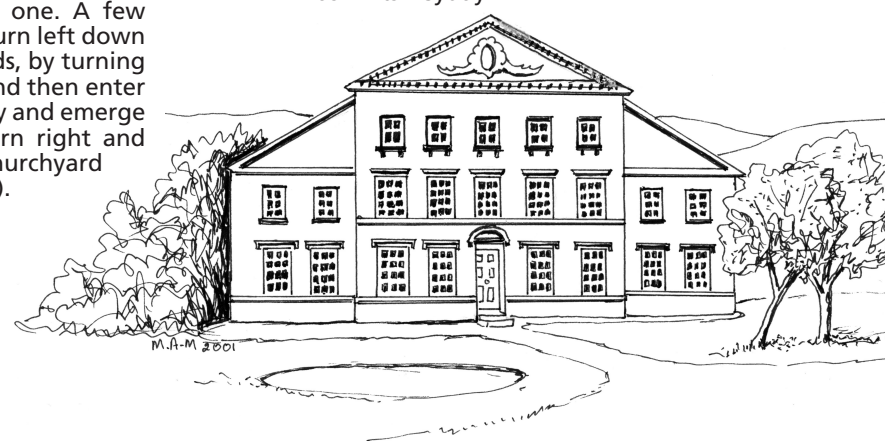
5. Cross the road with care to the stile at the gateway opposite. Follow this path which goes gradually uphill for some distance. Ignore branches going off to the right uphill. Turn left onto a narrower, more overgrown path, by a large, freestanding, low-lying, flat-topped rock on your left. (Note: It is easy to miss this turning. If you find you reach a wide track at the top of the hill, you have gone too far and need to re-trace your steps). The path is level to begin with and then starts to descend. PLEASE TAKE CARE as this path is narrow and has steep drops to the left. The path eventually reaches a large wooden gate. Go through the gate and onto a track which becomes a road. This joins another road (Park

Road West). Cross, turn briefly left, then down a long flight of steps to Manchester Road.

Once safely across, turn right. Walk past buildings and metal railings as far as the fourth gap in the wall on the left. (This has a footpath sign and is opposite a row of houses.) Descend with care.

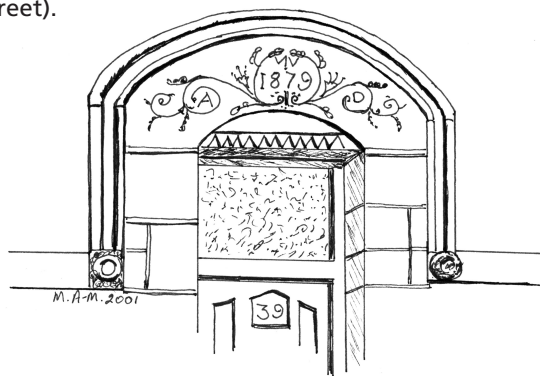
6. Emerge by the new bridge over the canal. Go over the bridge and shortly afterwards over the footbridge that crosses the River Colne. Follow the stepped path up to the green area on the left alongside the road (Upper Brow Road). Before long, join the road and continue to the left as far as the bend. Go forward on the left hand track, which is signed Milnsbridge 2/3 mile. The footpath lies to the left of the gate and goes down some steps. Go forward ignoring any turnings. Pass a scrap yard on your right and then go through a small industrial estate and forward at the crossroads. At the fourth lamppost on the right, take the path up the side of the railings, then up some steps. Turn left on the road (Armitage Road) and left again at the Police Station, down Dowker Street, for a view of the formerly grand Milnsbridge House.

7. Walk round the corner to see the front. Its date is uncertain but c. 1750. The house is shown below as it was in its heyday.



*It is hard to visualise this as a handsome Roman-style house, the front facing a beautiful lawn and lake, surrounded by trees and bushes and set in open countryside. It was the home of the Radcliffes and later the Armitages. Jospeh Radcliffe was the magistrate most instrumental in restoring law and order at the time of the Luddite riots in 1812 (for which he was knighted). By 1911 the house had been sub-divided and the gardens had become streets of houses surrounded by mills, chimneys and workshops. It is now occupied by small commercial units. The name Milnsbridge is derived from the fact that the corn mill of Longwood stood close to the bridge over the river here. A narrow corridor of land stretched down from the hillside township to the river at what became 'Mylnesbrige'.*

Turn back and proceed along George Street towards the supermarket. Notice the 1879 decorative pediments on the houses on the left and on the diametrically opposite corner, Savile Place 1879. Turn right at the crossroads and go up the road (Market Street).



### Starting at Milnsbridge (Market Street)

8. Just before the viaduct, (notice the double nature of its construction) take the tarmac path on the right (just above Private Road). At the top, where the path meets a road, go left under the railway and cross the road with great care to the track opposite. Go left along it and then just after a high retaining wall, go up the steps on the right.

**If you encounter problems here, return to the road and use the alternative route (see the sketch map).**

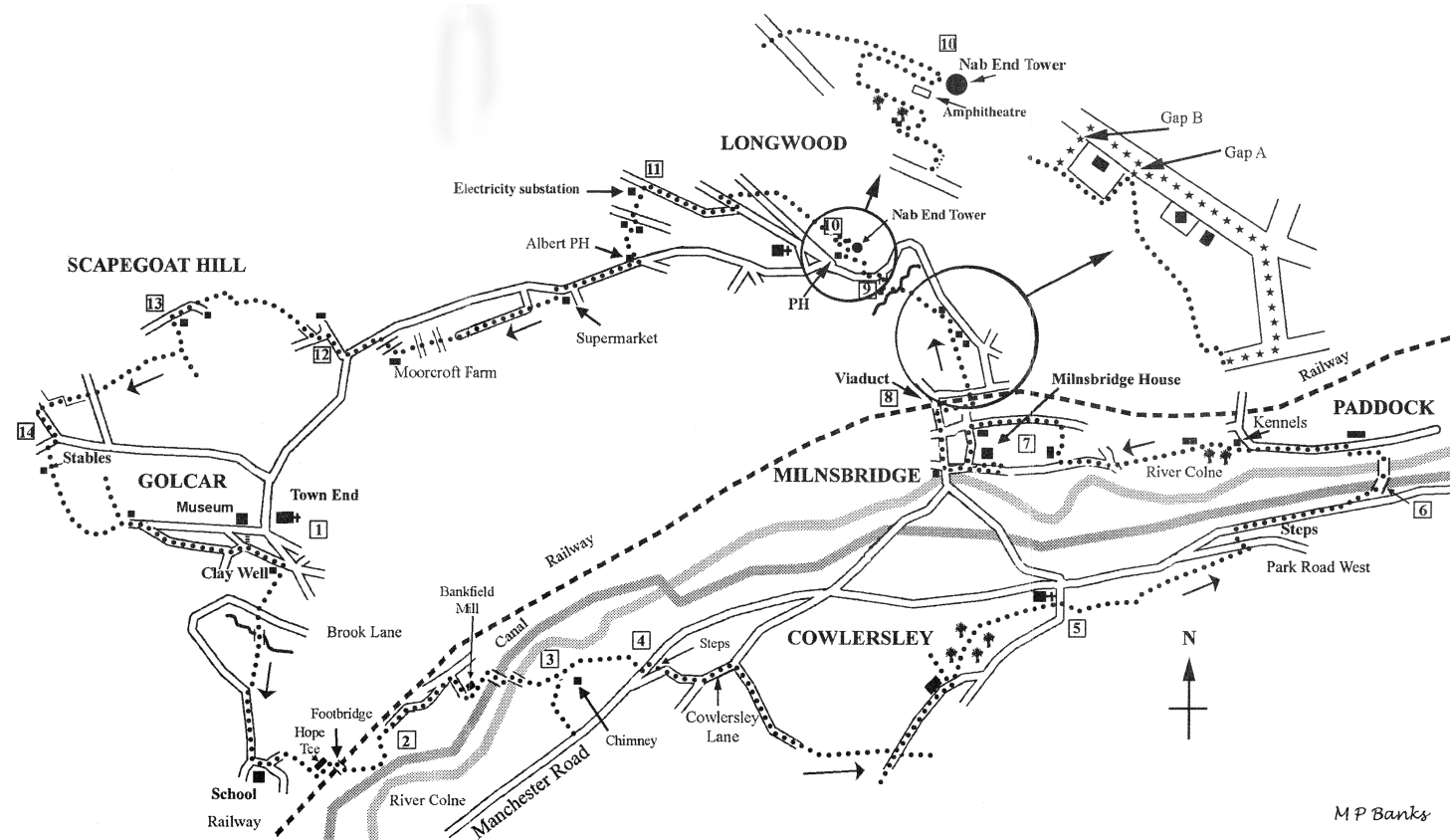
**Path:** Follow the footpath over the projected building site, climbing almost to the road, then turn left and descend down concrete steps alongside the wall on your right, until, not far above a stream the wall turns sharp right uphill.

**Road:** Follow the route indicated on the sketch map by the stars then join the path again at one of the gaps in the wall at A or B.

*Note Nab End Tower on the hill in front.*

Continue forward, towards the stream now with a low field wall on your left. Cross the stream and follow the wall up to a stone stile. Go along the concrete path on the right of the new houses, which soon turns right and up a few steps to join the estate road. Turn right to reach the main road (Thornhill Road).

9. Cross the busy road carefully and turn left. After a few yards go up the steep flight of stone steps to

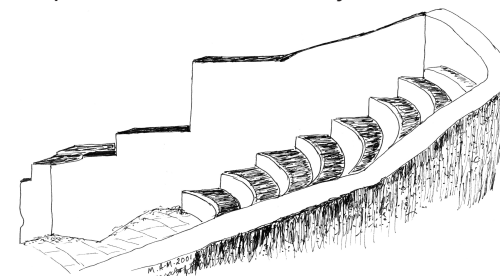


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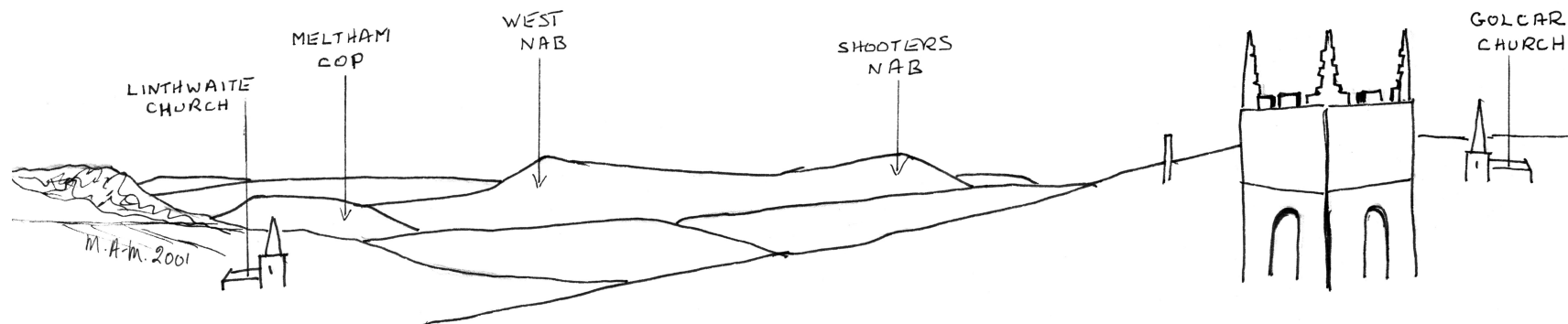
an unmade road. (Alternatively you can continue on the main road and go up the shorter set of steps at the side of the Rose and Crown). Turn left, then just before an electricity substation, go sharp right up a walled path, which then bends left. The next turn to the right would take you to the site of the 'Longwood Sing, a short but steep diversion. (An easier approach can be made later.)

Our route goes forward into a wooded area with a graveyard on the left. It rises to an open area by a pole, where you can pause to look at the view. Longwood church is in the foreground, West Nab and Deerhill lie in the distance and Scapegoat Hill is on the right. The spires of Linthwaite and Golcar churches face each other across the Colne Valley.

On reaching the level track, turn to the right to Nab End Tower. The amphitheatre where the open-air 'sing' is held is on the right as you approach the tower. The 'sing' was first held in 1873 on Thump Sunday (now the first Sunday in September.) There is a gathering of the vocalists and instrumentalists whose musical performances raise money for local charities.







*The Tower was constructed in 1860-1 by a group of unemployed men, a blind mason helping to direct their labours. Preachers and other speakers would use it to address the crowds gathered around. In 1895, this natural recreation ground was presented to the people of Longwood. The view is spectacular even if you do not climb the tower.*



**10.** When you have explored the area, facing the date on the tower, turn very sharp left and follow the narrow rising path which soon runs along the edge. Make for a wall-end, pass between gateposts and keep to the left of the wall. Where there are steps in the wall on your right, bear left down a path. The path becomes a rough track dropping down to a minor road. Cross this road and go down Cow Gate opposite. At the road (Longwood Gate) go left and take the next right (Prospect Road). *This whole area was until fairly recently the site of great mills. The green expanse of Nettleton Hill and the nearby woods are visible ahead.*

**11.** Walk along Prospect Road passing the houses as far as the brick electricity sub-station on the left and turn down the tarmac path beside it. Cross the road to the driveway between two mills then go up the steps ahead. The footpath comes out by the Percy Vears Old Cask Inn. Turn right and walk up the road (Leymoor Road). Walk past the supermarket on the corner of Sycamore Avenue and go left round the back of it. Take the flagged path along the side of the grassed area and then continue in the same direction up the road over the waste ground and forward across a minor road and along the footpath opposite. Cross the next small road and almost at once jink right and left through the wall to the footpath by Moorcroft Cottage. After a few yards, branch to the right opposite the cottage. Cross the estate road to a continuation of the path which leads to Leymoor Road where you turn left. Cross and proceed as far as a bus stop at a bend.

**For a quick way to Golcar continue up the road.**

**12.** Turn right along the branch road. Not long after it has bent to the left, take the bridleway on the right, Hollin Hall Lane. Where it divides, take the left hand fork and climb steeply up. (The upper part is difficult if icy.)

*On a clear day a splendid view unfolds behind you. Longwood reservoirs, Longwood Edge, Huddersfield and the Colne Valley and much of your route can be picked out, as can many more distant features.*

Continue your climb in the general direction of Scapegoat Hill. At the top of the setted track, go up the steps and on up the road as far as the first building on the left.

**13.** Round its upper side is a stile of sorts which you squeeze through. Go forward through the next stile. Golcar soon appears below you. Cross the next stile and go very sharp right, uphill to the wall which you follow along the hillside.

Squeeze between the bars of a gate and as you go along the narrow path beware the barbed wire on the left. A short driveway leads to a very narrow lane (a quick way down to Golcar). Go left for a few yards then right up steps by a lamp post. The wall is on your left in the first field and on your right in the second one. Go down steps to the road, cross it and turn downhill.

**14.** At the junction turn right on Slades Road. Cross to the signed concrete pathway on the left before the bus stop on the left. Go through the gates by the stables and forward down the field keeping parallel to the wall on the left. Go through the barrier and soon reach a road end.

A short way down, turn right and follow this to the next junction. *Here note the weavers windows in the houses on the left.*

Fork left, go up the steps ahead and then right uphill to return to Townhead, Golcar.

**Here the walk ends.**