

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 or phone Ticket Sales on 0844 241 3454.

The Colne Valley has frequent bus services. For details contact the West Yorkshire Metro website at 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 or phone 0845 604 5460. Local timetables are also available in the Public Libraries in Slaithwaite and Golcar.

Food and Drink

There are cafes and pubs in Slaithwaite and Golcar and also on the route.

Accommodation

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

Disclaimer

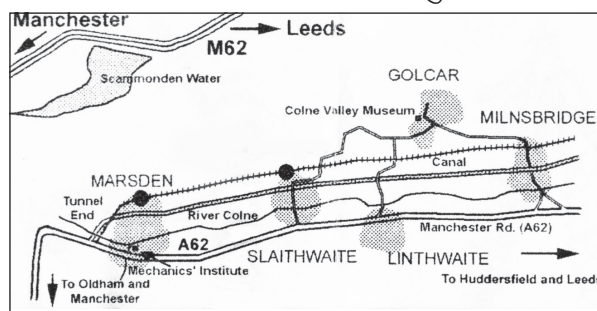
Golcar and Slaithwaite Walkers are Welcome, together with the original leaflet author and leaflet artist, have attempted in all good faith to provide adequate safety warnings and they cannot in any way be held responsible for any claims arising from damage to person or property. It is in the best interest 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 or phone 01484 221 000.

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The Colne Valley



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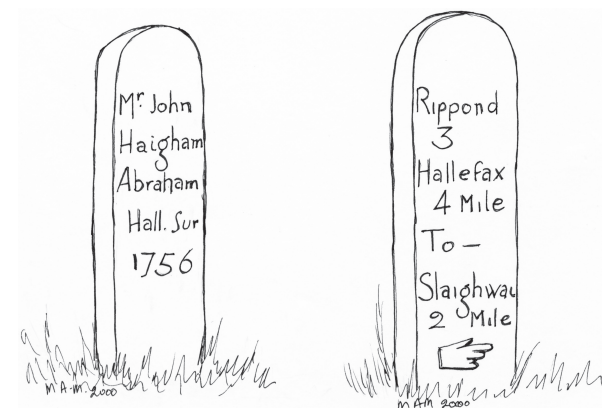
www.golcarandslaithwaitewalkers.org.uk

The Colne Valley Trail

A series of Countryside and Village Walks

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Slaithwaite to Golcar The High Road



A linking walk with excellent views of the Colne Valley, taking in some of the highest points on the surrounding hills

Slaithwaite to Golcar – The High Road

A circular walk with break-off points.

Distance: 4 miles to Golcar and approximately 7 miles for the complete circular route.

Time: Allow two and a half hours to Golcar and four hours for the complete route.

This circular walk links two of the valley villages. It provides some fine views of the Colne Valley and more distant places. There are steep ascents and descents, and one awkward piece of rough terrain on the way down into Golcar.

Stout footwear is recommended.

Use Explorer No 288 (Bradford, Huddersfield and East Calderdale) to add to the information shown on the leaflet map.

1. Start the walk by The Commercial Inn in the middle of Slaithwaite at the crossroads of Britannia Road, Carr Lane and Station Road. Turn along Carr Lane, past the junction with Lewisham Road (Co-operative store on the corner) and the Slaithwaite Methodist Chapel. Continue over the next junction and round the bend under the railway viaduct and along for a further 50 yards to The Swan public house. Keeping the pub on your left, walk round the building and cross the road (this is a busy junction, take care) to the corner opposite the postbox on Radcliffe Road.



2. Walk along Radcliffe Road for a short distance and take the first left, New North Road, which leads steeply uphill. Where the road bends, go straight ahead between the houses. Follow a footpath sign to Westwood Edge up a path set between walls with a

handrail. *Take care as **this path can be very slippery, and water often runs down it.*** Floored with setts it leads steeply uphill. After a flight of steps turn right and continue up the setted path.

As you climb, take the opportunity to turn and look at the emerging view of Slaithwaite and the Upper Colne Valley.

As the slope eases, the wall on the left ends and the view opens out ahead.

3. *Now you can see both up and down the valley, with the village of Linthwaite to the left as you face the wall on your right.*

Go over the stile at the top and continue along a grassy path keeping close to the low wall on your right, walk towards the group of houses about 150 yards away. The path kinks to the right halfway along, then immediately swings left again.

When you reach a large metal gate, cross the stone stile to the left and bear right up the gravel lane beyond, to reach the metalled road opposite a post box. You are now in Westwood hamlet.

4. Turn left along Wellgate, with perhaps another look behind at the view, which improves all the time. Ahead see the former Westwood Mission Church, now converted for use as a Christian residential centre. Keep right by the Mission, up Westwood Edge Road. Not many years ago, the hamlet boasted a shop behind one of the houses in this row, but no more. Leaving the houses behind, continue to the brow of the hill.



Glance behind you to the right, and you will see one of the many disused quarries which litter the valley sides, from which stone was won to build the local dwellings. On your left the steep drop into Crimble Clough opens out, this being one of the deepest and most accessible of the narrow valleys leading down to the main valley floor.

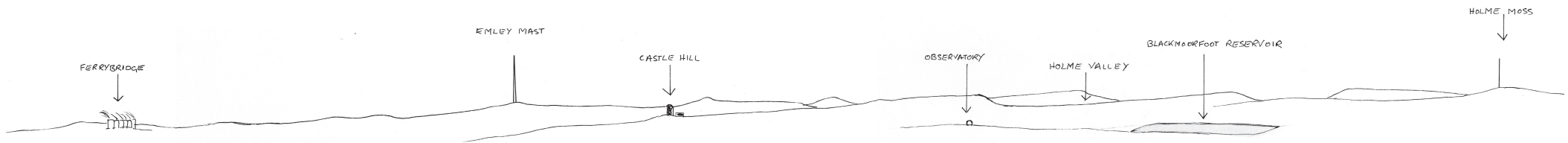
5. Bear left at the bend, following the main road and ignoring Drummer Lane, which would be a quick way to Golcar! You now face a long straight stretch of road which leads across the top of the hamlet of Bolster Moor, with radio masts on the skyline. To the right lies the hilltop settlement of Scapegoat Hill. *Along this road, pass the former Clough Head Baptist Chapel (now a private house), one of several Baptist foundations within a very small area. Nonconformist chapels tend to cluster on the hillsides in these parts as a result of the refusal of the Earl of Dartmouth to allow them to be built on his extensive estate in and around Slaithwaite.*



At the first cross-roads, go straight across into Pinfold Lane.

The building over the field on the left is Clough Head Primary School. The presence of several small schools high above the valley bears witness to the large population which inhabited these isolated moorland hamlets and eked a living from farming and weaving. After a period of decline, populations are now on the increase and a considerable amount of development is taking place.

At the next cross-roads, go straight ahead, into a lane with a post box on the left. Please take care as **this is a very difficult crossing on a busy road.** The lane becomes increasingly steep and ends in a T-junction.



6. Turn right and walk along the road for 30 yards, then cross and go through a stile on your left into a field.

Note the waymarkers on the stile indicating the Kirklees Way, a long distance footpath which largely follows the boundaries of the Kirklees Council area.

Keeping close to the wall on the right, ascend the field towards the radio masts ahead. Climb a wooden stile at the top and go through a gap, then turn right onto a rough lane.



The view opens out again from this point, with more distant landmarks appearing beyond the Colne Valley. This is the highest point of the walk with good views of various landmarks on the skyline (see sketch above).

7. As you walk down the lane, a view of Huddersfield appears between the houses. Walk to the T-junction. Turn left onto a metalled road. Scapegoat Hill now appears over to the right with the Baptist Chapel and the primary school prominent on the outskirts.

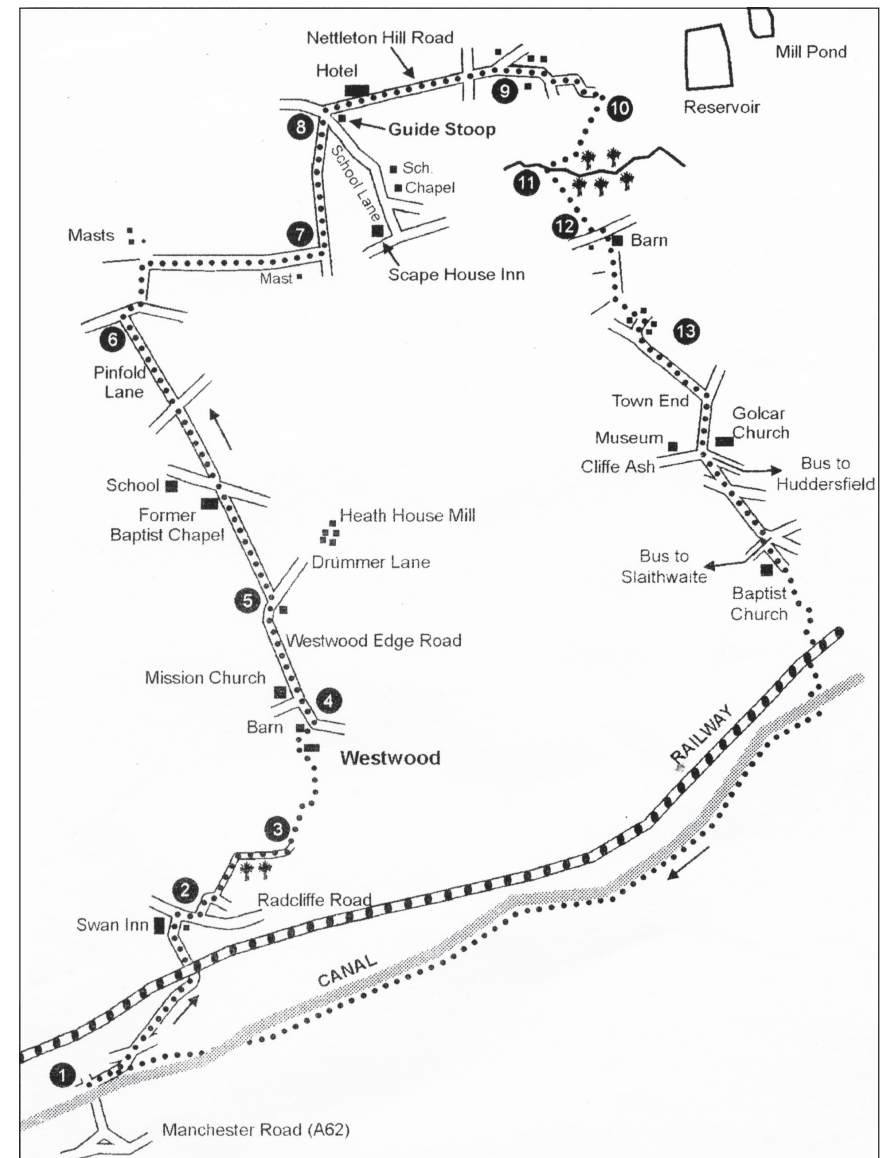
8. Continue forward along the road to the next junction. Cross the road to Nettleton Hill Road. At this point there is a Guide Stoop (see frontispiece) erected in 1756. Here there are good views across to Halifax.

(Note: From here, the Scape House Inn lies a third of a mile down School Lane should you require refreshment.)

From the Guide Stoop walk along Nettleton Hill Road down the gentle slope, towards another small settlement (Nettleton Hill), with a cul-de-sac road sign in view ahead. Stay on the road past the junctions with New Lane and then Green Lane Terrace.



Heath House Mill, Golcar



9. When the metalled road turns steeply downhill and becomes setted, continue along it around sharp bends towards two houses that can be seen from above as you descend.

From this road, a new view appears of the linear village of Longwood across the valley with a mill dam and reservoir in the foreground. Longwood until very recently boasted at least three very large textile mills. Now only one remains. The long straight hill above the village is Longwood Edge with more quarries below the skyline.

10. At the bottom of the hill turn right, in front of the houses, across a rough yard and right again into a green lane. Cross a small stone stile after 30 yards and enter a field. Keep close to the old wall on the right along the green track, which soon begins to rise gently, the ground underfoot becoming more uneven and stony as you pass to the right of a tall holly. Carry on uphill towards rather dilapidated barns on the skyline. *The view from this point is once more enticing.* The path now descends into a small muddy clough.

11. Cross the stile and turn right, walk across the fields, keeping close to the wall on your left.

12. Cross a wooden stile into a metalled lane, turn left and, almost immediately right, just before a stone barn, passing through a tight wooden snicket. Go forward to a second snicket, after which keep close to the left hand wall as far as the next wooden stile. Cross the stile and turn right, following the path downhill, with the barbed wire on the right, beyond which are gorse bushes on the steep hillside.

The path ahead at this point is not in a good state of repair, though improvements are being made. Care is needed in the descent.

Ignore the path crossing at right angles and continue over stiles downhill. After the final wooden stile, descend through a tunnel of trees to the road, emerging into a housing estate.

13. *You will see the spire of St John's Church, Golcar, and the village cricket field ahead of you.*

Follow the estate road round to the right, emerging after 150 yards onto a main road, Swallow Lane. Turn left down the hill passing the Commercial Inn on the right. Head towards the cross at Town End, Golcar. Turn right along the main street of Golcar to the Parish Church.

Opposite the church is a lane called Cliffe Ash, 10 yards down which stands the Colne Valley Museum within a row of former weavers' cottages. The museum is open at weekends throughout the year.

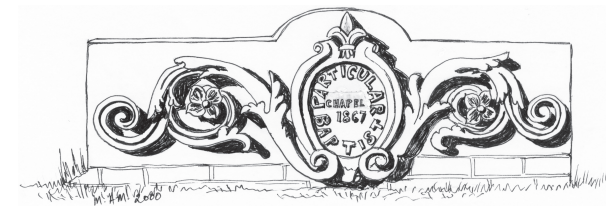
The linear part of this walk ends here in Golcar. From here you can catch a bus at Town End to Huddersfield or, from Brook Lane, the 394 / 395 bus back to the starting point in Slaithwaite.

If you wish to complete the circular walk on foot, follow the directions below.

At the next sharp bend opposite the Parish Church, cross over the first lane on the right (Cliffe Ash) and walk down the next one, Carr Top Lane, which descends steeply.

This steep narrow lane is quite hazardous and used by many vehicles. Stay close to the side and be aware of traffic in both directions.

Follow this lane through a "chicane" halfway down, and at the fork take the "No Entry" direction at the junction. Cross the road into Chapel Lane. **This is a dangerous crossing point. Take great care.**



On the ground just before the Church is the date stone from the previous Baptist building. Go down the lane past Golcar Baptist Church (former Sunday School).

It becomes, first, a narrower metalled lane and then a footpath between walls, with setts underfoot. Enter another narrow metalled lane and continue downhill, turning right, then left. Where the tarmac ends, continue downhill and bear right to pass under a double-arched railway viaduct. Stay on this broad earth track as it curves to the right and descends steeply, via steps at the end, over the bridge to the towpath of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal. Turn right along the towpath to walk back to the starting point in the centre of Slaithwaite, which is about two miles away.



Looking towards Longwood Edge