

Countryside & Rights of Way

Around Silsden Reservoir

5 1/2 miles (8.8km) Circular walk

A walk to the north of Silsden, crossing mainly farmland but also includes the Leeds Liverpool canal and some woodland, with the occasional stretch of country road.

Due to the many stiles and gates, this walk is not suitable for pushchairs, wheelchairs and people with walking difficulties.

The walk start and finish point is at Wesley Place car park, Silsden, which is also near to the main bus stop in Silsden town centre.

Car parking at Wesley Place car park is pay and display, although you may find on street parking nearby. For public transport users a good regular bus service operates from Keighley to Silsden and the Keighley to Ilkley bus service passes through the town. For further information call Metroline on: 0113 245 7676.

To start your walk face the town centre clock, which is opposite Wesley Place car park and turn left to walk along Kirkgate, the main shopping area of Silsden. Keeping on the left hand side, all the way through the town centre and across Howden Road, until you reach the bridge over the Leeds Liverpool canal. On reaching the bridge and keeping on the left hand side of the road, walk over the bridge, where on the left, just before the Bridge public house go through a narrow gap and down the stone steps onto the canal towpath. Once on the towpath turn left to walk under the canal bridge, in the direction of Skipton passing Silsden boatyard on the opposite side. Follow the towpath for approx 1/2 mile (.8km) until you reach Cowling Swing Bridge 191. Turn right here and cross the bridge to go through the gate or over the stile on the opposite side, before turning sharp right, to ascend the wooden stepladder down into the field.

Once in the field and walking in the opposite direction to which you came, follow the canal bank for approx 300yds (274m), before turning left uphill across the field to the corner of the dry stone wall. On reaching the wall corner continue uphill crossing the farm access road before turning left after only a short distance to go through the second gateway onto a field access track. Follow the vehicle tracks as they turn right uphill and continue straight up the field ignoring the stile on your right,

keeping close to the dry stone wall/hedge on your right.

At the very top end of the field continue straight ahead ignoring the stile on your right to go through the wide gap in the hedge into the next field. From here the footpath bears to the left across the field to a stile under the trees, once over the stile follow the fence on your left as you walk uphill towards the left hand corner of the buildings at Park Green, which can clearly be seen ahead.

On reaching the buildings at Park Green climb over the stile at the side of a large metal gate, before climbing a second stile in the dry stone wall out onto Skipton Road. Turn right along Skipton Road, walking between the buildings at Park Green for a short distance before crossing over to your left, to turn left up a narrow surfaced farm access road to High Cross Moor Farm. Approx. half way up the access road the road divides, here turn right, following the sign for High Cross Moor Farm, where after only a short distance, leave the track by climbing the stile at the side of the field gate which can be seen ahead. Once in the field, bear to your left diagonally across, heading for the stile in the dry stone wall at the top left hand corner.

Climb over the stile and continue straight ahead across the next field, following the hedge and wall on your right, eventually reaching two farm gates on the right. Here, at the junction of another footpath which crosses from left to right, continue straight ahead again across two more fields. At the far end of the second field the path joins a concrete track, follow the track downhill into the woodland and over the stream, turning right, then left uphill still following the concrete track, which will lead you to the gate into Low Brackenhill Farm.

Go through the gate into the farm complex and turn right amongst the buildings, to eventually reach the centre of the farmyard. The footpath divides here; our route is left through the gate out onto a track. Continue along the track crossing two cattle grids before emerging onto Bradley Road. Turn left and walk up Bradley Road for approx 1/4 mile (0.4km), passing Raikes Head Farm on your right and Hole Lane on your left, before turning right off Bradley Road along the first turning on your right down the unmade lane (Hayhills Lane). After only a short distance along Hayhills Lane look out on your left for the stile in the hedge on the left. Here leave the lane and climb over the stile into the field, to walk in a straight line towards the left hand side of the buildings of Upper Hayhills Farm, which can be seen ahead. On reaching Upper Hayhills, climb the stile and walk across the access road to climb over a stile on the opposite side. Continue straight ahead across the next field, heading towards the bungalow, to another stile in the fence/wall.

Once over the wall continue straight ahead for 25yds (22m) before climbing the stile in the fence on your

immediate right. Once in the field turn left to cross the field diagonally to the right along the shallow depression in the surface of the field. Continue across the field until you are adjacent to the side of the bungalow on your left. Here change direction by bearing to the left, walking to a stile in the top left hand corner of the field. Climb over the stile onto the surfaced road and turn sharp right down the access road to Pickersgill House. Follow the track a short distance to where it divides near Pickersgill House and continue straight ahead through the smallest of the three gates to walk in front of the former farm buildings. At the far end of the buildings, between the cottages and the garage, climb over the stile in the wall, leading into the pig and sheep pens. Once over, turn left to exit the pens through a small gate. The path divides here; our route is to the right across a small grassy area before crossing the surfaced turning area in front of a recently built house. Here climb a stile over the stock fence into a field, continue straight ahead across the field, heading slightly to the right hand side of the caravan park, which can be seen ahead. At the bottom end of the field go through the small gate and into the caravan park. From here the path bears to the left and should go in a straight line across the caravan park, however, due to a few Leylandii trees it isn't possible to follow the exact line of the path, so a short diversion around the trees is necessary. Here we suggest you bear to the left to cross over an access road and down the side of the trees and over the rough grass area, before bearing slightly to the right onto a mown grass area on the opposite side of the trees, before bearing left back onto the line of the path.

Continue across the mown area, crossing a second access track to the stile hidden under the trees in the fence line ahead. Over the stile the path continues straight ahead across the field, heading in the direction of the tall, chimney like structure, which can be seen on the skyline. At the far end of the field, near to the junction of three drainage ditches go through the metal pedestrian gate and continue straight ahead down the next field, keeping as close as possible to the fence line and the trees on your right.

Halfway down the field ignore the small wooden bridge and stile on the right, which is hidden under the trees and continue down the steep slope, still following the fence and trees on your right. Nearing the bottom of the slope bear slightly to the right and ignoring the gate, turn left downhill following the worn footpath down into the woodland. At the bottom of the hill near the stream, turn left across the narrow footbridge. Climb the few steps at the opposite side and turn right to walk along the stream bank for approx 75yds (68m), before turning left up the steep grassy hillside under the trees. At the top of the steepest part of the hill continue straight ahead across the field to the fence, turning right to follow the fence line on your left until you reach a stone step over stile in the dry stone wall. Climb the stile and continue to follow the fence line on your left as it eventually changes from a fence to a dry stone wall before going across a track and passing the ladder stile on your left. Just beyond the ladder stile the footpath continues to follow the dry stone wall/fence in a straight line, going over three stiles to the farm buildings, which can be seen ahead.

On reaching the farmyard, turn left up the incline to walk between the house and the barn, at the far end of the barn, to the left of the gate climb the steps over the stone wall onto a surfaced parking area and continue in front of the house to another gap, to go through out onto the main road (Bolton Road). Cross over Bolton Road with great care and turn left to walk uphill the short distance before turning right to walk along Fishbeck Lane. Follow the lane with its long distant westerly views across Silsden Reservoir all the way to the T-junction with Brownbank Lane. Here turn right to walk downhill along Brownbank Lane for approx 300yds (270m), to turn first left along Swartha Lane. Follow Swartha Lane as it weaves its way through the countryside and eventually between the houses and farms of Swartha. After passing through the hamlet of Swartha the road goes downhill, where after approx 250yds (225m) it turns sharp left and joins Hawber Lane. Leave the road here on the corner, by going through the gap in the wall ahead.

Once in the field the footpath divides, our route is left downhill following the wall and the line of trees on your right. At the bottom of the first field go through the dilapidated kissing gate to again follow the hedge line on your right all the way down the field, ignoring the stile you pass on your right, to the bottom right hand corner. Here turn right over the stile and into the next field, to turn immediately left over a second stile and out onto a road, (Hawber Cote Drive). Walk downhill to the next road junction turning left down Banklands Avenue. At the bottom of the avenue at its junction with Banklands Lane, cross over straight ahead onto the rugby ground. Here go down the small embankment to walk straight ahead behind the rugby goal posts and down a much steeper embankment to the surfaced path between the children's play area and the building.

Follow the path as it bears to the right to go down the stone steps, to walk between the skateboard and mountain bike trail area and continue across Silsden Beck, walking straight ahead between Silsden Methodist Church and Mount Carmel Catholic Church. At the end of the street, turn right and then left in front of the Catholic Church to bring you back to your walk start point at Wesley Place car park.

Footnote

We hope you enjoyed your walk. If so tell your friends, if not, or you have encountered any problems please tell us at:

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Countryside and Rights of Way Service
4th Floor, Britannia House, Hall Ings
Bradford BD1 1HX

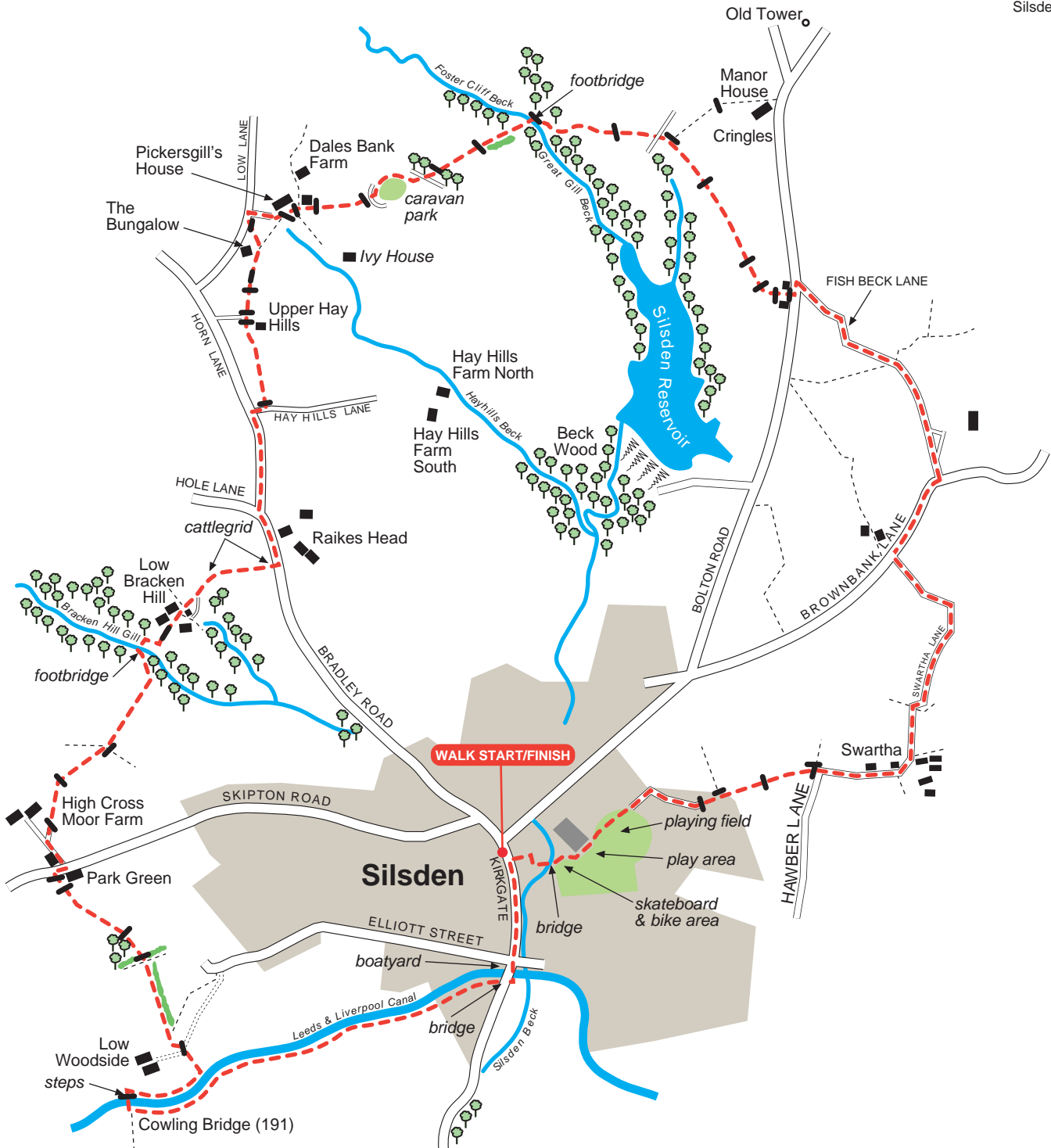
Tel: 01274 432666
www.bradford.gov.uk/countryside

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Key (map not to scale)

- - - Route
- - - Other Footpaths
- Gate/Stile/Gap