

Countryside & Rights of Way

Doubler Stones

5³/₄ mile (9km) circular walk

A demanding walk to the east of Silsden with plenty of steep ups and downs, crossing mainly pasture land with a little rough wet intake land on the edge of the moor. With many stiles and gates this walk is only suitable for reasonably fit walkers who are agile enough to be able to negotiate these obstacles and to path find on little used footpaths and bridleways.

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

Route

From the car park turn left to walk down Wesley Place. At the bottom turn right in front of Mount Carmel Catholic church then turn left alongside Silsden Methodist Church to cross the footbridge over Silsden Beck into Silsden Park. Once in the park take the first path off to the right up a flight of stone steps and follow the surface path gently uphill between the building and the children's play area. Where the path turns sharp left continue straight ahead across the grass and up the steep embankment onto the rugby field, cross the field by keeping to the edge of the pitch and behind the goalpost to continue straight ahead up a second embankment out of the park and onto the road.

Cross over the road and walk straight ahead up Banklands Avenue taking the first right up Hawber Court Drive. At the top of Hawber Court Drive climb over the stile next to the field gate and turn right to climb over a second stile into the next field. Continue by following the hawthorn hedge on the left up the field and through the dilapidated metal kissing gate.

Once through the gate continue on uphill to the stile, which can be seen in the dry stone wall at the top end of the field. Go through the stile onto Hawber Lane and continue uphill through the hamlet of Swartha. Just beyond the first left turn in the road lookout on the right for the driveway into Swartha House Farm.

Turn right here and walk down the driveway between the farmhouse and the outbuildings continuing straight ahead down the grassy track. At the bottom of the incline climb the stone steps and go through the stile into a field, from here the path bears slightly to the left heading uphill towards the gateway between the farmhouse and the buildings, on nearing the farm climb the large stone steps over the wall, crossover the limestone track and continue following a grassy track as it bears to the right uphill in front of the farmhouse. On nearing the top of the incline leave the track by turning right towards the corner of the dry stone wall on the right. Here climb over the stile at the side of the field gate and continue following the wall on your right as it goes over a second stile and heads slightly downhill under the trees. Just beyond the trees continue straight ahead up the slight incline and across the field heading for the stile which can be seen in the dry stone wall ahead, passing as you go the partially filled quarry delves on your right.

Through the stile the path continues uphill, walk between the trees towards the farm buildings, which can be seen ahead. Go through another stile then follow the path as it bears to the right across to a third stile in the wall corner near to the farm buildings. Climb this stile into the farmyard. Continue uphill negotiating the stiles and gates directly in front of the farmhouse before picking up a faint track running parallel with the wall on your right. Follow the track uphill, eventually turning left to follow the drystone wall on your right uphill to a field gate and stile. Once over the stile continue uphill across the second field to the next gate and stile, go through and out onto Lightbank Lane.

Turn right here and walk along the surfaced road passing behind the barn of Crag Top Farm and on past White Crag House to continue on the road a short distance to where it turns sharp right. Leave the road here and continue straight ahead along the concrete driveway, going through two gateways before reaching a bungalow on the left. Just behind the bungalow on the hillside Doubler Stones can be seen. Continue along the concrete driveway in front of the bungalow where after a short distance the track divides, take the right hand track and go downhill to go through a gate into the farmyard at Doubler Stones House, bearing left in front of the farmhouse and down to the bottom left-hand corner of the farmyard, where between the tree and the large rock go through a small gate.

Continue on downhill following the obvious grass track, which keeps to the wall on the right. On reaching the next gate/stile go through and turn immediately right to

follow the dry stone wall on your right, the short distance to where the footpath joins the farm track. Turn left along the track and over a small bridge under the trees passing Far Gill Grange farmhouse on your left to a field gate. Go through the gate to follow the track straight ahead and through a second gate and continue on the track until it turns sharp left. Here leave the track and continue straight ahead down the edge of the field, following the wall on your left, eventually going between two gate stoops. After a short distance look out for the stile and gateway in the wall on the left and climb over into the next field. From here the path goes diagonally to the right across the field heading towards the ruins of the farm building, which can be seen on the skyline. Continue along the path as it drops steeply down to a stile in the wall at the bottom of a small valley.

Climb over the stile and turn right following the stream for a short distance and turn left over a small stone bridge before climbing a steep embankment up onto the field at the top. From here head to a stile at the right hand side of the building (Out Laith), crossing over a broken down stone wall on your way. On reaching the stile climb over and go down a small dip climbing up the other side to a second stile, once through ignore the old wooden stile on your right and follow the faintly marked footpath across the rough intake land bearing slightly to the right and heading for the square stone built building (water pumping house) which can be seen built into the hillside ahead.

Using the water pumping house as a marker, continue in a straight line to go through two gates. Immediately after the second gate, before reaching the pumping house, turn right downhill to another field gate. Go through and continue downhill through three more gateways until you reach the top edge of some woodland, turn left down the path amongst the bracken, eventually reaching a gate. Go through this gate out onto Holden Lane, turn right and walk down to the bottom of the steep hill at Holden Bridge. Here turn left into Howden Park Farm (be aware of the dogs!) and follow the farm track as it weaves its way between the buildings to join a grassy track down to bridge 193 over the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.

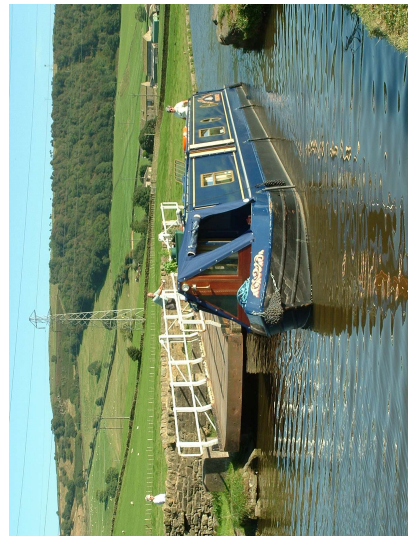
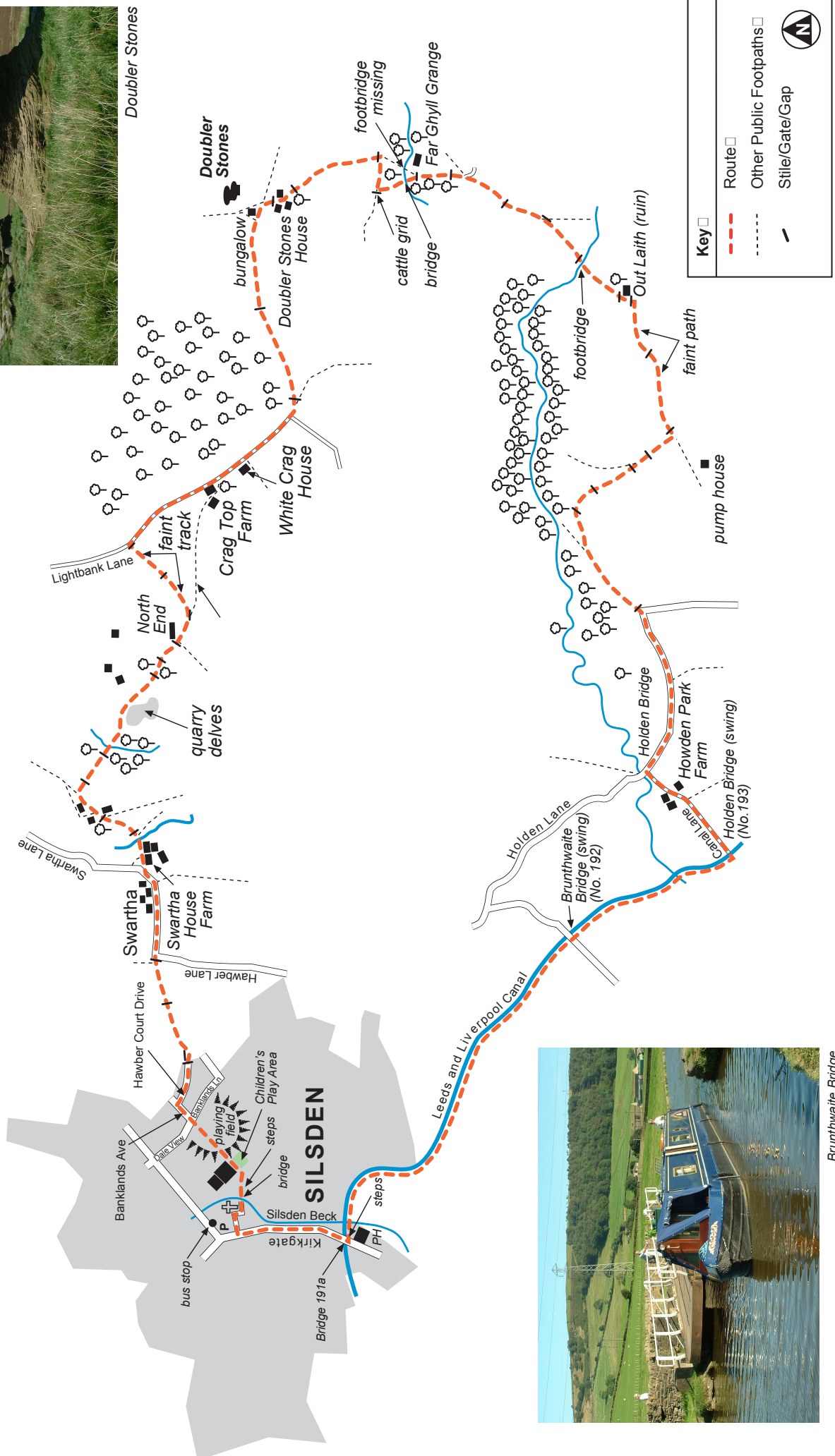
Cross over the bridge turning right along the canal towpath until you reach bridge 191A, here climb the stone steps at the side of The Bridge public house to emerge onto the main Keighley road. Turn right over the bridge and walk along Silsden Main Street returning to your walk start point at Wesley Place car park.

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Brunthwaite Bridge