

Methodology

This document describes the key views around Baildon which have been identified as inherent to the character of Baildon.

With two trig points, each less than half a mile from the village centre, it is unsurprising that the neighbourhood comprises many hilly areas which give rise to attractive views and vistas. The views included in this document have been researched by members of Baildon Walkers are Welcome who are familiar with the terrain and then these views were agreed with the Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group.

VIEWPOINT 1: THE ENTRANCE TO THE PARISH CHURCH

Viewpoint: the lychgate at Baildon St John's Parish Church

Grid Reference: SE 155 396.



This is the view of Baildon village centre for everyone approaching from Hall Cliffe, the parish church and community garden. The view is of the historic heart of Baildon. The view has been recognised as important and has been protected in planning applications for buildings on the former Ian Clough Hall and Upper Ian Clough Hall Carpark.

The view features a number of important landmarks: The Moravian Church to the left; various buildings on Browgate; the Potted Meat Stick; old industrial building on Westgate now repurposed as a bar; the Methodist Church; skyline view of the Moor edge; to the right (and not on the photo) the top of Baildon Mills, an important early 19th Century building in the middle of renovation and conversion.

VIEWPOINT 2 : THE PATH ALONG THE TOP OF BAILDON BANK

Viewpoint: enter the path at Bank Walk and contour along the top of Baildon Bank. There are numerous viewpoints along this path.

Grid Reference: SE 152 394.



A dramatic panorama from a path which skirts the edge of Baildon Bank . It reveals a stunning birds-eye view of housing in middle Baildon as well as longer distance views.

This path is well-used by walkers , families, dog walkers, and some children walking to Sandal Primary School.

It offers a close and unique view of the old housing on Wrose View and Hillside Terrace which is part of a conservation area. Baildon Old Hall can be seen clearly - a historic building of great significance for Baildon heritage.

The middle part of Baildon - Cliffe Avenue, Baildon Road, Netherhall Road and Station Road - forms the middle ground of the view, showing the stages of housing development in Baildon.

In the distance, Thackley, Idle , Wrose and Windhill form the back drop with the mast at Wrose an obvious landmark. The shape of the terrain gives the impression of continuous woodland running from Baildon to Buck woods, Esholt Woods and Spring Woods leading up to Guiseley : the valley roads and development are concealed. To the right edge of the view, the outskirts of Shipley can be seen and the beginning of Bradford Vale. There are seasonal changes to the colours and variations during the day to traffic volume on Baildon Road. Street lighting changes the nature of the view at night. There has been significant growth from the trees on the bank side below the path which is blocking the view from other parts of the path.

VIEWPOINT 3: FROM THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY OF THE TONG PARK & ESHOLT CRICKET CLUB

Viewpoint: Low Springs cricket ground, Tong Park

Grid Reference: SE 164 403



This idyllic cricket ground sits in a natural amphitheatre in Gill Beck valley near Tong Park Dam. There are stunning views all around.

The seating area on the cricket pitch boundary is backed by a row of silver birch trees and then much taller woodlands bounding the Gill Beck to the SE, where isolated decaying evidence of previous industrial structures shows that this rural scene was once a place of industrial employment for many workers. There is a row of white-painted club house buildings across the square to the NW. Swinging round past a vista of the Hazel Head woodland to the SW, the skyline reveals the new housing. To the SE a long, tall hedge separates this cricket ground from the track that runs alongside the reservoir where swans, moorhens, coots, and a variety of ducks make their home.

VIEWPOINT 4: FROM THE TONG PARK WAR MEMORIAL

Viewpoint: Tong Park War Memorial, at the end of the private drive called Lonk House Lane

Grid Reference: SE165 400



To the north of this popular spot we look down on the lake, constructed as a reservoir for the old Denby's Tong Park industrial complex (first operating in 1778) which lies between here and the Otley Road. The 1876 viaduct carrying the trains to Burley and Ilkley passes over the lake outflow, which discharges into the River Aire at Esholt.

To the East across the Valley, towards Lunds Farm, is the golf course belonging to the Hollins Hall Hotel. It spreads across the west-facing hill that slopes down towards the Gill Beck, and to the north merges into the Bradford golf course and the large flower meadows below Hawksworth village, which is concealed in summer but visible through the bare tree branches in winter. This whole area to the NE of the Gill Beck is criss-crossed with rights of way leading over to Guiseley and Menston. The happy sounds of children playing in the fields at the church school come and go.

Below and further round, to the NNW, is the attractive cricket ground nestling in the valley, surrounded by mature trees and hugging the bank of the Gill Beck. Above this, first some cottages on the Bingley Road, and higher still, the looming mass of Burley and Ilkley Moor, now yellow, sometimes purple, sometimes green. More tree cover round to the NW and then meadows where deer are frequently seen. The E-W track on which the War Memorial lies contours above the valley and leads eventually to Low Springs Farm.

VIEWPOINT 5: FROM THE MOOR LOOKING EAST

Viewpoint: eastern flank of the moor summit on the path dropping down to Baildon

Grid Reference: SE 144 400



This is one of the critical views of Baildon and surrounding countryside. The view is experienced regularly by walkers of all ages, runners, cyclists, dog walkers and visitors to the area.

The 282-metre summit of Baildon Hill offers panoramic views in all directions and has a newly renovated toposcope and trig point in place, marking the significance of the summit. The view locates Baildon in relation to its surrounding settlements and natural features. It is a destination for families.

The view to the east is best enjoyed just below the summit of the hill, on the path leading down to Baildon. The immediate view is the flank of Baildon Moor with a number of small trees springing up. The further view offers a roofscape of the old town centre and top end of the town. The parish church is prominent as is the rugby and cricket ground and golf course. Beyond the town buildings are Buck Wood, Esholt Woods and Spring Woods, forming a thickly wooded corridor on either side of the River Aire and Leeds - Liverpool Canal. The woodland is old and of historic importance. The middle-distance view includes Hawksworth Village, Odda Hill, Guiseley and Rawdon. Rawdon Billing is a prominent hill surrounded by trees. Thackley, Idle and Wrose are clearly seen with the mast at Wrose a prominent landmark. The distant horizon to the East is the Leeds skyline. The view reflects topography, old patterns of settlement and land ownership. The summer dark green of the deciduous woodland changes seasonally. Lighter green of fields is impacted by summer drought and winter cold weather.

VIEWPOINT 6: FROM THE MOOR LOOKING SOUTH

Viewpoint: Wall corner below Dobrudden

Grid Reference: 140.398



From this viewpoint there is a spectacular 180-degree panorama from Hirst Wood to the left round to Rombalds Moor to the right. Shipley Glen lies below the steeply sloping hillside below Dobrudden Farm, well developed trees marking the perimeter of the site. The building currently used as a cafe can be seen on the edge of the site. In the middle and far distance to the left, you see Shipley High Moor, the valley of Cottingley Beck leading up to Sandy Lane and Cottingley Wood Estate - woodland behind Cottingley. Scanning to the right looking over Gilstead and Eldwick, you see St Ives Estate above Bingley on the other side of the Aire valley and Keighley in the valley. The far horizon is Haworth, Top Withens and Ovenden Moor wind farm. There are fields above Eldwick leading up to the open moorland of Rombalds Moor.

This view is seen from a very well used track used by walkers, dog walkers, runners and cyclists. It forms part of the Welcome Way - a walk route marked on the OS map. There is seasonal variation in woodland colours and textures and in the colouring of grass and moorland.

VIEWPOINT 7: FROM THE MOOR LOOKING WEST



Viewpoint: Southern edge of Dobrudden Caravan Park, approx. 25m below the summit of Baildon Hill
Grid Reference: SE 136 398

This viewpoint focuses on the south west quadrant of Baildon and the immediate surrounding districts of Eldwick, Gilstead, Bingley and Cottingley, framed with long distance views of the wind turbines on the eastern edge of the open exposed South Pennine areas at Ovenden Moor near Ogden Reservoir, and the southern edge of the 45,000 acres of Rombalds Moor.

Low Plain, an area of approx. 40 acres of relatively flat, rough grass moorland lies on the western flanks of Baildon Hill approx. 25m below its summit. This area has extensive evidence of late prehistoric settlement and is scattered with the remains and reminders of the extensive industrial exploitation of its buried mineral wealth during the second half of the 19th century. At its southern end is the ancient farmstead of Dobrudden, now a well-established Caravan Park. The whole area is crisscrossed with pathways created by the many dog walkers, hikers and lovers of the outdoors who frequent and take advantage of this easily accessed open landscape.

From the southern edge of the Dobrudden Caravan Park the bracken covered landscape descends steeply to flatter more open pasture through which the narrow densely wooded ravine of Shipley Glen, carries the waters of Loadpit Beck to discharge into the River Aire near Hirst Weir. The Glen woodland links with Trench Wood, Walker Wood and Midgeley Wood wrapping around the slopes of south Baildon. In the middle distance on the western slopes of the Aire valley the general landscape is of open pasture with large areas of woodland at St Ives, Hollin Plantation, Black Hills, Cottingley Wood Estate, and Hirst Wood. In addition to these large, wooded areas there is significant tree cover throughout the settlement areas, despite Bingley being obscured in the valley bottom. The vast majority of the area from Eldwick to the horizon at Rombalds is open pasture interspersed with farmsteads and small groups of trees /woodland

Whilst the landscape reflects settlement development and land usage the topography retains its glacial formation patterns and the natural colours of the extensive areas of woodland and pasture create contrasting seasonal changes. Further climatic view changes result from the impact of temperature inversion along the line of the valley bottom.

VIEWPOINT 8: LOOKING SOUTH FROM GREEN LANE



Viewpoint: various points along Green Lane.

Grid reference: SE 143.395

Green Lane bridleway is a very popular route with walkers and horse-riders. It also provides vehicular access to the handful of farms and properties situated along its length.

The eastern end of Green Lane is accessed from Hope Lane. The western end of Green Lane terminates in a gate, which gives access to Baildon Moor on the southern flank of Baildon Hill. It is a key route for walkers making a circuit of Baildon moor.

Looking south from Green Lane a panoramic vista is revealed. In the foreground, there is a birds-eye view of housing and the school along West Lane. Further away, across the valley, there is a stunning view of Saltaire showcasing its terraced housing in neat, gridiron rows alongside the majestic Salts Mill. To the left, the town of Shipley can be seen with its iconic clock tower.