

Four Pubs and a Sewage Works

4 miles/ 6.5km circular walk

Walk Start Point

Entrance to Bottom Farm on Apperley Road, accessed either from the A657 Leeds Road at Idle, or the A658 Harrogate Road at Apperley Bridge.

Public Transport

Bus service 760 Keighley/Leeds passes the top of Apperley Road at Idle and the Metro Connect 747 Leeds Bradford airport service and the 647 Yeadon service operate along Apperley Lane. All bus services involve a short walk to the start of your web walk. Contact Metroline on 0113 245 7676 for further details.

Car Parking

On street parking along Apperley Road.

Route Information

This low level walk on the eastern boundary of the Bradford district circles the Victorian sewage works at Esholt, using footpaths across farmland and through woodland, finishing with a bit of road walking. Just one steep climb and never far from civilisation, the walk is suitable for most reasonably fit occasional walkers. Strong waterproof footwear and outdoor clothing to suit the season are a necessity. This walk is not suitable for pushchairs, wheelchairs and people with limited mobility.

The Route

Starting at the entrance to Bottom Farm on Apperley Road, easily located near to the large metal electricity pylon. Go through the stile in the stone wall to the right of the farm entrance, once through walk straight across the limestone covered ground for a short distance to climb a second stile which can be seen ahead in the wooden fence. Over the stile bear slightly to your left to join the wide rough farm access road via a gap in the fence. Walk along the access road for approximately 100yds (91m) to just beyond where the track crosses a small stream, here look out on your right for a stile over a short section of fence which will lead you into a field.

Over the stile turn left to follow the obvious path up a slight incline, where on reaching the top of the incline the path follows the trees and bushes on your right as you descend to another stile at an often very boggy section of footpath. Over this stile the path continues



Suspension bridge over the River Aire

straight ahead across three fields and climbing three more stiles as you make your way to the stone built railway viaduct which can be seen ahead. On nearing the viaduct and after climbing the third stile bear left through a gateway before turning right to walk under the arch of the railway viaduct into a field. Cross the field by bearing left diagonally following the well worn path towards the metal suspension bridge over the River Aire, which can just be seen at the far end of the field. On reaching the far end of the field climb the stile and turn right to go across the suspension bridge, turning left on the opposite side to follow the obvious path between the river and the sewage works wire boundary fence.



Esholt sewage works

After only a short distance the path turns sharp right away from the river and continues to follow the wire boundary fence on your right as you make your way between the buildings and tanks of the sewage treatment plant, to eventually emerge out onto a wide busy access road The Avenue. Here turn left along The Avenue for quite a distance to just beyond Home Farm, noticeable by the recently renovated and new buildings on your left. Turn right here off The Avenue to go up the narrow road opposite the buildings which leads to a substantially built metal stile. Climb the stile to follow the narrow surfaced woodland footpath Gill Lane steadily uphill, ignoring any other paths which might tempt you off to the left and right, until you eventually reach a gate prior to walking out of the woodland by going under a stone

built railway bridge. Under the bridge the woodland path changes to a surfaced country lane, here ignore the first gate on your right which leads up the railway embankment to walk on a little further, before taking the next turn right along a wide dirt farm access track parallel to the railway. Where the track ends at the entrance to a field turn left off the track to climb over a broken down stile in the stone wall on your left. The path now starts a gentle climb up a well walked grassy path between the stock fencing on your left and the stone wall on your right.

At the top of the first incline turn right following the path on the level for a short distance before turning left to start a second much steeper and longer climb going through two stiles before eventually exiting out onto a wide farm track. Continue straight up the farm track passing the allotments on your left until you reach the A658 Apperley Lane at the top. At this point of the walk, those looking for refreshments will find The Princess public house by turning left along Apperley Lane. To continue the walk cross Apperley Lane straight ahead onto Lombard Street opposite, following it to its eventual junction with London Lane. Turn right along London Lane for a short distance to its junction with the narrow but busy Micklefield Road, turning right down Micklefield Road for approximately 100yds (91m) until you reach house number 13. Turn left here and cross Micklefield Road to go down the footpath opposite, where after only a short distance the footpath enters the back garden of a private house. Turn left along the side of the building then right to follow the path along the back of the property and out through a small gate onto a driveway.

Cross the driveway as indicated by the block paving on the road surface straight ahead to rejoin the footpath behind the row of cottages opposite. At the end of the row of cottages the path enters a field and bears to the left along the top edge of the field following the wall on your left until you reach the top left hand corner. Here the path divides; our route turns right avoiding the overgrown vegetation which has accumulated in the corner of the field. After only a short distance our path rejoins the correct line of footpath as you make your way steeply down the field following the stone wall on your left until you meet the narrow surfaced road at the bottom. Here cross the road straight ahead to go down the long narrow tree covered footpath opposite until you eventually reach an unsurfaced road, Buckstone Drive. Again cross the road straight ahead to go down the path opposite, passing on the left the 16th tee of Rawdon golf course before reaching Cliffe Drive, a surfaced road which crosses from left to right. Cross Cliffe Drive to continue down the footpath opposite for only a short distance to where our path meets a steep surfaced road. Turn right downhill to where the surfaced road ends at the junction with Cragg Wood Drive which crosses our path from left to right. Here continue straight ahead steeply down the rough surfaced narrow bridleway opposite, which at first leads you through a wooded area before eventually becoming enclosed between very high stone built walls. Continue down this rough path bearing right where the path levels out until you meet the access road to Acacia Farm, near to Acacia Cottages.

Turn left here down the access road the short distance to the next road junction at the bottom with Woodlands Drive. Bear right to follow Woodlands Drive all the way to its junction with the very busy main road Apperley Lane. Turn left down Apperley Lane passing the Queens public house on your left, to where the road levels out near to Woodhouse Grove School on your left. Here turn right to cross Apperley Lane, turning left on the opposite side to pass the Stansfield Arms public house, before leaving the main road by turning first right to cross the River Aire via the old stone bridge at Apperley Bridge. Here where Apperley Lane meets Apperley Road turn right to walk along Apperley Road to where you started your walk, passing the George and Dragon public house along the way.

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
5th Floor, Jacobs Well,
Bradford BD1 5RW

Tel: 01274 432666
www.bradford.gov.uk/countryside
e-mail: crow@bradford.gov.uk

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