

A Walk from the Towpath

3¹/₂ miles (5.6km) circular walk

Walk information

Starting and finishing along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal the walk soon leaves the valley bottom as it starts a steep climb up the northern side of the Aire Valley via Riddlesden Golf Course (watch out for flying golf balls!). Near to Jay Tail Farm at the highest point of the route, pause a while to enjoy the long distance views up and down the Aire Valley before starting your return journey, level at first then a gentle decent for an easy finish.

Although an ideal family walk, the gates, stiles and rough terrain make this walk not suitable for pushchairs, wheelchairs and people with limited mobility. Extra care should be taken whilst walking along the canal. Be **SAFE**, *Stay Away From the Edge*. Sturdy footwear and outdoor clothing to suit the season along with a light snack with drinks are highly recommended.

Car Parking

There are no public car parks near the walk start point therefore parking is limited to on street. Please park with care and consideration.

Public transport

Several bus services pass close to the walk start point e.g. 662 Bradford / Keighley, 760 Leeds / Keighley and the 708 Keighley / Riddlesden, ask the driver for the Bar Lane stop.

For further information contact Metroline: 0113 245 7676.

The walk start point

Leeds and Liverpool Canal swing bridge (197) at the top of Bar Lane Riddlesden, near Keighley. Accessed from the B6265 old Keighley / Bradford Road.



Along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, Riddlesden

The Walk Route

From canal bridge (197) at the top of Bar Lane, turn left to walk along the towpath in the direction of Skipton for approximately 1¹/₂ miles (2.4km) until you reach canal bridge (195) (Booths Bridge) passing Leaches Bridge (196) along the way.

On reaching Booths Bridge (195), turn right to cross the canal bridge bearing right on the opposite side to walk uphill following the rough track eventually emerging at the top opposite the 18th green of Riddlesden Golf Club. Here turn left to walk steadily uphill passing in front of the clubhouse following the track as it meanders beneath the trees.

After a short distance, the first tee is on your left and the fairway opens up in front of you, turn left here off the right of way to cross the fairway in front of the first tee towards the dry stone wall.

On reaching the wall turn right to walk uphill to follow the permissive path along the edge of the fairway keeping close to the wall on your left. At the top of the fairway the path turns right still following the wall on your left along the top side of the green on your right. Just beyond the green the path turns sharp left and rejoins the right of way still following the stone wall on your left and crossing a second tee as you make your way uphill under the trees to a field gate and stile.

Over the stile the path continues straight ahead still with the stone wall on your left as you make your way uphill heading towards the electricity pylon which can be seen ahead. On nearing the pylon look out for the stile in the wall on the left, situated next to a walled up gateway. Do not go over the stile but turn sharp right to walk steadily uphill across the field walking parallel to the tumbled down stone wall on your left to a field gate which is initially hidden from view by a tree. On reaching the gate go

through to cross a second field heading towards the farm buildings of Jaytail Farm which can be seen ahead. On reaching a second field gate at the bottom of the track which leads up to Jaytail Farm do not go through the gate but turn right and continue across the field walking parallel to the stone wall on your left to the ladder stile over the wall ahead.

Climb over the stile back onto Riddlesden Golf Course. The path, which is often overgrown with bracken is straight ahead keeping as near as the vegetation will allow to the wall on your left. Continue along the top of the golf course eventually exiting at the far end via a stile through a boundary wall hidden beneath the trees.

Over the stile and across a small stream the path continues straight ahead uphill (take care here as this short section is often very wet). On reaching the crest of the hill, head for the field gate which can be seen a short distance away across the field.

Go through the gate to join a grassy track downhill for a short distance to where it meets the surfaced access road near Wood Head Lodge the bungalow on your right. From here take the surfaced road straight ahead soon passing the hamlet of High Wood Head down below on your right. Continue straight ahead for quite a distance eventually climbing a slight incline until you reach the junction with Banks Lane, a minor but busy road at the far end.

Turn left up Banks Lane for approximately 150 yds/137m before taking the first surfaced level tree lined drive off to the right leading to Larkfield Farm and House. On reaching the buildings the drive divides, here continue straight ahead crossing the stone sets along the back of Larkfield House to find a gated stile tucked away in the top left hand corner of the wall ahead.

Through the stile follow the wooden fence on your left for only a short distance to find a wide gap in the fence, here bear left through the gap then bear immediately right to follow the fence now on your right. After a short distance at the corner of the fence the footpath continues straight ahead across the field heading for the field gate which can be seen in the wall ahead.

Go through the gate bearing slightly to the left between the discarded farm equipment the short distance to join a concrete farm access track. Turn right down the track keeping to the left hand side to avoid the GUARD DOG which will noisily come out to greet you from its kennel on the right as you meander between the buildings to the centre of the farm yard at Heights Farm.

From here take the right hand of the two gates which face you to leave the farmyard on an often muddy field track walking straight ahead following the wall on your left eventually reaching and going through another field gate. Through the gate continue to follow the track (which has now become less visible) and the wall on the left which changes to a wooden fence as you start to bear right around the edge of the field heading for the buildings of Rivock Farm (disused) which can be seen ahead.

On reaching the farm do not enter the farm yard but turn right down the obvious farm track walking with the rear of the farm building on your left. At the end of the building where the track enters the top end of a field the footpath is straight ahead steeply downhill following the line of mature trees and a stream on your right, eventually passing an old stone gate stoop on your left as you continue down a second field to a field gate.

Through the gate the footpath follows the rough access track downhill soon bearing left between the houses and in front of Ilkley Road Methodist Church to join Ilkley Road.

Cross Ilkley Road turning right on the opposite side to walk the 100yds/91mts downhill to rejoin the footpath by turning left off Ilkley road down a few stone steps (WARNING THESE STEPS BECOME VERY SLIPPERY WHEN WET) to join a narrow setted path leading down to Banks Lane.

Cross Banks Lane straight ahead to continue by going down a second flight of stone steps (CAUTION WHEN WET) to follow the stone setted path down onto Scott Lane. Cross Scott Lane turning left on the opposite side before taking the first right down Bar Lane to find the canal bridge from where you started your walk.

Footnote

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

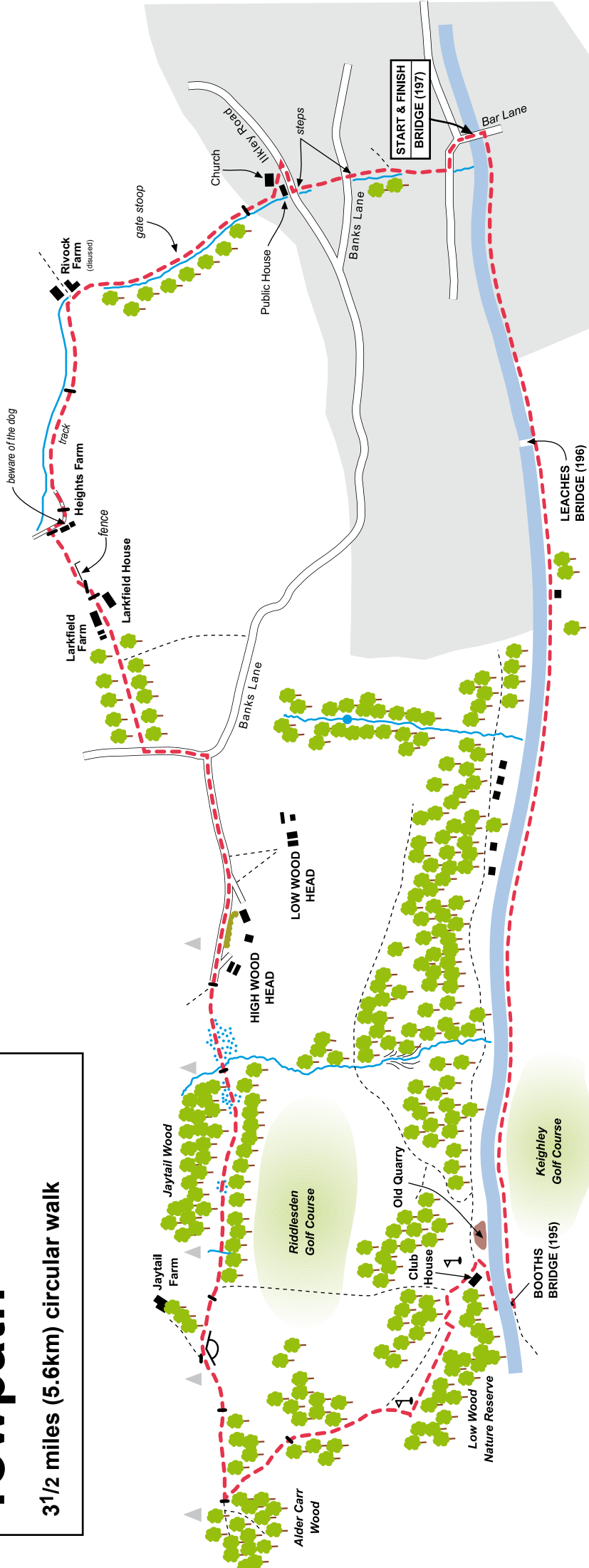
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February 2011

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3 1/2 miles (5.6km) circular walk



NORTH

KEY	
	Walk route
	Other Paths
	Wet areas
	Pylon
	Gate/Style/Gap
	View point

MAP NOT TO SCALE

Walk revised and updated
February 2011



Between Leaches Bridge and Booths Bridge



The club house at Riddlesden Golf Course