

The Sladen Valley, Haworth

4 miles (6.4km) Circular Walk

Walk Information

This walk is best described as a bit of a challenge. Agility being the key word as you negotiate the many stiles, steep hills and stream crossings as you follow a web of little used footpaths around Lower Laithe Reservoir.

Several opportunities arise along the walk for refreshments as the route passes the Old Silent Inn and near to the two public houses in Stanbury village. Comfortable strong waterproof boots are essential with outdoor clothing to suit the season; a packed lunch with drinks is advisable. This walk is not suitable for pushchairs, wheelchairs and people with restricted mobility.

Car Parking

There are several official and unofficial lay bys along Cemetery Road, Haworth near to where the walk starts.

Public Transport

The nearest bus stop to the walk start point is on West Lane, Haworth, this will add 1/2 mile to your walk. The hourly service 664 operates between Keighley and Stanbury Monday to Saturday. On Sundays the first 918 service bus leaves Keighley at 10.15am. For further details contact Metroline on 0113 245 7676.

The Walk Start Point

The small surfaced car parking lay-by nearest to 'Hill Top', the only large detached former farmhouse along Cemetery Road, Haworth. Grid ref: 019 370.

The Walk Route

Starting with your back to the valley leave the lay by on Cemetery Road by turning right to walk in a westerly direction the short distance to the access track which leads down to the white painted former farmhouse, 'Hill Top'. Here leave Cemetery Road by turning right to walk down the access track and along in front of the building to find a small gateway at the far end which is often obscured by a bush. Go through the gate into the field, bearing right diagonally across the field to a wide gap (to the right hand side of a tree) in the wall ahead. Through the gap cross the next field straight ahead to find the small gate hidden beneath the trees leading down a few steps into Clough Hole.

Cross the bridge and climb the steps on the other side which will lead you into a field, here follow the stone wall



'Hill Top' Cemetery Road, Haworth (walk start and finish)

on your right for a short distance to find a stile through the wall on your right that will take you into the next field below. Once over the stile turn left, walking parallel to the wall on your left across the field to the next stile. Go through the stile to continue following the wall on your left until you reach a farm gate at the far end. Go through the gate and bear right the short distance across the next field to a farm gate which will lead you into a small farmyard at Intake Farm.

Cross the farmyard straight ahead to exit out onto Reservoir Road, via a stone step over stile in the wall which can be seen ahead. Cross Reservoir Road and turn right downhill for approx 100yds (91m), before turning left to go through a gap and a small gate in the wall on your left. Follow the obvious path across the field walking with the wall on your right to a second small gate. Through the gate follow the obvious path, this time as it bears slightly to your left diagonally uphill across the field to another small gate at the top end. Go through the gate and join a wide grassy track, here turn right down the track for approx 100yds (91m), before leaving the track to go through the smaller of the two gates on your left near the wall corner at the tree plantation. Once through the gate walk straight ahead following the woodland and the fence on your right to go through a second gate to walk between a wall and the fence exiting at the end into a field via yet another small gate.

In the field follow the fence on your right as you walk diagonally to your left uphill to a stile in the very top corner. Go through the stile to again cross the next field diagonally to your left heading for the next stile to the right of the small clump of trees which can be seen ahead. Through the stile go down the steep flight of stone steps and across a narrow stream (no bridge), before scrambling up the bank of the other side onto

the level field at the top. Cross the field straight ahead following the path to the left hand side of the farm ruins and continue by following the wall on your right going through two gateways until you reach the next farm buildings at Near Enfield Side. In the farmyard turn left and go through the gates to follow the obvious old farm track steeply uphill, following the wall on your left eventually reaching a field gate at the top end of the field. Go through the gate and out onto another farm track which crosses from left to right, here turn right along the well worn track for approx 1/4 mile (402m), passing the ruin of Middle Intake Farm on your right until you eventually reach the two mature trees which can be seen over the wall on your right. Here continue along the track a further 100yds (91m) beyond the trees before leaving the track by turning right across the rough and boggy moorland grass to an obvious ladder stile. Climb the ladder stile to walk down the field following the deep gully on your right until you almost reach the valley bottom, bear left here, diagonally across the field bottom until you reach Sladen Beck.

Here due to the lack of a bridge it is up to you to find the best place to cross (a bridge is due to be built here and may be in place when you do the walk). On the opposite side of the beck continue the walk by climbing the bracken covered steep hillside to the ladder stile over the dry stone wall. Over the stile continue uphill following the wall on your right heading for the greenhouse at the left hand side of Bully Trees Farm, which can be seen at the top of the hill. As you near Bully Trees Farm cross an old wall and bear slightly to your left following the path up the left hand side of the greenhouse climbing a few stone steps into a field at the side of the buildings at Bully Trees Farm. Here turn left following the broken down wall on your left going between two large gate stoops to follow the wall now on your right as it bears right uphill leading to a ladder stile. Climb the stile and continue straight ahead up the field to a second ladder stile which is located 25yds (22m) to the right of the gateway in the next wall.

Over this stile bear slightly to your left crossing a former quarried area to yet another stile over the wooden fence out onto a rough surfaced track. Cross the track straight ahead to go through a stile in the wall on the opposite side and into a field. Cross the field diagonally to the right to yet another stile over the wall ahead. Once over this stile again cross the next field diagonally to your right, going steadily downhill to yet another stile in the wall corner, over this stile turn immediately sharp left to climb another stile over the wall on your left into the next field. Turn right downhill keeping quite close to the wall on your right hand side eventually crossing a very boggy area and a broken down stone wall before continuing down the next field following the broken down stone wall on your right avoiding if you can a second very boggy area before exiting at the bottom right hand corner of the field through a squeeze stile out onto a quiet country lane.

Turn right along the lane passing a barn on your right before taking the next turning left down the track at the side of Cold Knoll End Farm. From here our walk follows the definitive footpath down the access track crossing two cattle grids to the buildings at Far Coney Garth, turning right at the bottom of the track to walk directly in front of the buildings where, at the far end of the building bear left the short distance to a small gateway.

NB Alternative path avoiding Far Coney Garth. Halfway down the access track to Far Coney Garth at the second cattle grid the landowner has provided an alternative path avoiding walking near to the building. This short unofficial diversion rejoins the public footpath at the side of the building at the small gate.

Through the gate turn left downhill following the wall/fence on your right for approx 100yds (91m) to a very boggy area near the wall corner. Here turn right and follow the wall on your right for only 10yds (9m) until you reach what is left of the former stone gate stoop standing close to the wall on your right. Here turn left down the field to follow the remains of the stone wall on your left crossing a very rough field to a stile at the bottom. Through the stile bear slightly to your right across the next field to another stile over the wooden fence and continue downhill to exit through a gap in the fence out onto Hob Lane.

Turn right up Hob Lane for quite a distance passing the Old Silent Inn on the right before crossing over Hob Lane to a footpath on your left next to lamppost 126, 100yds (91m) beyond the Old Silent Inn. Over the stile follow the wall on your right to a ladder stile at the top right hand corner of the field, over this stile the path bears to the right across the next field to a stile through the next wall which can be seen ahead. The path now continues across two more fields by following the wall on your left finally exiting through a gateway onto a muddy farm track. Follow the track through the farmyard eventually bearing right to join a rough road which crosses from left to right. Here turn left along the rough road, walking between the houses along the original Stanbury Main Street. Eventually the rough road divides; our route is straight ahead following the obvious well worn path along the now grassy track, bearing right as you near the junction with Sun Lane, the main road through Stanbury. Turn left down this busy main road for quite a distance, passing on your right the road junction to Oxenhope and eventually on your left the footpath to Lumbfoot and the entrance to Stanbury cemetery. Just below the cemetery entrance take the next left turn, off the main road.

Immediately after turning left the narrow road divides, here follow the right hand surfaced access road leading down to Milking Hill Farm. At the bottom of the access road continue by crossing the farmyard in front of the white painted farmhouse to the far end of the buildings, before turning to your right across the now concreted farmyard passing between the sheep pens on your left and the farm buildings on the right to a field gate. Go through the gate and follow the path down the wall on your right hand side to a stile at the bottom of the field. Climb the stile onto a rough road turning immediately to the left to climb a second stile to enable you to walk straight ahead along the road which leads to the hamlet of Hollings. On reaching the next gateway along the track just prior to the cottage on your left hand side turn right here to walk across a wide grass covered bridge to climb the steep flight of stone steps (which can be slippery when wet) leading up the hillside to a stile at the top, out into a field. From here the footpath



Former mill cottages at Hollings



Steep steps at Hollings

follows the wall on your right steeply uphill before finally reaching a second shorter flight of steps leading up to a stile over a stone wall out onto Sun Lane. At this point public transport users can finish their walk by turning left uphill to the bus stop and Haworth village. To continue turn right downhill for 100yds (91m) or so before crossing the road to

Dyke Farm on your left hand side, here ignore the footpath signs on your left which invite you to climb the steep hillside of Penistone Hill to take the easier option of following the left hand of the two surfaced access roads, as you start your final ascent eventually walking between the buildings of Dyke Farm. Where the surfaced track ends continue straight ahead up the now grassy track walking with the stone wall on your right, eventually crossing another track as you continue up the steep grassy hillside walking as near as possible to the wall on your right hand side, the short distance to Cemetery Road at the top of the hill 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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Transportation, Design and Planning
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