

Calderdale Way, walk route – dramatic West Yorkshire!

Upper Brockholes to Catherine Slack (Queensbury), Shelf, Bailiff Bridge, Brighouse

(10.25 miles: start satnav HX2 8XD)

Go along Blind Lane to Pavement Lane. Cross this road and follow the farm access lane through a couple of gates until you reach a field. Angle left across the field to a gate. Turn left down the access lane in front of farm, Upper West Scausby, and head towards a large gate. Just before it, turn left into the farm yard and curve round to the right into the field. Here angle left towards a house with ten narrow upstairs windows. Go alongside this to a stile at bottom left field corner.

Go through the stile, along a narrow alley with house on left and bungalow on right to Riley Lane. Cross the road and turn left, then right, down the access alongside North Scausby Farm. Through stile to a field with a stile at the bottom right corner.

Go right on the road for approx 30 yards and then left down a short grassed and paved lane to a gate. Turn left on a short stretch along the bottom of the farm to a wooden gate. Continue ahead on a grassy track for about 30 yards and then turn right down a grassy walled track for approx 300 yards. Near the bottom, go through a wall pass onto a path with a brook on the left. Go through another wall pass, over a brook and immediately right into the tree area.

Here are a series of ponds. Follow the path to the right of the first pond and follow this until just before the third pond. Here take a path to the right where a small bridge leads to a stile and a field.

Cross this diagonally to the top left-hand corner through a metal gate. This is the least scenic part of the whole walk. Follow the path through an industrial estate and continue on to Holdsworth House residential hotel. Enter the drive by the hotel and follow to the end, to Holdsworth Road with St Catherine's High School opposite.

Turn left and follow the road downhill and round the corner to a junction, on the left, also called Holdsworth Road. Turn left here and left again on Brow Lane and follow this uphill. Pass some terraced houses on the left at School Cote. 100 yards further up the road, turn right onto the steeply cobbled Crooked Lane. On reaching the top, turn left and follow the sign pointing towards the ski slope. This is at the junction of Queensbury Road (A647) and Swalesmoor Road at **Catherine Slack** (2.5 miles).

At the junction, turn right along Swales Moor Road. After about 100 yards turn left opposite the buildings at Slack End, down a steep track with high walls either side. This bends right then left and becomes muddy at an overflowing well. At the next junction, turn sharp right and continue to go through a stile at a gate. Shortly bear left beside a gully walking on stone flags. Follow this down, angling left to a stile and wall pass at a wood.

Go over a stile with Scout Hall on the right. *Built in 1681 and known as a 'calendar building': it has 365 window panes, 52 doors, 12 bays. The original owner, John Mitchell, silk importer is said to have held wild gambling parties. Pevsner (architectural historian) described it as a 'half-derelict palace'.*

Angle left to a stile and down a path, later beside a stream and down steps to the bridge at the bottom. Cross and climb steps to a gate at Simm Carr Lane.

Turn right on the lane until the first building Simm Carr, on the right with a white gate at far end. Opposite is a stile and rising path. Follow this to the top and then over a stile on the left. Go along top edge of field to stile in corner into next rising field. Go up this, close to left-hand edge and over stile into steeper field

with stone flags. Go through wall pass and into a lane. Turn right up the lane, go through the gate and then farm and on to the main road.

At the junction, turn right on Paddock Road and continue to dwellings at Cowling Lane. Turn left, then after 30 yards, turn right through a stile., A path rises to a stile at the top. Turn right then almost immediately left, between large boulders.

Follow the path and turn left at junction, continuing up the path to a cross junction. Here turn right to a road. On the opposite side of the road is a step stile, leading through fields around the back of the farm. At the end of the third field, ignore the gate to the left and continue ahead through stiles to a road. Turn left on Hud Hill Road and follow to meet the main Brighthouse and Denholmegate road at the Duke of York Inn and Stone Chair.

Cross over the road and go round the Inn to go down West Street. Continue ahead and then along and up Cock Hill Lane; this becomes Shelf Hall Lane. Pass the junior school on the left and after another 100 yards turn right down a passage in between buildings with Calderdale Way signpost. This emerges on Bradford Road (A6036), at **Shelf** (2.75 miles).

Cross the road to an unmade lane, Bridle Stile. Keep the park on the left and follow the lane downhill. Continue for approximately half-a-mile to meet a farm at the end called Dean Head. Go over a stile on the left and angle right down towards another stile. Go down and over a bridge and up 114 steps to a lane.

Regain breath, then turn right downhill and pass a house to where a stile leads along a path through the top of North Wood. At the end bear left through an opening into a field. Angle right uphill, towards a pylon, to a stile. Turn right and follow the wall side into a grassy lane leading to Middle Ox Heys Farm and then onto Norwood Green.

At the main road, turn left and follow, passing the Old White Beare pub. Continue down to the War Memorial at the crossroads.

Turn right on Rookes Lane, past the swings and then left on unmade road passing Norwood Terrace on the left. Go down the track, passing Upper Rookes Hall on the right and then the Cricket field.

Keep to the left boundary of the cricket field and walk down to cross over a railway bridge and turn right into a field. Follow this downhill to where a stile takes you across the A58 main road. On the opposite side, to the right of Nord Green Nurseries, another stile enters a field. Bear left and follow down to a small bridge.

Go through the ginnel at housing estate and down Victoria Road all the way to then end and left around the corner of the former Punch Bowl pub at the **Bailiff Bridge** (3 miles) crossroads.

Go over the main Bradford Road (A641) and up Birkby Lane beside Clifton House. Just before the viaduct, take the road on the right, Birkhouse Road. The road bears left under the arch of a defunct railway bridge then right along Woolrow Lane (ignore road up left) continue along and then curve down right around Common End Farm. Continue up the steep hill towards a bungalow on the left and Woolrow Farm.

Turn left around the back of the bungalow to a stile. Then turn right and follow the wall to descend the hill to the bottom, climbing over stiles and through fields. At the bottom right corner is an opening onto Thornhills Beck Lane.

Turn right and head downhill. After approx 100 yards turn left up some steps, over a stile and follow the path uphill to a gap in the wall at the right corner. Turn right onto Thornhills Lane following the road as it turns sharp right and left. At this corner is a house that was once a 'fever' hospital.

In 1892 a smallpox epidemic began at Clifton. Only 56 days later the isolation hospital was built and opened. 300 people in total contracted the disease, 29 died; Brighouse became a 'ghost town'.

After about 200 yards turn right at a signpost and a stile to a path through a field. Follow this downhill to a gap in the wall. Turn immediately left, keeping the wall on the left and the trees on the right, (the disused rail line). Continue to some steps which lead down to a main road (A643).

Cross and go down Alegg Street. Turn right onto Wakefield Road (A644), left into Grove Street and then right, along Mill Lane to Sainsbury's, **Brighouse** (2 miles) and the finish of the walk.