

## Walk 3: Baildon Walkers are Welcome Ladderbanks Lane, Esholt and the River Aire circuit

**5 miles (8km) Circular**

132 metre ascent

Allow approx 2½ hours



### The walk start point

A memorial which is known in Baildon as the Potted Meat Stick. It is in the centre of Baildon next to the roundabout. Grid reference SE155397.

### Walk Information

This is one of 4 walks planned by **Baildon Walkers are Welcome** - a local group linked to the national Walkers are Welcome and supported by Baildon Town Council. This is a walk of moderate difficulty; having some steep sections and some paths, particularly by the river, which are uneven. These require much care when wet, and may be impassable after heavy rain.

You will require strong footwear and outdoor clothing to suit the season. There are refreshment opportunities on the route. This walk is not suitable for wheelchairs, pushchairs and people with limited mobility. Look out for cafés and shops in Baildon showing Walkers are Welcome stickers for pre or post walk refreshments!



### Car Parking

Pay and Display car park next to the Potted Meat Stick.

### Public transport

Seven day regular bus service from Bradford through Shipley (625/626/656/658/659).

Less frequent 649 service from Shipley only.

For further travel information contact Metrolink on 0113 245 7676 or visit: [www.wymetro.com](http://www.wymetro.com)

The start of the walk is about 15/20 minutes' walk from Baildon railway station which is on the Wharfedale line between Bradford and Ilkley.

To reach the centre of Baildon from Baildon station, walk out up the slope to Station Road. Turn left and take 2nd right turn up Kirkfields. Ascend steadily, round sharp turn to left where the road becomes Holden Lane. Continue to mini-roundabout and turn left onto Hall Cliffe, which brings you to the centre of Baildon and the Potted Meat Stick.

### The Walk

From the Potted Meat Stick walk up Hall Cliffe. Pass the church on right and community garden on left. At the double mini-roundabout, cross Heygate Lane ahead onto Ladderbanks Lane and follow lane as it narrows and emerges by a bench to open views ahead.

Follow signposted bridleway bearing left, downhill until reaching and passing through a metal gate opening onto a large field with sweeping views to Tong Park Lake.

Cross a wide track and follow path downhill, passing through a gate to a hard track by the edge of the lake. Turn left passing cricket club on left. Go through a five-bar wooden gate and over a footbridge that spans Gill Beck.

Take right fork and almost immediately, fork right again to follow path towards the railway viaduct ahead. Emerge onto golf course fairway. Looking ahead towards the rail viaduct, look for a marker-post up the slope to your left. Head up the fairway (*taking care to avoid golf balls!*),

cross a tarmac track, and head towards the marker-post by a large oak tree. Pass under the branches of the tree and over a stream bed. As the path ascends, look for a footpath marker-post over open grass and near to trees. Follow path into the wood and emerge onto another fairway by another marker-post.

Again taking care when crossing the fairway, head for a "bridge" marked with yellow posts, and then on over a tarmac track to another marker-post on the corner of more woodland. Follow the way marked path into and through the wood and along open paths with the golf course over to the left. Cross a tarmac track and a stile over a stone wall. Turn sharp left and follow the path for a short distance until emerging onto cut grass. Turn right onto a grass path alongside a wall to join a gravel road by houses.

*(If the path over the stone wall is overgrown, turn left onto a tarmac track and follow it round the end of a stone wall. Immediately leave the tarmac track to right, on to the grass path alongside a wall described above to join a gravel road by houses.)*

Keeping the houses on right, follow the road ahead until reaching another group of stone houses, just after a footpath on the left. *(Take this path if you wish to detour for refreshments at Hollins Hall Hotel.)*

Turn right down road which is also a way-marked right of way. Turn right at T junction onto a road over a bridge spanning the Bradford-Ilkley railway line and on to a busy main road, Hollins Hill. Cross this road with great care.

Continue ahead down a signposted bridleway with trees on both sides, to join a lane after a gate. Follow the lane with a stone wall on the right for 100m. Turn right by a lamppost, down a walled path to a road (Esholt Lane). *(To detour to visit the village of Esholt with its pub, The Woolpack, of Emmerdale fame turn left here).*

Turn right - initially on a pavement - towards Esholt Sports Club on your right. Continue along the road in a westerly direction with the River Aire on left. Cross a bridge to see The Old Barn restaurant on the right and the entrance to the Esholt Lane Caravan Site on the left. *(Detour ahead for 20m round bend to access refreshment opportunity at The Old Barn).* Turn left onto a field path across two fields, before joining path along the river bank.

Follow this footpath by the river - take care over exposed tree roots and uneven pavers in places. Continue on this path across Buck Lane, next to a pedestrian bridge over the river, onto a tarmac path. Where this path turns right,

away from the river, continue straight ahead on the riverbank footpath through the Nature Reserve created by Denso Marston. See: <http://www.dm-naturereserve.org.uk/>

Soon after passing a clearing leading to large (locked) metal gates into industrial works, take the first signposted footpath on right which soon has high fences on both sides, between industrial units. At a road, bear right and walk through the industrial estate, to reach Otley Road. Cross this busy road with care – central bollards to left will assist. Go up Fyfe Lane opposite – ascend, passing Dewhirst Road and Fyfe Crescent turnings. Where the road bends to right and becomes Park Mount Avenue, go straight ahead and as road ends, take a track bearing right round the back of houses. Very shortly, turn left on a footpath which becomes a bridge over the railway. Continue ahead on this path – walled on both sides – passing access to roads. Emerge onto a sloping green and keep on the path ahead, ascending to Brook Hill – one of the old hamlets making up Baildon.

Go ahead to cross Station Road *(the railway station is 5 minutes' walk to right)* - and turn left. Take the next turning right - Flower Mount. Follow the pavement with a wall on left and where the road bears right, continue up a narrow ascending path. Up a short flight of steps. Cross the next road and continue up the path with the Parish Church ahead.



At the church-yard wall, turn left up steps to the church yard. Go through the church yard, keeping the church on right, to the lych gate. Joining the road, turn left and walk down to the Potted Meat Stick.

#### 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  
Jacobs Well, Bradford BD1 5RW

Tel: 01274 432666

[www.bradford.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/countryside)



Walk route devised by  
'Baildon Walkers are Welcome'.



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