

Sheet 5: Draughton – Bolton Bridge – Halton East – Draughton (plus shortcut)

Begin by walking East along Church Lane between the Village Hall (left) and the Church (right). Bear right immediately after the first cattle grid and continue past another cattle grid until the lane turns right at ninety degrees (Haynholme). Here you must continue straight ahead through the wooden farm gate and follow the wall downhill to a metal field gate followed immediately by a stone slab bridge over a beck. Cross this and climb the other side of the hill keeping the fencing to your right and continue roughly ENE to a further field gate. Once through this, continue across the fields keeping the wall to your right until reaching another field gate by a small stream (it may be muddy here). Walk through the gate.



Walk straight across the pasture to the field gate on the far side. Pass through this gate and turn left, following the old grassy path steeply downhill, with the wall to your left. There are good views of Bolton Priory, Beamsley Beacon and Simon's Seat from here. Follow the track down over the old railway bridge (GR 0654 5305) and continue down the slope to climb two stiles and reach the A59 Skipton to Harrogate Road. Cross the road with care and negotiate a further stone wall stile on the bank at the other side. Cross the field, and then the footbridge over Hambledon Beck. The field in which you now find yourself, which you must cross diagonally bearing right, may be waterlogged after wet weather. There are steps and a stone stile on the far side of the field. Climbing this brings you to the former main road, now a bridleway (GR 069 532). At 100 m AOD, this is the lowest point on the walk. Turn left here (or detour right for a short way for refreshment at the Abbey Tea Rooms or The Devonshire Arms).

500 m after turning left along the bridleway (GR 065 534) take the stile on the right and walk diagonally up the meadow towards the left-hand tree of a group of three. Cross the stone stile here and walk diagonally across the flat field towards the buildings of Hesketh House farm. Keeping the farm buildings to your immediate left, you must use the heavy double farm gate to reach the minor road on the other side. Go left here and follow the road past Hesketh Farm Park all the way on to the junction with the road into the eastern side of Halton East village (GR 0442 5145). Take care along the road from Hesketh House to Halton East because it is popular with cyclists as well as cars visiting the Farm Park and it is used by agricultural vehicles.

At this junction turn left (S) to reach the eastern end of the village. At 230 m AOD, this is the highest point of the walk. Two thirds of the way down the village street, turn left (GR 042 539) along the short ginnel between buildings, then along a short lane with metal gates at either end,

keeping a cowshed and its concrete apron over the wall to your left. From here, simply head south downhill across stone and wooden field stiles and through the small plantation to reach the A59 (GR 043 533). Cross this, (now three lane) road with care and walk back towards Draughton along Low Lane via Priors Bridge and Draughton Bottom until you reach your starting point.

Shortcut avoiding A59

This walk can be shortened slightly (by about 0.3 km) by turning left immediately after crossing the old railway bridge (GR 0654 5305) as you descend the slope towards the A59. Having turned, walk down this agricultural track parallel with the former cutting on your left side. Turn right when the track enters the field, and make your way down to the old bridge across Hambledon Beck. Having crossed the bridge, turn right to follow the path along the beck side (but turn and follow the path to the left if you want to visit the heritage railway at Bolton Abbey Station – no refreshment facilities). If you turn right, the path takes you under the A59 road bridge, to reach the old line of the main road. Go more or less straight across this and go over the stile (GR 065 534) to resume using the rest of the route towards Hesketh House and on to Halton East.

Food and Drink

The only refreshments to be found are at Bolton Bridge (unless you divert to “Billy Bob’s” while at Halton East). In Bolton Bridge:

“Abbey Tea Rooms” serves hot meals, snacks, cakes, tea, coffee etc.... inside, at outside tables at the back in good weather, and to take away. Dogs are very welcome (free treats usually available). Opening hours are: Daily 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, except on Christmas Day.

“The Devonshire Arms” offers a variety of bars and restaurants. Opening times vary, depending on the service. A dress code may apply in some areas.