

Sheet 6: Hawpike Farm – Roman Road – Draughton Height – Draughton

Going in the reverse direction, anticlockwise, gives better views on this walk, and may be easier to manage as the hardest work is then done at the start of the walk during the climb to Draughton Height.

Travelling clockwise, walk 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).

After passing through this gate, turn slightly to the right to go uphill, diagonally across the field to a wooden stile over a fence (GR 0605 5254). Now turn SE across the field, roughly following the contour and down to the side of Hawpike Farm farm-yard. With the shed to your left, use the gate at the end of the field to reach a farm track. Turn right (S) and uphill along this track, through gates and a stile by a gate (usually locked) for 1 kilometre to reach the remains of Hag Head Laithe (GR 0651 5161), which are on the right, just next to the track.

At Hag Head Laithe bear slightly to the left at the end of the wall (the stone stile immediately opposite the ruins is best avoided as it contains a hidden hazard: the stepped far side is a vertigo inducing height off the ground). Continue more or less south across the fields over a stone wall stile to reach another wall stile to the left (E) of Highfield Farm. Once over the stile, walk across the field either to the gate or the wall stile to its right (you may use either) leading in to the grounds of Bracken Ghyll Golf Club.

Once inside the grounds, turn right and walk diagonally downhill across the course, avoiding the greens and taking care when crossing fairways. The path leaves the Golf Course through a deciduous plantation and emerges shortly afterwards at a lay-by on the A65. There may be a trailer serving snacks and drinks here. There are also bus stops in both directions, and you should cross the road to the stop opposite if you elect to return to Draughton on the bus.

Cross the road with care in any case and – if continuing - climb the wall stile behind the bus stop, following the track down the side of the gully to cross the stream. Continue to follow the track as it curves to the left along the opposite side of the gully. About 20 m after the track starts curving right to climb again, turn left through the field gate (if you reach the gate across the track you have gone a little too far). Pass through a second field gate opposite and turn uphill to begin a steep climb across the centre of the field to reach a third field gate (GR 0628 5048). Then

follow the wall to your left through the next field, making for the back of the house at the top. Follow the gated path round the left (E) side of its garden and drive to reach the Roman Road.

Turn right onto the road and continue along it once it becomes a track to its junction with the Draughton to Silsden Road (300 m AOD) above Draughton Height. If at this point you decided to continue straight ahead along the bridleway to Skipton (perhaps returning to Draughton on the bus) it would add another 6 km (3.7M) to your walk.

If you are heading for Draughton, turn right (N) and walk along the road until you pass the Draughton Height Riding Centre at its farmhouse. As soon as you have passed the house turn left over the stone stile (or through the gate) and continue steeply downhill through the field, over a ladder stile, then a stone stile, down across the stream, then up again to reach the A65. Cross the road with care, then go over the stile on the far side and bear left across the small field to reach the road at the top of Draughton village. Turn left along the road, turn right to walk down the Village Green and then follow the lane downhill to your starting point.

Food and Drink

A mobile snack bar visits the lay-by below Bracken Ghyll Golf Course in the mornings on most working days.

Public transport

There are bus stops in both directions at the lay-by on the A65. The X84 Leeds – Skipton service runs more or less hourly during the day, Monday to Saturday. There is no late evening service, and no service at all on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays. The journey time from the lay-by bus stop to Draughton is just 3-4 minutes. As these stops are little used, bus drivers are unlikely to expect to have to pick up passengers on this fast stretch of road. So indicate clearly and as soon as you see the bus appear if you want to board. Timetable information can be obtained from www.wymetro.com/buses/bus-timetables.