

## **Sheet 7: Draughton – Bolton Bridge – Bolton Abbey – Middle Hare Head – Halton East – Draughton**

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). Go 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. 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). Turn right.

Turn right again at The Devonshire Arms, then left (SE) after passing the Abbey Tea Rooms and Forge Garage. You are again following the line of the old road (now a bridleway). But immediately before you reach the medieval bridge over the River Wharfe, turn left (N) through the gate and continue walking along the river until you reach the access road to Bolton Priory. Unless visiting the Priory and its ruins, turn left and up to the road (B6160). turn right (but divert left for tea shops in Bolton Abbey village). Walk along the road as it rounds the corner and beneath the medieval arch before bearing left along the farm track on the opposite side of the road from the rear of Bolton Hall. This is the start of the Bolton Abbey to Rylstone bridleway.

Continue upwards through the field gate on your right, into the fields, passing the monks' former fish ponds as you do. This will bring you to the entrance to Westy Bank Wood (GR 069 546). Follow the track as it dog-legs left and climbs – often steeply – through the wood and emerge finally on to open rough pasture. Cross this diagonally to a field gate, then across the next field to another field gate. Turn left (W) here, following the wall upwards to Middle Hare Head (at 300 m, the highest point of the route). This part of the bridleway is well used and its line is perfectly clear, but it can get extremely muddy after wet weather, especially if cattle have been in the fields.

Shortly beyond the summit, go through a field gate and turn left (S), down across fields and stiles. (All is not lost if you miss this turn as you can also continue along the bridleway to the cattle grid on the road above Lower Barden Reservoir. If you then cross the grid and reverse

direction on the other side of the wall you are at the top of Moor Lane, and using it will take you back down to Halton East).

*The rough pasture in the fields below Middle Hare Head is favoured by Lapwings, which make rudimentary nests on the ground during spring. Please keep eyes peeled to avoid stepping on their clutches of eggs.* You will come to the minor Bolton Abbey to Halton East Road opposite the turn off for Halton East. Walk across the junction and through the village. 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.

### ***Possible Extension via Lob Wood***

This walk can be extended slightly by diverting right from the Draughton-Bolton Bridge bridleway across the wooden stile (GR 0605 5254) that leads over the field to Hawpike Farm. On the other side of the track beyond the farm buildings, cross one of the stiles that will take you into Lob Wood. Descend through the wood, passing beneath the old brick railway viaduct and emerge through the stile on to the B6160 near the outskirts of Bolton Bridge. Cross the road with care here and turn left. Pass the rough vehicle pull-off and turn right along the waymarked Dales Way. The path leads under the modern road bridge, crosses Hambleton Beck, and climbs up to the old road by the medieval bridge. You can now simply cross the old road and through the gate on the other side to continue the walk to Bolton Priory and beyond.

### ***Food and Drink***

#### ***At 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: Daily 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, except 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.

#### ***At Bolton Abbey:***

**“Tea Cottage”** does lunches, afternoon teas, tea, coffee etc.... Dogs welcome. Opening hours: Daily 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

**“Tea on the Green”** serves soup, sandwiches, cakes, tea and coffee etc.... Dogs welcome. Opening hours: Daily 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

**Ice Creams:** In fine weather there is usually an ice cream van by the pedestrian bridge over the river below the Priory (access from the Church via a wooden gate beyond the ruined East End).