

Please Follow The Country Code

Guard against all risk of fire. Take your litter home.
Leave gates as found. Keep to public paths across farmland.
Help to keep all water clean. Keep dogs under control.
Protect wildlife, plants and trees. Use gates and stiles.
Make no unnecessary noise. Take special care on country roads.
Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone.
Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.

Public Transport

Please use public transport as often as you can.
Timetables are available in Tourist Information Centres, libraries and at the Colne Valley Trust, Slaithwaite.

Buses

There are frequent buses from Huddersfield which run along Manchester Road and call at Linthwaite, Slaithwaite and Marsden.

For timetable information ring 0113 245 7676 or call at Huddersfield Bus Station.

Trains

For local timetable information please ring 0113 245 7676.
For National Rail Enquiry Service ring 0345 484950
Railway stations at Huddersfield, Slaithwaite and Marsden.

Food and Drink

The Colne Valley is well-provided with a range of pubs, restaurants and take-away food outlets to suit all tastes.
For further information see the local press, Tourist Information Centres and the Colne Valley Trust.

Accommodation

For information see the Kirklees Accommodation Guide, available from Tourist Information Centres

Information Points in the Area

Huddersfield Tourist Information, Albion St. 01484 221000
Holmfirth Tourist Information, Huddersfield Road 01484 222444
Colne Valley Trust, Slaithwaite 01484 847790
Mechanics Institute, Peel St., Marsden 01484 843701
Colne Valley Museum, Cliffe Ash, Golcar. (Sat/Sun p.m.) 01484 659762

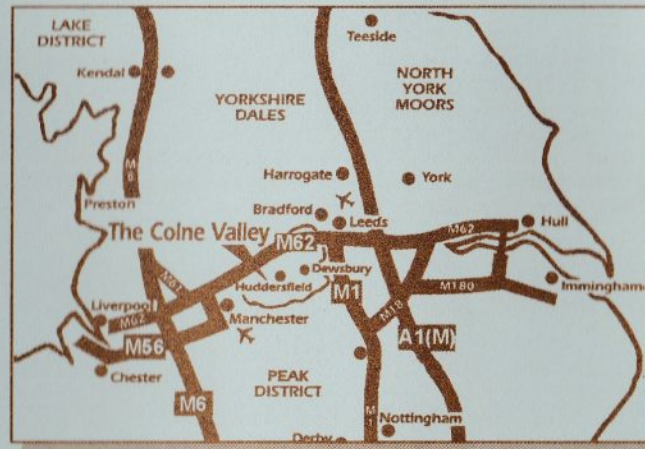
Disclaimer

The Colne Valley Trust, together with the author and artist of this walk, have attempted in all good faith to provide adequate safety warnings and they cannot in any way be held responsible for any claims arising from damage to person or property. It is in the best interest of walkers to observe these safety warnings. Please note also that the route of this walk does not imply a right of way. The walk may take advantage of permissive paths. The definitive guide to the rights of way on this walk can be found at the Highways Service, Flint Street, Huddersfield.

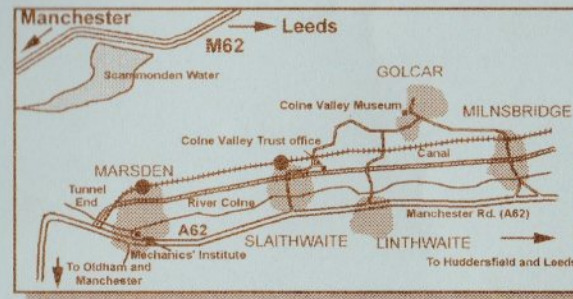
Acknowledgements

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Text of the walk by Margaret Hill.

Where we are...



The Colne Valley



COLNE
VALLEY
TRUST

Partnership
Rural
Development
Area



Kirklees
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

TOGETHER WE LEAD
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The Colne Valley Trail

A series of Countryside
and Village Walks



Golcar Milnsbridge Circular



A fairly strenuous, scenic walk
which links many of the settlements
of the Lower Colne Valley

Golcar Milnsbridge Circular

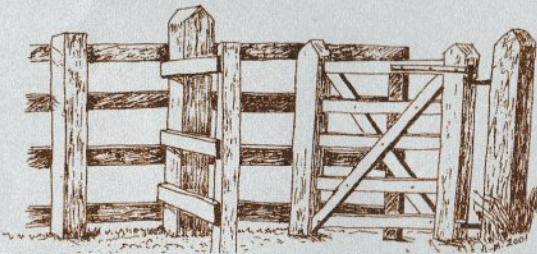
A surprisingly scenic route of eight miles, using both sides of the valley. In some places it is rough or steep and at times parts may be overgrown. It can be shortened in several ways. Boots are essential.

STARTING AT GOLCAR

1. If starting at Town End, Golcar, the route can be joined by going down Cliffe Ash (nearly opposite the church), turning sharp left at the bottom into Small Lane. Just before a five road junction take the path on the right **down the side** of a converted small mill (Clay Well sign on the side). The path may be overgrown and the steps at the bottom can be slippery. There is no pavement where you come out onto the road (Brook Lane).

Turn right, cross with care and go down the steps nearly opposite the bus stop. Cross the footbridge and go forward. Squeeze past the barrier and go up the path. Bear left between holly hedge and fence, then up a short driveway to the road. Turn left and continue as far as Lowestwood Lane, by the school,

As you turn down it notice the inscription 'Wellhouse Schools 1880' on the gable end. Just below this go left and then down to pass the end of Hope Terrace. After the bottom house the way veers left on a muddy footpath and crosses the railway by way of a footbridge. Turn left into an area of young trees. Follow the main path diagonally across to a kissing gate and out to another path.



2. Turn right for a short distance then at the wall-end go left into the trees, soon descending steps to a landscaped grassy area. **This is Appleyard, the site of a former sewage works. Notice the double viaduct.** Cross to the gate opposite and at the track go right and follow it to where it meets the road. Take the steeply descending lane on the right (Ramsden Mill Lane), passing Bankfield Mill, a former loomshop (c.1840). Continue forward on the footpath and cross the canal bridge. Bear left and then right over the river and up between works premises. (For a quick and easy way to Milnsbridge, follow the canal towpath to the left)

3. The most direct but overgrown way is to take the path on the left just past the railings (chimney on right). This is level at first, through trees, then rises diagonally through a bramble and raspberry thicket and nettles before emerging on Manchester Road.

A less challenging alternative uses the main track (still Ramsden Mill Lane) up to Manchester Road.

4. In either case turn left and walk along as far as the Milnsbridge sign. Cross with care and go up the long flight of steps by the bus stop to a road (Yew Tree Lane). Turn left and go up to Cowlersley Lane. There notice the old cottages on the right.

Turn left and go downhill as far as a lane on the right between a small supermarket and a bus stop. Follow it to the housing estate, ignoring turnings, and go forward to the far end of Ayres Drive where a footpath starts. As you climb you can enjoy the extensive view on the left.

At the cross-paths take the left-hand one. A few yards after passing a terrace of houses, a wide path will be seen going down on the left. Do not take it but pass between stone gateposts at the top of it on the right to enter an area of young woodland. Descend diagonally and emerge at the fence corner to join a path. Turn right and follow it past a mill pond, through the churchyard and out on to a narrow road (Deep Lane).

5. Cross, with care, to the stile and gateway opposite. Follow this path, gradually uphill at first then levelling out. Ignore any branches going uphill. The path eventually becomes a concrete drive before reaching a road (Park Road West). Cross, turn briefly left, then down a long flight of steps to Manchester Road.

Once safely across, turn right. Unfortunately this busy road cannot be avoided. Walk past buildings and metal railings as far as the signposted fourth gap in the wall on the left (opposite a row of houses). Descend, with care, this somewhat overgrown path.

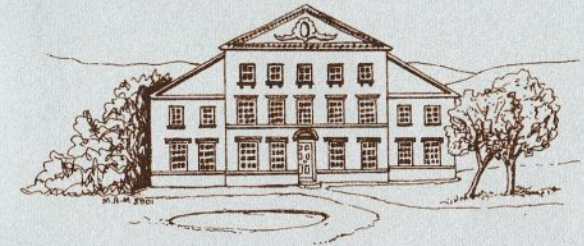
6. Emerge by the new bridge over the canal.

The quickest way to Milnsbridge is to turn left here and follow the towpath.

Go over the canal bridge and shortly afterwards across the footbridge over the River Colne. Follow the stepped path up to the green area on the left alongside the road (Upper Brow Road) at Paddock. Before long you have to join the road and continue to the left as far as the sharp bend. Go forward on the left-hand track (to Kennels). The footpath lies to the left of the gate and goes down some steps. Go forward, ignoring any turnings. Pass a scrap yard on the right, then go through a small industrial estate and forward at the crossroads.

At the fourth lamp-post on the right take the path up the side of railings then up some steps. Turn left on the road (Armitage Road) and left again at the Police Station, down Dowker Street, for a view of the back of the formerly grand Milnsbridge House.

7. Walk round the corner to see the front. Its date is uncertain but c.1750, shown here as it was in its heyday.

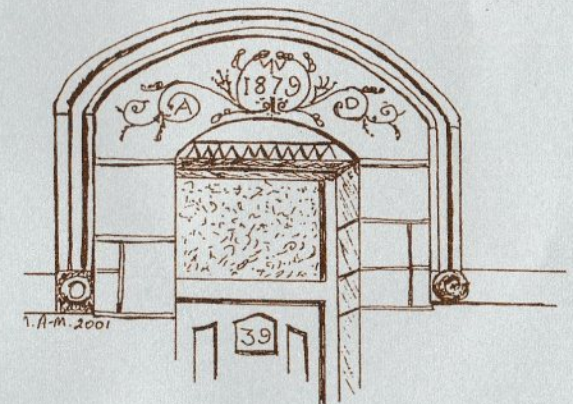


It is hard to visualise this as a handsome Roman-style house, the front facing a beautiful lawn and lake, all surrounded by trees and bushes and set in open countryside!

It was the home of the Radcliffes and later the Armitages. Joseph Radcliffe was the magistrate most instrumental in restoring law and order at the time of the Luddite riots in 1812 (for which he was knighted). By 1911 the house had been sub-divided and the gardens were streets of houses surrounded by mills, chimneys and workshops. It is now occupied by industrial units.

The name Milnsbridge is derived from the fact that the corn mill of Longwood stood close to the bridge over the river here. A narrow corridor of land stretched down from the hillside township to the river at what became "Mylnesbrigg".

Turn back and proceed along George Street towards Kwik Save. Notice the 1879 decorative pediments on the houses on the left and on the diametrically opposite corner, Savile Place 1879. Turn right at the crossroads and go up the road (Market Street).



STARTING AT MILNSBRIDGE

8. Just before the viaduct (*notice the double nature of its construction*) take the tarmac path on the right (just above 'Private Road'). At the top where the path meets a road go left under the railway and cross the road with great care to the track opposite. Go left along it and then just after a high retaining wall go up steps on the right.

If you encounter problems here return to the road and use the alternative route (see the sketch map).

PATH

Follow the footpath over the projected building site, climbing almost to the road, then turn and descend alongside the wall on your right until, not far above a stream, the wall turns sharp right uphill.

ROAD

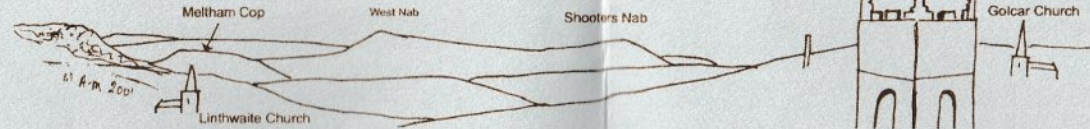
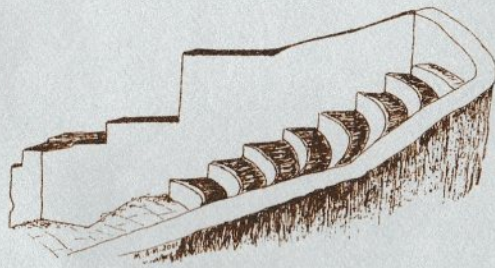
Follow the route indicated on the sketch map by the stars then join the path again at one of the gaps in the wall at A or B.

Note Nab End Tower on the hill in front.

Continue forward, now with a low field wall on your left. Cross the stream and follow the wall up to a stone stile. Go along the concrete path, on the right of the new houses, which soon turns right and up a few steps to join the estate road. Turn right to reach the main road (Thornhill Road).

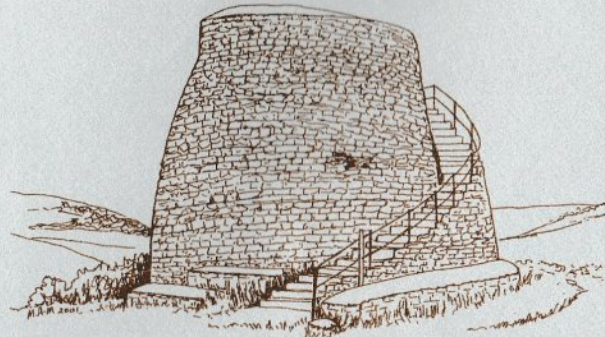
9. Carefully cross this busy road and turn left. After a few yards go up the steep flight of stone steps to an unmade road. (Alternatively you can continue on the main road and go up the shorter set of steps at the side of the 'Rose and Crown' PH.) Turn left. Then just before some garages, go sharp right up a walled path which then bends left. The next turn to the right would take you to the site of the Longwood 'Sing', a short but steep diversion. (An easier approach can be made later).

Our route goes forward into a wooded area, with a graveyard on the left. It rises to an open area by a pole where you can pause to look at the view. *Longwood church is in the foreground, West Nab and Deer Hill lie in the distance, Scapegoat Hill on the right. The spires of Linthwaite and Golcar churches face one another across the Colne Valley.*



On reaching the level grassy track, turn to the right to Nab End Tower. The amphitheatre where the open-air 'Sing' is held is on the right as you approach the tower.

The 'Sing' was first held in 1873, then annually on Thump Sunday (now the first Sunday in September). There is a gathering of vocalists and instrumentalists whose musical performance raises money for local charities.



The Tower was constructed in 1860-1 by a group of unemployed men, a blind mason helping to direct their labours. Preachers and other speakers would use it to address the crowds gathered around. Bonfires were lit on special occasions. In 1895 this natural recreation ground was presented to the people of Longwood.

The view is spectacular even if you do not climb the tower.

10. When you have explored this area, facing the date on the tower, turn very sharp left and follow the narrow, rising path which soon runs along the edge. Make for a wall-end, pass between gate-posts and keep to the left of the wall. The path becomes a rough track dropping down to a minor road. Cross this road and go down Cow Gate opposite.

At the road (Longwood Gate) go left and take the next right (Prospect Road). *This whole area was until fairly recently the site of great mills. Now there is the green expanse of Nettleton Hill and its nearby woods visible ahead.*

11. Cross and continue as far as a brick electricity sub-station on the left and go down the signed path beside it. Cross the road to the driveway between two mills, then up the steps ahead. This footpath comes out by the Albert PH. Turn right and cross the road (Leymoor Road) and go right. Walk past the supermarket on the corner of Sycamore Avenue and go left round the back of it. Take

the flagged path along the side of the grassed area and then continue in the same direction up the road, over the waste ground and forward across a minor road and along the footpath opposite.

Cross the next small road and almost at once jink right and left through the wall to the footpath by Moorcroft Farm. After a few yards branch to the right opposite the farm. Cross the estate road to a continuation of the path which leads to Leymoor Road where you turn left. Cross and proceed as far as a bus stop at a bend.

For a quick way to Golcar continue up the road.

12. Turn right along the branch road. Just after it has bent to the left take the bridleway on the right, Hollin Hall Lane. Where it divides take the left-hand fork and climb steeply up. (The upper part is difficult if icy).

On a clear day a splendid view unfolds behind you. Longwood Reservoirs, Longwood Edge, Huddersfield and the Colne Valley and much of your route can be picked out, as can many more distant features. Continue your climb in the general direction of Scapegoat Hill. At the top of the setted track go up the steps and on up the road as far as the first building on the left.

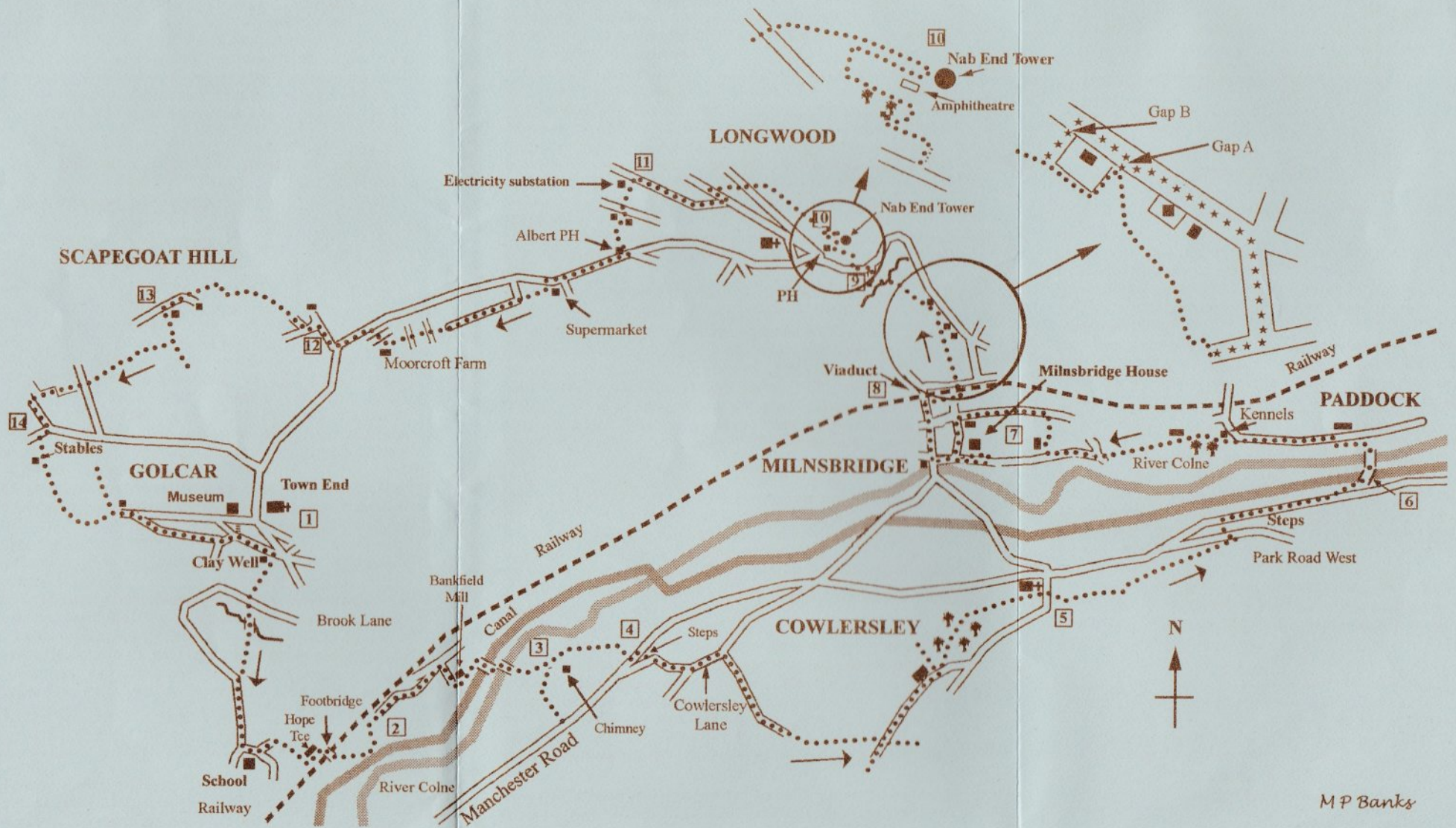
13. Round its upper side is a stile of sorts which you squeeze through. Go forward through the next stile. Golcar soon appears below you. Cross the next stile and go very sharp right, uphill to the wall which you follow along the hillside.

Squeeze between the bars of a barrier and as you go along the narrow path beware the barbed wire on the left. A short driveway leads to a very narrow lane (a quick way down to Golcar). Go left for a few yards then right, up steps by a lamp-post. The wall is on your left in the first field and on your right in the second one. Go down steps to the road, cross it and turn downhill.

14. At the junction turn right on Slades Road. Cross to the signed concrete pathway on the left before the bus stop. Go through gates and through the gap on the right of the gate by the stables. Go forward down the field, keeping parallel to the wall on the left. Go through the barrier and soon reach a road-end.

A short way down, turn right and follow this to the next junction. *Here note the weavers' windows in the houses on the left.*

Fork left, go up the steps ahead and then right uphill, to return to Town End, Golcar.



M P Banks