

A Guide To THE CALVERLEY MILLENNIUM WAY

CALVERLEY MILLENNIUM WAY

BEGINNINGS

At a meeting of a few Calverley residents in January 1996 to discuss ideas for the millennium celebrations, a suggestion was made to revive in some form the ancient custom of "beating the bounds". From this came the plan to create a circular walk round the boundary of Calverley Village, an idea which received general approval at a public meeting in June 1996.

The ancient ceremony of "beating the bounds" originated in the Middle Ages when, led by the vicar, large numbers processed round the parish boundaries in spring (Rogationtide). Prayers were said for the success of the harvest and the boundary markers were blessed, repaired and if necessary repainted. The whole occasion almost always included either refreshments on the way or a parish feast at the conclusion, and boys who were at the party were given sweets, fruit and ribbons so that they would not forget where they had been.

After the English Civil War, parishes started buying long white wands with which the boys, during the Rogation walks, were encouraged to beat the boundary markers so that they would remember just where these were. Sometimes the boys were physically "bumped" to keep their memories of the boundaries alive!

In the last two hundred years the old boundaries have become blurred or forgotten, and the Millennium Way cannot follow any of the modern ones; it does, however, cover all the pleasant areas surrounding the village. Perhaps those who walk it may recall the old custom of "beating the bounds" and may be encouraged not only to remember the extent of Calverley but also to be active in protecting it against all forms of encroachment.

This edition of the Guide to the Millenium Way is dedicated to the memory of Mr Edward (Ted) Garnett JP, one of the driving forces behind the creation of this project.

INTRODUCTION

The way can be started at any point and can be walked in a clockwise or anti-clockwise direction. It covers a distance of approximately seven miles, plus a loop access path of a quarter of a mile at Apperley Bridge; it is divided into four sections, each with a refreshment point at the end for those who would like a break on the circuit or for others who may wish only to attempt one or two sections [or less].

The walk directions which follow, are described in a clockwise direction since this gives a better line of sight when crossing the three roads, Rodley Lane, Woodhall Lane and Carr Road. *For the purpose of this pamphlet* the starting point has been taken as Calverley Bridge where there is a picnic area and some space to park cars on the Horsforth side of the river.

Stout footwear is advisable, especially during wet weather.
Please observe the Country Code:

- **Keep to the paths, especially across farmland**
- **Respect private property**
- **Leave no litter but take yours home**
- **Keep dogs under control always**
- **Avoid damaging walls, fences and stiles**
- **Protect all forms of wildlife**

BROOKFIELD SECTION

Calverley Bridge to Calverley Lane – approximately 1 mile

Cross the river by Calverley Bridge, going straight forward, up the steps and the slope to the towpath. [Plate 1]

The bridge was built by Sir Walter Calverley in 1711, replacing several fords between Apperley and Kirkstall. The first bridge being demolished by floods in 1775. The present one from 1776.

Until the last century the hamlet of Calverley Bridge was an essential part of Calverley Mill, a building which was as important to Calverley folk as the parish church and the Old Hall. The mill site is now an overgrown mound immediately upstream from the bridge end, but it was a corn mill before 1259 and a fulling mill in about 1320. After almost five hundred years of continuous activity a new woollen mill was built in 1788 only to be disastrously destroyed (uninsured) by a fire thirty four years later. By 1832 a larger four-storey building with two water-wheels had been erected and this was in production until the end of the century when decline set in. The building was sold in 1920.

The road from Calverley Bridge to Rodley was called Mill Lane. It is impossible to estimate how many journeys the people of Calverley have made this way, bringing their corn to be ground and their clothes to be fulled!

Cross the Leeds & Liverpool Canal by the swing bridge.

Although the canal to Liverpool was not completed until 1816, the whole length from Skipton to Leeds was built in 1777 and in June that year the first barges passed by Calverley Wood.

The canal brought coal from the mining area, wool from Hull Docks and lime from the Yorkshire uplands – a lime kiln was built at the edge of the hamlet. It also enabled stone from Calverley quarries to be shipped down to Leeds and beyond, and over to Lancashire.

Proceed straight up Station Fields to the main road, Rodley Lane.

On the ridge towards Calverley is Calverley House Farm. Calverley House was built in 1806 and was described as having the finest outlook in the Aire Valley. It was soon occupied by a succession of prominent wool men escaping to Calverley from the smoke of Bradford; Samuel C. Lister (Lord Masham) of Manningham Mills was born here in 1815.

WOODHALL SECTION

Calverley Lane to Fagley Lane – approximately 2.5 miles

Turn right up the main road towards the village, keeping to the footpath for about 170 yards; then cross the road to a wide path between the houses and the fields. Keep right when path divides.

The fine Victorian house on your left (now no. 91) was Brookfield, once the home of Zachariah Yewdall who died in 1931, and whose father had in 1859 built The Grange, just higher up the road. Father and son were in control of Calverley Mill for over fifty years from 1842; they also owned considerable acreage of land each side of Calverley Lane.

The way now goes down the wide path to the playing fields and round the edge of them. In an anti-clockwise direction, to a path running alongside a garden centre. The land for this permissive path has been generously given by Gawthorp Bros. of Lodge Farm and is to be known as the Gawthorp Way. Up the side is an award winning dry stone wall (The Rotary Millennium Wall) built by the Rotary Club of Calverley and commemorated by a stone pillar at the top of the rise. The pillar was unveiled by the Lord Mayor of Leeds in February 2005 and also marks the Centenary Year of Rotary International. (Plate 2)

Proceed up the Gawthorp Way to Calverley Lane.

From Calverley Lane there is a good view of the fields from Rodley running up to Calverley. The field in the middle distance was the Show Field for the Pudsey Agricultural Show for more than thirty years from 1960.

As the land rises towards **The Calverley Arms** there is a small clump of trees, the approximate site of the Calverley Spa which became briefly famous in 1837. There a spring was uncovered whose waters quickly gained a reputation for curing many ailments, from consumption to sore eyes. The liquid was a golden colour and was said to taste of unripe crab apples. Thousands of visitors from Bradford and Leeds flocked to buy bottles of this marvel, but when one woman died from drinking too much its popularity quickly faded; by 1839 it was a forgotten spring once more.

Cross the road, turn right and walk along Calverley Lane towards Calverley, until coming to a dip and bend in the road where, on the left, is a footpath.

Along this high road to Leeds many generations of Calverley clothiers carried their woollen pieces to the twice-weekly market, on a pony if they had one but on their heads if not. An extremely early start was needed. The Coloured Cloth Hall, which opened in 1756, started trading in summer at 8.30a.m. Before this, the market was in Briggate and here trading in summer opened at 6.00a.m. Any unsold pieces had, of course, to be carried back home for the next sale.

From Calverley Lane, proceed up the field path to the right of a wall for 100 yards as far as a gate, and then cross the next field in a diagonal path to the top corner, just to the right of the bungalow.

PLEASE CLOSE ALL GATES ON THIS SECTION OF THE WAY.

This field was earlier called Rushey Weaks and in the 1830's was tenanted together with the one adjoining, by the well known Hall family living on a small farm at the bottom of Blackett Street. These fields show how dispersed farm holdings were until just recently. The other fields occupied by Halls were off Woodhall Road and off Carr Road at the top of Calverley Cutting.

Go down a short fenced path, cross a private drive and almost opposite go through a kissing gate and along a wall side to a further kissing gate leading into a large field.

The houses to the left and right were built in the mid-nineteenth century. On the left is Woodville, a fine example of a Victorian villa and for thirty years the home of Henry Hainsworth. At the top of the rise on the right is Hazlebrae, built for Joseph Ross, a small Farsley mill owner.

Keeping the wall to the right, the path descends to a small valley (muddy sometimes in wet weather!) and then rises to a farm gate.

THIS SECTION CAN BE VERY MUDDY.

The valley was the bed of an earlier stream called the Red Beck (perhaps from the colour of the water) and it was a prominent feature on Calverley maps from 1600. The beck goes under Shell Lane 300 yards higher up, a point that used to be described as a bog!

The field over which the path rises towards the farm was formerly called Chapel Ing or the Chapel Meadow.

Go round to the left of Wadlands Farm to a kissing gate in the hedge, leading on to Priesthorpe Road.

The manor of Wadlands, covering over 300 acres, was always independent of Calverley until bought by Sir Walter in 1728. When it was first referred to, five hundred years earlier, it was in the possession of the Thornour family whose members are buried in the South aisle of Calverley Parish Church (formerly called Wadlands Quire). The estate passed through marriage to two prominent Bradford families, first the Bollings and then the Tempest, until sold in 1581 to Edward Oldfield. Just as at Calverley Hall, Wadlands had its own private chapel and chaplain. The field "Chapel Ing" commemorates this foundation, and it is possible that the name "Priesthorpe" is so called from the priest at the hall.

Turn right up Priesthorpe Road and after 400 yards there is a turning on the left into Priethorpe Lane

The two large mansions opposite Wadlands Farm are The Grange and Springwood built respectively by two prominent Farsley brothers Isaac and Reuben Gaunt, both woollen men.

Go along Priesthorpe Lane, which after 200 yards is joined from the right by a narrow track leading from Shell Lane and Calverley. A further fifty yards on is a gap in the wall on the right and a footpath sign. Do NOT follow this sign, but continue forwards beyond Priesthorpe Farm.

At this point, on the right the field occupies roughly the position of the old hamlet of Priesthorpe. A map of 1609 indicates a settlement of five houses extending to the present Priesthorpe Farm. Little appears to have changed in the next 150 years, but by the 1850s the main buildings were just two farm complexes.

The inhabitants of Priesthorpe were involved in farming and cloth making. What was unusual here, as indicated by two wills in 1617, was that wool combs were in use showing that worsted and not woollen fabrics were being made. Almost uniquely in the surrounding wide area, Calverley village cloth makers produced solely woollens until a few years before World War Two.

Sixty yards after passing Priesthorpe Farm, the lane comes to a path on the right leading up the fields.

Priesthorpe Lane a hundred years ago known as "Mucky Loin", is on the old way from Calverley via Shell Lane to Owlcotes and Pudsey.

Go up this path, which soon emerges on to an open field with a well-worn track leading up and to the right of a length of wall. Through a gap here the walk is straight across a stretch of golf fairway, then a patch of rough ground and again the fairway. [Keep a lookout for golfers!] Finally, keeping just to the left of the house ahead, it crosses a field to a wall gap into Woodhall Lane.

The final field next to Woodhall Lane was called Tenter Close, that is, the area where cloths, damp from fulling and scouring at the mill, were stretched out on tenter hooks to dry. This could be an anxious time for small clothiers when there was no drying wind. After local mills started building steam-heated tenter rooms [Clover Greaves by 1838, Calverley Bridge Mill by 1842] outside tenting became obsolete. Turn around and enjoy the magnificent view towards Leeds and beyond often called "surprise view" [Plate 2]

Walkers will be welcomed at Calverley Golf Club for refreshments.

Possible Digression

WOODHALL LAKE (THE BLUE LAGOON)

In 2013 the Friends of Woodhall Lake Group combined with Calverley Project 2000 and so now we are involved with trying to improve Woodhall Lake. Over a number of years a considerable amount of voluntary work was some by the Friends of Woodhall Lake and we don't want to let this now deteriorate. The overall management of Woodhall Lake is carried out by Parks & Countryside Division of Leeds City Council.

We want to encourage people to walk round the lake and perhaps volunteer to help maintain it. The detour from Calverley Millennium Way to the lake is easily achieved. When crossing Woodhall Lane from Calverley Golf Course on the Golf Club side turn left in a southerly direction. On your right hand side you will reach Woodhall Lake. This is an easily accessed path which goes around the lake and a link path shown on the map which leads back onto Millennium Way.

Turn right up Woodhall Lane and cross opposite the entrance to Woodhall Hills hamlet. Woodhall Hills was first recorded in the Calverley Charters in 1265. During the intervening centuries until quite recently it was always a self-contained community involved almost wholly with farming, cloth making and later quarrying. By the middle of the nineteenth century there were twenty six households with a shop, a beerhouse and a butcher. The imposing building on the left is the old hall, long associated with the Richardson family, George (died 1696) and John (died 1719).

After the Calverleys moved to Esholt in 1666 the Richardsons were the leaders in the parish for almost sixty years, filling from time to time all the local positions of responsibility.

The building on the right facing the road carries a stone inscription recording its foundation in 1837 as a Sunday School for all denominations. By the early 1900s it became also the social centre for the community with regular fund-raising events, a concert party, whist drives and Christmas parties. The number of children in Woodhall Hills had declined sharply by 1978 and the school was sold in 1980. A previous owner, David Walter recorded all the initials of his friends around the sun dial on the cottage wall. His granddaughter Katie, is recorded on the long John chimney pot.

Go straight forward through the hamlet and to a walled track through a small wood. Continue as this bears to the left and enters the golf course. DO NOT take the path to the right by the quarry, nor the stile on the right.

The stone from the Woodhall quarries is known as Elland Flag. It has a very even grain and so splits easily, making it suitable for paving stones and roofing. The quarries closed in the early 1980's.



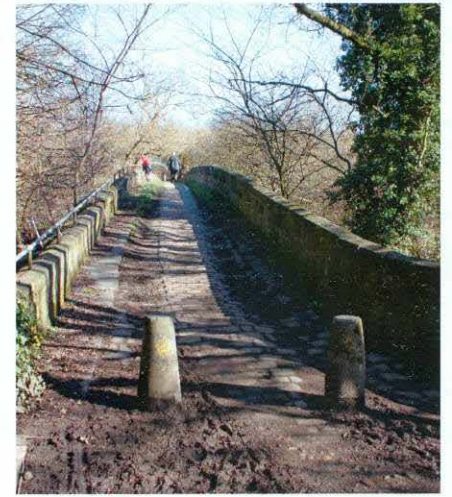
Brookfield WW1 Memorial, Rodley



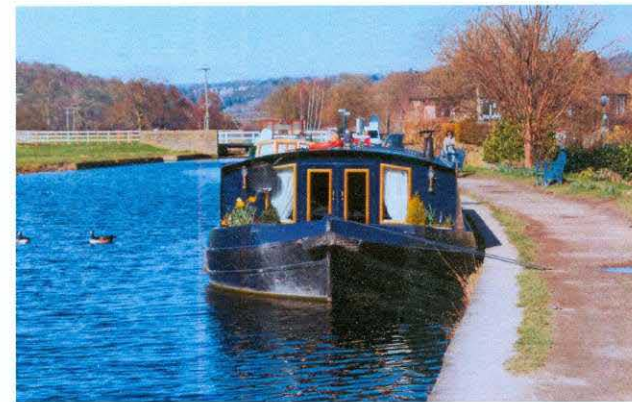
Woodhall Lake



Rotary Club of Calverley Owl Monument



Packhorse Bridge

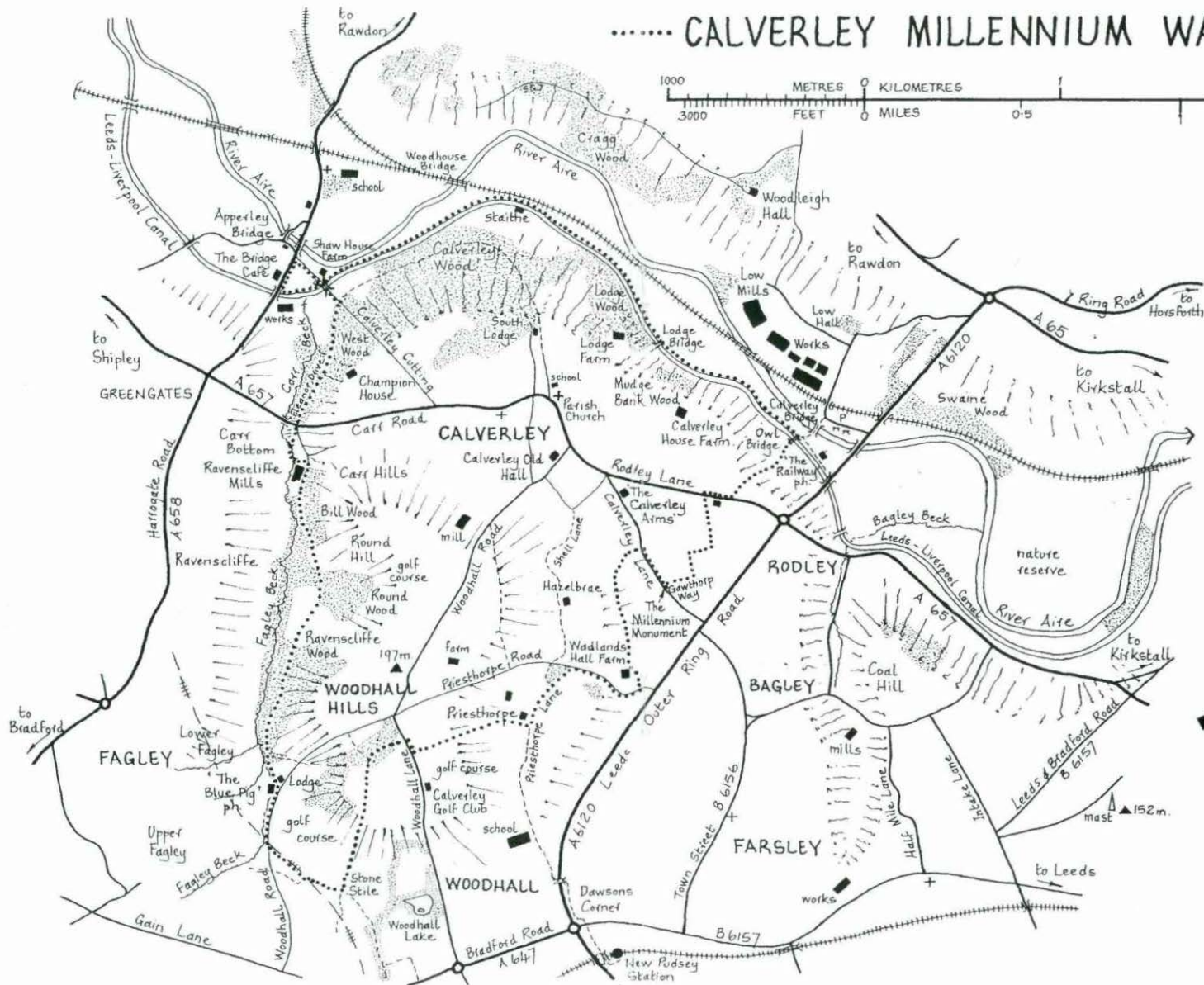


Leeds Liverpool Canal, Rodley



The Railway Public House

..... CALVERLEY MILLENNIUM WAY



Proceed straight across the golf course, taking care to watch for golfers. At first the path keeps to the left of a line of trees. It then crosses the open fairway to a short walled path closed by a gate. Go along this to a small rough open space. Here is the site of the old settlement of Stone Stile, located on the edge of Calverley Moor (now called Bradford Moor). It was an area where land ownership was sometimes hotly disputed, and not without reason the Calverleys had recorded on their rent list of 1625 that Stone Stile had always been their property since "ancient times".

In the 1620s the hamlet had four principal residents; one, Richard Akeroyd. Was notable not only for being a churchwarden but also for living to the age of 93.

By 1800 the cloth-makers here had become partly mechanised and had installed a horse-driven wheel to drive a slubber for carding their wool. Sadly they were already out of date as steam engines in the neighbourhood began to do such jobs even better!

From Stone Stile, go right through a wall gap, over a further stretch of fairway (again watch for golfers) and then through a gap in the edge immediately opposite and to the left of an obvious mound. Look for a gap in the boundary trees. Turn right and continue straight down the path, ignoring all diversion signs. The path soon descends to a wide road by the side of a disused viaduct.

The railway line here was a branch of the Great Northern Railway, linking in a wide loop the Bradford Great Northern and Midland stations via Eccleshill, Idle, Windhill and Shipley. The line was opened in 1872.

Turn right along the wide track (Woodhall Road) which comes. after 400 yards, to a small lodge with the Blue Pig Pub over Fagley Beck on the left. All walkers are welcome.

RAVENSCLIFFE SECTION

Fagley Lodge to Apperley Bridge - approximately 1.5 miles

At the lodge the road divides, with a broad track running up to the right. Take the lower path to the left of the lodge.

The lodge is Farsley Lodge, the first of four built in the Calverley area by the Thornhill Trustees in the early 1850s. The broad track on the right starts almost on Bradford Road, comes down in a wide arc to Fagley and then goes over Woodhall to Priesthorpe. It is by far the longest of the access roads (or sale roads) constructed at this time on Thornhill lands in Farsley and Bradford Moor, and was seemingly laid out for the sale first of building plots at Priesthorpe - though no houses were actually built there.

Fagley Lodge, designed for an estate caretaker, became the home for the caretaker at Woodhall Quarries.

Go straightforward through a wooded area as the path slopes down to Ravenscliffe Mills, ignoring all tracks to the left down to the Beck and any tracks to the right.

The woods on the right are Ravenscliffe Wood, Round Wood and Bill Wood: between the last two and across the field is a good view up to the Round Hill and Carr Hills.

On the left, in the valley and half way between the lodge and the mills, was the notable site of a medieval iron working on both sides of the stream. A substantial dam was built to provide water-power for drop hammers, and in 1377 the Calverleys gave permission to the smith (a Bramley man) to cut down specific trees in the wood to make charcoal for the forge. Small pieces of refuse from these works were still being found in the 1900s.

Pass in front of the mill and immediately after, turn left down a footpath,

The first part of Ravenscliffe Mills was built in 1872 by James Harper, and four succeeding generations of the Harper family followed him in control of the business. From the beginning the company made only uniform cloths for the public services, especially the Armed Forces; it produced, for example, cloth for the scarlet uniforms worn by the Army until the introduction of khaki at the time of the Boer War. World War Two was a time of very great activity, but with the ending of hostilities and as existing contracts ran out, demand fell away and the mill was closed in 1957.

The footpath soon crosses the beck by a stone bridge. Turn right past the gate and come to the ford at Beck Bottom (formerly Carr Bottom).

The small hamlet of Carr Bottom is situated beside Fagley Beck. Down this road used to come all the traffic, pedestrians, carriages and carts, passing up and down the valley between Leeds and the towns & villages in the Aire Valley. It was an awkward stretch of road and was probably unsuitable for stage coaches until the New Line at Greengates was constructed in 1826.

The two small stone houses either side of the ford (nos 153 and 155) are listed buildings dating from the period 1650-1700, a time when building outside Calverley village and along the Carr was just starting. Both houses have unusually large lateral (side) chimney stacks.

Go RIGHT over the ford and rise uphill to Carr Road (A657) and cross over to the Lodge (Carr Lodge). CAUTION FOR TRAFFIC

With the construction of the New Line, the road through Calverley became part of the Shipley and Bramley Turnpike, and stage coaches started running through the village in 1828. At a time, however, when 110 coaches a day were running into and out of Leeds, Calverley had just one a week: the Crown Union from Keighley to Leeds each Tuesday, returning at 5 p.m.!

In addition to the toll bar in Rodley, there was one on the Carr less than 200 yards up the road from the lodge. Fairly soon, the railway brought the stage coach era to an end, but recollections of the turnpike were not forgotten as late as 1910 when Carr Road was still referred to as the Shipley and Bramley Road.

At the lodge, take the left (gated) road, which goes through the lower part of West Wood to the bottom of the Cutting.

The Lodge, Carr Lodge, was the second of four lodges built just after 1850 the others being Fagley Lodge, Apperley Lodge and South Lodge.

After the death of Thomas Thornhill in 1844 his heiress, Clara, was only eight years old and became a ward of court. In order to develop the Thornhill properties in the Huddersfield and Calverley areas, her trustees obtained legal powers by three acts of parliament (1852, 1854 and 1856) to allow the making of access roads and the selling of leases for building plots. In the Calverley Wood area, plans involved the construction of drives through the bottom parts of West Wood and Spring Wood up to South Lodge; the making of the Cutting to replace the old Wood Lane which would have run across a potential building area; and the building of Thornhill Drive down to Apperley Bridge. Plots were first to be made available in West Wood for "villas of a superior description".

The road from Carr Lodge was called Eleanor Drive, after Thomas Thornhill's second daughter, Eleanor Frances.

DIGRESSION. Halfway down Eleanor Drive walkers may wish to make a digression to the right along a track marked by two stone gatepost. After a short distance this comes to the ruins of a stone cottage and, just beyond a spring in a stone basin. Here stood an early twentieth century cottage for the gardener at Ferncliffe (Champion House); a well-known tenant was Henry Kelk who was a judge at Calverley's first Allotment Show in 1919. The water from the spring was greatly valued by the family at Ferncliffe for the making of their tea! Ferncliffe was used as Champion House in the TV series and is now used as a Leonard Cheshire Home.

Just before reaching the cottage ruins and below the path are the clear outlines of a small artificial lake with islands. Winter skating parties organised from Ferncliffe were long and happily remembered by older Calverley residents.

On reaching the crossroads at the bottom of the Cutting. TURN LEFT

At this point was built the finest of the four lodges designed as entrances to the newly planned estates. It had turrets at each side and a stone archway; the accommodation for two caretakers included four circular stairs and four sets of doorsteps.

Officially called Apperley Lodge it was always known, from its appearance when seen from the Cutting top, as the Needles Eye. The lodge caretakers were expected to (and did) warn potential trespassers not to go into the private woodlands around. The Needles Eye was condemned on health and safety grounds in 1965/66 and demolished.

Proceed down the sloping road to the housing at the bottom (Waterloo Crescent).

The building off this road, Thornhill Drive, involved (in the words of a parliamentary report) "very considerable outlay". Permission to build Thornhill Bridge over the canal was given in 1853, and by 1854 construction was well forward. The contractors for this and all other undertakings in the area were Joseph Smith & Son, of Eccleshill.

LOOP ACCESS PATH

Waterloo Crescent to Thornhill Bridge – approximately ¼ mile

From Waterloo Crescent go forward to Harrogate Road, turn left up the pavement. Look for the Bridge Café on your right and immediately before the bridge over the canal, take the steps down to the towpath. Here turn left and after 250 yards the path passed under Thornhill Bridge.

As the towpath approaches Thornhill Bridge, it crosses over Carr Beck and on the left hand side is the boundary wall for Brook House, built by the stream-side in the eighteenth century. It had a square block added in the 1840s, though the two parts are now divided into separate dwellings. Brook House was the home of Dr. William Spark, one of two men who drew up the plans for the Leeds Town Hall organ (when built, among the largest in Europe) and who was the city organist there from its opening in 1859 until his death in 1897.

TOWPATH SECTION

Thornhill Bridge to Calverley Bridge – approximately 2 miles

After leaving Thornhill Bridge, the towpath goes for 2 miles to Calverley Bridge. PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR CYCLISTS ALONG THIS SECTION.

Shortly after leaving Thornhill Bridge on the right hand side behind a marina is an unusual two-storey warehouse, which was taken over in the 1780's by John Leavens and his sons for the storage of wool bales brought up by barge. About fifty years later it was converted into a steam cornmill and is now a private residence. Dating from before the canal was built are two farms. Shaw House on the left and behind the warehouse, a two-storey building with cellar kitchen, Underwood. The two farms had amalgamated by 1900. Immediately alongside Underwood Farm ran the path from Calverley to Apperley Bridge and where the canal cut through this path, a swing bridge was built for the passage of travellers; its position can be clearly seen.

Around 1800, when most farmers in Calverley occupied 11-15 acres, Shaw House was the largest farm outside the village, almost twice the size of Lodge; its fields stretched down the valley for more than a mile from the farmhouse and nearly all have been bisected by the canal or the railway or both. In spite of so much change, however, it is remarkable how many of these fields (and many more south and west of the village) have remained unchanged in shape and name since before our 1760 maps. Hipping Stone Ing (Stepping Stone Meadow), for example, is a Shaw House field in the river bend just below the railway/river bridge.

It was in the Clark-Thornhill schedules of Spring 1909 and on Walter Calverley's rent roll of Spring 1605 (that is, a month before the Calverley Murderers). The only change is that earlier it was farmed from Calverley Bridge.

Across the river is Woodhouse Grove School, opened in 1812 by the Methodist

Conference, and it was here that Maria Branwell, the headmaster's niece, met her future husband, the Revd. Patrick Bronte. Both Maria and the boys from the school are known to have come to Calverley Parish Church for services. In 1861, the headmaster agreed with the Thornhill Trustees to lay a pipe from two springs in Calverley Wood across to the school to augment the supply of pure water, an agreement which ran for 34 years. The small reservoir in the wood still remains. From the towpath can be seen numerous notable buildings in Cragg Wood, across the river. On the skyline is the turreted Buckstone Hall, built in 1894, by a wool merchant William Dewhirst and more recently the home of Sir Arthur Croft, the noted engineer. To the right is the red-tiled roof of the former Catholic Church, opened in 1909. Many people from Calverley made the weekly journey to attend Mass here until later churches were established in Thackley and Ravenscliffe. Further on is the large black stone complex that was the Training College for Baptist Ministers established in 1858, and beyond that the brick façade of the former Woodlands Convalescent Home, later an Orthopaedic hospital.

The railway from Bradford to Leeds was opened in 1846 but due to the amount of Scottish traffic the tracks were duplicated in 1899, though the older track was taken out of use in 1972. Apperley and Calverley stations were closed in 1965. Where the line comes nearest to the towpath the metal frame of a large hoarding can be seen in the fields across the canal. This marked the halfway point on the L.M.S. route from London to Edinburgh, and the hoarding showed passengers the identical mileage to both capitals.

At the point where the towpath makes a bend are the remains, across the canal, of a wharfe or staithe from which stone from Calverley Wood, quarries was loaded on to barges. The pile of stones in the field marks the position of a crane, and a little further down stream the canal was widened to allow boats to turn. The quarries closed in 1905. (Plate 4)

From the towpath the definite edge of Calverley Wood can be seen. The acreage of the wood and its general outline have changed hardly at all since before 1600. Fortunately the engineers took the route of the canal along the edge of the wood, except for cutting through a narrow one hundred yard strip (which still remains!) The swing bridge (Lodge Bridge) marks the end of the wood, and further along is a small copse Mudge Bank Wood. There is a splendid view from here across the fields up to Calverley with the Church tower on the crest. At any time, but especially on a summer's evening, it offers an excellent subject for photographers. (Plate 5) The mill with the prominent red brick chimney is on the site of the famous Low Mills built by William Thompson in 1796; it was here that Samuel Marsden, the Farsley missionary and farmer, sent the first bale of Australian merino wool in 1808. The mill was violently attacked by a mob of Luddite rioters from Leeds early in 1812. Samuel Grey, the prominent Calverley clothier and builder of Elmwood (now the Calverley Arms), bought the planet in 1857 and he and his son continued to run it until the end of the century.

In the wood behind Low Mills is the splendid Woodleigh Hall designed by architects

During 1854 numerous enquiries were being received for plots in West Wood, and three named businessmen were ready to conclude sales. There were delays, however due to legal difficulties and no sales were made until another manufacturer from Bowling, Samuel Laycock Tee, took a plot in 1856 which he built Ferncliffe.

On the right at the bottom of Thornhill Drive is now a large stone terrace of five houses, Waterloo Crescent. This was formerly one long thatched house dating from the early 1700's later called Waterloo House, and the home of a family of prosperous raw wool dealers, the Leavens, John Leavens (died 1789) had four sons who left no surviving children, so the estate passed to Johns daughter who married William White of Idle.

One of her children lately married Robert Parkin, a timber merchant and they lived in the family home (hence Parkin Lane). Another, John White, inherited Upperwood (Bronte House School). The Leavens and the Whites had close connections with Calverley Parish Church, John White being commemorated by a handsome plaque in the church tower and by the most prominent memorial in the churchyard, just beyond the East Window.

Before leaving Waterloo Crescent, walkers may make a short digression down Parkin Lane which runs by the side of Thornhill Drive towards the canal.

Beyond the opening to Brook House Gardens can be found a fine horse trough with stone roof and fed by a pipe from the beck. This was probably erected for the barge horses as they came off the towpath at this point.

Close to and on the right of the trough is a well-worn but important stone in the wall recording that in 1822 the beck was here put in a tunnel to replace a footbridge which was liable to flooding. The stone marked to boundary between Calverley and Eccleshill parishes and until the Cutting was built, every person walking from Apperley Bridge would pass this way and up by Wood Lane to the village.

Lockwood & Mawson and built in 1869 for the worsted manufacturer Moses Bottomley. Bottomley's daughter married the Revd. Lucius Smith, vicar of Calverley. Before the path reaches the metal gate and towards the river, is the site of the former Calverley gas works, given to the villagers about 1854 by the Thornhill Trustees. Gas-making commenced here in 1857 and street lighting was provided for Calverley Bridge a year later. The company's first major work was a six-inch pipeline to the new Holly Park Mills in 1867, and the parish church had gas illumination three years after that. The last gasometer was demolished in 1994 and the site was then extensively cleaned up and planted with trees.

To return to the start point, take the path to the left at Calverley Bridge opposite the swing bridge. Your final refreshment point. The Railway Hotel is immediately in front of you, descend the steps and cross the river by the stone bridge.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This guide is prepared by the Calverley Project 2000 Group, our local environment community group. We wish to acknowledge the support of Leeds City Council's Outer West Area Committee for providing part of the funding. We would like to thank all involved with the Millennium Way since its inception. If you would like to support the upkeep of Calverley Millennium Way, donations should be sent to our Treasurer Mr I Featherstone, 2 Foxholes Lane, Calverley, Pudsey LS28 5NS.



Woodhall Hills Hamlet



If you are interested in becoming involved with Calverley Project 2000 please contact the Chairman, Councillor Andrew Carter, 15 Clarke Street, Calverley, Pudsey LS28 5NH