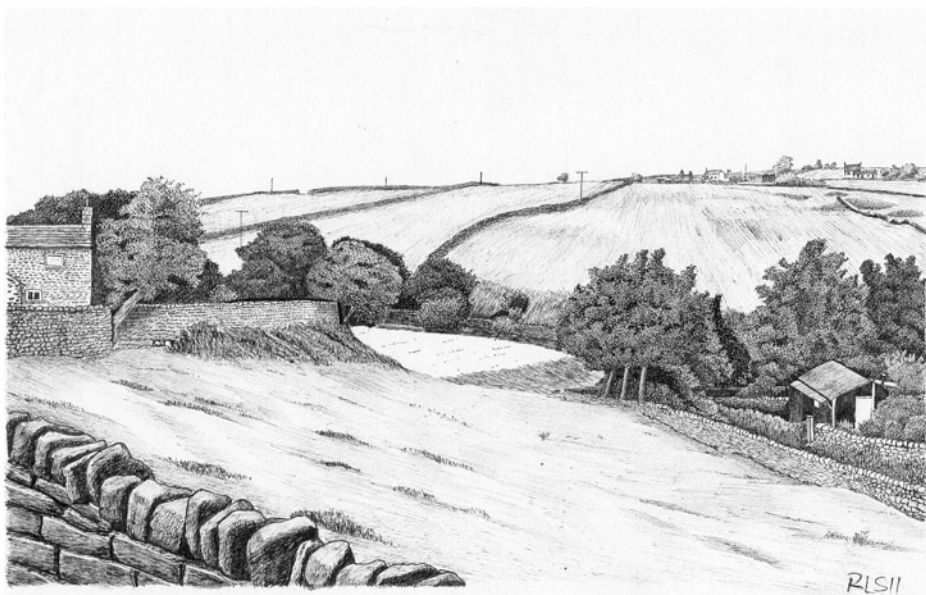


BAILDON HERITAGE TRAILS

The Salt Market Walk



Produced by Baildon Local History Society ©

2017

First edition 2013
Second edition 2016

This Heritage Trail is Number 11 in a series created by Baildon Local History Society the first ten of which were commissioned by Baildon Town (then Parish) Council. A list of the Trails in the series is shown inside the back cover. These are available in booklet form from Baildon Library for a small fee, or you can download them free from the Baildon Town Council web site – www.baildowntowncouncil.gov.uk

Countryside Code and Privacy

Several of these walks use public rights of way over farm land and others go close to houses. Please help keep Baildon the beautiful place it is:

Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs.

Leave gates and property as you find them.

Protect plants and animals and take your litter home.

Keep dogs under close control.

Respect other people and their property.

How to get there

Bus: Service 626 runs from Bradford through Shipley to Baildon. Service 656 runs from Bradford and Shipley to Baildon (and on to Lucy Hall Drive). Alight at the bus terminus in the centre of Baildon Village – in Towngate, by the stocks. Follow the directions at the start of this walk Guide.

Rail: Baildon Station is on the Wharfedale line between Bradford and Ilkley, with connections through Shipley from Leeds and Skipton. The station is in the lower part of the village and there are some buses up to the centre from the station: walk through the car park, up onto Station Road and turn left. On the other side of the road, close to the corner of Kirkfields, is the stop for buses up to Baildon centre (a BailRail leaflet giving Monday to Friday bus times to and from the station is available from the library.)

If you prefer to walk, go up Kirkfields and continue uphill as the road turns left and becomes Holden Lane. At the twin mini-roundabouts turn left into Hall Cliffe, which will bring you past the Parish Church to Baildon centre. Then follow the directions at the start of this walk Guide.

For details of buses and trains, check with MetroLine (0113 245 7676 or www.wymetro.com).

If coming by car, park in the small car park on the left of the Baildon-Hawksworth road, a few hundred yards over the hill from The Eaves. Follow the directions at the start of this walk Guide.

See the end of this Guide for a map of the the main part of this walk.

The Salt Market Walk

From the car park below the Eaves, this walk loops round the lower edge of Baildon Moor from Sconce to Birch Close, Faweather, an ancient salt market below Little London, and back by Sconce Lane.

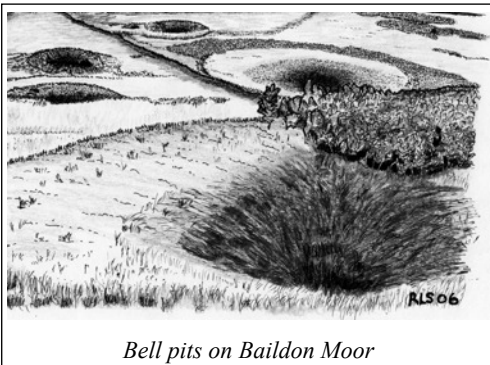
Distance approximately 3 miles (5 km)
(More if you wander about looking at things)

From Baildon Towngate to the little car park

For those coming by bus to the town centre, make your way from Towngate by the stocks up Northgate with The Malt Shovel on your right, and later the renowned sweet shop on wheels on your left. (See *Baildon Village Walk* for more about this area.) Carry on up the road past the garage to the cattle grid, and continue up the good walker's path on the right hand side of the road, past the right turn to Moorside and the car park on the right at the top of the hill. This is called the Eaves, or Low Eaves, which has a trig point from where you can get splendid views all round, but our walk properly begins a few hundred yards further on over the hill at the little car park on the left of the road. To get to this car park from the Eaves, either walk down the hill along the edge of the road (with due care), or take a footpath to the right of the seat beside the corner warning signs, down through the bracken and turning left when you get to the bottom. The distance from Towngate to the little car park is just over half a mile (1 km).

Across the moor to Sconce

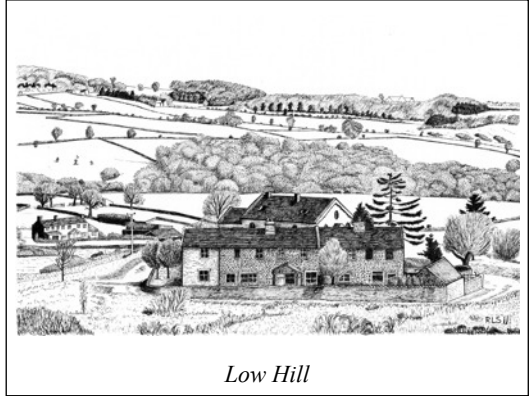
At the car park is a public footpath sign leading you across the lower side of the moor. Take the clear pathway (recently renovated with the help of the Friends of Baildon Moor) across the moor through the bracken, which is part of Bradford's Millennium Way Circular Walk. (This stretch of the walk is not shown on the map at the end of this Guide, in order to make the main circuit as detailed as possible.)



Bell pits on Baildon Moor

The terrain on this part of the moor is very irregular, and close to the path you can see the remains of bell pits from which coal was extracted: you may even spot fragments of coal here and there near the path, remnants of the moor's history. (See *The Lost Hamlets of Baildon Moor Walk* for more about this.)

You will see the hamlet of Low Hill below you on your right. Most of the residents of Low Moor used to get their water from a well up on the moor, beneath the steep ridge of Millstone Grit known as Sconce Crag. You can see this – it was called Joe’s Well, or Crag Well – shortly after you pass Low Hill. From a small bridge edged with railway sleepers look up to your left to a little fenced area up among the bracken, about 100 yards away, just at the foot of the steeper slope.

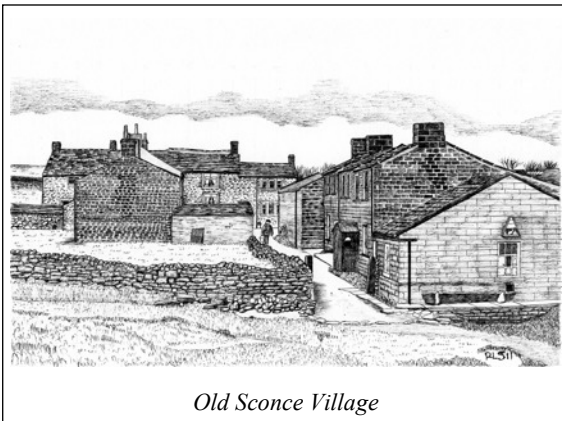


Low Hill

The water from Joe’s well had a high reputation: some claimed it could cure whooping cough; others that it added wonderfully to the taste of rum or gin. However, this may have been a bit of a dig at the ‘Joe’ from whom the well takes its name: Joseph Batley, a colourful character who wore a top hat and a frock coat. Being a prominent Primitive Methodist who did much at Low Hill chapel, he was a keen advocate of temperance and wouldn’t allow his agricultural workers anything alcoholic to quench their thirst.

After about half a mile you come to the wall enclosing Sconce Scout Camp site just beyond a stone slab bridge over a tiny beck. Small though it is, this beck marks a boundary: cross it and you move from Baildon to Bingley. Shortly below this bridge the beck falls steeply over rocks, forming an impressive waterfall in wet weather, then it makes its way from the moor down to Gill Beck, past Low Springs.

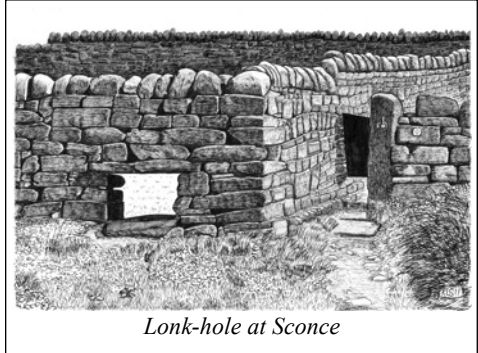
The Scout camp is on the site of the old hamlet of Sconce, which consisted of 13 houses in a T-shape, probably built in the mid-18th century originally for miners. When mining



Old Sconce Village

finished on the moor many of the houses were let cheaply to young newly-weds. There is a rich little grove of mint by the beck, doubtless once much valued by those Sconce housewives. The houses of Sconce village were demolished by order of Bingley Council in 1934-35 on grounds of poor sanitation. Shipley and Baildon Scout Council purchased the land in 1964, and it is now a well-used camping facility.

Before moving on, pause and note in the wall in front of you the carefully constructed small doorway, large enough to allow sheep through but too small for cows. Note the stone base to stop erosion; and sheep love to scratch their backs on the lintel. These doors are known locally as ‘lonk-holes’ (traditionally pronounced lonk-oyles); the Lonk is a Yorkshire breed of large sheep. In other places they have different names: ‘sheep-creep’ or ‘lunky-hole’ are two.

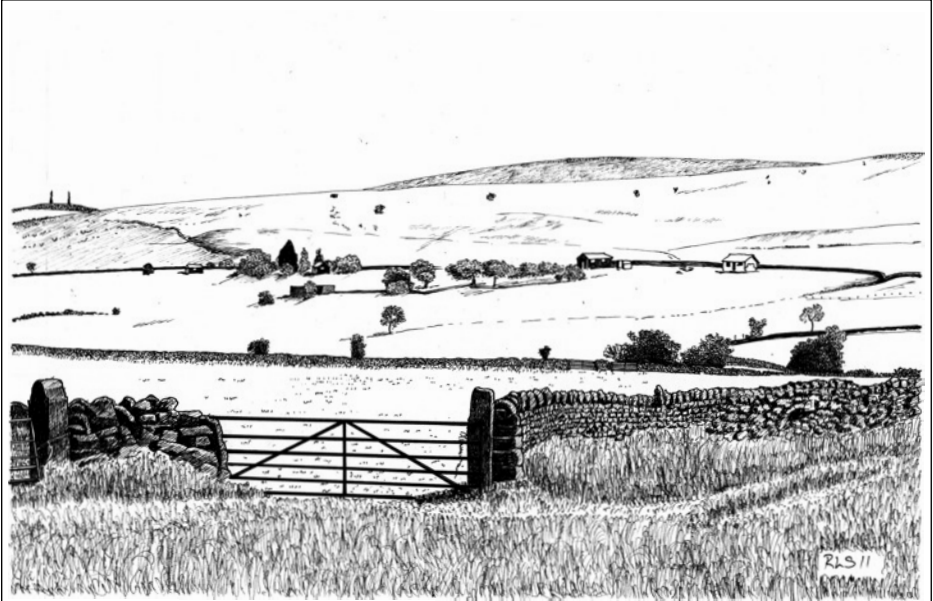


Lonk-hole at Sconce

It is said that there used also to be somewhat larger holes, about four feet high, called ‘bob-oyles’, which were for people but you had to ‘bob’ down to get through them. This lonk-hole must have been built into the wall when it was repaired at some point in the last century, because it is not shown in an old sepia post card of Sconce village, as drawn, but it does appear in a 1973 photograph in Lucy Gill’s book: *Baildon Memories*. **From Sconce to Birch Close**

Don’t take the path towards the buildings (the walk returns that way), instead turn left and walk along the one that runs parallel to the wall with the lonk-hole. Whereas much of the moor is blanket bracken, this part is heather and bilberry with patches of gorse. The path swings left, up through a small group of young birch, seeded from parent trees over the wall, and then right again along the edge of the golf course. Here are some holiday huts, in the field on your right, with a track from over the moor giving access. This is a bleak spot, and sometimes the huts look a little the worse for wear.

These summer houses are of long standing, having originated early last century as part of a national fashion for having away-from-it-all holiday homes. There are only four now, but Lucy Gill, in *Baildon Memories*, records that there were once 14 here, and with so many children that they could muster a cricket team! Much later she herself had one of the huts (reduced to five by then) and she describes the joys and fears of her times there in the 1960s: it often felt rather isolated, especially at night or in bad weather. It was recently said by one of the occupants that the oldest resident, then (2013) in his 80s, was brought here from before he was born! The present moorland track leading to the huts wasn’t there then, and people could only get the bus as far as Threshfield (before buses ventured up Browgate) and had to walk the rest of the way, carrying all their supplies. And once here, to get water they had to walk the half mile to Joe’s Well, which we passed earlier.



Summer huts at Share Close, seen across the fields from Sconce Lane

One hut has a monkey puzzle tree which blew down over the wall in a storm some years ago, but a side branch is now valiantly reaching for the sky. Below the houses is an old milking shed, now in ruins. The area used to be known as Share Close.

Go on beyond the huts, following the wall along the edge of the golf course, past a small plantation of trees by a dammed-up pond, visible down on your right. As the wall and

the path swing up to the left, you walk between the golf green on your left and the tees on your right: pay due heed to golfers smiting balls in your direction. The tees all have names: the 10th is 'Pits Hole'; and the 11th, which is just above it, is 'High Park'. Back along the fairway, you may be able to see power station cooling towers far beyond Leeds. Admire also the view through the gateway, of Birch Close and Faweather, and the riding track, which we shall reach shortly.



Moorland gateway

Continue up the track by the wall. As you breast the slope a wonderful panorama opens up, with Eldwick in front of you and, on the skyline over on the left, the Ovenden Moor wind farm above Oxenhope. As you proceed on down the slope you may notice on the left, at the edge of the fairway, a post with a bell attached: this is for golfers to clang, signalling to those behind them that they can now drive off from the tee, which is 'blind' from over the brow of the hill. Go downhill and through the gate onto the riding track, which is very soft underfoot and you must look out for galloping horses.

This riding track is for training National Hunt racehorses from the nearby stables owned by former show jumping champion Harvey Smith. In 2013 a horse called Auroras Encore trained here by his wife Sue Smith won the Grand National at Aintree. She was only the third woman to train a National winner, and it was the first Yorkshire trained winner of that steeplechase since 1960. It was ridden by jockey Ryan Mania at odds of 66-1 and won by nine lengths.

With due reverence (and care) go straight ahead along the track for a couple of hundred yards, and then turn right at the next little 'crossroads', keeping the lone hawthorn tree on your left, and head towards the pylon at Birch Close. (Strictly, the path follows the riding track, but it's a lot easier to walk in the field beside it.)

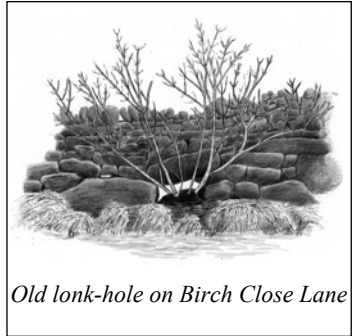
Just beyond the pylon, take the old track to the right (noting the interesting weather vane, and another old lonk-hole) and walk through Birch Close, closing the gate behind you. Until quite recently this was a farmstead which, in the 1901 census, was occupied by a Squire Mortimer who was described as a wool stapler. It has now been converted to residential use. Locals say that historians used to claim that there were Roman remains in the fields near here, where there was once a Roman camp, though scholarly opinion now seems to have changed – saying that, perhaps surprisingly given the proximity of heavily Romanised Ilkley, no Roman remains have been found here at all. But in this locality there are remains much older than Roman: e.g., there is a bronze-age barrow and a number of ancient cup and ring stones, one of which we shall see further on, and a neolithic (c. 3,000 BC) axe head was found not far from here in 1957.

From Birch Close to Faweather and Little London

Continue on the track through the farm, and at the fork at the far gate turn right along the Birch Close Lane (which has no tarmac). The lane with its walls of massive and ancient stone is pleasantly winding, and some of the stones are so large that one wonders if the walls were located to include them. Remnants of prehistoric walling were found near here in 1954. You may notice that some of the stones in the walls look reddish: this indicates an iron content, as ironstone was once mined on Baildon Moor and there is evidence that there was an iron working site at Faweather (which we shall come to soon) belonging to Rievaulx Abbey.

The rights to extract ironstone here were granted by one Adam de Birkin in the late 12th century but whether there is any connection between that name and Birch Close is not known (birk is an old northern word for birch, as in Birkenshaw). Although no iron-working remains have been found in the immediate locality of Faweather itself, large deposits of slag have been noted to the south, on either side of Glovershaw Beck, in an area in which the Abbey is known to have had interests.

A few hundred yards along the lane are two small and disused lonk-holes, one on each side of the road opposite one another – forming a sort of ovine crossing. One of them now has a tree growing out of it.



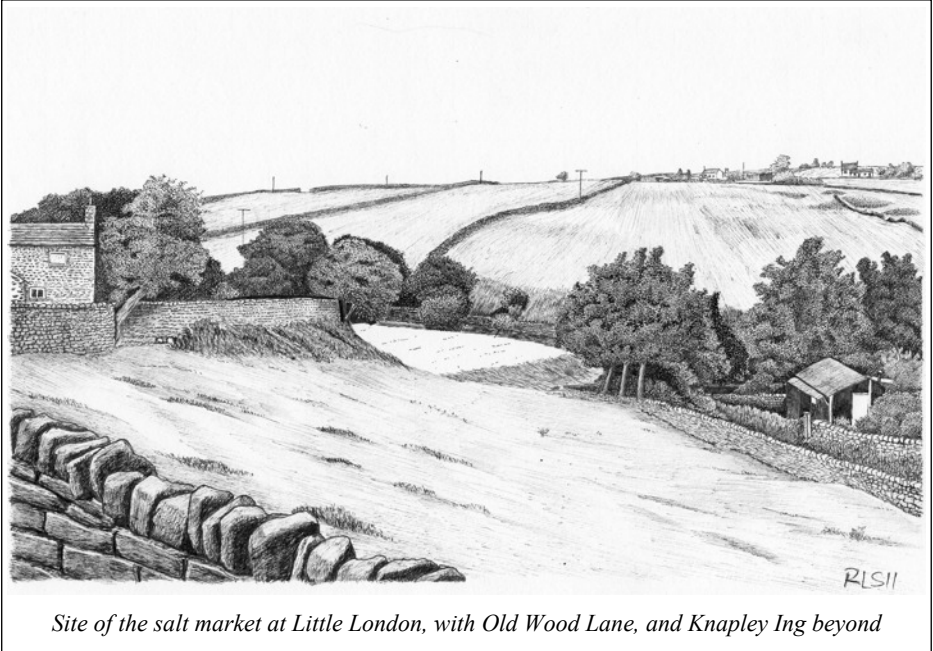
Old lonk-hole on Birch Close Lane

Soon you come to Faweather. The farm on the right before the junction was, in 1901, according to the census, occupied by one John Denby (37) and Sarah his 43 year-old sister, again farmers. Now the farm buildings have been converted to residential use. Just by Faweather Cottage is a low cellar-like building with a rounded roof and a metal grid across its doorway: this is an old ice house. Pause at the junction. This is a place with a long history.

Keith Boughey points out that the name Faweather or 'Fairweather' has nothing whatever to do with weather, fair or otherwise. Originally *Aldefawedre*, it's a corruption of two old English words meaning the place of the heather. John La Page records that monks from Rievaulx Abbey owned land here during the 13th century and Clem Richardson in his study of the Bradford Region takes it back further, saying that a bovate of land was granted by Rievaulx Abbey to Drax Priory at Faweather Grange in 1130. (In case you want to know – a bovate, or oxgang, was about 13 acres: i.e., one eighth of a carucate of ploughland, the share attributed to each ox in a team of eight. A carucate was the amount of land a team of oxen could plough in a season.)

To your left is Oakwood Barn, recently converted from a ruin into a dwelling, with a fine oak beam visible in the wall. It has a large boulder set in the front garden lawn, visible over a small gate. This is one of the prehistoric cup and ring stones, and in spite of the moss you can easily see the carvings (there is also a more recent arrow-shaped Ordnance Survey benchmark). John Wesley is reputed to have stood upon this stone and preached in the open air to a congregation gathered about him, which indicates how well populated the area must have been 250 years ago.

Our way lies eventually through the gate to Faweather Grange, but first we visit the site of the salt market. Turn down the hill towards Little London Farm (also recently restored), round to the left and, standing by the Little London gated entrance, look down into the field to the flat area below the house. Salt markets were once held here. Joyce Bell, a former member of the Baildon Local History Society who led a walk here in the early



Site of the salt market at Little London, with Old Wood Lane, and Knapley Ing beyond

1980s (it was the very first walk the Society ever organised), identified the market site as this small and sheltered spot below Little London, at the meeting of many old routes and ways. The name ‘Little London’ means that it was an important meeting place for traders who met to market salt and other goods. It’s a very common old place name throughout the country, with at least three in West Yorkshire alone.

The trade in salt

From time immemorial and at least up to the 17th century salt was essential for preserving meat over the winter. In northern climes there was not enough fodder to feed animals over the winter and, with no means of refrigeration, all livestock except those beasts kept for breeding had to be slaughtered in the autumn and their flesh cured with salt. Thus there was a huge and enduring demand for salt, which was transported along a Great Salt Road from the Nantwich salt mines in Cheshire to Lancashire and Yorkshire. (‘Wich’ is an old name for salt, and the mines were important because the chemical composition of salt from sea water apparently made it unsuitable for curing, giving the meat a bad flavour.)

Arthur Raistrick in his *Green Roads in the Mid-Pennines* points out that from monastic times and for about five centuries transport of such goods was by pack-horse and ponies, until the transport revolution of the early 19th century. The ponies commonly used in

the North were imported from Germany where they were known as Jaeger (hunter) ponies, hence the Dales form of the word in place names like Jagger Lane, or in the surname Jagger often given to pack train drivers and attendants.

Green lanes took them from Cheshire by Colne and through Wycoller to Keighley. From there the route climbed up Morton Banks and along the route of the present Otley Road and Bingley Road past Dick Hudson's pub to Intake Gate (still known as Gaping Goose after an inn sign formerly used there), and on through Menston to Otley where there was a large and important market. Beyond Otley it went on to Wetherby.

The very earliest tracks tended to keep to the high ground as much as possible, where the land was drier: softer areas were often set with flagstones to ease passage. Trains of pack animals were essential for the protection of valuable cargo in these wild and remote tracts – and perhaps not so remote: Baildon seems to have been a pretty violent place in Mediaeval times, and Joyce Bell mentions a 30-verse poem of that era, each verse of which ends with the words, 'Mad, Bad, Baildon.'

From the whole of the length of this main route, numerous branch lanes, tracks and paths stretched down to reach local farms and villages where there were smaller markets. One of those branches was from Intake Gate (Gaping Goose) on the Bingley Road down through Eldwick to Bingley. The route from Intake Gate came down along Old Wood Lane (below you to the right) to Little London and Faweather here.

This is the meeting of many ways, as modern maps still make clear, with paths and tracks radiating out. Besides Old Wood Lane, and the road past Little London, there is a true green lane from Little London up to Knapley-Ing, and at Faweather is the important junction with Sconce Lane, or Sconce Gate as it used to be called, indicating great antiquity as a road. Another route runs along Birch Close Lane and down through Golcar Gate and Glovershaw to Eldwick, Bingley and the valley bottom.

There are two possible routes from here to Baildon for salt or any other pack-borne merchandise, running either west or east of the high Moor. The western route would have run along Birch Close Lane to the edge of what is now the golf course, there branching away from the Golcar and Glovershaw track, and making for Lobley Gate and Dobrudden doubtless by paths offering gentle inclines. From Dobrudden the route would have headed round the shoulder of Hope Hill to Hope Farm (where there was a Mediaeval pottery) and Green Lane, at the foot of which is a snicket leading straight to Providence Row and Pinfold in the centre of Baildon, though between Collier Lane and Providence Avenue it has been lost to housing. This route is reasonably direct, involves no steep slopes, and at the top of Green Lane there is a section of very old-looking sunken lane leading out onto the Moor at which point there are paving stones – uncovered some years ago by members of Baildon Local History Society – indicating that this was once an important transport route, as does the horse trough on the snicket in Baildon just off The Grove. Also, some older residents in Baildon still remember that

this snicket was previously called the Salt Road. Joyce Bell had also heard this, though she cited no other historical evidence.

However, it is also possible that the salt was transported along Sconce Lane, which is the obvious route to the hamlets of Low Springs, Low Hill, Moorside, Tong Park and other settlements further down the valley. It is a short step from Moorside to Baildon. This is the route we shall follow, but first there is more to see here.

Old Wood Lane and the clapper bridge

From Little London go back up the track a few steps, to where there is a steep little track down to the left. This is Old Wood Lane which leads over to Bingley Road (1 mile) and Hawksworth Moor. Turn down here, by the wall, past a wooden house in the field. At the bottom of the hill you come to a ford through a little stream which flows into Gill Beck – recently the ford has been bottomed with large stones, partly covering the stream. Beside the ford is an ancient footbridge, built from heavy slabs of gritstone, called a clapper bridge.

The stone walls around the fields are much more recent – you can see that in part because they're built on top of the two ends of the clapper bridge – and you have to imagine the medieval landscape without these enclosures. However, further up the hill on the far



Clapper bridge on Old Wood Lane

side the walls contain much more massive stones and look much older (and, as already noted, prehistoric walling has been found in this area). There are also traces of ancient and well-worn central paving. And the field pattern shown on the maps in the area up towards Knapley-Ing Farm also looks very old.

Peace reigns now, but one can imagine the clip-clop bustle of pack-horses passing in bygone years, with tinkling bells on the leader's bridle (and perhaps vocal encouragement from jiggers), to say nothing of the haggling and tale-sharing among the booths. All this with roots reaching back through time to long before our cathedrals.

From Old Wood Lane to Faweather Grange and Sconce

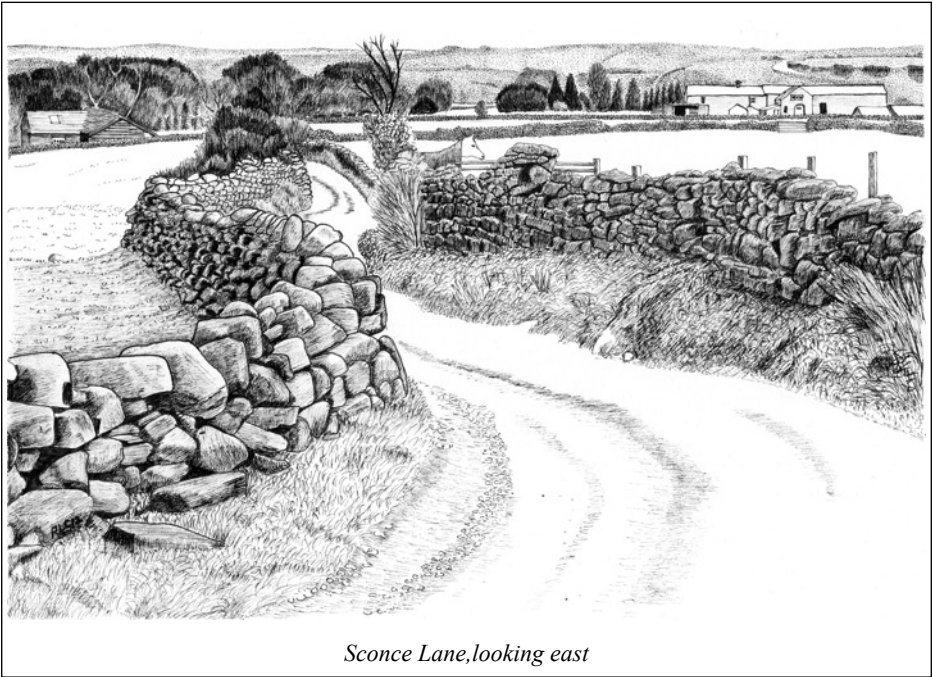
When you're ready, return up the hill to Faweather by the way you came, and turn left through the gate to Faweather Grange. In their 1981 *West Yorkshire Archaeological Survey to 1500*, Faull and Moorhouse point out that, as the name 'Grange' suggests, Faweather was originally a monastic grange serving the medieval estates of the 12th century Cistercian foundation at Rievaulx. Abbeys such as Rievaulx, Fountains and Drax were among the wealthiest monastic foundations in the north of England, with estates ranging over almost all of Yorkshire, and often competing for land, resources, income and prestige. Four resources were valuable to the early monks – water, iron, sheep grazing, and stone – and this area is rich in all of them.

Since then the name 'Grange' has passed both to the 17th century farmhouse on the site and the surrounding cluster of houses. This is where Joseph Batley farmed, he after whom Joe's Well was named. In the 1901 census he is listed as a farmer, 67 years old, with wife Sarah of 77, and a nephew (also Joseph), 23, described as an agricultural labourer.

Walk along the road right through the farmstead, admiring the mullioned windows of the cottages, as the lane winds first right and then left. From the 18th century in the valley here, there was a quarry from which stone was carted to Otley to build a church near Otley Bridge. This quarry, like many others in the area, became disused after the First World War, but is still shown on 2½" Ordnance Survey maps.



*Faweather Quarry delvers (c. 1910)
Photo: courtesy of Stewart Main*

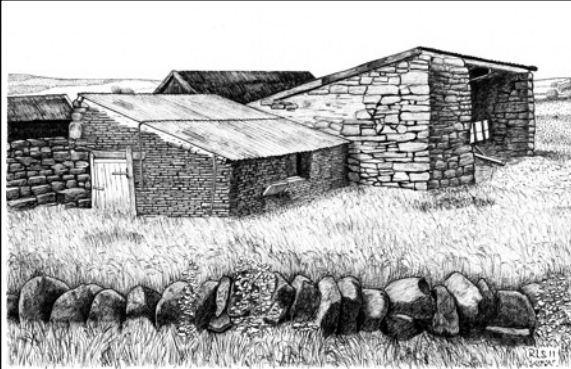


Sconce Lane, looking east

This road is Sconce Lane, and you continue along it until you return to the Scout Camp, on the site of the old hamlet of Sconce, which we have already seen.

On the way, you can see a large and flourishing eucalyptus tree across the field on the left, with its smooth pale grey bark with long red patches, and leaves of unusual blue-green; and the bank along this lane is a good place to find harebells in season. In the distance on the left Otley Chevin is visible on the skyline, and on the right the broad expanse of Baildon Moor. Soon you will come to The Grange Holiday Village of modern holiday chalets down on your left (occupying the site of the old quarry), contrasting strongly in smartness with the old holiday huts we passed earlier, and which you can still just see across the fields on your right. From here the road surface is tarmac.

Not long after the chalets, you pass Ash House Farm on the right with its assortment of interestingly-shaped buildings. Here the 1901 census records Mary Ann Holmes, a 65 year old widow, Isaac her 24 year old son together with his wife, and their two months old daughter. This farm has recently changed hands and is being substantially improved, inside and out. Further ahead, to your left, you can see the group of conifers surrounding Sconce Scout Camp Site. Beyond, you can also just make out the Great Railway Viaduct in Tong Park, and the two chimneys marking the industrial estate behind it.



Ash House barns (before rebuilding in 2016)

At Sconce, just after the new stone building end on to the lane, and before the big double wire mesh gates, is a stile on your right. Go through that and walk straight ahead, with the stone building on your right and the green metal container on your left, and pass through the narrow opening out on the moor (past the lonk-hole), and back over the tiny boundary beck into Baildon. From here, you return to the car park where this walk began.

From Sconce back to Baildon

Make your way back along the path ahead of you, by which you came. Much of what you have seen on this walk relates to long ago, but as you walk there's something else to note, arising from far more recent times. Close to the path here, and all over the moor when you begin to look for them, are scattered small saplings: mainly rowan, but with some hawthorn and occasional birch, alder and oak. These are not planted; they are natural regrowth which has only become visible since 2001 when, following the foot and mouth outbreak, all sheep were removed from the moor. The trees must have been there long before then, in stunted form, nibbled out of sight by the sheep, but have been able to shoot up since that intense grazing and browsing ceased, and if undisturbed they can be expected to flourish and add new character to this part of the moor.



The Bingley-Baildon boundary bridge at Sconce

Follow the path back to the car park, passing Low Hill once more on your left (and Joe's Well up on your right). If you walked from Baildon, retrace your steps up the hill and back to the village. Refreshments are available in many places in Baildon, considered much safer since Mediaeval times.

List of the Baildon Heritage Trails

*All these publications can be downloaded free at www.baildowntowncouncil.gov.uk
Except as noted, they are available in booklet form for a small charge at Baildon Library.*

1. **The Baildon Village Walk:** the old lanes, folds and corners of central Baildon.
2. **Coach Road to Shipley Glen:** a short walk through lanes and woodlands.
3. **The Charlie Thompson Walk:** old Charlestown round St John's Court.
4. **The Turnpike Walk:** between the two old turnpike road milestones on Otley Road.
5. **The Kirklands Walk:** St John's Court to St James's, Kirklands and Hoyle Court.
6. **The Riverside Walk:** from Roundwood Road to Charlestown by the River Aire.
7. **The Railway Walk:** the Arches at Woodbottom to the great Viaduct at Tong Park.
8. **The Threshfield and Low Baildon Walk:** Based on Station Road, with glimpses of clothiers cottages and grand houses of later mill owners.
9. **The Lost Hamlets of Baildon Moor:** the remains of Moorside, Low Hill and Sconce, and the archaeology of the moor.
10. **Ferniehurst and Baildon Green:** A walk looking principally at the sites of two Victorian mansions with Salt family connections.
11. **The Salt Market Walk:** Sconce, Birch Close and Faweather by old lanes.

Also available

Exploring Baildon: a Guide to Public Spaces: brief information on 55 selected sites within the extensive, interesting and beautiful network of public spaces in Baildon.

The Baildon Peace Walk: a short walk based on the Baildon Peace Garden between Cliffe Avenue and Green Road. Published by and available from Baildon Community Link: 01274 588681 baildon.link@btinternet.com.

Acknowledgements

The information for this walk was researched and gathered by
Mike Lawson, Tish Lawson, Stewart Main and Marian Taylor.

With help from Jean and Roy Lorrain-Smith

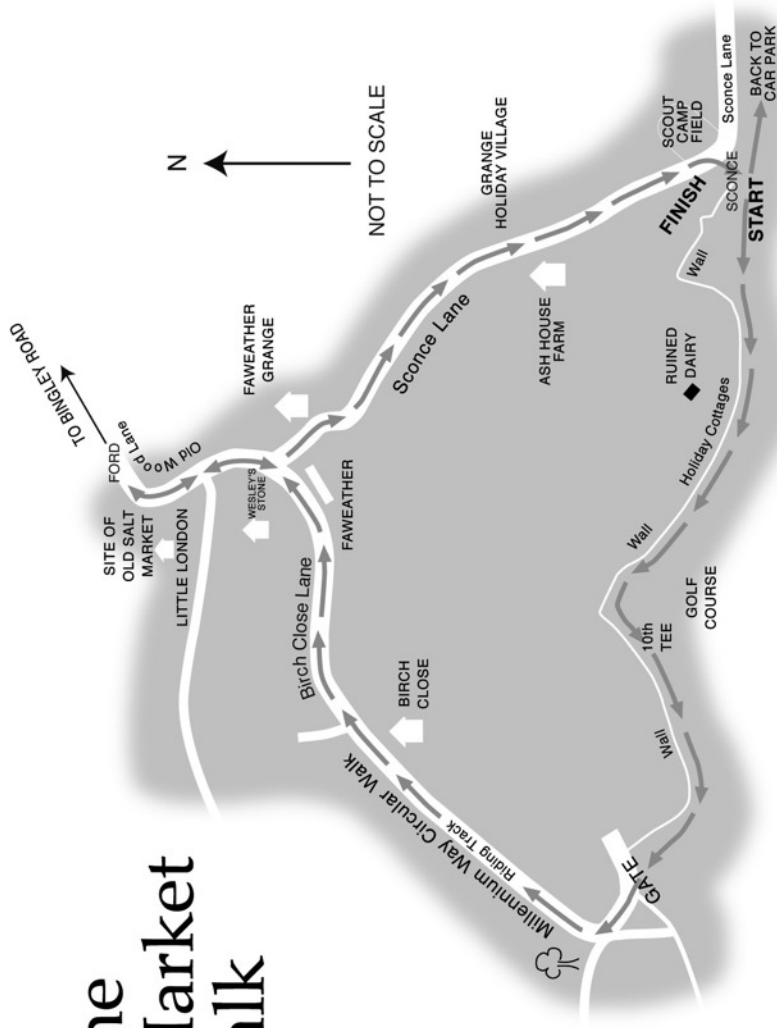
Drawings by Roy Lorrain-Smith ©

Map by Vic McLindon

Help from many people and sources is gratefully acknowledged.

Comments on this walk are welcome and should be sent to:
The Clerk of Baildon Town Council, Baildon Community Link, Cliffe Avenue,
Baildon BD17 6NX
clerk@baildowntowncouncil.gov.uk

The Salt Market Walk



Map by Vic mcLindon