

# Exploring Baildon: A Guide to Public Spaces



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## Travel Advice

The Town Council asks that you walk, cycle or use public transport when possible. For details of buses and trains, check with MetroLine (0113 245 7676 or [wymetro.com](http://wymetro.com)). Wherever practicable, post codes are given for each place listed in this Guide, to make them easier to find by satnav and other electronic mapping devices, and a sketch map showing approximate locations is included in the central pages (14-15).

**Rail:** If travelling from outside Baildon, the railway service is quick and regular. Baildon, Saltaire and Shipley stations are closest to different parts of the town. Trains and stations are operated by Northern Rail in partnership with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (Metro).

*Baildon Station* has trains direct to and from Ilkley and Bradford Forster Square. Changing at Shipley provides links to Skipton and Leeds. Baildon Village Centre is a fifteen-minute uphill walk.

*Shipley Station* has trains to and from Ilkley, Leeds, Skipton and Bradford Forster Square. It is a ten-minute walk into Lower Baildon, or short bus ride from nearby Shipley Market Square.

*Saltaire Station* has trains from Skipton, Leeds and Bradford Forster Square. Changing at Shipley provides links to Ilkley. The Coach Road area is a five-minute walk.

**Bus:** Numerous bus services enter or terminate in Baildon. These are operated by private companies but in some cases are subsidised by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (Metro). Currently (2014) the services are as follows:

625/626 (First) – Bradford Interchange to Baildon Towngate via Baildon Green

627/677 (First) – Bradford Interchange to Baildon Shipley Glen

649 (TLC) – Shipley Market to Esholt via Baildon Towngate and Baildon Garsdale Crescent

650 (TLC) – Shipley Market to Otley via Baildon Towngate and Baildon Garsdale Crescent

653 (TLC) – Shipley Market to Otley via Baildon Charlestown

656/657/659 (TLC) – Bradford Interchange to Baildon Lucy Hall via Baildon Towngate

737 Bradford Interchange to Leeds/Bradford Airport via Baildon Charlestown

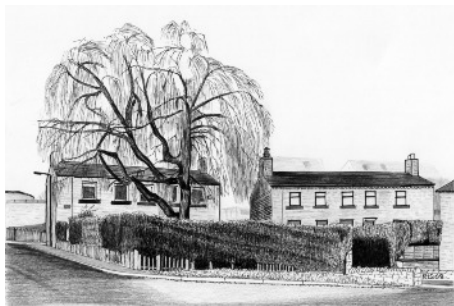
**Cycling:** Connections to the Airedale Greenway (the canal towpath from Leeds to Skipton and beyond, with an extension to Bradford) can be made at Buck Lane footbridge, Charlestown Viaduct footbridge, Lower Holme footbridge, Baildon Bridge, Roberts Park footbridge and Hirst Lane footbridge. Once in Baildon, there are several bridleways which provide safer routes for cycling. Cycles can be secured at rail stations and at most public buildings in the town.

**Walking:** Baildon is an accredited ‘Walkers Are Welcome Town’, which means national standards are maintained for footpath quality, walking information and services such as public toilets. See also page 25 and inside the back cover.

**Car Parking:** There are two main public car parks located at Higher Coach Road (adjacent to Titus Salt School, BD17 5RH) and Hall Cliffe (adjacent to Ian Clough Hall, BD17 6NH). There is an electric vehicle charging point at Ian Clough Hall.

## Introduction

Baildon is a town in Airedale, on the very edge of the City of Bradford urban area. The town sits on a bed of millstone grit, climbing the slopes rising from the River Aire up to the ridge of the glaciated valley – and bordering open countryside which leads onto high moors and ultimately into the Yorkshire Dales National Park. To the west is Bingley, a market town famous for its Five Rise Locks. Another market town, Shipley, lies to the south, with Saltaire World Heritage Site a short distance. To the east is Esholt, made famous as the setting of television soap opera ‘Emmerdale’ and beyond Baildon to the north are the towns and villages of Guiseley, Menston, Burley-in-Wharfedale, Ben Rhydding, and furthestmost the spa town of Ilkley, with its Cow and Calf rocks. Baildon itself has a population of 16,500 accommodated in over 7000 households, yet it retains an often quaint historical character and many small areas of green space.



*Willow at St John's Court (see p.12, 25)*



*Silver birch at Thompson Lane (see p.20, 43)*

This booklet was inspired by a suggestion made at a public meeting in 2010. Its aim is to raise awareness of the extensive, interesting and beautiful network of public spaces in the town. The booklet provides an overview – for that is all that be accommodated – of the location, history and ecology of each site, whether large or small. Such is the extent, variety and complexity of these spaces, choices have had to be made as to what is included. The Editors hope the chosen entries are the most useful to the general reader but are conscious that there may be spaces which have been neglected, or details which have been omitted. It is probable that the reader will be well aware of many of the places described; it is also likely there will be spaces the reader did not know existed! That is part of the charm of the Baildon area: just when you think you have seen it all, something turns up to surprise you.

To help you discover more, Baildon Local History Society, with the support of Baildon Town Council, has produced a number of self-guided trails and walks which are listed inside the back cover. Baildon Library can provide details of these and most of the many other guided and self-guided walks available in the locality.

## **An Explanation of Terms and Abbreviations Used**

### **City Byelaws**

Many of Baildon's public spaces are owned and managed by the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council for the enjoyment of the public. Most of these sites are subject to the City Byelaws with respect to their use. These are marked with **CB** in this Guide. A copy of the City Byelaws can be obtained from the Town Council or downloaded from [bradford.gov.uk](http://bradford.gov.uk).

### **Common Land**

About half of the Baildon town area is registered common land. These sites are marked by **CL** in this Guide. The vast majority of the common land is owned by City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, although some smaller areas are in private ownership. 'Commoners' have various rights to use these lands for 'air and exercise'. Some commoners also have grazing rights. Vehicles should not be driven over or parked on the common land.

### **Rights of Way**

In addition to the main highway network of adopted and un-adopted streets, Baildon also has an extensive network of public rights of way, which is signed with green finger posts. These rights of way take several forms. Registered public footpaths are for the use of pedestrians only: cyclists should dismount and vehicles and horse-riding are not allowed. Bridleways, however, are suitable for horses, cyclists and pedestrians, but not vehicles. Byways are suitable for vehicles, horses, cyclists and pedestrians. Please take care and be aware of other road users, particularly if using a bicycle or vehicle. Some rights of way are 'unofficial' footpaths and generally these are for pedestrians. Bradford Council's Map of Paths gives full details. A copy can be obtained from Baildon Town Council or downloaded from [bradford.gov.uk](http://bradford.gov.uk). Most rights of way are maintained by Bradford Council with the Town Council contributing to maintenance.

### **Special Designations**

Some of Baildon's woodlands are 'ancient' in that they have been continuously wooded and largely undisturbed for at least four hundred years, and these are marked with **AW** in this Guide. Various other sites have warranted designations for their ecological, geological, archaeological, architectural or historical interest. These are marked in this Guide as follows: Sites of Special Scientific Interest (**SSSI**); Sites of Ecological or Geological Importance (**SEGI**); Regionally Important Geological Sites (**RIGS**); Bradford Wildlife Areas/Local Nature Reserves (**BWA**); Conservation Areas under the Civic Amenities Act 1967 (**CA**), Listed Buildings (**LB**); Scheduled Ancient Monuments (**SAM**) and sites with entries in the National Register of Historic Parks and Gardens (**HPG**). Sites which have provided significant archaeological finds have been marked with **SAF**. Sites in the Green Belt are marked **GB**.

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## **1. Baildon Village Centre (CA, LB)**

Towngate, BD17 6LX



Centred on Towngate, this is the oldest part of the town but largely remodelled in the 1960s. Monuments include the stocks, market cross and Ferrand Memorial Fountain. The public car park doubles regularly as a market place and the beds and planters provide seasonal colour.

## **2. Pinfold (CL, CA)**

Off Northgate, BD17 6LB



Today, this small site centres on the public toilets, which were built circa 1920. In times gone by, until 1918, Pinfold was a pound for stray livestock. It leads to Providence Row, 'Providence Mills' being a former name of Baildon Mills. Here can be found the mill pond, which is home to ducks, geese and swans.

## **3. Pennithorne Common (CL)**

Off Pennithorne Avenue and Moorgate, BD17 5PP



This small annexe to the main moor is dominated by the former waterworks filter house, today the green-keeper's store for the Golf Club. The Moor Beck passes through and then disappears into a culvert under the village centre, after which it is known as Barnsley Beck. Water-loving plants can, therefore, be found here.

#### **4. Hall Cliffe Community Garden (CA)**

Hall Cliffe, BD17 6ND



Opened in 2004, this garden was created from the former children's playground of Baildon Church School. Previously a hard surface, a team of volunteers created several different planted areas including bog garden, wildflower garden, woodland area, a conifer bed, and heather, warm and cool beds. Children love the willow tunnel and log train.

#### **5. Parish Church of St John the Evangelist (CA, LB)**

Off Hall Cliffe (level) and Church Hill (steps), BD17 6ND



There has been a chapel here since the C12<sup>th</sup>, the current church dating back to 1848. The graveyard is extensive, varying from neat open spaces to a wilder woody area, species-rich in birds and small animals. Set near the steps down to the vicarage, the epitaph of James Mann (d.1852) and his wife Hannah runs to 12 verses and is said to be the longest in Yorkshire. Nearby, another notable gravestone commemorates Alexander Atkinson, described as publicist, writer, reformer, founder of the parcel post, workmen's tickets and author of a scheme for old age pensions.

#### **6. Kellcliffe (CL, CA)**

Off Butler Lane, BD17 6NQ



This ravine below central Baildon was the valley of Barnsley Beck but is now partially filled-in thanks to modernisation works in the 1960s, when several old cottages within the valley were demolished. The Beck comes out of its culvert nearby. Trees are primarily sycamore and oak. Note how the former Primitive Methodist Chapel (now apartments) has been built on split levels.

## 7. Browgate (CA, LB)

Between Baildon Road and Towngate, BD17 6BP



Until the 1960s, Browgate was a narrower, more awkward road. The demolition of roadside cottages and the building of large retaining walls created several garden areas, such as that at Bedlam Steps (illustrated), so called because ninety residents created a great deal of noise in their clogs! A silver birch and flowering plum grow here and there are three memorials: to Ron Bairstow for his vision and hard work for Baildon;

Baildon Flower Club marking 21 years (in 1990); and a seat commemorating loved ones. Note also the face in the wall!

## 8. Baildon Moravian Church (CA, LB)

West Fold, off Westgate (level), or Browgate (steps), BD17 6BP



The Moravian church grounds begin at Browgate and extend as far as Delph Hill. Behind the Minister's House can be found a peaceful burial ground. By tradition, all the headstones are laid flat, recognising their equality before God. The site, which can be visited at any reasonable hour, is often filled with daffodils, or orange or tawny hawkweed (or: fox-and-cubs, devil's paintbrush, Grim-the-collier; *Pilosella aurantiaca*) native to alpine regions.

## 9. Baildon Methodist Church (CA)

Binswell Fold, off Westgate or Newton Way, BD17 5NH

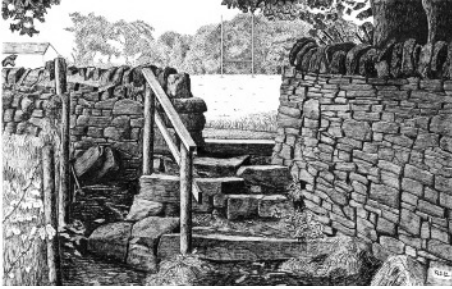


The Methodist Church has a small church green at the top of Binswell Fold (the fold of the Binns family, where there was a well). There are numerous graves (without headstones) in front of what was once the schoolhouse. To the side of the church is a little garden, in which are conserved many old varieties of fruit tree, the legacy of the late Robert Pemberton, who was a recognized authority on this subject.



## 10. Jenny Lane (CB)

Between Heygate Lane and Moorside, BD17 6RS



The land to the left of Heygate Lane as viewed from Jenny Lane has had various recreational uses down the years. The Catholic Church, which bought the site for a primary school in the 1960s, still owns the land to this day. The land on the Town Centre side is re-wilding, after many years as private allotment gardens. Baildon Carnival is often held on the fields. Jenny Lane

is named after Jenny Milner, who lived in a cottage nearby, and died at the age of 102 (her husband John died at 93).

## 11. Heygate Lane and England's Well (CB)

From Heygate Lane (steps) or Newbury Close (level), BD17 6SH



To the rear of Newbury Close, or up steps from Heygate Lane, this land was previously used as a playing field by Baildon Church of England First School, prior to its relocation in 2001. The copse of sycamores was planted by the school to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee in 1977. Heygate may denote the 'high road' out of Baildon, at the top of the village. The junction of Heygate Lane with Ladderbanks Lane is a small

green area known historically as Eagland's Well, one of many wells which once provided water in the village.

## 12. Fennec Road and Halliway Banks Wood (CB, LB)

Off Kirkfields, BD17 6SR



These two adjacent sites were part of the grounds of two large houses: Kirkfield (demolished circa 1965) and Langley, which was latterly used as a school. When the school closed, the land was spared from housing development and contains many trees. The name Halliway Banks is something of a mystery, whilst Fennec is a kind of fox. Other large houses in the area, also demolished, were Fairfield (remembered in

the name of the adjacent road) and Hawkswood.

### **13. Spring Woods (BWA, AW, GB)**

Access on foot from Hawksworth Road or Lonk House Lane, BD17 7QL

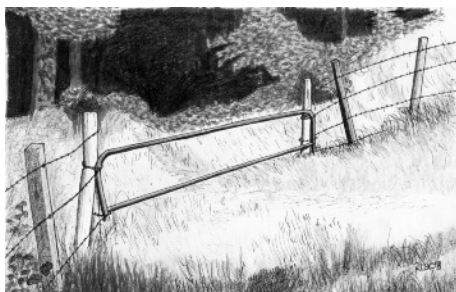


This is the collective name for the ancient woodland straddling Gill Beck and beyond, including Willy Wood and Birks Wood. There are stepping stones and footpaths through the woods, with many springs and rich wildlife: carpets of bluebells in spring, and other woodland flowers such as wood anemone and cuckoo pint. The fields too are rich in flowers, with spotted orchid, betony, yellow rattle, marsh marigold and

bulrush. Glacial moraines, rich in limestone, explain the occurrence of these unusual plants. Late summer sees butterflies and dragonflies on the wing.

### **14. Gill Beck Valley (SEGI, GB)**

Access via Lonk House Lane or Ladderbanks Lane, BD17 7QL



The mixture of grassland, woodland and wetland habitats provides a home for many wildflower species (see above, 13). One of the most picturesque cricket fields in the country nestles in a beautiful hollow in this valley at Tong Park, with views stretching up to Hawksworth Road. A large mill pond which once supplied Denby's dyeworks at Tong Park mill now provides a habitat for fish and water loving birds. At the top of the

track from the dam is Tong Park war memorial with names of the dead from both World Wars. Please keep to the paths as the grazing land is private.

### **15. Esholt Lane (GB, LB)**

Off Otley Road or Esholt Lane, BD17 7RJ



A delightful, leafy country lane leading to Esholt (meaning a clearing in the ash trees), the quaint village of Emmerdale fame. It passes Bean House and the old hamlet of Tarn, before crossing one of the boundaries of Baildon at the listed Gill Beck bridge and farmhouse. This is a suitable point of access for the Airedale Way which runs upstream along the River Aire. You can also walk in Buck Woods (upstream) or Esholt Woods downstream beyond the village.

## 16. Hallside Close and Broadacre Way

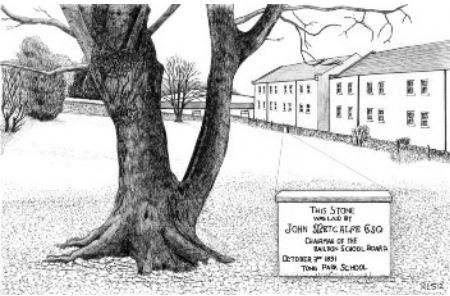
Off Hollin Head, BD17 7QL



Previously the grounds of Tong Park Hall, built for the Denby family, the site was redeveloped for housing in 2000, having previously been used as a school. Mature trees line two grassy areas, adjacent to Lonk House Lane and over the railway tunnel at Broadacre Way. The name 'Lonk' refers to one of the largest native hill breeds of sheep in the Pennines.

## 17. Centenary Road (CB)

Off Otley Road or Woodview Avenue, BD17 7QA



Two adjacent sites form this recreation ground, the first (behind the restaurant) has been a children's play area since the 1960s. Tong Park First School was demolished in 2000, and the school field was annexed; a large sycamore tree and the school's foundation stone (1891) can be found here. Centenary Road commemorates the centenary of William Denby and Sons, which was incorporated in 1820 before they moved to Gill Mill in the 1850s.

## 18. Park Lane

Also visible from Dorchester Crescent, BD17 7LQ



This small triangle of land is the site of cottages subject to 1960s clearances, although several neighbouring cottages survive. Two large sycamore trees grow here. 'Park' was one of five hamlets which together formed Tong Park village, the others can be found at St James's Place, Tong Park Street, Hollin Head and Tarn. These hamlets have been joined up by more modern developments.

## **19. Charlestown Meadows (SAF)**

Off Otley Road or Buck Lane, BD17 7RW



The three riverside fields between the Halfway House pub and Buck Lane were the site of important discoveries of Middle Stone Age tiny arrowheads found by Cecil Woodward in the 1940s and 50s when he searched the newly ploughed fields. Before development in the valley bottom, arable fields extended much further upstream. Most of what remains of Charlestown Meadows is currently being developed into a business

park. The nearby Buck Lane river footbridge is (for now) in peaceful and rural surroundings, leading to the Leeds Liverpool Canal and Buck Woods.

## **20. Denso Marston Nature Reserve (BWA)**

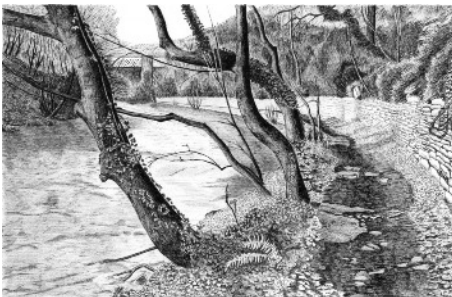
Off Otley Road, BD17 7QL



In 1991, Denso Limited, the Japanese parent of a group of firms, created this nature reserve along the riverside behind a large extension to the existing factory building. A warden is responsible for its care and leads regular guided walks. Recently an education building for visitors has been added. Habitats including pond, copse, grassland and hedgerow sustain a variety of wildlife, as their website records ([www.dm-naturereserve.org.uk](http://www.dm-naturereserve.org.uk)).

## **21. The Airedale Way**

Between Baildon Bridge and Esholt Lane, BD17 7SW



The Airedale Way passes through Baildon alongside the River Aire, between Baildon Bridge and Esholt Lane. Much of the path is directly on the waterside and some sections are lonely and very dilapidated, so please take extra care. The river and its banks provide an important long linear space and corridor for wildlife. You may see heron, dipper, kingfisher, goosander, and even a visiting cormorant, as well as mallard ducks.

## **22. Kirklands Avenue**

Also accessible from Hoyle Court Avenue, BD17 7EQ



This small field was set aside for public recreation when the second phase of the Hoyle Court housing estate was built in the 1970s. It was saved from development in 2013 and is now managed by the local residents' association in partnership with Baildon Town Council. It was once part of Hoyle Court Farm. Not far away, in the grass at the bottom of Hoyle Court Drive, is a large stone with 'cup and ring' markings associated with Bronze Age people.

## **23. St James's Church (LB)**

Off Otley Road and Kirklands Lane, BD17 7HF



The Church of England had owned land at Kirklands Lane for centuries, when in 1905, the wooden St James's Church was re-located there from Essex! In 2009 the church grounds were largely developed for housing, and the church was moved to the corner of the site, but included the creation of a Biblical Garden which is open 364 days per year. Figs, vines and palms are examples of plants visible in the garden.

## **24. Brook Hill (CB, CL, CA, LB)**

Off Station Road or Kirklands Road, BD17 7NS



Brook Hill is a collection of cottages which forms part of the hamlet of Low Baildon, once separate from the main village. It is also the name of an area of common land, the hill being the only area of open space remaining from the estate of the Brook family, whose house (now Brookhill Stores) was attached to a small brewery and weaving shed. Daffodils pop up in spring with many wildflowers in summer, and in the

autumn numerous brambles. It is also a favourite sledding area for children.

## **25. Central Charlestown (CB)**

Off Otley Road, Dewhirst Road or Fyfe Lane, BD17 7DL

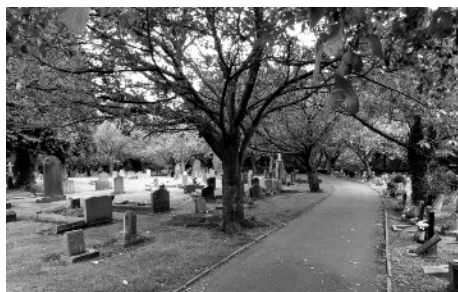


Charlestown was so named after Charles Thompson who built and lived in the first house alongside the new turnpike road to Otley. Small green spaces can be found at St John's Court (see also page 1), Oxford Place, Rosemont Lane (where there is a small playground and community garden area) and Ada Street, where beautiful cherry trees blossom in spring over Fyfe Lane (see front cover). The haphazard development of

the area combines old and new houses connected by a network of paths and side streets. The Victorian Baptist chapel is being converted into two cottages.

## **26. Charlestown Cemetery (CB)**

Off Otley Road, BD17 7HU



Opened in 1863 beside the River Aire in arable land called Firth Close, part of which was Firth Wood, the cemetery with its small Victorian former chapel building is a quiet haven for peaceful walks and contemplation with some seats. Deer can occasionally be seen. Some of the mature broadleaved trees are protected by preservation order and the cemetery contains 11 Commonwealth War Graves from both World Wars. The attractive

gardens near the lodge are colourful throughout the year.

## **27. Charlestown Allotments**

Off Otley Road; also visible from Dewhirst Road, BD17 7HX



The allotments, now owned by Baildon Town Council, occupy land once run as Archway Nurseries. Managed by Baildon Horticultural Society there are about a hundred plots where fruit, vegetables and flowers are grown. Some animals are kept and young children enjoy viewing the sheep from Dewhirst Road. There is a small hut open at the weekend for sale of produce and gardening requirements. Please note that at all other times the site may only be entered by tenants.

## **28. Woodcot Avenue**

Also accessed from Otley Road, BD17 7HH



Woodcot Avenue and surrounding roads (collectively named ‘Ferniehurst Park’) were built in the 1930s on land belonging to the Ferniehurst estate. Shops were also built, adjacent to which a flower garden was created, always providing colourful displays throughout the year. The nearby railway banking and viaduct run alongside Midland Road, which took its name from

the railway company. The railway line provides an unbroken haven and corridor for wildlife between here and Baildon station, and beyond.

## **29. Threshfield**

Off Station Road or Baildon Road, BD17 6QB



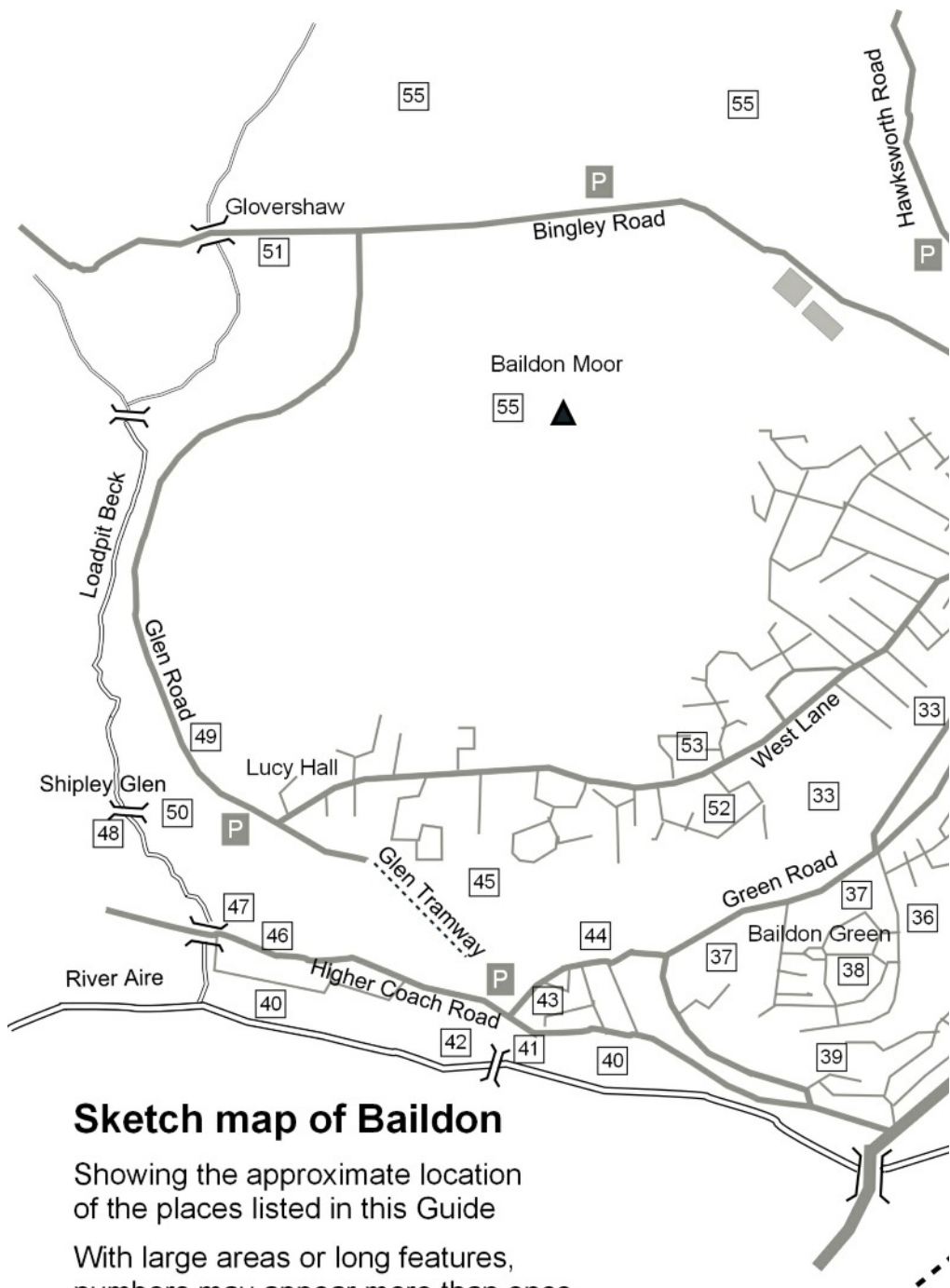
Threshfield is the name given to the row of terraced houses built in 1911 and denotes former cereal farming. The Netherhall Road estate was built in the 1930s and a large shrubbery created in front of what is now the sub-Post Office. Note also the War Memorial at the end of Hallfield Drive, flanked by two porticos within which are the names of those who lost their lives in both world wars and later conflicts. The bungalow behind is also part of the war memorial.

## **30. Netherhall Park**

Off Station Road or Netherhall Road, BD17 6NU



This small area was the site of Beck House, so named because Barnsley Beck passes nearby (see also No 3, Pennithorne; and 6, Kellcliffe). It was later used as a council depot, before half of it was developed into three bungalows. What remains as open space is a sunken garden with trees and shrubs, notable for blossom in spring – a quiet place to sit.

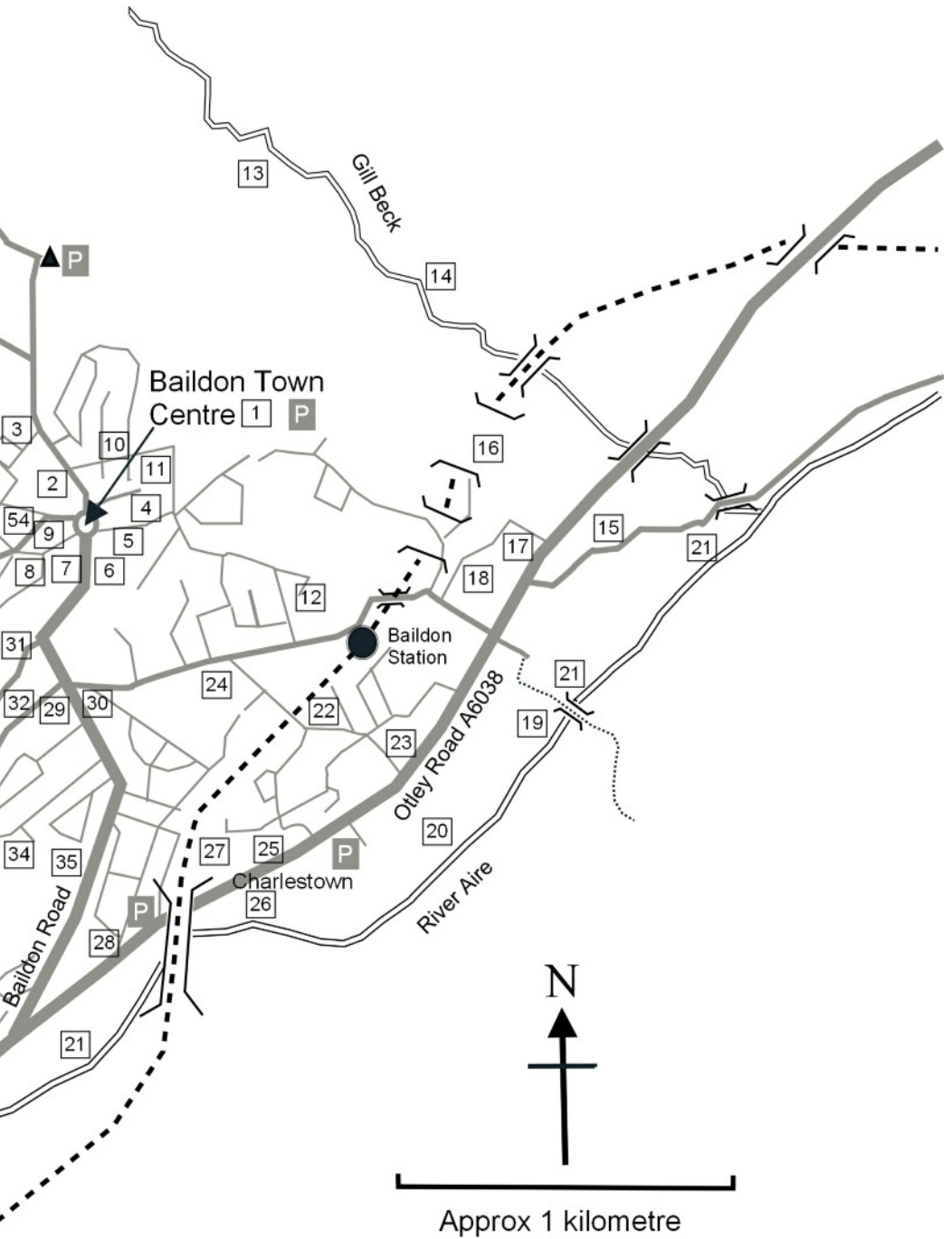


## Sketch map of Baildon

Showing the approximate location of the places listed in this Guide

With large areas or long features, numbers may appear more than once





### **31. Lane End (CA)**

Accessed via Green Road, BD17 6BY

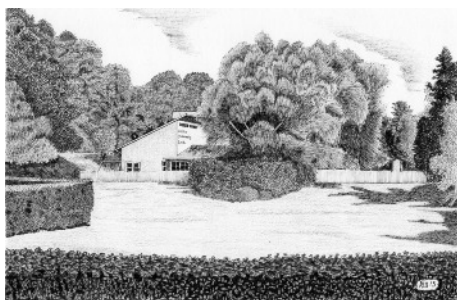


Lane End was originally a hamlet detached from the main village of Baildon. In the 1960s, the oldest section was demolished, leaving a green area where weeping willows can now be found. Close by on Browgate the new offices used to be the Bay Horse pub; the new nursery used to be the vicarage, and before that a doctor's house, named Mount Royd; and at the Browgate end of Rushcroft Terrace was the former

Town Hall (later a retirement home and now apartments).

### **32. Cliffe Avenue (CB)**

Also accessible via Green Road, BD17 6NX



Cliffe Avenue was also known as 'Shipley Road' and 'School Road' in the past and was not completed until the time of the Second World War. Before that it terminated at Sandals Pond, which was subsequently drained to create a recreation ground and play area. The current Baildon Community Link was constructed in 2011, replacing an earlier building nearby.

### **33. Baildon Bank (CL, RIGS, GB)**

Between Green Road and West Lane, BD17 6PD

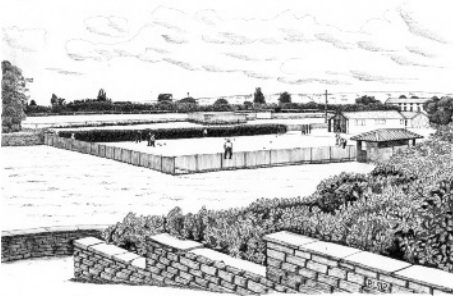


This cliff escarpment was once a popular area for rock climbing, where Ian Clough, the famous Baildon mountaineer killed on Annapurna, practised as a boy on the numbered climbs. However, these are now dangerous and should only be attempted with expert help. Two main footpaths climb up the bank from Green Road to West Lane. Further walks lead to the former Baildon Bank Quarry, where the excavations are very evident. Tree cover on the Bank is

increasing, particularly with silver birch.

### **34. Temple Rhydding Drive (CB)**

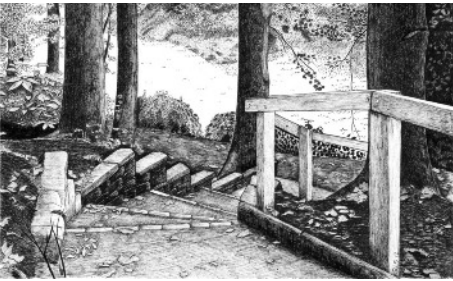
Also accessible from Cliffe Lane West, BD17 5QH



The bowling green, tennis courts and pavilion (together with a pitch-and-putt course, long since closed) were opened by the 1960s. The land was previously part of the Ferniehurst Estate and, it is said, had housed both a pond and rubbish tip over the years! Basketball hoops were added more recently. The football pitch beyond the bowling green is part of Ferniehurst Fields, which continue on the far side of the distant hedge (see below, 36).

### **35. Ferniehurst Dell (CB)**

Between Baildon Road and Cliffe Lane West, BD17 6PP



Ferniehurst Dell was originally part of the gardens belonging to a mansion called Ferniehurst. In the early 1930s the house was demolished and the gardens were sold to a quarrying company. Baildon Urban District Council bought the Dell in the 1940s and turned it into a recreation space for the people of Baildon. It is undergoing restoration; information boards have been placed in the Dell and an armed forces sculpture

trail was opened in June 2014 as part of the Community Covenant.

### **36. Ferniehurst Fields (CB)**

Accessed from Cliffe Lane West, BD17 5QL



Once part of the Ferniehurst estate and used as the home farm, a walled garden and later a hackney stud, these fields are today used for football (see above, 34), and there is also a community orchard and an exercise trail (pictured). The meadow beyond the track was formerly used as gardens, estate workers' cottages and a laundry. A large hawthorn hedge was planted to separate the site from the now-demolished primary school,

but the farm with its original farmhouse still functions and cows can often be found grazing.

### **37. Baildon Green (CL, CA, BWA, GB)**

Between Cliffe Lane West and Green Lane, BD17 7NE



The hamlet of Baildon Green, with its picturesque cottages and open space, has developed over centuries with farming, brickworks, mining and the cottage textile industry. Opposite the houses is the Cricketers Arms pub, adjacent to which was once Baildon Cricket Club's first ground. Goats graze on some of the common land in front of the chapel, and there are many trees and wildflowers. Paths criss-cross the area, which can be very boggy in places, with

willow and flag iris marking the wettest spots.

### **38. Denby Drive**

Accessed from The Crescent, BD17 7PE



Denby Wood, also known as Library Wood (the hairdressers in Southlands used to be a library), is a belt of trees running from Fairbank Wood eastwards towards Cliffe Lane West. It was dissected by the building of houses on Southlands (the office for the Clerk of Works was the library building). The western portion retains fully-grown woodland, whereas the east is tucked away in the middle of the housing, which almost

surrounds what is a surprising wildlife haven of open grassland and trees.

### **39. Fairbank Wood and The Knoll (CB, BWA)**

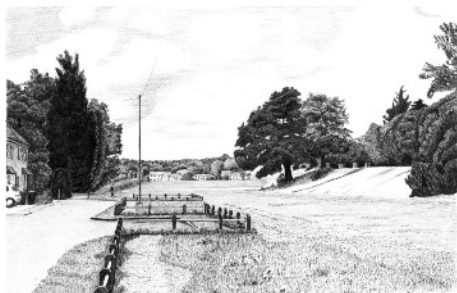
Between Green Lane and Bertram Drive, BD17 5JF



The Knoll was a mansion house, now demolished, with beautiful grounds providing an interesting uphill walk through and around the top of Fairbank Wood. Laid out as a recreation area in 1948 with rules and regulations for its use, it links the flat Coach Road area with Baildon Green. At the bottom of the hill, the main lodge house remains, opposite which is the Coach House, which served as an outer lodge for Milner Field, another lost mansion.

#### **40. Coach Road Flood Plain**

Also accessed from Green Lane, BD17 5JH



This land lies between Coach Road and the River Aire. It can flood during high waters and has therefore escaped development. Two cricket clubs play on the flat ground; in former times tennis courts could also be found here. Riparian trees include alder and willow. The nearby former barracks building provides indoor recreation facilities for sports including table tennis and badminton. Not far downstream is Baildon Bridge, the

only remaining vehicular crossing point between Baildon and Shipley.

#### **41. Saltaire Bridge (CL, CA)**

Accessed from Coach Road, BD17 7LT

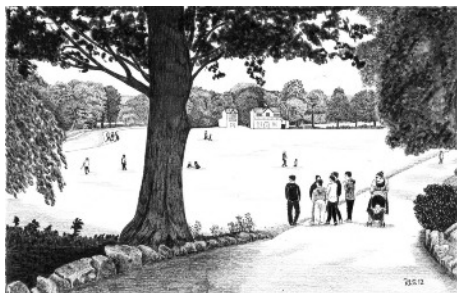


A huge sycamore tree stands alongside Roberts Park lodge, from where a private road bridge once took carriages between Milner Field house and Victoria Road in Saltaire. Having fallen into disrepair, that bridge was demolished, but now a long footbridge spans the River Aire, giving beautiful views of Saltaire, with its mill, model village housing, institute and church,

built by Titus Salt, and of Roberts Park itself (see below, 42). Below the bridge, the former mill weir straddles the river, and herons can often be seen fishing here.

#### **42. Roberts Park (CB, CA, HPG, GB)**

Accessed from Saltaire Bridge or Higher Coach Road, BD17 7LU



Created as Saltaire Park in 1871 to serve the model village and later renamed in memory of Bertram Roberts, son of Salt's managing director, the park includes bandstand, cricket pitch and pavilions. Waterfowl can be seen on the river and children will enjoy the new playground nearby. The promenades are lined with interesting trees including a collection of hollies begun by Sir Titus Salt. The park forms part of the wider World

Heritage Site, which incorporates Saltaire Village on the Shipley side of the river.

### **43. Thompson Lane (CB, GB)**

Also accessible from Higher Coach Road, BD17 7LT



At the foot of Walker and Midgeley Woods (see also below, 45), this open area sits between two school sites and, along with them, was bought for public use. With numerous springs and streams in the area, the ground can be boggy, yet both football and cricket have been played here. A smaller green exists on the other side of Thompson Lane (see page 1 for drawing).

### **44. Thompson Lane Allotments**

Visible from Thompson Lane, BD17 7LY



The allotments, now owned by Baildon Town Council, occupy land originally purchased from the Lord of the Manor. Managed by Baildon Horticultural Society, there are about forty plots, which have been cultivated since the First World War and there is a small hut open at the weekend for sale of produce and gardening requirements. Please note that at all other times the site may only be entered by tenants.

### **45. Midgeley Wood and Walker Wood (CB, AW, GB)**

Off Higher Coach Road, BD17 5RH



Midgeley and Walker woods (named after Baildon families) climb the hillside between Coach Road and Lucy Hall Drive. Dominated by native species including oak and holly, a carpet of bluebells appears in spring, and they give undisturbed haven for wildlife. They stretch from Baildon Green to the Glen Tramway, beyond which is Trench Wood and the valley of Shipley Glen. Near the top of the Tramway is a monolith fancifully called, from its shape, Robin Hood's Chair. (See also above, 43.)

## 46. Higher Coach Road

Via Glenwood Avenue, BD17 5SB



This land lies between Higher Coach Road and the River Aire and was once used partly as a market garden. It can flood during high waters and has therefore escaped development. A footbridge gives access to Hirst Wood and the Leeds-Liverpool Canal. Over the road bridge into Gilstead at the end of Higher Coach Road is a beautiful avenue of horse chestnut trees, which once led to Milner Field, with its farm and woods. This

large house was owned by the Salt family and its remains can still be found amongst the trees.

## 47. Trench Meadows and Trench Wood (SSSI, LB, GB)

Off Higher Coach Road, BD17 5SJ



A site of special scientific interest, Trench Meadows is a managed site with some cattle grazing. In the neutral pH grassland are several locally rare herbs – devil's bit scabious, tormentil, and betony. Other parts have acid-loving grasses whilst three flushes have yet more distinctive species of grasses and flowers such as marsh bedstraw and meadow sweet. Trench Wood is ancient with mainly oak and holly. A footpath

known as 'Lovers' Walk' links Higher Coach Road with Prod Lane. There is a small collection of interesting historic buildings in the area, dating back to the sixteenth century.

## 48. Glen Woods and Crag Hebble (CL, AW, GB)

Off Glen Road, BD17 5BN



Paths through this ancient South Pennine clough woodland lead past Crag Hebble dam which provided water for the Salts Mill dyehouse. The western slope, known as Broadacre Wood, leads up to Eldwick and Gilstead on the Bingley side of the valley. Upstream, beyond Salts Bridge where the road leads to Eldwick, is the confluence of smaller streams: Eldwick Beck and Glovershaw Beck, near which runs the Dales Way.

Trees growing here are primarily birch, oak and holly, although beech, hazel, rowan and maple can also be found.

### **49. Bracken Hall Green (CL, GB, SAF)**

Off Glen Road, BD17 5EA



Close to Baildon's Countryside Centre, due to reopen in 2015, this flat grassy area is dotted with rocks on which children love to play and there are several archaeological remains. Traditionally an area of recreation for Bradford and Shipley people, the Glen Tramway has long made it more accessible on busy weekends. There are sources of information and refreshments nearby, with guided walks from here with easy access to Baildon Moor.

### **50. Bracken Hall Crag (CL, GB)**

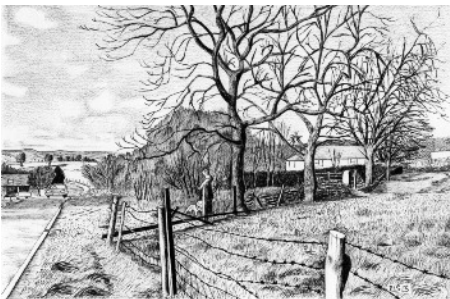
Off Glen Road, BD17 5EB



The sides of the ravine or glen through which Loadpit (or Lode Pit) Beck flows are steep and dotted with rocks and boulders of millstone grit. The valley was formed by glacial ice and melt water, and past quarrying has also shaped the landscape which is a favourite place for visitors who can explore or sit and admire the views.

### **51. Glovershaw (CL, GB)**

Off Bingley Road, BD16 3AR



A small area of common land can be found either side of Bingley Road at Glovershaw, creating a kite shape. A small copse is developing on the land which would once have been used to pen animals. Nearby is the Baildon boundary where the road crosses Glovershaw Beck.



## **52. Oakleigh View and Highmoor Walk (CB)**

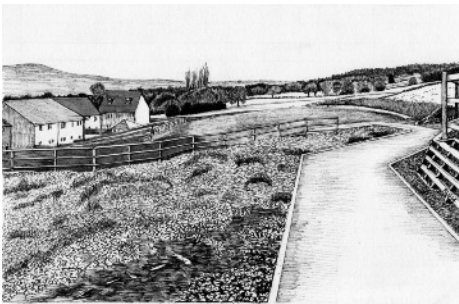
Accessed from West Lane, BD17 5TP



These housing estates were developed in the 1990s on a former farm, called Oaklea Farm on the 1940s farm survey. Small areas of public recreation space were set aside at the end of Oakleigh View and at the end of Highmoor Walk, which connect to the footpath running along the top of Baildon Bank, with wonderful views.

## **53. Honey Pot Drive**

Off West Lane, BD17



Two large reservoirs were built here on the slopes next to Oaklea Farm, to serve Shipley. These were closed in 2001 and have been replaced with a housing estate. As part of the development, a public recreation area is being created in the northwest corner of the site.

## **54. The Grove and Tenter Croft**

Accessed from Towngate or Acre Rise, BD17 5NF



The Grove was constructed in stages following the First World War, having previously been used as farmland, market gardens and a football field. A green area was enclosed by housing, where until recently there were large poplar trees. There are several attractive trees and flowerbeds in this area, the daffodils being particularly notable in spring. Connecting The Grove to

Tenter Croft is Newton Way, where a new medical centre opened in 2014. The name Tenter derives from a past stage in the process of making cloth when after soaking it was hung out to dry and stretched in the sun. Hence the saying ‘on tenterhooks’.

## **55. Baildon Moor (CL, SSSI, BWA, SAM, SAF, GB)**

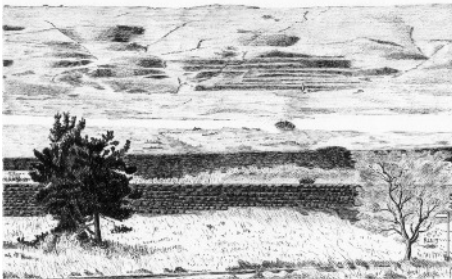
Off Hawksworth Road BD17 6BQ, Bingley Road BD17 5EE, and Glen Road, BD17 5ED



As it leaves the Village, Hawksworth Road passes a golf course (prior to WW1 it was a rifle range). At its summit, the Eaves, is a car park with fine panoramic views overlooking the White House (former restaurant, now private house). Just below are remains of busy hamlets where miners lived: Moorside with its wells, Low Hill with its former Primitive Methodist chapel, and Low Springs, with its beck. Further

down Hawksworth Road is another small car park, from which leads a well made path to Sconce with its pretty little moorland waterfall and nearby rare flora, passing Sconce Crag, Joe's Well, and numerous bell pits (remnants of small-scale early shallow-shafted coal mines). Many saplings are regrowing, here and elsewhere on the Moor, now that sheep grazing has stopped following the 2001 Foot and Mouth outbreak.

From the Eaves, or the Pennythorn Hill car park on Bingley Road, you can walk up to the summit by one of the many criss-cross paths, past remains of WW1 training trenches above the reservoirs, to the trig point and diorama viewpoint, where the wind is often bracing. To the south, just below the high ground, a paved pack-horse track starts from Hope Gate towards Golcar Farm near the junction of Glen Road with Bingley Road, though most of the actual route has now lost its paving. It leads past Dobrudden Farm caravan park, enclosed



from the moor, once known as Cock-walk Farm because of its cock-pit. The nearby cinder caves are waste heaps from the C19<sup>th</sup> Dobrudden coal mine. This plain is rich in prehistoric rock art (cup and ring stones), and the Friends of Baildon Moor website lists birds that can be seen: willow warbler, reed bunting, wheatear, kestrel, snipe, meadow pipit and golden plover, to name just a few ([baildonmoor.org/wordpress](http://baildonmoor.org/wordpress)).



From the edge of the caravan park you can see below you on the Glen Road Bracken Hall and its enclosed farm land. Moorland streams create some boggy areas marked by cotton grass. There are long views across Shipley Glen towards Eldwick, and far further to the wind farm on Ovenden Moor above Oxenhope.

## Other Useful Information

### Children's Play and Kick-About Areas

Play equipment for children up to the age of fourteen is provided at the following sites: Jenny Lane, Cliffe Avenue, Centenary Road, Thompson Lane, Roberts Park, Southcliffe Drive (near Ferniehurst Farm) and Dewhirst Road. Play equipment for infants can be found at Oakleigh View. These sites, except Southcliffe Drive and Dewhirst Road, also contain space for a kick-about. Other sites which are suitable for a kick-about include Ferniehurst and the floodplains along Coach Road/Higher Coach Road.

### Ferniehurst & Temple Rhydding

At Ferniehurst and Temple Rhydding can be found football pitches, tennis and basketball courts and a bowling green. Tennis and basketball can be played for free, as can football when the pitches are not in use. The bowling green is managed by the Bowls Club. For details contact the Parks Manager on (01274) 437028.

### Walkers are Welcome!

Baildon is a *Walkers are Welcome* Town, and there are many local walks. Baildon Local History Society's Heritage Trails (see inside back cover) make good use of Baildon's public spaces, and there are many opportunities for walking the extensive rights of way network, with guided walks produced by both Baildon Town Council and Bradford's Countryside Service. The Baildon Walkers are Welcome team are preparing details of several other walks of different lengths and character in the town.

### Countryside Code

Several of the public spaces in this Guide can be accessed using public rights of way, sometimes going over farm land or in close proximity 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. If driving, please park vehicles responsibly.

### Things to see and do

Several public spaces host community events and attractions.

Ian Clough Hall car park is used for the monthly **farmers' market** (4<sup>th</sup> Saturday from 9am to 1pm, except January). Parking is still available but please walk if you can. The car park is also used for **carol singing at Christmas** and for the **Baildon Proms** (1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of July).

**Baildon Carnival** takes place at Jenny Lane Fields on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of July. The neighbouring Rugby Club is the venue for the annual **Harley Davidson Rally** at August Bank Holiday.

Both the annual **Scarecrow Walk** (second Saturday in September) and Baildon at Christmas (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of December) are spread across the village centre area, including the churchyards and Hall Cliffe Community Garden, which itself hosts two '**Music in the Garden**' concerts each year.

**Roberts Park bandstand** has music every Sunday afternoon 2pm to 4pm from May to September; and the **Saltaire Festival** in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> weeks of September, when there is usually a funfair on the fields at Thompson Lane.

Next to Thompson Lane fields and running up through Walker Wood is the **Shipley Glen Tramway**. Opened in 1895, and run by volunteers, it is the country's oldest working cable-hauled funicular railway, cliff lifts excepted ([shipleyglentramway.co.uk](http://shipleyglentramway.co.uk)).

**Denso Marston Nature Reserve** has a year-round programme of walks, talks and events, some using their small education centre. The annual open day is usually in June.

### **Sport and Active Leisure**

Numerous sports and active leisure organisations make use of Baildon's public spaces for a variety of activities. For further details, please contact the Town Council.

- o Baildon Bowls Club (based at Temple Rhydding Drive)
- o Baildon Rugby Club (based at Jenny Lane Fields)
- o Baildon Cricket Club (based at Jenny Lane Fields)
- o Tong Park Esholt Cricket Club (Based at Spring Woods)
- o Saltaire Cricket Club (based at Roberts Park)
- o Haworth Road Cricket Club (Based at Baildon Bridge)
- o Baildon Trinity Football Club (Based at Jenny Lane Fields)
- o Baildon Trinity Dynamos Junior Football Club (based at Ferniehurst)
- o Baildon Runners (Based at Jenny Lane Fields)
- o Saltaire Striders (Based at Roberts Park)
- o Ghyll Beck Driving Range (Based at Esholt Lane)
- o Baildon Golf Club (Based at Baildon Moor)
- o Baildon Rifle and Pistol Club, including Archery (Based at Esholt Lane)
- o Bradford Rowing Club (Near Roberts Park)

Although schools are not covered in this Guide, additional facilities at Titus Salt School (BD17 5RH) and Sandal Primary School (BD17 5DH) are also used by football and cricket teams.

### **Environmental and Friends' Groups**

To get involved with looking after Baildon's public spaces, the following organisations welcome new members. For further details, please contact the Town Council.

- o Friends of Bracken Hall
- o Friends of Baildon Moor
- o Friends of Hall Cliffe Community Garden
- o Friends of Ferniehurst Dell
- o Friends of Denso Marston Nature Reserve
- o Friends of Roberts Park
- o Friends of Shipley Glen Tramway
- o St John's Churchyard Crew
- o Baildon In Bloom
- o Otley Road in Bloom
- o Hoyle Court and Kirklands Residents' Association
- o Countryside Service Volunteers
- o Aire Rivers Trust
- o Baildon Horticultural Society
- o Baildon Local History Society
- o Charlestown and Low Baildon History Group
- o Walkers are Welcome Steering Group

## **Notes**

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## List of the Baildon Self-Guided Heritage Trails

1. **The Baildon Village Walk:** visits the old lanes, folds and corners of central Baildon.
2. **Coach Road to Shipley Glen:** a short walk through 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:** A walk looking at 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.

All the above can be downloaded free from the Town Council website, where you will also find details of many other walks ([baildowntowncouncil.gov.uk/walking.php](http://baildowntowncouncil.gov.uk/walking.php), or [baildowntowncouncil.gov.uk/walkers\\_are\\_welcome.php](http://baildowntowncouncil.gov.uk/walkers_are_welcome.php)). Baildon Public Library can provide details of most walks, and you can obtain the Heritage Trails in booklet form there, for a small fee.

Also available: **The Baildon Peace Walk:** based on the Baildon Peace Garden, Cliffe Avenue, marking the outbreak of WW1 and taking you to places with wartime connections. Published by Baildon Community Link. Available from the Baildon Town Council website, or the Link 01274 588681 [baildon.link@btinternet.com](mailto:baildon.link@btinternet.com).

## Acknowledgements

Help from many people and sources is gratefully acknowledged, particularly members of Baildon Local History Society, and Charlestown and Low Baildon Local History Group.

Photographs by Mark Scrimshaw © Baildon Town Council  
Drawings by Roy Lorrain-Smith ©

**Front cover drawing:** Cherry trees between Fyfe Lane and Ada Street, Charlestown

# Baildon Town Council

Baildon Town Council is the ‘grass roots’ level of local government, serving the Baildon area and working with the larger City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council. It consists of twelve democratically-elected Councillors (who are unpaid) and four part-time paid officers.

The Town Council was established in 2007 following a referendum. It was styled as a ‘parish council’ until 2013. Parish and town councils have few legal duties, but many powers, which can be used to improve the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the places they serve.

In 2010, the Town Council published The Baildon Plan (updated 2014), which draws together aims and aspirations for the conservation of what is good about Baildon, as well as the betterment of those aspects of local life that are in need of improvement.

During the consultation, many residents expressed gratitude for their green and pleasant surroundings. However, some people also felt there is a lack of appreciation and awareness of the public realm, leading to its degradation.

*Exploring Baildon: A Guide to Public Spaces* has been commissioned by the Town Council to improve understanding of our public spaces and in doing so to encourage their appropriate enjoyment, protection and enhancement.

Published by Baildon Town Council 2015  
Baildon Community Link, Cliffe Avenue, Baildon, Shipley, BD17 6NX



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Comments on this walk are welcome  
and should be sent to  
the Clerk of Baildon Town Council  
at the above address

