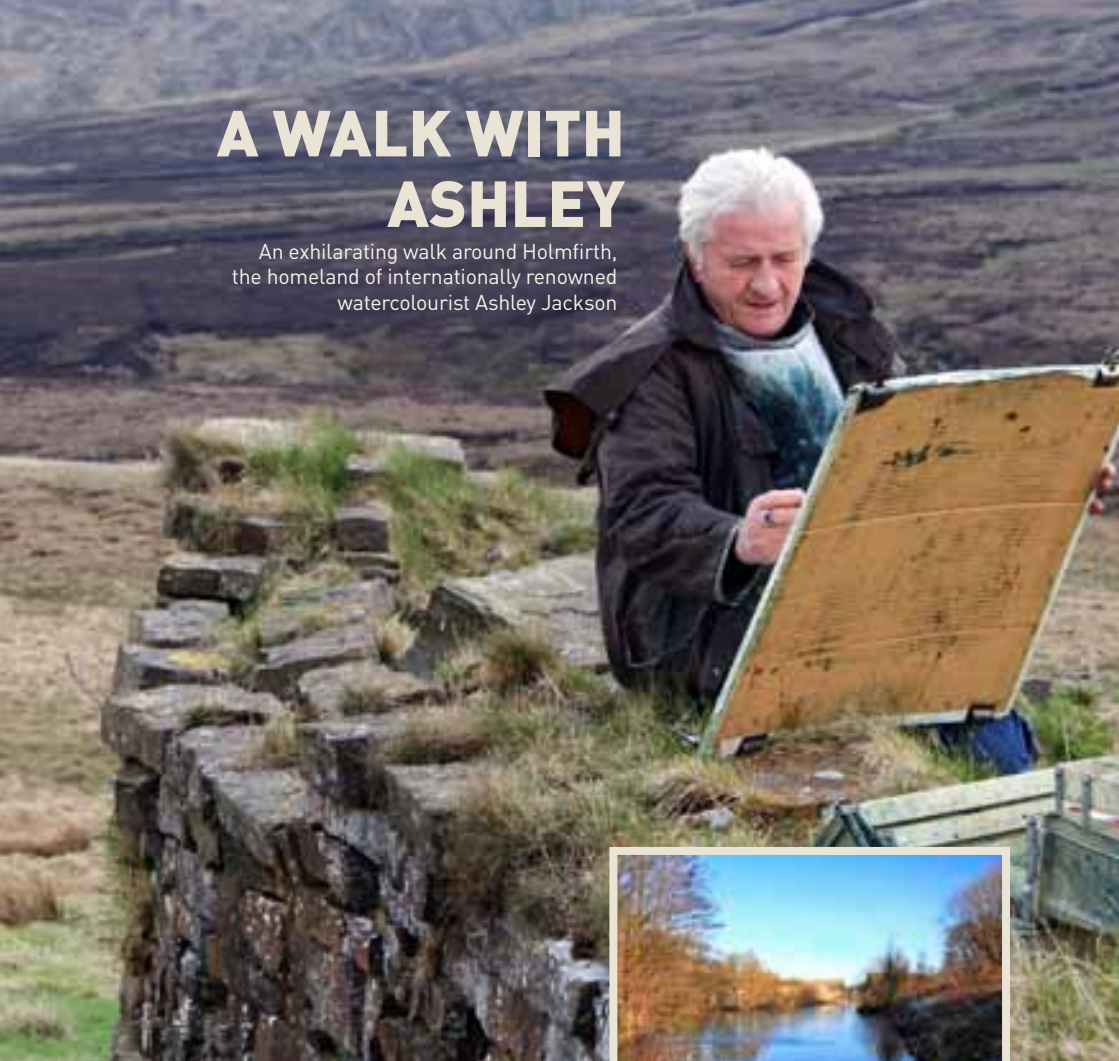


A WALK WITH ASHLEY

An exhilarating walk around Holmfirth,
the homeland of internationally renowned
watercolourist Ashley Jackson





Ashley Jackson

© Claudia Berettoni

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INTRODUCTION



I've planned the route of this walk specially to introduce you and other visitors to the Holmfirth area.

I also want to explain how this remarkable town and its' surrounding countryside has influenced me as an artist since I moved to Holmfirth in 1972 and opened my first studio in the town in 1981.

The walk is just over two and a half miles or four and a half kilometres and the entire route is on hard all weather surfaces, so trainers or other flat soled shoes will be fine for most of the year. If you're of average fitness the walk should be quite easy, but some older people or families with young children may find the short, but steep hills a bit daunting.

The steep and narrow stone steps at the start of the walk are on one of the most attractive sections, but make access for pushchairs difficult. Do please remember, however, to take a waterproof jacket with you, as the weather changes rapidly in the Pennines and it's not much fun to be soaked to the skin.

OVERVIEW

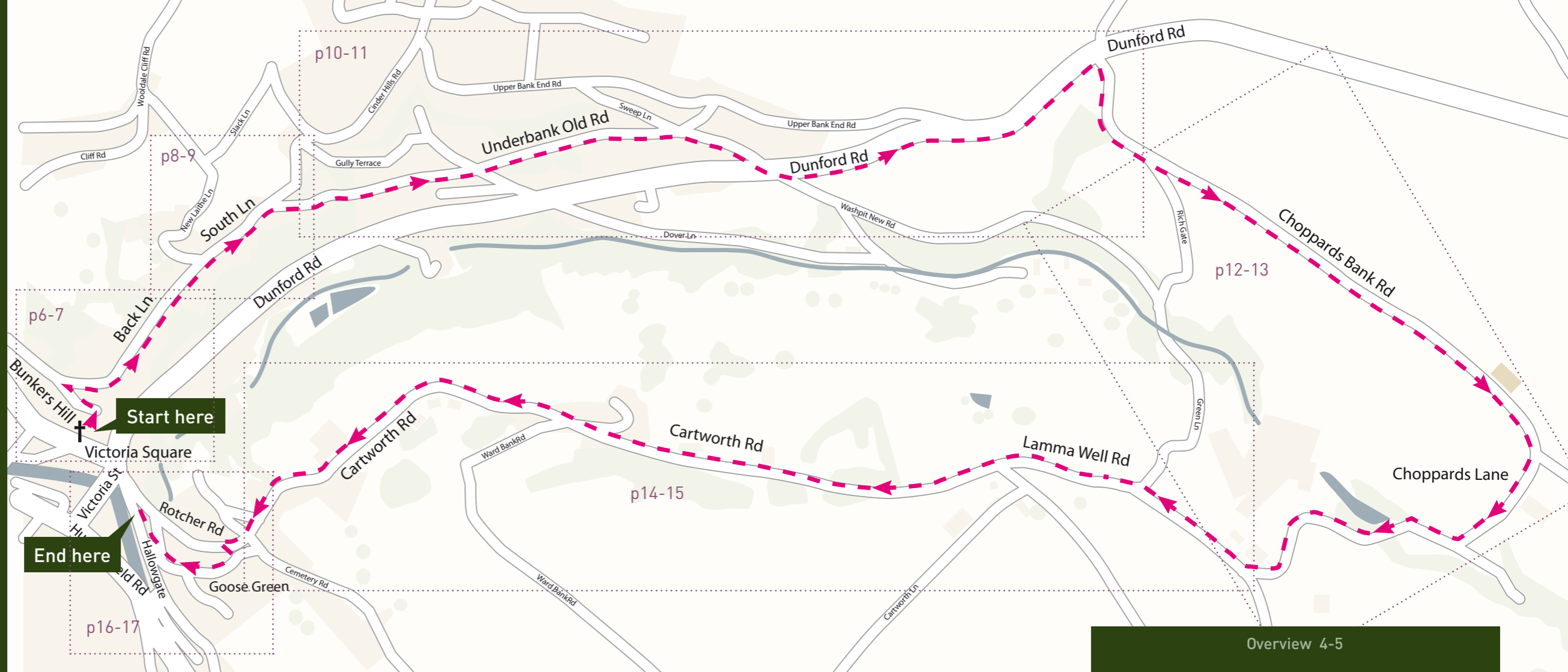


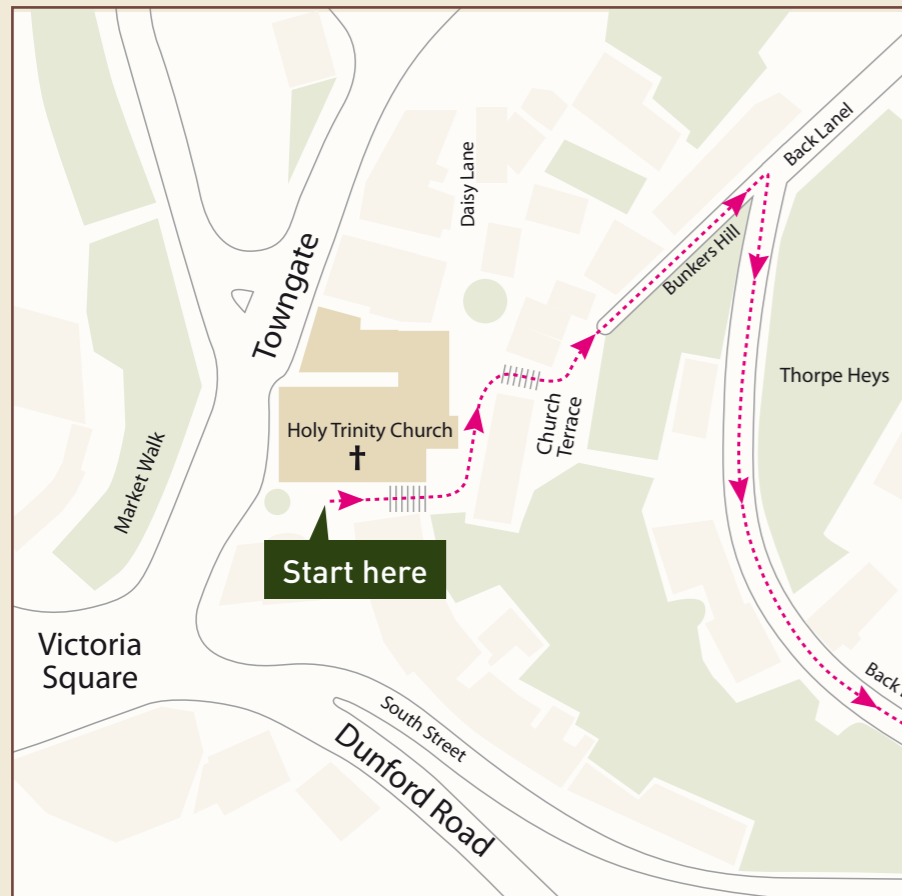
© Claudia Berettoni

This booklet takes you through each section of the walk and includes some of my own artwork of the fantastic landscapes. The walk is approximately two and a half miles and should take around one and a half hours if walked at a leisurely pace.

I hope that many of you will view Holmfirth and the surrounding area with fresh eyes and enjoy the walk; it has much to offer for families, couples or solitary walkers.

I ask one thing only, that you occasionally stop along the way to drink in the fantastic landscape created by Mother Nature, but also be aware that the weather can turn quickly so be prepared for all eventualities.





1. The walk starts in the paved square off Town Gate, outside Holy Trinity Church. Walk to the far left hand corner of the square and climb the steep steps, with hand rail, which go up between the Church and Beattie's Coffee Shop. When you get to the top of the steps bear left.

The small detached stone building on the left is the famous T'owd Towser and thought to be the oldest building in the town. T'owd Towser has seen many uses including as fire station, mortuary and town lock-up.

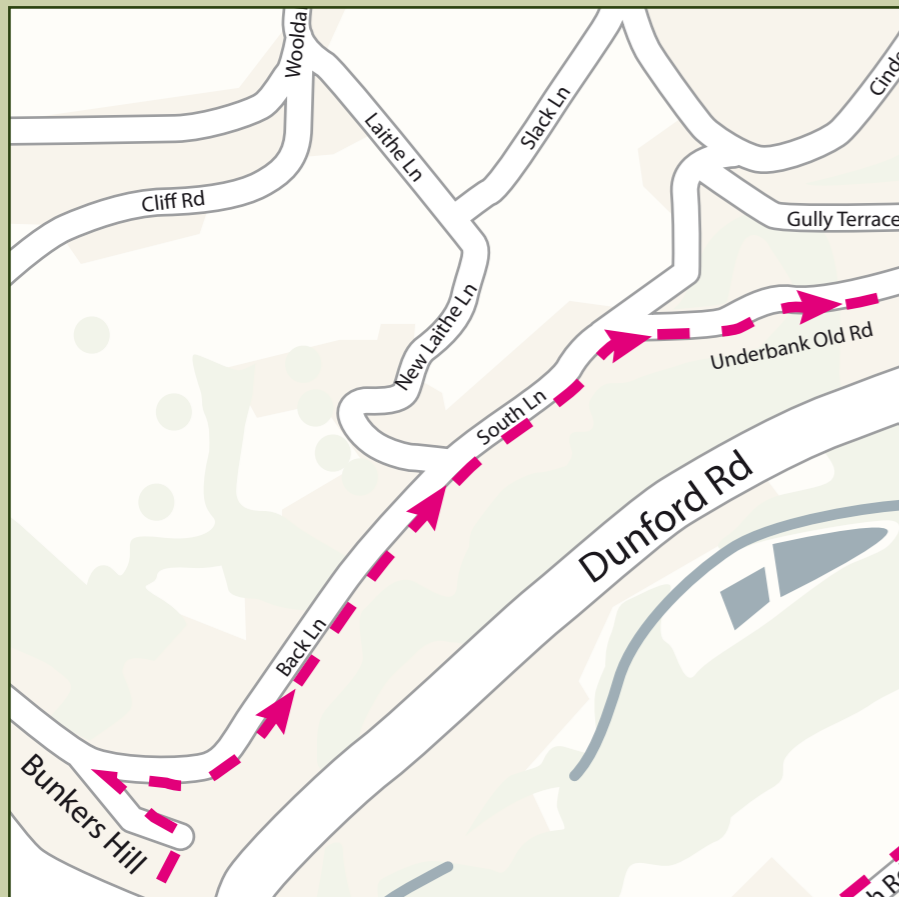
2. Continue past T'owd Towser on the left and then up Church Terrace, where there are more steep steps to climb. Turn left at the top of the steps and continue up Bunkers Hill. At the top of Bunkers Hill, turn right up hill along Back Lane.



Assuming its clear weather, there are good views on the right, over Holmfirth to Greenfield Road.

Holmfirth is in the Pennines, which are well known for their wet weather and water has played an important role in the history of Holmfirth. One of the reasons why the woollen textile industry established in Holmfirth was that the fast flowing upland streams could be used as a source of water power.

A more infamous role played by water in the history of the town was on the 5th of February 1852, when Bilberry Reservoir burst its banks, and spread death and destruction for miles down the Holme Valley.



3. Carry on along Back Lane, past a fig tree on the right and the Old Vicarage on the left.

Continuing the water theme, there are a number of attractive old water troughs on this walk and one of the first we encounter is on the left.



Underbank Old Rd, Holmfirth

"It had just rained, and the Yorkshire stone glistened. The telegraph wires appeared to dance around a maypole in the wind. The road was deserted - I was magnetised to the magic of the moment, and felt compelled to freeze the moment forever on paper." AJ

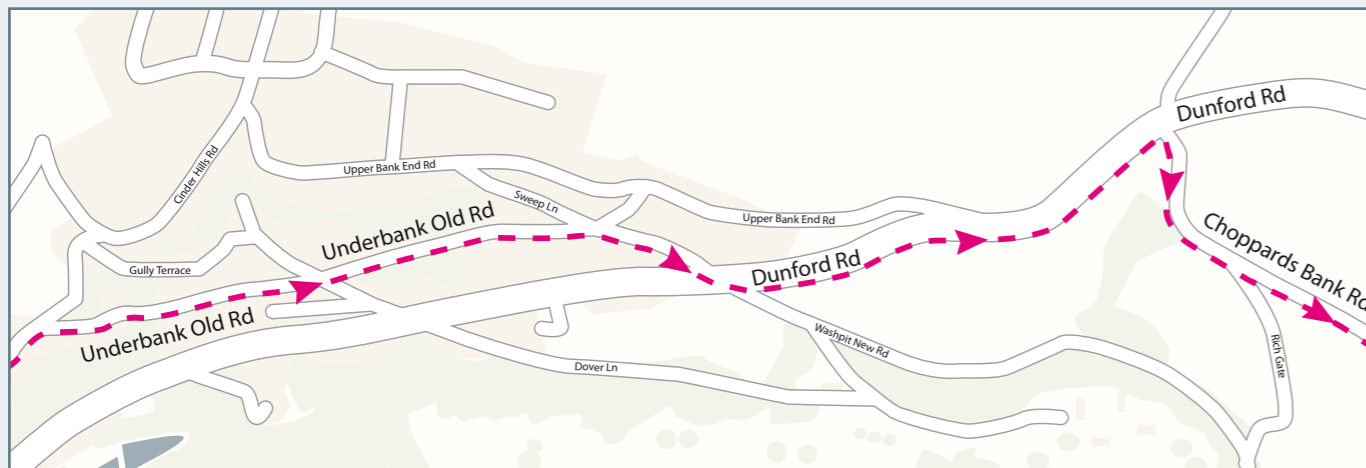
4. Continue up hill, ignoring the road junction on the right, you are now walking up South Lane. Continue along South Lane and past the junction with New Laithe Lane on the left.

Turn right down Underbank Old Road, which is very steep at this point. There are traces of the former cobbled surface, which start just outside Joben Cottage.



5. Continue along Underbank Old Road, which levels out at the bottom of the hill and continue straight across the cross road, then up hill.

Go past the solitary mill chimney to the road junction and then turn right down Underbank Old Road to Dunford Road. Cross Dunford Road, the B6106 (take care to avoid traffic) and turn left up hill on the pavement for about 500 metres.



6. Turn right down Choppards Bank Road. Keep left at the fork in the road and continue up Choppards Bank Road.



There is a welcome roadside seat on the left, where you can rest and enjoy the views over to Cartworth. The large building in the bottom of the Valley is Washpit Mill.

The mill was originally built to take advantage of the water from the River Ribble, which joins the River Holme in Holmfirth. Washpit Mill is a working woollen mill, employing about 130 people in carpet production.

Looking up the valley, there are superb views up to Holme Styes Reservoir and the high Yorkshire moors of the Peak District National Park.



Holmfirth from Choppards

“As Castle Hill stands majestic in the middle distance, the whole warm, intoxicating and inviting atmosphere of the Holme Valley seemed to echo around me.” AJ



© Steven Gillis/hey9 imaging



The building about 700 metres along Choppards Bank Road on the left is Choppards Mission Room, a small hillside church with superb views across the valley.

Originally built in 1839 as a day school, the former classroom is now used as a chapel by the Upper Holme Valley team ministry of the Church of England. The interesting stone structures on the left of the chapel were the outdoor lavatories. Imagine sitting there, with no heating on a cold and snowy day in January!

7. After Choppards Mission Room and at the junction with Cote Lane, turn right down Choppards Lane. At the bottom of this steep hill, there is a large mill pond on the right.

The mill pond is fed by the River Ribble and would originally have provided a source of water power for Washpit Mill.



© Steven Gittis/hd9 imaging

8. Continue uphill past Washpit Mill and then past Lamma Wells Farm, until you join Lamma Wells Road.



Overcast skies over Choppards

“This painting represents the essence of Autumn, a wonderful season when one can savour rich, subtle siennas, playing against winter greys, producing a cloak of vivid colour. The painting represents the many friendly and welcoming men and women who live in the moorland farms of Yorkshire, whom have greeted me with a smile. They possess a special character; life has carved for them qualities that glow from within.” AJ



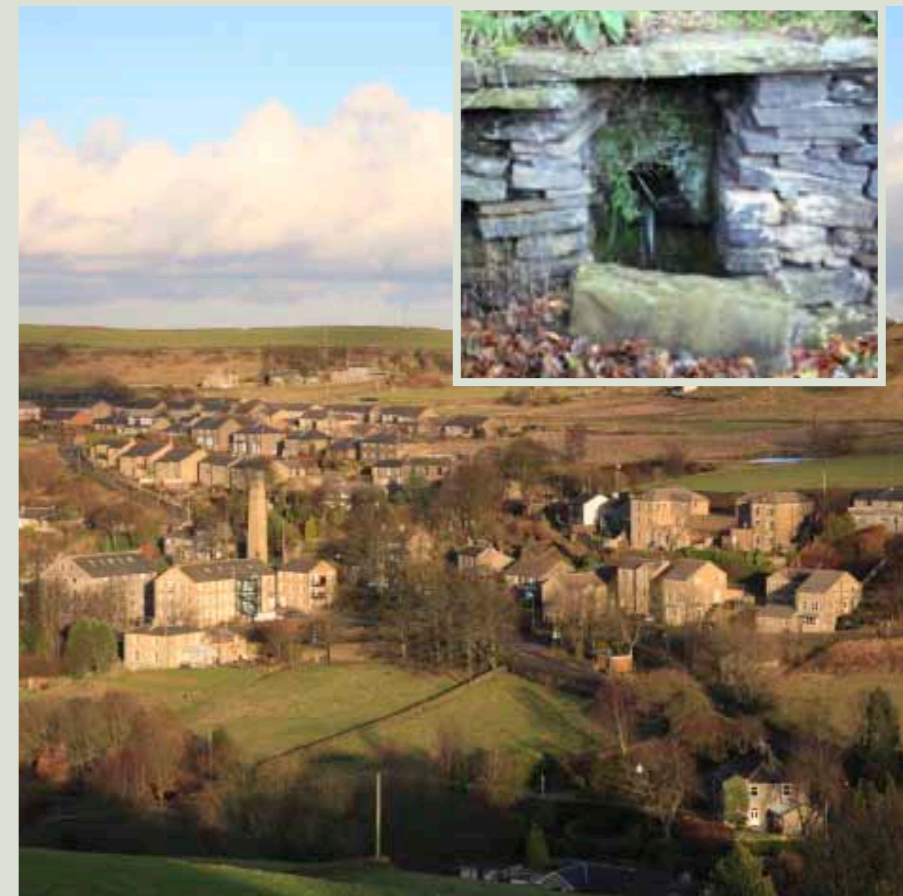
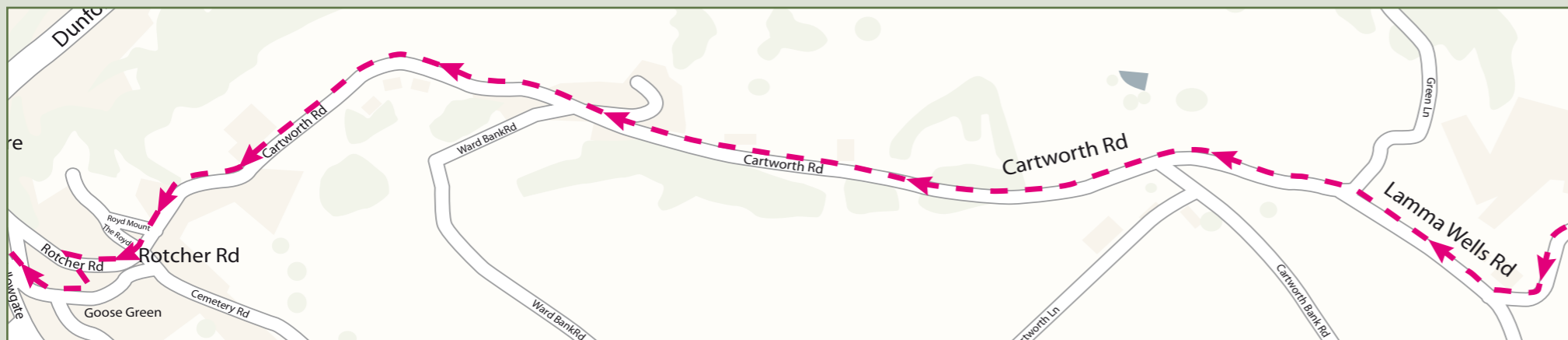
Would you believe that Holmfirth was once a mini Hollywood?

James Bamforth, born at Cartworth, in the early 1840's, was among a select group of early British film-makers and responsible for producing a modest but historically significant collection of films. The Bamforth name is now chiefly remembered for its cheeky seaside postcards.

At the top of this hill, on Lamma Wells Road, there are dramatic views down the Holme Valley to Castle Hill Iron Age Fort above Huddersfield in the distance.

9. Continue on Lamma Wells Road and go past the junction with Cartworth Bank Road at the top of the hill and then continue onto Cartworth Road.

10. Continue along Cartworth Bank Road until you reach the junction with Cemetery Road and Rotcher Road. Proceed down Rotcher Road.





11. As you come around the bend on Rotcher Road, take a left turn down some steep steps that lead through to Goose Green. Continue onto New Row and past White Witch Cottage. The lane emerges onto Hollowgate, opposite Holmfirth Market.

When you've finished this walk, why not treat yourself to a delicious snack in one of the many excellent cafés in Holmfirth.

In addition to showing you what a beautiful and interesting area Holmfirth is, I hope that I have been able to give you some insight into how artists seek to interpret the landscape. If you are interested in finding out more about the work of Holmfirth artists, you may wish to visit some of the following galleries and web sites:



Andrew Sanderson
Photographer
 Tel: 01484 685315
www.andrewsanderson.com

Ashley Jackson
Landscape Watercolourist
 Tel: 01484 686460
www.ashley-jackson.co.uk

Booth House Pottery
Ceramics
 Tel: 01484 685270
www.jimrobison.co.uk

Celia Kilner
Stone carver and calligrapher
 Tel: 01484 685167

David Mayne
Metal sculpture
 Tel: 01484 687986
www.david-mayne.co.uk

David Roberts
Raku ceramics
www.davidroberts-ceramics.com

Debbie George
Painter
 Tel: 01484 685315
www.debbiegeorge.co.uk

Helen Bray and Nigel Cappleman
Photographic portraiture
 Tel: 01484 681978
www.hjbs.co.uk

John & Dawn Field
Contemporary jewellery
 Tel: 07847534520
www.jfield.co.uk

Mick Kirkby-Geddes
Scrap metal sculpture
 Tel: 01484 682454
www.mkg.me.uk

Rosalind Annis Studio
Pastel artist
 Tel: 01484 681870
www.rosalindannis.uwclub.net

Sculpture Lounge Studios
Sculptors and model makers
 Tel: 01484 687425
www.sculpturelounge.com

Sue Clay
Textile designer and felt maker
 Tel: 01484 686642
www.feltconnection.co.uk

Sue Jenkins
Handmade stoneware pottery
 Tel: 01484 689464
www.hand-built-pottery.co.uk

Wayne Markwort
Multimedia
 Tel: 07816 221308
www.waynemarkwort.com

Key arts events in the Holmfirth calendar:

May	Holmfirth Festival of Folk
June	Holmfirth Arts Festival
July	Holmfirth Art week
September	Holmfirth Food & Drink Festival
October	Holmfirth Music Festival

For up to date information about artists and events in Holmfirth and the wider Holme Valley see the web site:

www.holmfirhartandmusic.org.uk



Design by Kirklees Council - Graphic Design Services
Photography by Steven Gillis/hd9 imaging and Claudia Berettoni



Visitor Information

Find out what else there is to see and do in the local area with a visit to the tourist information centre, where you can make accommodation bookings, theatre and concert reservations, and pick up information on attractions and events.

Holmfirth Tourist Information Centre

Tel: 01484 222444

Email: Holmfirth.tic@kirklees.gov.uk

www.pennineyorkshire.com

Countryside Unit

Tel: 01484 234076

Email: countryside.unit@kirklees.gov.uk

www.kirklees.gov.uk/community/leisure/countryside

Getting to Holmfirth

Public Transport

There is a regular bus service to Holmfirth, up to date information can be obtained from West Yorkshire Metro: www.wymetro.com/BusTravel/bustimetables

Car Parking

Crown Lane Car Park, a large long-stay pay and display car park is situated off Huddersfield Road in Holmfirth centre.

To see the spirit of Yorkshire and its moors
through your eyes is one thing; many people
look but only a few will see and feel its very soul.

Ashley Jackson

Ashley Jackson 1970