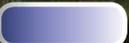


Disclaimer: The route on this leaflet was checked in Spring 2007, all routes are on public rights of way or permissive routes. Environmental Alliance takes no responsibility for changes to the route or accidents occurring on the walk. The information in this leaflet was correct at the time of publishing.

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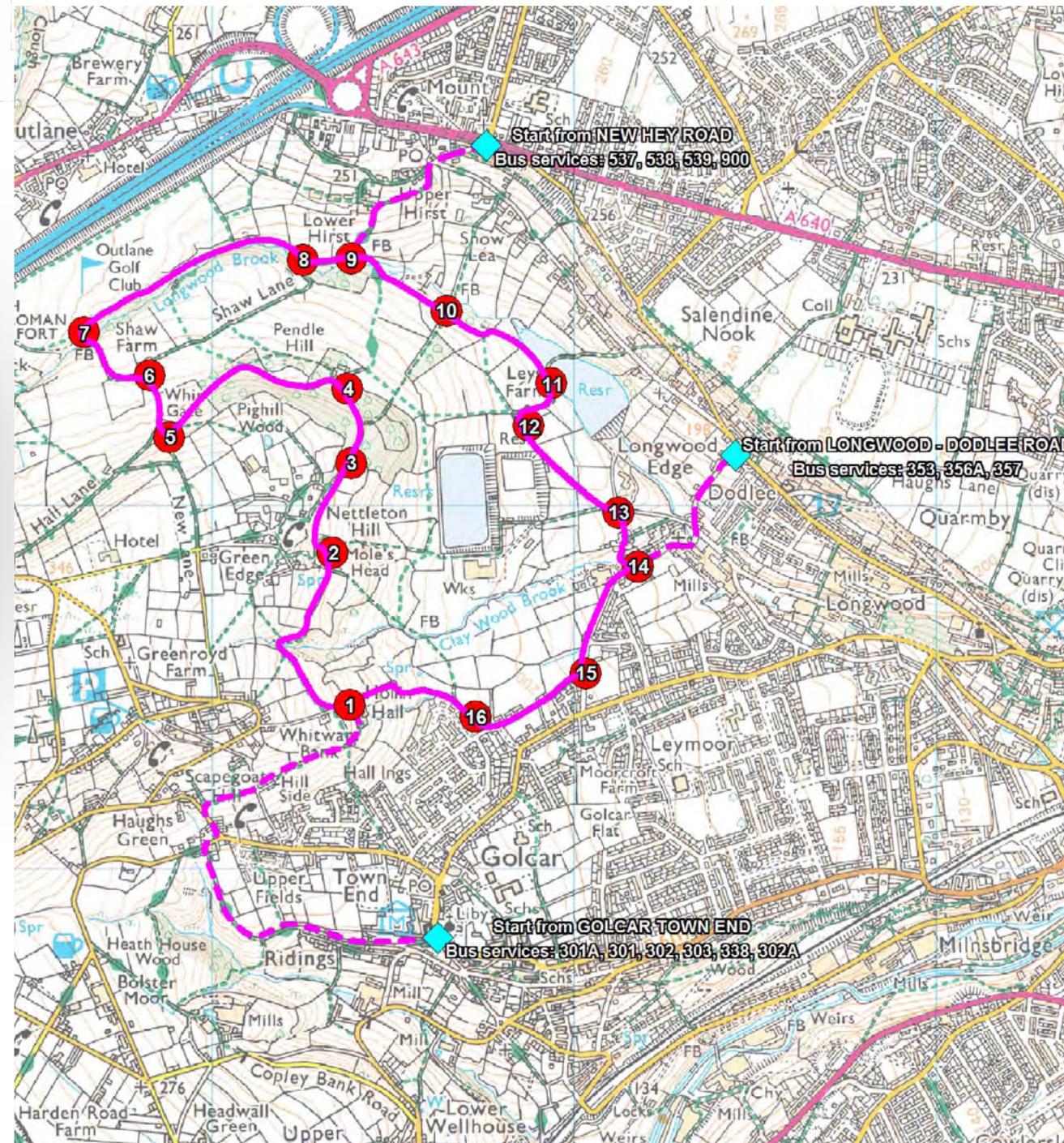
EASY: 

MODERATE: 

CHALLENGING: 



LOTTERY FUNDED



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LONGWOOD VALLEY CIRCULAR

GRADE: CHALLENGING

TIME: 2 HOURS

DISTANCE: 3.5 MILES

River Corridor
Greenways Project

LONGWOOD VALLEY CIRCULAR



Underlying the valleys of the Pennine landscape are sedimentary rocks of varying hardness. A layer of hard sandstone caps the plateau on which Salendine Nook sits, and has protected it from erosion. But where flowing water has carved its way through into softer rocks, the land plunges steeply into the valleys, creating dramatic features such as Longwood Edge. Along the length of the edge, evidence is visible of the intensive quarrying, carried out in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, of the hard building stone exposed by this erosion.

Time: 2hrs circuit, plus time from/to access point

Distance: 3 ½ miles circuit, plus distance from/to access point

Grade: Challenging, strenuous at times with some steep sections

Terrain: Varied, including some narrow muddy paths and uneven ground

Start / End: Numerous access points in Longwood and Golcar



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Bistort

Access Routes to the walk

From Golcar Town End (1 mile, 30 minutes each way)

Take the cobbled street (Cliffe Ash) signposted Colne Valley Museum. Pass the museum and continue ahead onto Ridings Lane. After five minutes, reach the end of the houses, and continue straight ahead on a footpath. The path winds around the top edge of a steep-sided gorge.

As you approach Slades Road, the right of way passes through the yard of a private building. Turn right at the road, then left up Swallow Hill. Before the bend, take the signposted footpath to the right. Bear right, at first staying between a retaining stone wall to the left and a fence to the right.

Leave the fields onto the narrow Old Lane, and turn left uphill for a few yards. Take the second driveway to the right (leading to house no. 4) and then look out for the waymarker disc indicating the start of a footpath between two fences. Follow this rough path across a bank to reach the main route at Hollin Hall Farm, point (1).

From Longwood (600 yards, 10 minutes each way)

Walk down Dodlee Lane to the refurbished Parkwood Mills, then continue up Parkwood Road to join the walk at point 14

MAP REFERENCE POINTS

1. Walk uphill for 100 yards on the tarmac lane, then take the footpath on the right across fields. Continue around the hillside along the top edge of Bonny Clough Wood. Emerge into the turning circle for a small group of houses.
2. A short way up the driveway the start of a path passes above the houses, follow this along the foot of the bank to Pig Hill Wood.
3. Follow the wide lane downhill through the woods until you approach the golf course. Pink Purslane carpets the woodland floor in spring.

4. Turn off to the left of the track and then bear left again, following the walls to remain in the woods. Pass through a large glade, continuing to follow the foot of the wooded slope to the left. Emerge onto a heath dotted with rowan trees, walk across to the houses at Whin Gate then join Hall Lane.
5. Follow the lane downhill to the right to Shaw Farm.
6. Turn left, following the waymarks through private land and follow the telegraph wires down to a footbridge across Longwood Brook.
7. The narrow valley cut by Longwood Brook is densely wooded, with oak, hazel and willow. Cross the bridge and follow a narrow footpath along the left bank of the valley. In places, it becomes a deep, sheer-sided gorge, with exposed outcrops of rock.
8. After 15 minutes, reach a gravel-surfaced track. Continue ahead for five minutes to the junction.
9. Follow the track alongside Longwood Brook downhill, crossing the stream on a stone footbridge. Continue to follow the valley downstream as far as a wooden footbridge. (Bear right to continue the walk, to the left, the track heads uphill to reach New Hey Road, 15 minutes away.)
10. Walk up the steps to the right. Turn left and follow the path along the top of the riverbank towards the reservoir, then over the stile onto the dam of the reservoir. (Do not cross the dam). Watch out for waterfowl such as moorhens and coots.
11. Turn right at the lane and follow it up to Leys Farm.
12. Turn left and follow the farm lane as far as the Holme Field Road.
13. Turn left and then immediately right onto a bridleway, dip down through the valley, across Clay Wood Brook, and up onto Parkwood Road.
14. Turn right and head uphill on Parkwood Road as far as the Walkers Arms Pub.
15. Take the footpath opposite the pub, between houses and fields. Follow this path until a left bend, go up the steps and across the field to the road. Turn right onto a track marked Hollin Hall Lane.
16. Follow this lane, bearing left as it turns steeply uphill behind the houses, to Hollin Hall Farm.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Managed Woodlands

Before these valleys were settled, they were covered by thick, ancient wildwoods. Much of the land was cleared more than 1,000 years ago, to make way for pasture but the woodlands that remain have been continuously managed for agriculture and timber. Some woodlands were used to shelter and raise livestock, and this may well be the origin of the name Pighill Wood. Acorns, and beech nuts would have provided food for stock. Woodlands of oak, ash and hazel would also have been managed for fuel and timber, often by coppicing. Until the use of coal, wood and charcoal from these coppices would have been the main source of energy in the area. The landscape is still changing today, with new woodlands being planted or allowed to regenerate naturally. Listen for Greater spotted woodpeckers drumming on dead branches in springtime, and watch out for nuthatches and treecreepers foraging over the bark of large trees.

All illustrations by Cate Clark



Nuthatch



Leys Farm



Greater Spotted Woodpecker



Typical Views

Context

This walk been devised as part of an initiative by the River Corridor Greenway Project, which aims to create a better environment for people living and working in the River Colne area.

With funding from Big Lottery under the Transforming Your Space programme, the project has been managed by Environmental Alliance in partnership with Paddock Community Forum, the River Colne Project, Milnsbridge Enhancement Group and Longwood Village Group. Projects undertaken in these areas have been designed to link to a wider network of green spaces and greenways being developed along the river corridors. This network can be used in many different ways for recreation, relaxation and, as an environmentally friendly means of travel. It is a safe, healthy and heritage-rich environment.

Credits

The River Corridor Greenway Project is grateful for the support it received from Kirklees Council and the many volunteers who have contributed to the project.