

Black Pots & Rivoock Plantation

3³/₄ miles/6.3km circular walk

Walk Information

This ideal family walk starts from the small informal car parking lay-by on the busy Silsden/Morton country road, high above Keighley at Holden Gate. Offering long distance views along the Aire Valley, a little folklore including the ghostly goings on at the Rivoock Plantation; make this a very interesting walk. In spite of the walks lofty location the route is relatively level crossing mainly farmland with no prolonged steep hill climbing and only a couple of gentle but longish inclines, with just one short section of road walking to finish. You will require comfortable strong waterproof footwear along with outdoor clothing to suit the season. A packed lunch is advisable; this walk is not suitable for pushchairs, wheelchairs and people with restricted mobility.

Public Transport

There is no public transport available to the start point of this walk.

Car Parking

Room for approximately 8-10 cars on the rough informal lay-by on the Silsden to Morton country road at Holden Gate. Please park with care and consideration, keeping all valuables out of sight.

The Walk Route

Starting from the rough informal car parking area located where Holden Lane meets Silsden Road, overlooking Keighley in the Aire Valley below. Turn right and walk the short distance to go through the smaller of the two gates near the dry stone wall on your right leading into a field. From here the footpath follows the dry stone wall on your right as you head gently uphill towards the telephone mast at Rivoock Edge, which can be seen in the distance.

After approximately 75yds (68m) look out for the large flat stone on the surface of the field on your left. Here can be seen the old faded carvings reputed to be of Lord Baden Powell and a hot air balloon. For further information see the 'just for interest along the way'



Lord Baden Powell and hot air balloon carved stone

section. A short distance further along the route, at the wall corner near the top end of the incline, the walk passes within approximately 100yds (91m) to your left of Robin Hoods Stone, which is out of sight just over the hill top. For further information again refer to 'just for interest along the way'.

On nearing the mast at the top of the incline bear right at the wall corner to follow the well trodden path down a gentle slope, passing in front of the fenced off compound of the telephone mast on your right, as you make your way down to the field gate and stile. Through the gate or over the stile, the path becomes a wide grassy track. From here follow the stone wall on your left as you make your way gently downhill, eventually passing the two farm houses on the left at Rough Holden Farm, before going through a field gate in what is best described as a farmyard with old buildings, discarded farm implements and junk. Follow the obvious track through the farmyard to exit via another field gate and continue along the track, passing below the stone built pump house on the hillside on your right, which is built over the Wharfe Aqueduct. For further information see 'just for interest along the way'.

Just beyond the pump house the track divides, here continue to follow the well-defined track, as it bears right up a slight incline to a field gate at the corner where the track turns right. Go through the gateway ignoring the obvious track which turns sharply left downhill, to walk straight ahead passing the pile of large stones on your right and up the grassy bank to walk through the long grass across the field. After a short distance the path crosses a small stream and eventually reaches a gateway in the post and wire fence. Through the fence our route bears to the left, walking through the rushes across the

rough intake land heading for the derelict building of Out Laith which can be clearly seen ahead beneath the mature tree. On reaching Out Laith climb the stile to the left of the building over the dry stone wall and down a small dip in the surface of the field, climbing up the other side to go over a second stile which will lead you into a field to the rear of the building.

From here walk straight ahead across the field walking parallel to the dry stone wall which can be seen way over to your left, before eventually crossing the remains of an old dry stone wall as you start to make your way steeply downhill to the stream in the valley bottom. Cross the stream via an old stone bridge, turning right on the opposite side of the stream to walk approx 25yds (23m) up stream to find a stile over the dry stone wall on your left. Over the stile it's straight ahead up the short but steep grassy hillside, where, at the top of the steep banking the field levels out. From here go straight ahead across the field to the stile next to the field gate which can be seen ahead in the corner of the dry stone walls. Climb the stile and turn sharp right to follow the dry stone wall on your right gently uphill, eventually walking between the two disused stone gate stoops at the top end of the field.

Continue up the second field straight ahead, cutting across the right hand corner of the field to where the grass path gives way to a well used limestone farm track, adjacent to a farm gate on your right. Here walk along the limestone track for approx 25yds (23m) to a stile in the dry stone wall on your right beneath the first mature tree on your right. Climb the stile over the wall into the next field to follow the path diagonally to your left to the next stile, located half way up the dry stone wall, which can be seen directly ahead. Over this stile turn right uphill for the short distance to the next stile over the old fencing next to a field gate to continue across the field by bearing slightly to your left, heading for the narrow field gate in the top left hand corner of the field.

Coal mine entrance (closed in 1929)



Through the gateway follow the dry stone wall on your left until you reach the stile through the wall on your left just beyond the gap with the rusty metal railings. Climb the stile and head straight across the field towards the stile in front of the building at Blackpots, which can be seen ahead. Climb over the stile in front of Blackpots onto a wide farm track (Jerry Lane) and turn right through a field gate to continue following the track through a second gate before starting a short climb into the trees of the Rivock Edge plantation (for more information see 'just for interest along the way'). Follow the well-defined path between the trees of the plantation, only occasionally seeing daylight, before eventually emerging out onto a wide limestone forestry road. Turn right here along the limestone road for approx 20yds (18m) before turning sharp right off the road again to walk in the darkness under the canopy of the trees. Follow the well defined path, which eventually breaks tree cover to give a panoramic view along the Airedale valley and beyond. At the end of the clearing bear left up an incline back into the gloom and darkness of the plantation, before exiting the plantation via a metal gate into a field.

Once in the field the path is straight ahead, heading for a gateway slightly to the left of the television mast which can be seen in the distance. Through the gateway continue in the same direction in the second field and through a second gateway to join the limestone track near to the television mast. Turn left along the limestone track following it as it eventually bears right downhill past a couple of farm buildings on your left and through a gate out onto the busy Silsden to Morton road. Turn right to walk along this busy country road for approx 1/4 mile to get back to where you started your walk at Holden Gate.

Footnote

We hope you enjoyed your walk. If so tell your friends, if not, or you have encountered any problems please tell us at:

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
The Countryside and Rights of Way Service
4th Floor, Britannia House, Hall Ings,
Bradford BD1 1HX

Tel: 01274 432666
www.bradford.gov.uk/countryside

Just for Interest Along the Way

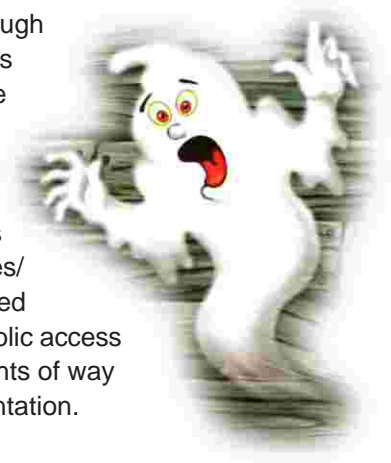
• **Lord Baden-Powell** (founder of the Boy Scout Movement) and the Hot Air Balloon. After approximately 75yds (68m) from the walk start point, look out on your left for the large flat millstone grit rock on the surface of the field. Here a faint rock carving, said to be a picture of Lord Baden-Powell founder of the scout movement can be found (see front page picture). On the same rock can be seen a smaller carving of a hot air balloon, it is said that this carving celebrates the landing of the hot air balloon on gala day circa 1917 at Victoria Park, Keighley. The carved writing on the rock is now indecipherable. Unfortunately the passage of time has not been kind to both the carving and to the details of who did the carving and when. In order to preserve what is left of the carvings we ask that you do not walk on the rock.

• **Robin Hood's Stone** - A large pointed rock which sticks out from the hillside. Local legend suggests that the rock got its name after Robin Hood took refuge beneath the rock whilst being pursued, however, in reality the rock was found by contractors who were building the Barden to Bradford Aqueduct in the late 1850's. This huge rock lay across the route of the aqueduct and had to be removed, upon the removal the contractors decided to split the rock but this caused an outcry from the locals, so the contractors replaced the large section which can be seen today. After the Second World War, in the late 1940's and early 1950's, Robin Hood's stone became a popular picnic destination for locals from nearby Keighley and Silsden. In more recent times the land has been fenced; however a good view of the rock can easily be seen from Holden Lane, just below the parking area from where you started your walk.



Robin Hood Stone

• **Rivock Edge and the ghostly goings on in the Rivock Plantation** - As well as being the location of Robin Hood's Stone, the Rivock Edge area has a chequered coal mining history, going back to the early 1800's with the last mine closing in the late 1920's. Over the years accidents happened in the mines and on occasions miners became trapped. Unfortunately it was not unusual, due to the dangers to the rescuers and the expense, not to attempt any recovery. Consequently the bodies were left untouched. Since the last mine closed the area has become notorious for ghost sightings, the most recent being two on separate occasions in 1998, when council countryside workers were renovating the bridleway, which runs through the Rivock plantation. This bridleway forms part of the route which our walk follows, oooooo!! The above mentioned privately owned Rivock plantation is approximately 200 hectares/ 81 acres of densely covered mature pine trees, with public access restricted to two public rights of way which run through the plantation.



'Here lies the stone where
Robin Hood
Took shelter when he was
Persued
While near is Rivock's
Gloomy peak
With nature's wildest
State imbued.'

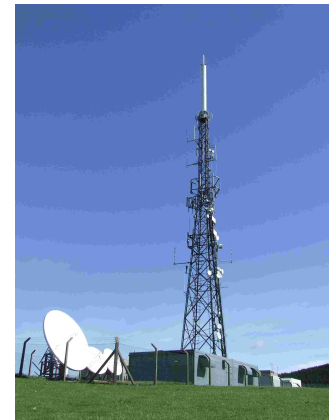
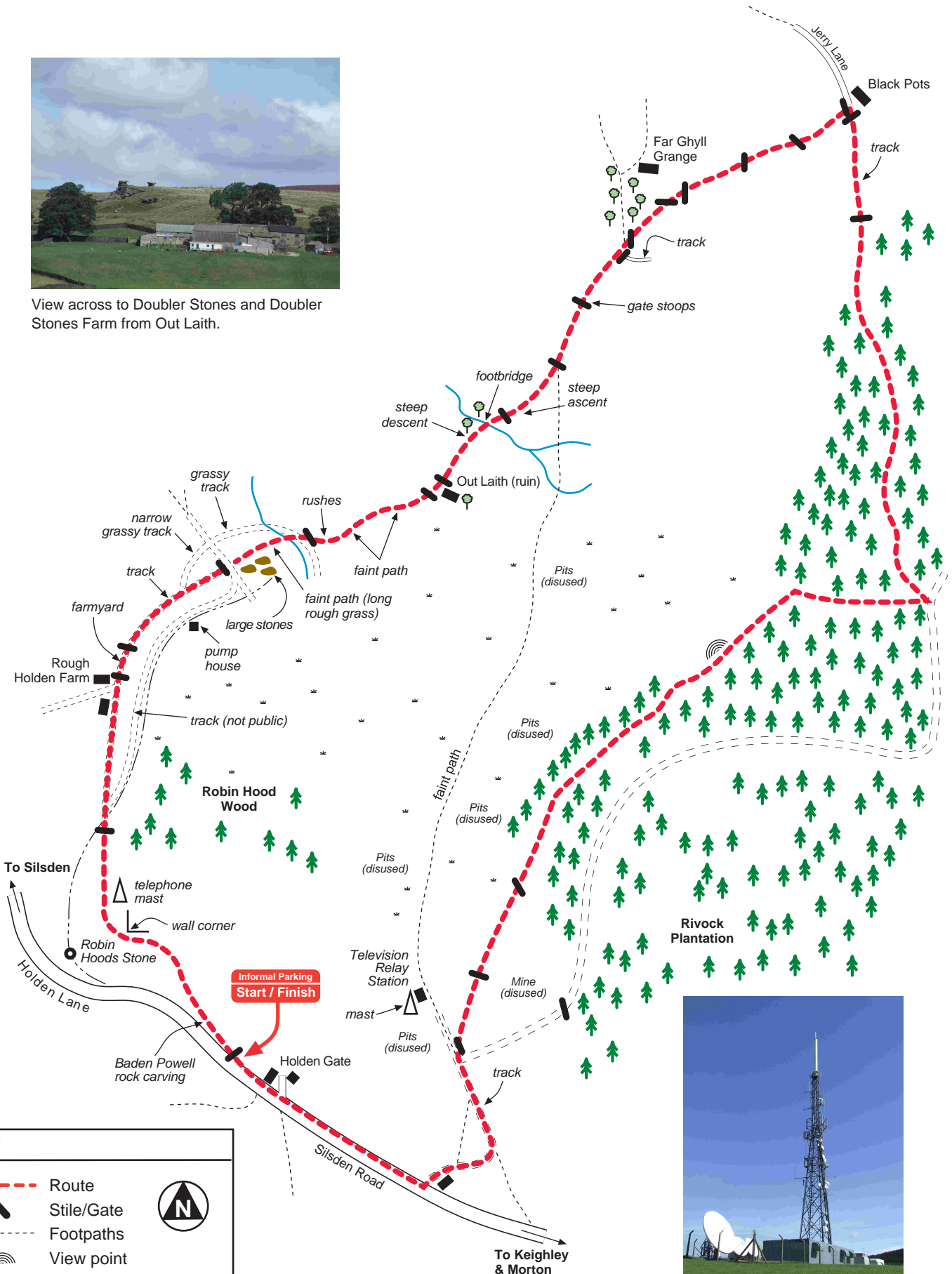
Anon

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View across to Doubler Stones and Doubler Stones Farm from Out Laith.



Transmitter mast

Key	
	Route
	Stile/Gate
	Footpaths
	View point
	Bradford/Barden underground aquaduct