

At T-junction TR, pass the cottages. Pass through old steel gate on your left, with PATH marked on the gatepost. Cross two stiles. At the second stile turn diagonally left across the field to Lightcliffe Wood. Follow the wood's curving wall round to the beck, cross stile into the field, turn right and follow the side of the beck. after a short while bear right across field to hedge with a double stile. Follow the path to the top LH corner of the field, where there is a stone stile in the wall. Cross stile and across field to a stile leading into the house drive. Continue between buildings to the road. Carefully cross the road at Bell House and walk up the road to the lane on the left.

Follow the lane up past the houses and, as the lane descends to give a good view of Kirkburton, TR into the field, by the second gate. Go diagonally down the field, cross stile in the bottom corner, over three more stiles and into Jagger Lane, Thornccliffe. Cross the road, turn uphill for 50 metres, then TL and head up the track to Thornccliffe, passing through a steel gate and then past the Working Men's Club on RHS. Continue along the lane just past a new house in the former farmyard on your left into a sometimes muddy lane, passing a green silo and walking 300 metres into the field between the two ash trees.

TR and go up to the top of the field, with the hedge on RHS, then TL along the wall and down to cross Beldon Brook. Go straight across and up the field to Moor Top – the former farm is now houses. The path follows the wall on LHS, up, skirting round the houses, to lead into a field. Head straight across into Paul Lane – the path is parallel to the house lane. TL into Paul Lane and cross over to face the oncoming traffic. Continue along the road for about 250 metres until, just past the post box and double garage opposite the end of Linfit Lane, you will find a stile. Climb over it and go across the field and over two stiles up to Cockermonth Lane.

Pause to admire the wonderful view towards West Nab, Farnley Tyas and Castle Hill.

TR along the lane for 50 metres to a gate on your left which leads into a field. Bear half-right and head for the gate in the hedge. Follow the wire fence on your RHS down the field, over two stiles and a gate, continuing with the wall on LHS towards Crow Nest Cottages. (Fine views of the Dearme and Calder valleys).

The path eventually becomes a lane above Crow Nest Cottages. Continue down the path that turns right at the cottages and go down over the stream to Six Lane Ends.

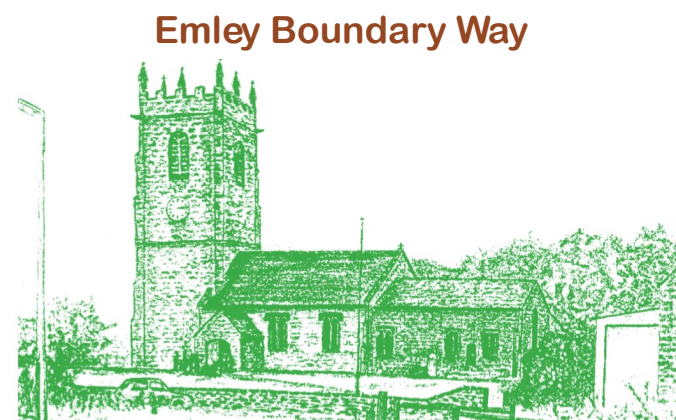
This was in fact the old mediaeval road from Emley to Elland and Halifax.

At Six Lane Ends cross over diagonally left to find Common Lane, an earthen track which goes gently on to Flockton. Follow this lane half a mile, past Doctor Lane End, alongside Flockton Beck to the last house on the right at Common End. Soon after the last house TR and go between the garden hedge and wall over the stile up the field, with the hedge on your LHS, down over Mouse House Beck. Cross the beck and up steep path to a stile at the top. Cross the flat field before you and go over a stile to the old stone wall 75 metres below Kirkby Grange.

Carefully TR up Clough Road and after 50 metres TR onto Kirkby Lane. Keep the houses on LHS and the field on your RHS to follow the lane round a Zbend and on upwards for half a mile until you see the farm buildings of Upper Crawshaw before you on the left. As you round the corner there is a ditch on the left – go past the first field gate on the left and at the second TL over a stile and into the field. Follow the wall on your RHS down until it bends to the right. Follow it to stone stile and cross. TL and follow the field headland edge right down to the bottom corner where it swings right and on to where it opens out left to face Emley Church. Go straight down across the field and over a stile down to the beck. Cross bridge and head up the field to the middle of a wall and into the graveyard. Just before the steps at the top of the graveyard, TR into the lane then left along the lane until Church Street, where a RT takes you back to Emley Cross.

This trail was originally devised by members of the then Emley Footpath Society. The leaflet has been updated by Denby Dale Walkers are Welcome group, with finance from the East Peak Innovation Partnership (EPIP) via the Rural Development Programme for England, jointly funded by DEFRA and the EU and managed by Yorkshire Forward and with a grant from Denby Dale Parish Council. Updated October 2023.

Acknowledgments to Melvyn Cook for his sketches.



Getting Here

Emley is well connected by Bus services. We would encourage you to travel by public transport so as to minimise your environmental impact



Emley is served by buses from Huddersfield and Wakefield

There is a small village car park opposite Village Stores and also outside the community centre at the Welfare football ground.

Look out for the Emley Boundary Way waymarkers to help guide you around the trail.



Denby Dale walkers are Welcome

Please check out our website for further information. We are supported by Denby Dale Parish Council.



Walking in the East Peak



Walking in and around Denby Dale

Emley Boundary Way



A 14-mile walk around Emley and its surrounding countryside. Stout footwear is advisable.

Emley Boundary Way

Boundary walks, or Beating the Bounds, were part of English village life from Saxon times, to pass information about the parish boundaries from one generation to the next. They died out long ago in most parishes, but Emley's was revived in 1863 and has usually been held every seven years since then.

The actual Boundary Walk uses private land and is only used once every seven years with the kind permission of the landowners. It must not therefore be used at any other time. The Boundary Way described in this leaflet therefore uses the nearest public rights of way to the boundary – on footpaths, lanes and, by necessity in places, on roads.

Traditionally the walkers meet at Emley Cross car-park, walk down to Flockton Mill and follow the boundary. For anyone wishing to start elsewhere, suitable points with refreshments available would be the Woodman Inn at Clayton West and Thorncliffe Working Men's Club at Kirkburton.

Long before coal-mining began, Emley had an iron-mining and smelting industry from about 1200AD – controlled by the monks of Byland Abbey. They had iron ore Bell Pits which can still be seen at the top of Banks Wood, in High Trees and at Bentley Springs. They used charcoal burnt from the trees in Bank Wood to smelt the ore, before the advent of coke. There was an iron furnace in Bank Wood whence Furnace Grange gets its name. The name Grange indicates the monastic links, hence the names ending in Grange at Kirkby, Furnace, Bentley and Thorncliffe. The old Wakefield packhorse way came from Emley down Thorncliffe Lane and Lezzes Lane across to a ford in Bank Wood and on to Midgley and Horbury. Pack horses then took the iron ingots away to Wortley Forge for making into ironware.

Lezzes is the Emley name which comes from lazars who were lepers in the Middle Ages and who lived in crofts down Lezzes Lane.

On the church wall by the war memorial is one of the stone crosses of the Knights Hospitallers or Order of St. John. These men looked after sick people in the village.

Coal-mining was the main industry from about 1750 all round Emley Parish. Until the closures in the 1980s, pits within the parish were at Emley Moor, Springwood and at Park Mill, Clayton West, as well as many day-holes.

There were also Coal Screens, Coke Ovens and Railway Sidings for Emley Moor pit at Park Gate, Skelmanthorpe. The mediaeval gems on the trail are of course -



- St. Michael's Church, Emley and the Pack Horse Bridge at Park Mill, Clayton West. Then there is the 16th century Kirkby Grange on the way to Flockton Mill.

Start : Emley Cross by Village Stores

Walk down Church Street, passing the fine mediaeval St. Michael's Parish Church and the Knights Hospitallers Cross in the church wall.

Continue towards Flockton, past the 16th century Kirkby Grange, taking great care on the narrow bends.

At Flockton Mill TR onto Mill Lane then TR after the bridge. Go round to the left of Mill House, along the beck and over the stile. Follow bank for 100 metres and then to the biggest tree in the group of trees, cross stile. Continue to concrete lane, just below Furnace Grange. Cross lane and over the stile opposite and cut across the field to the marker post and stile in the hedge. Cross next field with the hedge on LHS, go 100 metres to two trees in the hedge and then bear right to Clough Beck stone clapper bridge with its stone stile. TL uphill and follow the hedge on LHS, over stile and across the big field into Lezzes Lane (marked as Leisure Lane on the OS map).

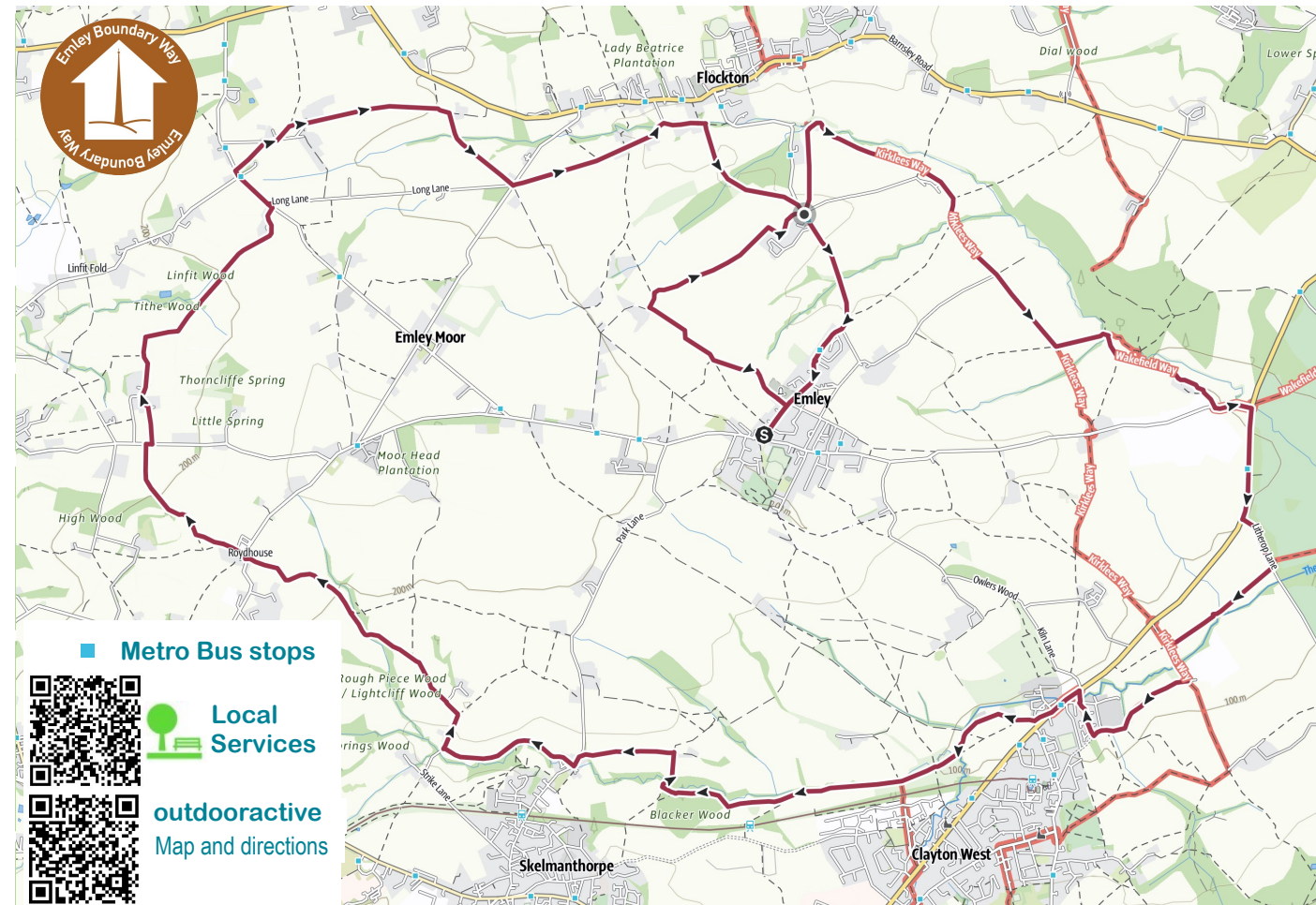
Pause to look at Bank Wood* on your left and forward to High Trees with its two remaining bell pits*.

Go straight on over the stile, across the fields, with the hedge on LHS for 400 metres, to a double right-angled stile. TL here, leaving the Kirklees Way, go down middle of long field to the bottom at Bank Wood, over the stile to Cherry Tree stepping stones.

Do not cross over but TR and with the beck on LHS go across the wooden plank over the Little Dike, up and over the stile. Bear half right across the field between the two trees, to the top hedge, where a field lane starts. With the hedge on RHS walk along to Bentley Grange Farm*, between farm buildings, through a steel gate and into the farm lane, leading into the road at Woodhouse Lane. Careful!! Turn left down to the junction with the main A636.

At the junction TR on pavement for 600 metres past Spring Wood, finally crossing over onto Litherop Lane (signposted High Hoyland). 300 metres down the lane, at a footpath sign, TR over the stile, down into the field and, with the River Dearne on LDS, head for the trees at the top left-hand corner of the field.

Cross the stile and go 50 metres to the next stile behind the tree in front of you. Climb left over the stile, turn right and go across the middle of the field to stile on lane.



Cross stile TL along the lane and over the Dearne bridge. Soon, opposite the gate of WWTW, TR along a concrete lane, with a hedge on LHS, to the steel gate. Cross over it and, with the hedge still on LHS, cross the field into the lane and follow it past the factory on your right. At the car-park in front of the factory go over the stile on the right and follow the pavement past the factory to the bottom of the carpark.

TL onto Wakefield Road, passing the old packhorse bridge. Carefully cross the road and go left past Colliers Way (on the site of the old Park Mill colliery) up towards the stone terraced houses of Park Mill and along the back lane, TR behind the Junction Inn into Langley Lane.

Follow lane to just before the bridge, then TL over stile. The Dearne is now on RHS, follow the path. Cross bridge over the Dearne and now you will have Blacker Wood Beck on your right. The railway embankment is now a field-length away on your left.

Follow lane in the valley bottom, railway banking on LHS and beck on RHS, continue into open fields. Continue along – do not go up the track under the railway! At Blacker Wood take a “permissive path” which takes you over a wooden bridge and stile into the wood. The path is twisting but wide. Go through the wood until you see the end and fork R at the wooden marker post. As you reach the end of the wood, TR down the wall side and down the steps. Cross bridge and follow the path round L of stile. Cross into field and follow lane. TL into the lane and go along to Park Gate.

At the road TL for 50 metres, crossing over just before the bridge and TR into the lane. With the beck on LHS, follow it past the restored Park Gate houses, follow to Baildon Place. As you pass along it is hard to imagine this was the site of busy coal screens, railway sidings and coke ovens for Emley Moor pit.