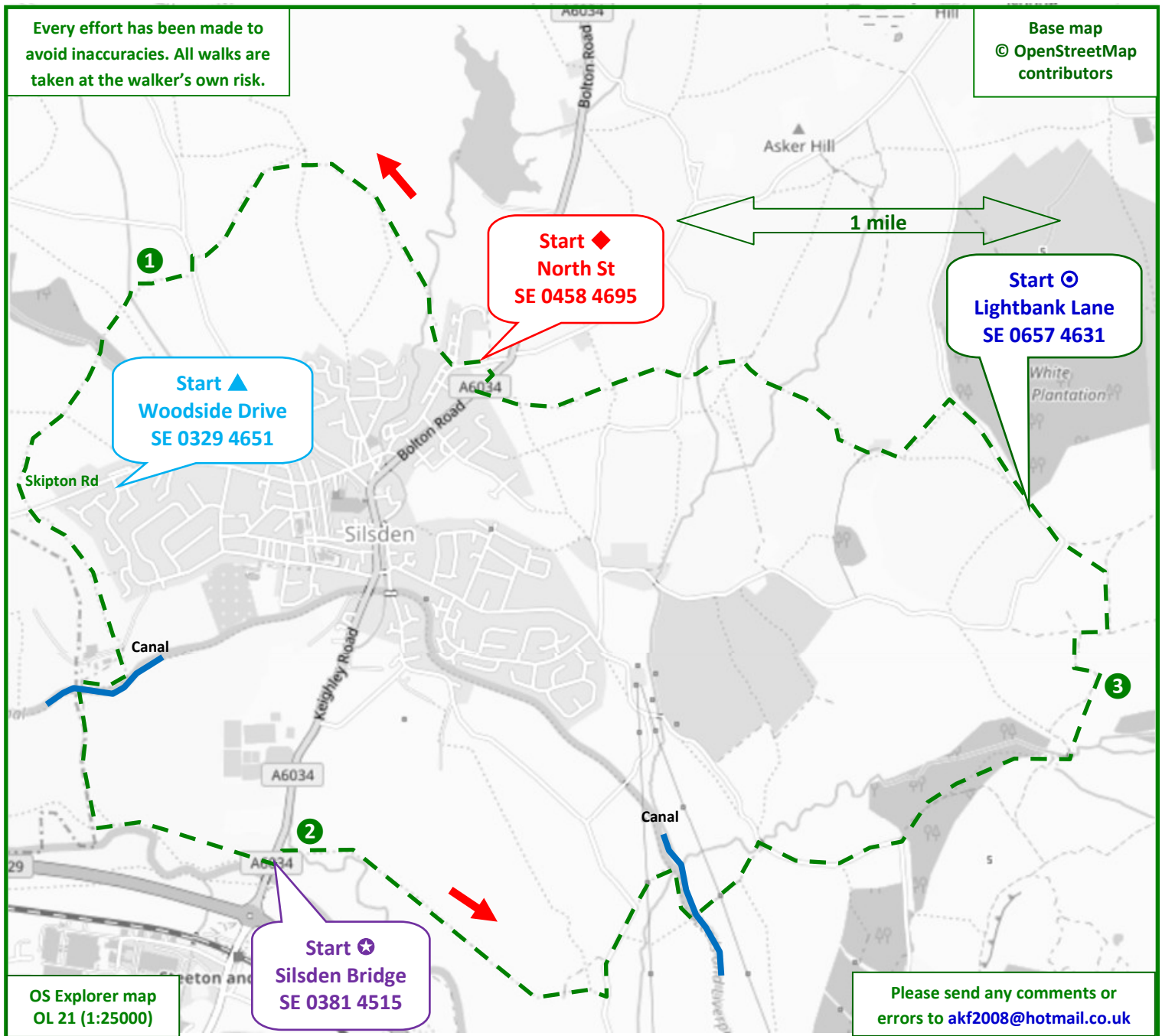


Silsden Circle 2015

Sponsors: Keighley Community Chest

7½ miles, with fine views from all directions, and Silsden as the “centre”. This version goes anti-clockwise from the start at Town Head. Panoramic views, woodland, waterfalls, grazing land, the canal, watermeadows, it’s all here. Little road walking, but a few steep climbs. Plenty of opportunities to shorten the walk via minor roads, and several alternative start points. Sturdy footwear essential, as are sun cream and water in sunny weather. Leave gates as you find them.



◆ Park with consideration in North Street, Town Head, just off Bolton Rd. Ahead; right into Breakmoor Avenue; immediately left down gated path beside bungalow. Stile, then pass close to right of power pole; down to footbridge over Hayhills Beck. Ahead up slope to single power pole, then to double poles, eventually following fencing to gate in top corner. Go along delightful walled green lane. Step stile on right; then turn left. Follow hedge to just before farmhouse, when you take plank bridge and stile on left. Go immediately right, along field edge, to stile in corner; turn right towards Hay Hills farmhouse.

Just before the stile / gate turn left through gate, following power lines up slope to stile. (Care on approaching – path obscure). Keep following power lines, pass through l/h gate, over stile in farm perimeter. Walk ahead through yard to reach Bradley Rd.

Cross, left for 25 yards, take path to Low Bracken Hill farm. Where track divides go left, passing through farm and turning right at farmhouse. Follow concrete track ahead via heavy metal gate; down carefully (slippery) to Bracken Hill Gill bridge. ① Climb away, following concrete, then edge of field for three fields, passing gate / stile on left before step stile at farm house. Ahead to stile by nearer gate. Ahead downhill to Skipton Road. ▲ (Reached by turning left from Woodside Dr.)

Right, cross with care, over two stiles, footpath along field edge to stile, then down field to far l/h corner and stile at farm. Follow narrow asphalt path, soon turning off it and walking parallel to canal to reach swing bridge. Cross this, then descend via field edge through three fields to corner. Left, parallel with road, passing waymark post on left; through gate, then head for middle of distant wall at main road. Climb steps to road. ☆

Cross with care and cross little bridge on left. ② Make diagonally left over unclear path to waymark post, then to stile and finally to bridge. From here go ahead left to fence, following it for ½ mile, passing through gate and stile to reach stile in corner of third field. Cross to stile by power pole then left to stile hidden behind tree. Left along track, bend right, keep on track to Hainsworth Road.

Left, then take hidden stile in corner on l/h bend. Follow wall on left to reach stile on to towpath. Right, to Holden Swing Bridge. Cross and climb lane to Howden Park Farm. Keep ahead through yard to Holden Lane. Right, climbing steep hill ½ mile (care!) to sharp right bend where you take wrought-iron gate in corner. Follow bridle way up, go left along signed path through attractive wood, paying heed to the steep drop to the beck below you. Over stile at top, left and reach waterfall and pipe bridge.

Over footbridge, under pipe bridge and climb steep slope keeping “boxed” trees on your left to reach gate at top. Ahead to farmyard, ③ bear left then right, then through gate; cross cattle grid on right and walk across frontage of cottages. Up left at their end, keep ahead on dirt track where concrete track breaks right. Gate, follow the wall to gate on to Lightbank Lane. ◎

Ahead for ½ mile, passing housing, to take signposted path on left. Follow field side to 3 little gates/stiles at North Farm, passing between buildings to track. Over this, ahead through two stiles, (keeping well to right of tree after first stile, avoiding worst of very boggy ground between). Descend ahead to gate/stile. Climb green lane to stile / gate. Turn right to step stile. Left down green track to little metal gate in Swartha Hill farmyard. Ahead to Hawber Lane.

Cross and use kissing gate, passing circular enclosure and waypost, bearing left behind gorse bushes to step stile. Descend this delightful high-walled track used exclusively by the servants of the great house which once stood here. From its end follow edge of fields down to gate at allotments. Follow path around down to Bolton Road. Cross, walk right uphill to stile on left. Ahead to stile and your car.



Raikes Farm