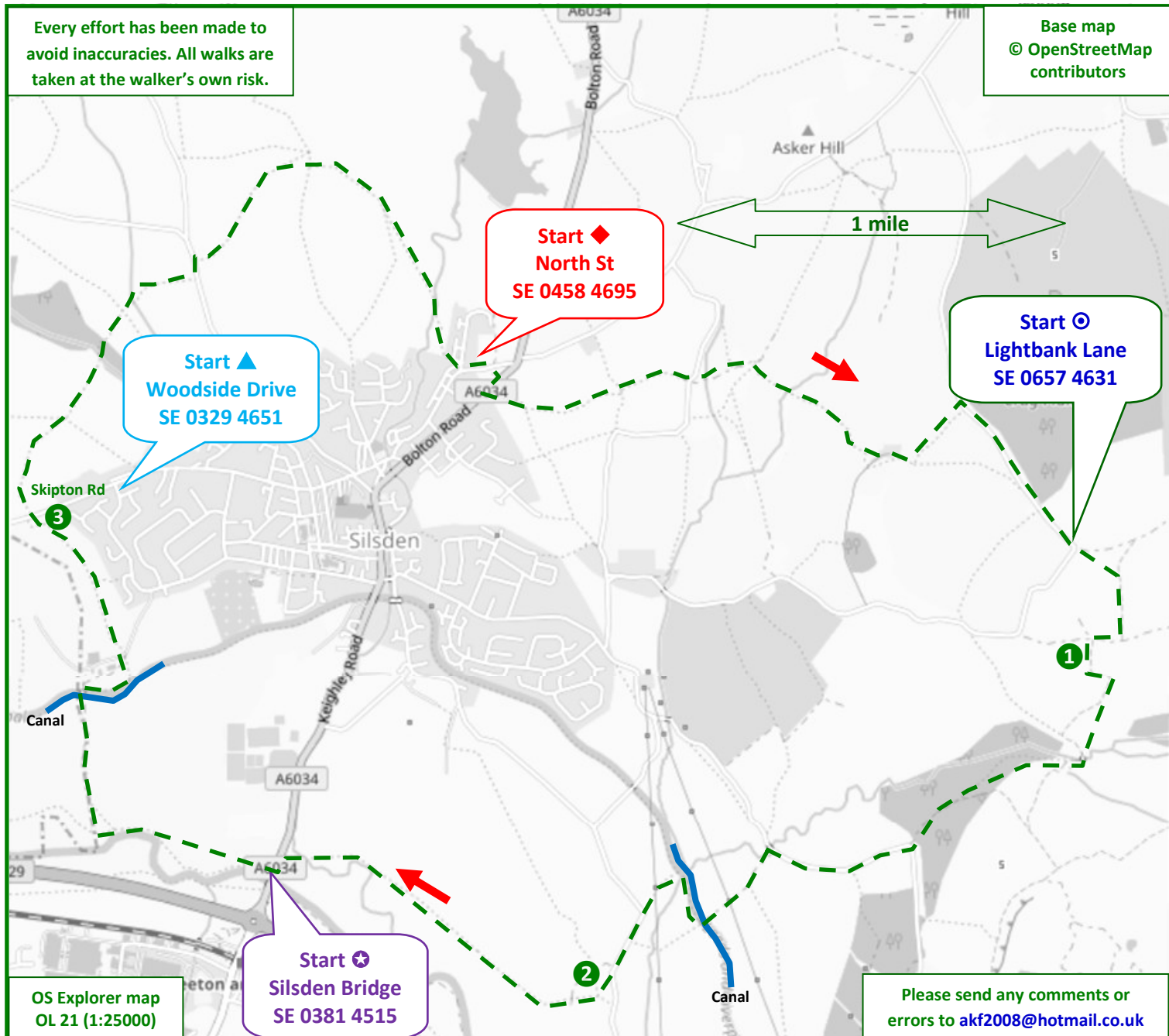


Silsden Circle 2015

Sponsors: Sovereign
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7½ miles, with fine views from all directions, and Silsden as the “centre”. This version goes 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.



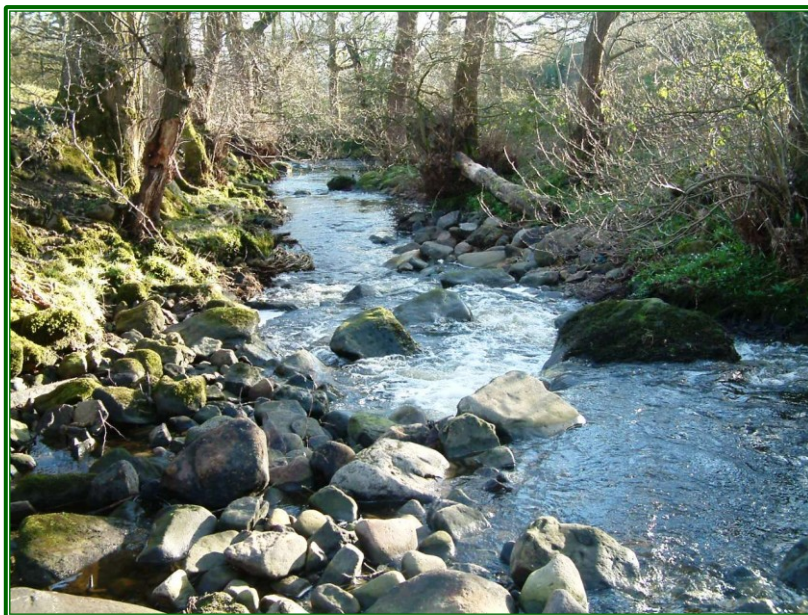
◆ Park with consideration in North Street, Town Head, just off Bolton Rd. Take narrow gated stile on left by new detached house to stile on Bolton Road. Right, downhill, **CROSS WITH CARE**, take path up past allotments. Gate, then follow fields’ edge uphill to reach servants’ lane leading to stiles, gorse bushes and garden. Ahead past waypost to exit on to Hawber Lane. Cross, down track ahead, then climb to High Swartha farmyard; pass through small gate on left and climb to stile on right. Almost immediately go left to stile, descend walled track to stile; then climb ahead to North End Farm, taking wide detour half way up to avoid large severely boggy patch. Stiles are bang opposite farm. Pass through gated stile mid-buildings, then up steps to more stiles. After these climb leftwards, following the wall via a gate up to Lightbank Lane. Right, walk for ⅓ mile to pass through double metal gates. ○ Ahead, dropping alongside wall on right to gate, track down to ① Ghyll Grange farm.

Follow track around, passing front of farmhouses, then left by cattle-grid. Left again, gate, ahead turning left to cowshed on left and track down slope on right. Gate, then drop right, steeply downhill to green water pipe, delightful waterfalls and Lumb Bridge.

Cross bridge, follow track to slightly obscure path on right. Leads to stile and path through Jacob's Wood for ½ mile, Holden Beck dropping away steeply on right. Several gates bring you to Howden Rd. Ahead downhill to Holden Bridge. Here go left through farmyard, keeping ahead down to canal and Holden Bridge. Follow towpath to right for 150 yds, and cross stile on left, following wall ahead to stile hidden in trees giving on to Holden Lane. Left for 200 yards, then right via gated bridle path. Ahead, bear left past stables to stile on right. ② Next stile (ahead, near power pole) is obscured by near tree! Then follow same line diagonally at 10 o/c under power lines to metal gate. Follow edge of this long field, passing the end of a broken down wall and making for footbridge. Thence follow path on right over track, and go to Smallest Bridge in Yorkshire leading to Keighley Road. CROSS WITH CARE! Left, then descend steps at footpath sign. (★ From the "car park" turn left, cross bridge to reach this point).

Cross this long field to far right corner. Stile/gate, then another two stiles to corner of field. Turn right, go upfield along edge via stiles and gates to canal. Cross Cowling Bridge, over stile on right and follow field edge with canal. At second signpost follow track up towards Airedale House farm, passing via stile and then following the field edge steeply up. Another stile takes you up along the edge of third field and to step stile on to Skipton Road. ③ Right, and immediately left along track to High Crossmoor farm. (▲ If you start from Woodside Rd, turn left and walk to this point).

Turn right from the track, over stile to its companion diagonally left in corner. Follow field edge over three fields to pick up concrete track down to back and up to Low Bracken Hill farm. Walk through yard till outside house, then left up drive to exit right, heading for cattle grid and Bradley Road. Left, then right, through Raikes Head farm, following track to stile, then uphill to stile/gate. Ahead to stile, follow power lines down to gate at Hay Hills farms. Exit right, then take stile on left (could be very boggy here). Follow left edge of field down to stile, turn right. Ahead to step stile, left along pleasant walled track to gate. Make downhill for double power poles, then single, then keep making right, down to stile and bridge over Hayhills Beck. Path leads up slope the stile in corner – along path to Breakmoor Avenue. Right, then left and back to the start.



Silsden Beck below Town Head