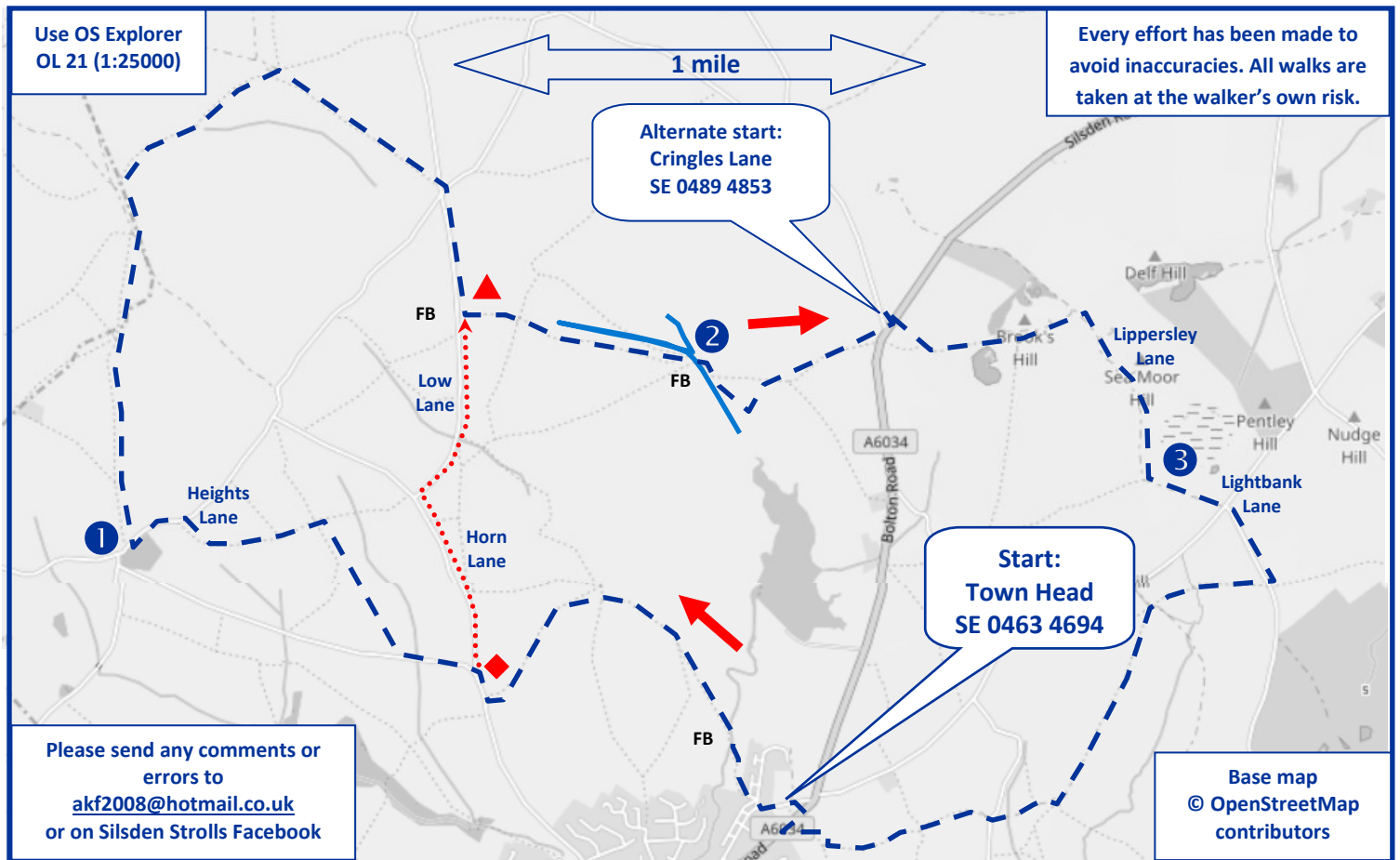


The Harry Tillotson Silsden Stride 2

7½ miles. The tranquillity of this walk is broken only by the two crossings of Bolton Rd. A slow steady climb at the start leads to panoramic views to the south here, later in both the NE, and from the East across the valley. There is an alternative start at Cringles Lane, and a shortened version. Many stiles - almost no road walking. The usual advice of sturdy boots, sun blocker, water and hat applies! AND leaving gates as you find them.



Park with consideration in North Street, Town Head. Ahead, first right into Breakmoor Avenue; immediately left down path beside bungalow. Stile, then pass by power pole on left; down to footbridge over Hayhills Beck. Follow beck on your right. Two stiles, bear left up steep slope to double power poles, then follow fencing up to gate in top corner. Go along delightful walled green lane. Step stile on right; turn left. Keep ahead to just before farm boundary wall, when you take plank bridge and stile on left. Go immediately right, along field edge, to stile in corner; turn right (often v boggy), then via gate on left uphill following power lines. Cross stile, then ahead through l/h gate; follow field edge down to stile into Raikes Head farm. Through farmyard to reach Bradley Road.

Turn right, then left along Hole Lane. (◆ For a shorter, 5¼ mile walk keep ahead instead, along Horn Lane, turn right into Low Lane and pick up the Stride again at ▲). After 300 yards cross plank bridge and stile on right, following field edge ahead, walking through deep lush grass. Passing between two stone gateposts, head up slightly left towards Lower Heights farm whose roof soon appears. Go through gate near where power lines cross, reach farm and turn left via gate. Keep buildings and blue slurry tank on right as you follow field edge. Pass over three stiles and gate to gain Heights Lane. ① Left, then after 200 yards turn right along drive of Stakehill fishery. Ahead through gate. Right at 1 o/c to step stile in corner in general direction of distant wind turbine. Turn sharp right, follow wall 200 yards to step stile. Make for stiff gate in front of house; Pass in front of house; exit grounds to immediately find stile ahead in corner. Cross field, power poles on left, to gate; maintain this line to stile on to Green Lane.

Left, and after 200 yards take stile on right. Follow field edge through gate, then stile, and then head at 10 o/c, roughly making for left hand of two distant wind pumps. Jenkin farm's roof appears ahead to your left. Drop to gate at rear of farm, pass through it and gateway ahead, then gently climb right at 2 o/c to stile about 70 yards to left of metal gate. Cross this, and another ahead, then head slightly left over long field to gate on to Ridge Lane. Right, then ahead at cross roads along Low Lane.

After ¼ mile take stile on left. ▲ Follow field edge round to stile; then right, through two gates by stables. Drop left 70 yards to gate, then ahead (keeping woods on left) gradually dropping left down slope to steps and bridge over Great Gill Beck. ② Follow course of beck for about 75 yards to meet track reverse-climbing the slope. (Not official FP). Follow this to its end close to ladder stile. Climb this, ahead over two more. Through small wrought-iron gates, then massive wooden ones on to Bolton Road. (*Alternative start point*). Left to cross Cringles Lane and then WITH CARE the Bolton Road, to climb generally obscure path to caravan park. Keep ahead and left through caravans to gate in corner. Path, then through house yard to stile. Ahead at 1 o/c to gate in corner of field. Climb via second metal gate to very top, and take wayposted, slightly awkward step stile on left in wall ahead. (I go via gate on right!) Walk through trees to stile, follow path ahead to track. Turn right and walk ½ mile to end of Lippersley Lane. ③

Cross and go ahead up Lightbank Lane. Take signed gated squeeze stile on right 50 yards after Hang Goose Farm, a second gate, and drop down field to caravan site. Through stile; bear right and left, past no. 30 to reach corner - walk down by no. 16 to gate and stile and still another gate! Follow wall on left keeping about 25 yards from it: this is a long field. Pass under power lines and through gate. Right, down green lane to small metal gate; ahead through High Swartha farmyard to reach Swartha Lane. Ahead via stile through grounds of Haw farm, passing waypost, and circular stone enclosure on right; then follow wall left behind gorse bushes to reach stile / gate. Descend walled lane to field. Follow r/h edge of two fields to allotments' stile, where you follow path round and down to Bolton Road. Cross WITH CARE, go uphill to stile on left, then final stile to your start point.

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