

Otherwise continue ahead until you reach Hilltop Road.

At the junction is a triangle of land where the war memorial used to stand. Now at the bottom of Holmfield Road the cenotaph bears the names of locals fallen in both World Wars and the 1982 Falklands conflict.

Turn left onto Hilltop Road and then, just past Hilltop Farm, right onto a public footpath. Follow the path over the fields and past the allotments on your left. After the allotments turn left over the stile along a short track and bear left onto Bilham Road. Turn right after the stables and immediately before the fine stone cottage onto the path into Bilham Park.

Bilham Park is an area of open land which once formed part of the grounds of "The Park", home of the Kaye family. These wealthy industrialists endowed the village school and created the recreation field as well as helping to build the Baptist Chapel and providing the land for the village church. Their heirs have continued the family tradition by giving Bilham Park to the local community as a public open space as part of the National Millennium Greens initiative. The area is now known as Kaye's Millennium Green and is administered on behalf of the village by a trust of local people.

After some 250 metres turn left over a stile and rejoin the Kirklees Way as it crosses the Millennium Green. Leave through a kissing-gate and a narrow ginnel onto



High Street. Bear left up High Street and then right onto Holmfield Close. At the end of Holmfield Close, immediately before the garages, turn left and then right into a narrow path which takes you back to the Cliffe Woods car park.

As you enter the car park notice the memorial garden which was laid out by Hardy Beanland and which has been restored by local volunteers. Just inside the car park is a magnificent stone sculpture by Ryan James. Ryan worked with a local school and local people to create a 4m high obelisk representative of Clayton West.



The trail was originally researched and written by volunteers from Cliffe Woods Conservation Group, with drawings by the then Class 5, Kaye's First School.

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. It was updated again in August 2023.

Historic photos from the Leslie Robinson collection.

Clayton West Village Trail



Getting Here

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



Clayton West is served by buses from Huddersfield (via Skelmanthorpe and Denby Dale) and from Wakefield and Holmfirth

There is a car park just inside the entrance to Cliffe Woods, at the top of Cliffe Street.

Look out for the Clayton West Village Trail 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 and around Denby Dale

Clayton West Village Trail



Sculpture by Ryan James in Cliffe Wood

Allow a couple of hours for a leisurely 3 mile stroll around the scenic village of Clayton West. Stout footwear is advisable.



Clayton West Village Trail

The name “Clayton” is thought to mean “settlement on the clay” from the Anglian settlers who came to this area after the Romans around 400AD. Clayton West became a substantial village in the late 18th and early 19th centuries due mainly to the success of the local textile industry.



Start: Entrance to Cliffe Woods

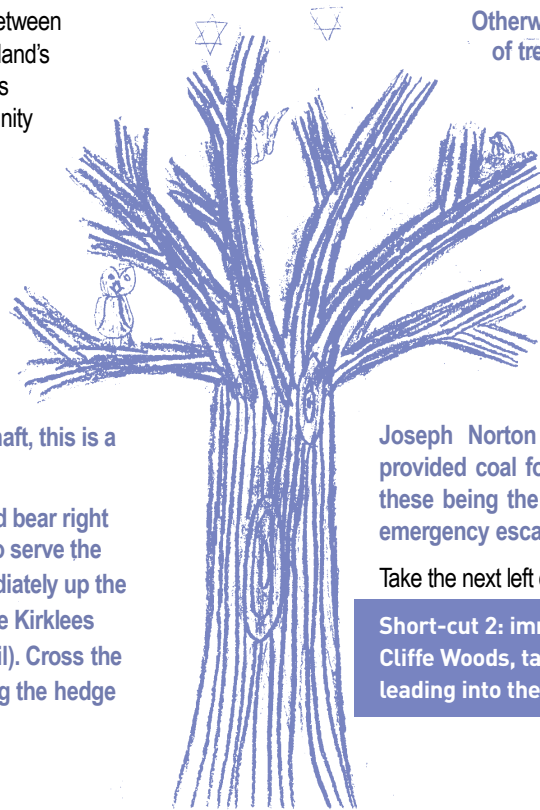
At the top of Cliffe Street enter the wood keeping to the top path, following the Clayton West Village Trail sign, alongside the village bowling green.

Cliffe Woods park was laid out by mill-owner Hardy Beanland in an area of old stone quarries which supplied local road-building stone. In the wood you may notice small stone boundary markers with the letters BHA on them. It is thought that they mark the boundary between common land and that owned by Beanland’s Mill. Cliffe Woods are owned by Kirklees Council and are managed as a community woodlands project by Cliffe Woods Conservation Group.



About 100 metres after the bowling green turn right down some steep steps and cross the low stone stile on the left. Turn immediately right and follow the path down to the entrance to Duke Wood. Though disfigured by work on an old mine shaft, this is a very beautiful woodland.

Cross the small slab stone bridge and bear right along the old track bed which used to serve the mine in the wood, and then go immediately up the steps on your left (marked as both the Kirklees Way and the Clayton West Village Trail). Cross the stile and walk straight ahead following the hedge on your right.



From here you can see the village spread out below including some of the old mill buildings and the “muck stack” of Park Mill colliery. The pit shut in the 1980s and the land has now been reclaimed for industrial development and tree planting.

Continue to follow the hedge when it turns right and then left behind some houses. Leave the field via a stone stile and a narrow path onto Lower Common Lane. Walk for a short distance up the hill and then turn left over a low stone step, clearly marked by a public footpath sign, back into the fields.

Walk diagonally up the steep hill towards the copse of trees on the summit. Follow the track, with an attractive row of trees on your right, and cross the next stile.

Short-cut 1: Follow the way-marker sign to the left along a track and then across a field to the southern tip of Duke Wood and along the signposted public footpath to Upper Common Lane, turning left to rejoin the main walk.

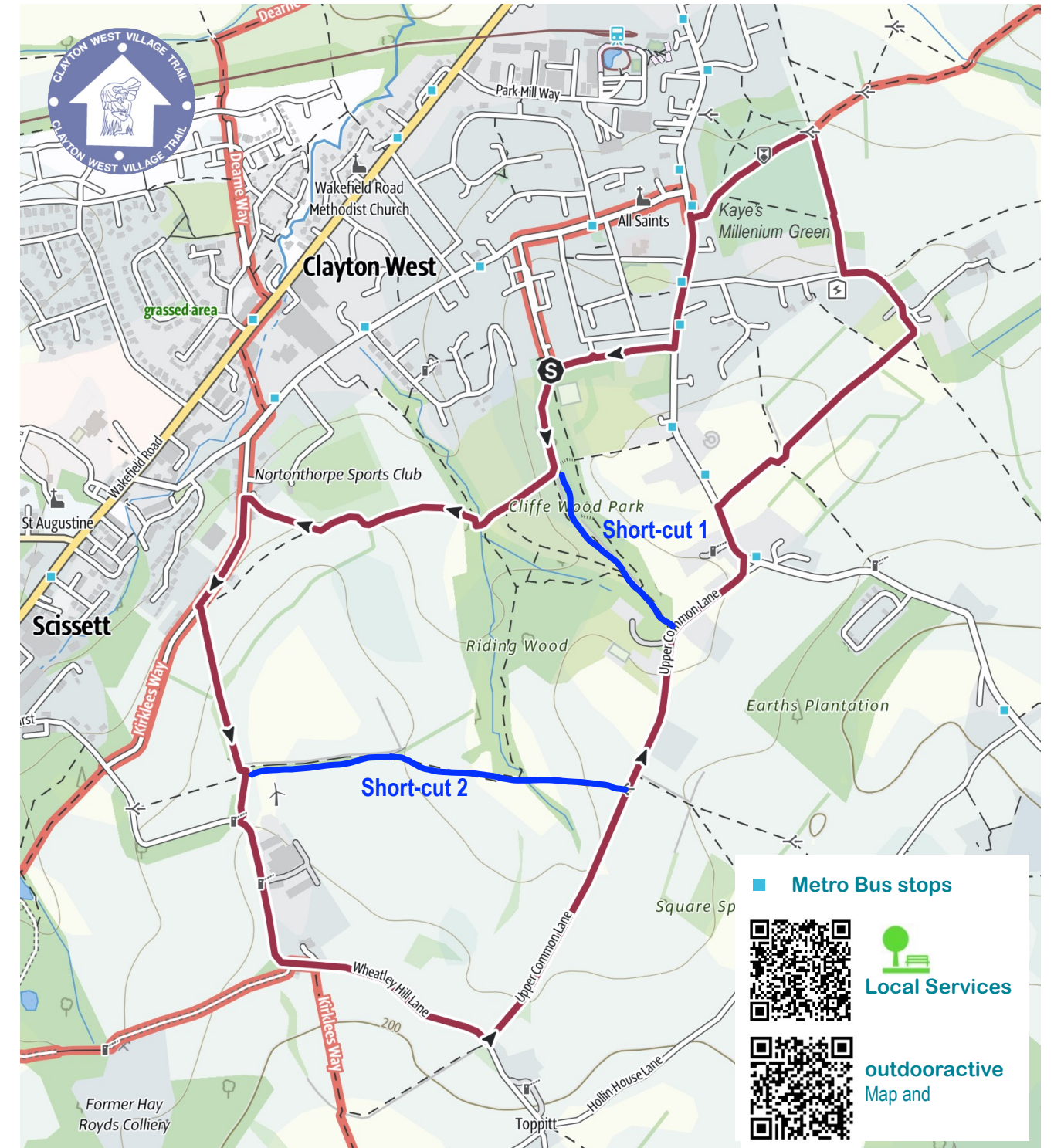
Otherwise go straight ahead, through a small arch of trees, and bearing right go down some steps, turning left onto Wheatley Hill Lane.

As you follow the lane notice the views over to the right of Bagden Hall, Denby Dale with its viaduct, and the area’s last coal mine which closed in 2012, the private pit was called Hay Royds but known locally as “Flack’s”. The area has a long history of coal working and by the 18th century there were a number of local pits including Clayton Common, Hollin House and Toppitt.

Joseph Norton owned several pits in the 1870s which provided coal for his mills at Cuttlehurst, Scissett – one of these being the mine in Duke Wood which now acts as an emergency escape route and air shaft for Flack’s mine.

Take the next left onto Upper Common Lane.

Short-cut 2: immediately after Riding Wood Lodge enter Cliffe Woods, taking the path to the right, not the one leading into the field.



■ Metro Bus stops



Local Services



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