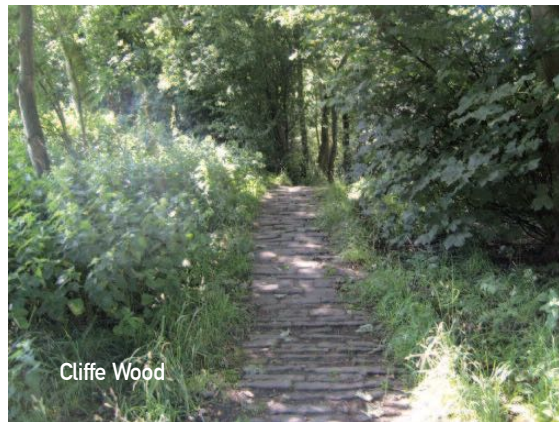


After a short distance along the road turn right onto a footpath. Cross the field leading over the gentle Swallow Hill then descend to Upper Common Lane. Turn left here on to the road then almost immediately right and follow the footpath down to the southern corner of Riding Wood. The path then goes obliquely uphill to a farm track and turn left. Pass by the picturesque 17th century, timber framed farmhouse at Wheatley Hill Farm.

South west of Wheatley Hill Farm, tucked away and easily overlooked, is the former Hay Royd pit which closed in 2012. This coal mine was established in 1908 and was the sole remaining independent pit in the area. It was operated by the Flack family under licence. Being a drift mine it had no winding gear; the drift went under Wheatley Hill Farm to the coal face beyond. It was the last reminder of the importance of coal mining to the local economy.

Where the paths and farm tracks cross turn right and go downhill to Lower Common Lane. Turn right and after a short distance turn right again into a narrow ginnel between houses. This path emerges into a field. Go left and obliquely uphill across the field then bear left again over stiles down to the corner of Riding Wood. Cross the stile, descend steps then keep left on the path climbing alongside the field and gardens boundary. At the top of the field cross a stile into Cliffe Wood.



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.



As you leave the wood there 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.



Our path goes steeply across the wood up steps, at the top turn left before the stile and carry on past a bowling green on right. Just past the obelisk turn right and follow footpath behind houses to High Street. Turn left and follow High Street downhill back to the starting point.

This trail was devised by the Denby Dale Walkers are Welcome group. Updated January 2024.

The leaflet was financed by 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.

Clayton West Circular Walk



Getting Here

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



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

Look out for the Clayton West Circular Walk 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



Clayton West Circular Walk



A 6-mile walk round and about Clayton West, taking in a Green, a Shrogg and a Mine.

Clayton West Circular Walk

A Green, a Shrogg and a Mine.

Kaye's Millennium Green is situated just off High Street in Clayton West. It was created in the 1890s by John Kaye, the 'King of Clayton West', a prominent mill owner, to complement his mansion, Park House. In the late 1990s The Park was donated by the Bradbury family, descendents of John Kaye, to the village community for the creation of the Millennium Green. It is now managed by volunteers for the benefit of the village.

Start: the Village Stores on High Street.

Enter the ginnel to the left of Clayton Village Stores on the public footpath which leads into Kaye's Millennium Green.

Follow the path across the Green. Leave the Green by the kissing gate, KG, and follow the path to the junction at the next KG. Bear left through fields and KG's down towards Park Mill, the site of a former large colliery.

The colliery was the life blood of Clayton West for many years and dominated the village with its head gear and large workshops, pit heap and a gantry which carried tubs over the A636 Wakefield Road. With the demise of the pits all the colliery infrastructure has now been dismantled.



The former gantry

At the last stile by a large modern industrial building turn right and follow the broad track, keeping left at the first junction, and onward to the sewage works.

To the left is the tree lined River Dearne and this path is part of



the Dearne Way, a 30 mile route following the river from source to its confluence with the River Don at Mexborough.

At the sewage works turn right and follow the tarmac access road uphill to Clayton Hall Farm.

Here you are on part of the Kirklees Way, a circular walk of 72 miles around Kirklees district.

At the brow of the hill leave the farm access road and take the path to the right in the direction of Clayton West. Beyond the next stile bear left and down to the wooded stream in the lower section of the attractive Bilham Shrogg. Climb away from the stream to cross fields, with impressive views northwestward to the Emley Moor

Mast, to reach a stone stile up onto Bilham Lane with allotments opposite. Turn left, and then left again toward Bilham Grange Farm.

Enter the farmyard, keep right and past building then right, through the larger of two metal gates to a track, after a short while you will see a gate at the end of the track, but about 60m before the gate bear obliquely right to find a slightly concealed waymarked entrance back into Bilham Shrogg wood. Enter the wood and cross stream and follow path bearing left.

Several woods in the locality are called "shroggs". The name comes from the Middle English "shrogge", meaning "bush" or "brushwood".

Cross a minor track and bear right up the wood and follow a waymarked path down a dip to cross a stream and up to leave the wood. Follow the wood edge uphill. Eventually cross back into the dense woodland of Hoyland Bank. Look out for waymarks on trees to confirm the path; they lead to a broad forest track. Turn left and then after 80m bear right at the junction with another path. After a short distance take a path on the right leading uphill to climb steeply to Litherop Road by High Hoyland church.

Until 1839 the Church of All Hallows was the parish church of High Hoyland, Clayton West, Scissett, one third of Skelmanthorpe, and the whole of Cumberworth. In recent years it has had secular uses, as a community hostel and now as a private house and art gallery. The graveyard remains open to the public and contains memorials to the Kaye family and other local notables.

Walk on Litherop Road for a short distance, then turn right again into the bridleway that skirts the edge of Hoyland Bank wood. To your left is the village of High Hoyland and there are fine views south-westward to the Peak District moors. Continue beyond the wood end and the bridleway brings you to the roadside on Bank End Lane.

In High Hoyland village is the Cherry Tree public house with its magnificent views toward Cawthorne and Cannon Hall. In 1816 W.B. Beaumont of Bretton Hall, John Spencer of Cannon Hall and others met at the Cherry Tree to found the first school for the children of the parish at the top of Hollin House Lane, mid way between High Hoyland and Clayton West.

Our route turns right along the road to Winter Hill Farm. Here cross the road and enter into the footpath opposite. Take the next footpath on the right, cross the field and enter into woodland. Leave the wood and carry straight on to a stile and stream crossing, and then the ascent of the next field brings you to Hollin House Lane. Here turn left and follow the road.

The substantial block of woodland to the left is Deffer Wood. Not much is known about the early history of the wood but in 1894 it became part of the Cannon Hall Estate of the Spencer Stanhope family. After the Second World War the wood was leased to the Forestry Commission but then transferred back to the Estate in 1994. The main commercial tree species here are Corsican Pines with dark grey bark and long green needles. Along the paths are many native broadleaves including some fine oaks. Rhododendrons make a colourful show in spring. Deffer Wood is well worth exploring in its own right; note it for a future visit perhaps.