

# BAILDON BOUNDARY WAY ROUTE

(Updated 24/11/2021)

## GETTING TO THE START

From Baildon Rugby & Cricket Sports Club (the Race HQ), go back down the narrow lane and continue down Heygate Lane until you come to two mini-roundabouts. Turn left into Ladderbanks Lane. Pass Bramham Drive on your right and the lane narrows into an enclosed path. Continue on passing Langley Lane on your right. Follow the narrow track winding downhill, go through a gate at the bottom to reach a track at the top of open fields above a lake. Turn to your right. The race starts on this track. The distance from the Race HQ to the start is about 1,000 metres (all flat or downhill).

## ROUTE

Set off along the track, with the lake downhill to your left, and you will reach the Tong Park War Memorial. Turn right on the track immediately before the Memorial and go uphill to a gate with a stile to its right. Go through and follow the track until you reach a made road. Cross the road and take the road almost opposite, signed "Public Footpath" to continue downhill. The road soon becomes a track that you follow downhill passing a converted Chapel on your right. The track meets a Y-junction. Take the right-hand fork. After 100 metres turn right at a T-junction by some high railings and descend to meet the busy A6038 Otley Road. Turn sharp left at Otley Road and **CROSS THE ROAD WITH CARE** opposite the Esso garage.

Continue following the road for a few metres and then turn right between rusty posts into the field. Continue ahead across a field with Ghyll Beck Driving Range on your left. On reaching the road bear left, **but be aware of any traffic** as the road is narrow. Go round a couple of bends with a humpback bridge (**1 mile**) between them. Follow the road to Esholt village and, when safe to do so, **move to the right hand side of the road**. In the village where the road bends to the left, go straight on up Pullan Lane with the original film site of 'The Woolpack' pub of TV programme 'Emmerdale' fame on your right. At the top of Pullan Lane, turn right on the road. You are entering Esholt sewerage works! On reaching the third settlement tank on your right look to your left for a track, go on this and immediately turn left through a gap in the fence with a large stone into the woods. Take the left-hand track climbing steeply through the trees, but **take care when crossing the mountain bike path** with ramps on either side of the track. Turn right at the top and follow the slightly rising track (**2 miles**) and go through a large opening in a wall. Continue on the main track for 60 metres. Turn right downhill. Follow the main track through the woods, eventually coming to a stream. Go over the bridge and stile to a lane and turn right. Follow this lane and descend slightly keeping to the right, ignoring a wide track on the left. Shortly after, where the lane leaves the wood at a T-junction, turn left on a track with a series of large concrete slabs on the left.

Turn right at the T-junction and continue on to a tarmac path (**3 miles**). Cross a metal stile at the bottom of the hill and turn left. Pass an office park and the entrance to the Yorkshire Water works and continue for a further 200 metres. Veer right before the bend in the road and go between two gate pillars. Take the new footpath to the right with wire fencing on both sides. Veer right at the end of the fencing and

continue with a high mesh fence on your left. At the end of the fence turn left on a track just before the river. You eventually come to a **very narrow** suspension bridge. Cross the bridge, **taking care as there are bollards at both ends of the bridge**, and go forward uphill to the canal. Go through a gap in the fence and turn right on the towpath passing the **(4 miles)** sign and continue on the towpath to the Yorkshire Water gates and a swing bridge.

Turn left, cross the swing bridge (**Drinks station**) and head up Ainsbury Avenue, passing through the pedestrian gate and continuing uphill on the road and around the right hand bend passing a site delivery map on your right. After about another 100 metres you will reach a second metal gate across the road. Turn right just before the gate onto the permissive enclosed path. Turn left into the woods following the permissive path through the woods eventually descending large well spaced wood steps. About 50 metres after the steps finish, the track veers right and becomes steeper, eventually turning back on itself. Continue to head down until meeting the intersection of the main path from where a disused metal bridge over the canal can be seen.

Aim to the left of the metal bridge and, **with care**, descend a steep short slope towards the canal. Cross the stile to your left into open land and keep to the path adjacent to the canal passing the **(5 miles)** sign. Cross another stile at the entrance into more woods still keeping to the path adjacent to the canal. Eventually you reach a pylon immediately on your left. Where the path splits, take the right fork descending briefly to a swing bridge to your right. **TAKE CARE TO AVOID THE METAL BARRIER**. Go over the swing bridge and turn left onto the canal towpath. Continue along the towpath passing the **(6 miles)** sign, go under a railway bridge and remain on the towpath (**not the adjacent road**) to the next swing bridge.

Continue along the towpath passing the **(7 miles)** sign. Pass the former Ellis Briggs' cycle shop on the right, go under the main road (bridge 207C) and continue on the towpath under bridges 207B and 207E to Salts Mill on the edge of Saltaire. This Victorian village was designated a World Heritage site by UNESCO in December 2001. Go under the next unnumbered road bridge and continue on the towpath passing the **(8 miles)** marker. Go up a small incline at Hirst Lock and before the top go through a gap in the low wall on your right. Descend four small stone steps, and go straight ahead on the track aiming for a footbridge, **crossing with care** the access road to Salt Junior Football Club grounds. Cross the footbridge over the River Aire and immediately turn left down a short slope. Continue ahead passing a stone dome on your left and you come to a stream. Cross the footbridge, then turn right up the track to an unmade road where you turn left (**Drinks Station**).

Continue ahead and just before a gatehouse at the entrance of some woods turn right and follow a hedged path to a kissing gate (known locally as the birdcage). Go through and go straight ahead ignoring all other paths. After a short steep climb, a wall appears on the left **(9 miles)**. Follow this steadily rising path. Keep to the top edge of the woods. **Take extra care on this section as erosion has reduced the width of this path in some places**. Eventually the path drops slightly to a flat open space, just emerging from the woods. Here take the path that branches off to the right and drops down to a stream. Turn right over a bridge, through a gate and bear left to go between two concrete bollards to head upwards over the moor **(10 miles)**. Follow the main path climbing towards the road. Where the path branches, bear left heading for the wall corner and the road (**Drinks station**). Turn left and take the

track between the wall and road bringing you to a gate next to a T-junction of roads near a cattle grid. **CROSS THE ROAD WITH CARE.**

Having crossed the road, go through a gate and continue along the edge of the moor with the wall to your left. On reaching a gate near to a putting green, pass through it and go straight ahead crossing the sandy gallops where Harvey Smith, the former showjumper, and his wife Sue, the trainer of Auroras Encore, the 66/1 winner of the 2013 Grand National, exercise their horses. Head upwards and then bear right following the grassy path running parallel to the gallop track (**11 miles**) and heading towards the houses. Go through a gate before the houses and pass the houses on your right. On reaching a tarmac road, go right. Continue on downhill eventually passing Faweather Farm and Cottage on your right and Faweather Grange on your left (**12 miles**). Continue down the track until the track bends to the left. Here go through the stile or the gate on your right to pass through Sconce Scout Camp car park.

Aim across the car park so that a wall is on your right and trees to your left. Go through the rusty metal gate and over a small stream bridged by a stone slab. Follow the path across the moor aiming towards a white house (formerly a restaurant). Opposite the white house take the grassy path off to the left of the main path aiming for the road by the house. **CROSS THE ROAD WITH CARE.** Just after the white house and the first telegraph post, take the grassy path to the right climbing steeply to the top of the hill passing a bench and follow the path along the edge before bearing slightly right to join the wide main grassy path running slightly downhill. Continue aiming towards a group of trees in the distance following a wide grassy path downhill and veering right. Drop down and turn left onto the narrow road (**13 miles**). Follow the road downhill and where it bends to the left, veer right, go up six small stone steps to your right and go through the small gate. Continue on an uneven stony path, **watch out for tree roots**, for 60 metres and go up four small stone steps, veer right and the finish is ahead on the football field. **Congratulations!**