

## Bolton by Bowland Circular

### Route Summary

Roads, tracks, fields and some stiles. Can get muddy/boggy in parts. Take care on unpaved road sections. Expect livestock and keep dogs under close, effective control. "Walking safely" information available at [www.forestofbowland.com](http://www.forestofbowland.com) Walkers are advised to carry OS Explorer map OL41.

### Route Overview



Category: Walking  
Length: 5.200 km / 3.25 mi  
Last Modified: 11th June 2018  
Difficulty: Medium  
Rating: Unrated  
Surface: Undefined  
Date Published: 8th June 2018

### Description

Follow this circular route to the south of Bolton by Bowland and discover some of this lovely villages' wildlife and history.

Our thanks to Roger Dewhurst whose original walk description this route is based on.

### Waypoints

#### 1.

(53.93959; -2.33019)

The walk begins at the public car park and information centre on the edge of the village. Turn left out of the car park and cross the bridge over Skirden Beck.

If you're lucky you may see the blue flash of a kingfisher as it flies upstream.

## 2.

(53.93956; -2.33124)

Turn immediately left down Mill Lane and continue ahead.

Notice the water trough set in the wall on the right beneath the lime tree. This was one of two troughs that supplied the village with drinking water until the early 1930s. The cricket field on the left, donated to the village, provides a restful Sunday afternoon for spectators. Look out for a herb-rich meadow on your right, which leads down to a small bridge which crosses Bier Beck. Here, a small spinney of trees has been planted, their leaves a picture when the autumn tints take over, followed by berries for the birds. The next field on the right is a favourite resting place for the curlew whose song is a delight in season.

## 3.

(53.93654; -2.33387)

Leave the farm road as it bends left and take the stile in the wall ahead then continue straight ahead across the field.

## 4.

(53.93492; -2.33520)

Go through a kissing gate and follow the fence edge on the left along the woodland edge and over a stile in the left corner. NEED TO CHECK THAT THE PATH DOES FOLLOW THE FENCE AND WOODLAND EDGE HERE. (MAP SEEMS TO SHOW IT AWAY FROM WOODLAND EDGE.)

This is Bobbin Wood, so named because nearby Bolton Mill Farm was used for the manufacture of bobbins in the past.

## 5. ?????

(53.93357; -2.33676)

Continue to follow the edge of the wood and on to a kissing gate.

The erosion in the bank on the left is extensive due to winter flooding. Here good views can be had upstream to Mint Cottage and Wybersey Hill, a favourite haunt of the Sika deer which frequent the area. A visit on a late October evening at dusk, when the stags are rutting, can be a memorable experience.

## 6.

(53.93165; -2.33710)

Through the kissing gate and turn left along a track to a further kissing gate. This takes you down a track to Skirden Beck where you cross over a bridge.

Here, it's worth lingering to take in the views. Note the paved ford crossing on the upstream side of the beck, for this was the tradesmen's route when Bolton Hall was in its heyday. Looking south from the bridge, herons can sometimes be spotted on their nests in the top of the Scots Pie trees in the nearby wood.

### **7.**

(53.93159; -2.33417)

Go over a stile and continue along the track, then through two further kissing gates. Follow the fence line on the right to reach a drive.

In season you can admire a wonderful Rhododendron display up ahead. Underfoot, as you rise up Hippings Brow, note the wood laid across the track in days gone by to help the horses as they toiled up the hill on their way to the hall.

### **8.**

(53.93263; -2.32864)

At this point you can either turn left down the drive to return to the village or turn right to continue the full circuit.

If continuing, turn right and over the cattle grid, then keep left down the track.

This passes the round roofed building over King Henry's well on the right. The relatively new settlement of the Mews incorporates many of the buildings associated with Bolton Hall, although the hall itself was demolished in the 19th century. It was at Bolton Hall that Henry VI sought refuge for a year following his defeat at the Battle of Hexham in 1465.

### **9.**

(53.93076; -2.32731)

Once past the houses on the right, turn left onto a cobbled track and soon after, left through a wooden gate (in front of The Old Joinery house). Head diagonally right to a kissing gate and straight across the next large field. Over a wooden footbridge and through a kissing gate.

in spring and early summer the birdsong is a delight, with willow warblers and blackcaps joining the chorus. As you progress, the name of the wood to your right changes. Starting with Rainsber Wood, it becomes Grove Wood and finally Low Wood. Good views can be had of the river below.

#### 10 10

(53.93159; -2.31836)

Continue ahead across a large field, keeping to the left hand hedge line, until you reach a metal gate in the corner ahead of you.

#### 11 11.

(53.93286; -2.31303)

Through the gate and up the grassy bank then through a kissing gate and straight ahead to a kissing gate in the right field corner. Continue ahead keeping to the right field edge.

As you approach the quiet settlement of Fooden, you can perhaps pick up a whiff of sulphur from a spring below the old hall, its mineral waste attracting much attention in days gone by.

#### 12 12.

(53.93623; -2.30782)

In the field corner go right through a kissing gate, skirting the farm buildings, then left through another kissing gate.

#### 13 13.

(53.93657; -2.30657)

Turn left onto the drive, past Otterswell Barn and ahead through a metal gate. Head slightly right towards a kissing gate. Through the kissing gate and continue ahead across a large field, heading to the top right corner and to the highest point of the walk next to Moorfield Plantation, then through a kissing gate.

#### 14 14.

(53.93836; -2.31225)

Bear slightly left and across the field to a further kissing gate.

#### 15 15.

(53.93878; -2.31551)

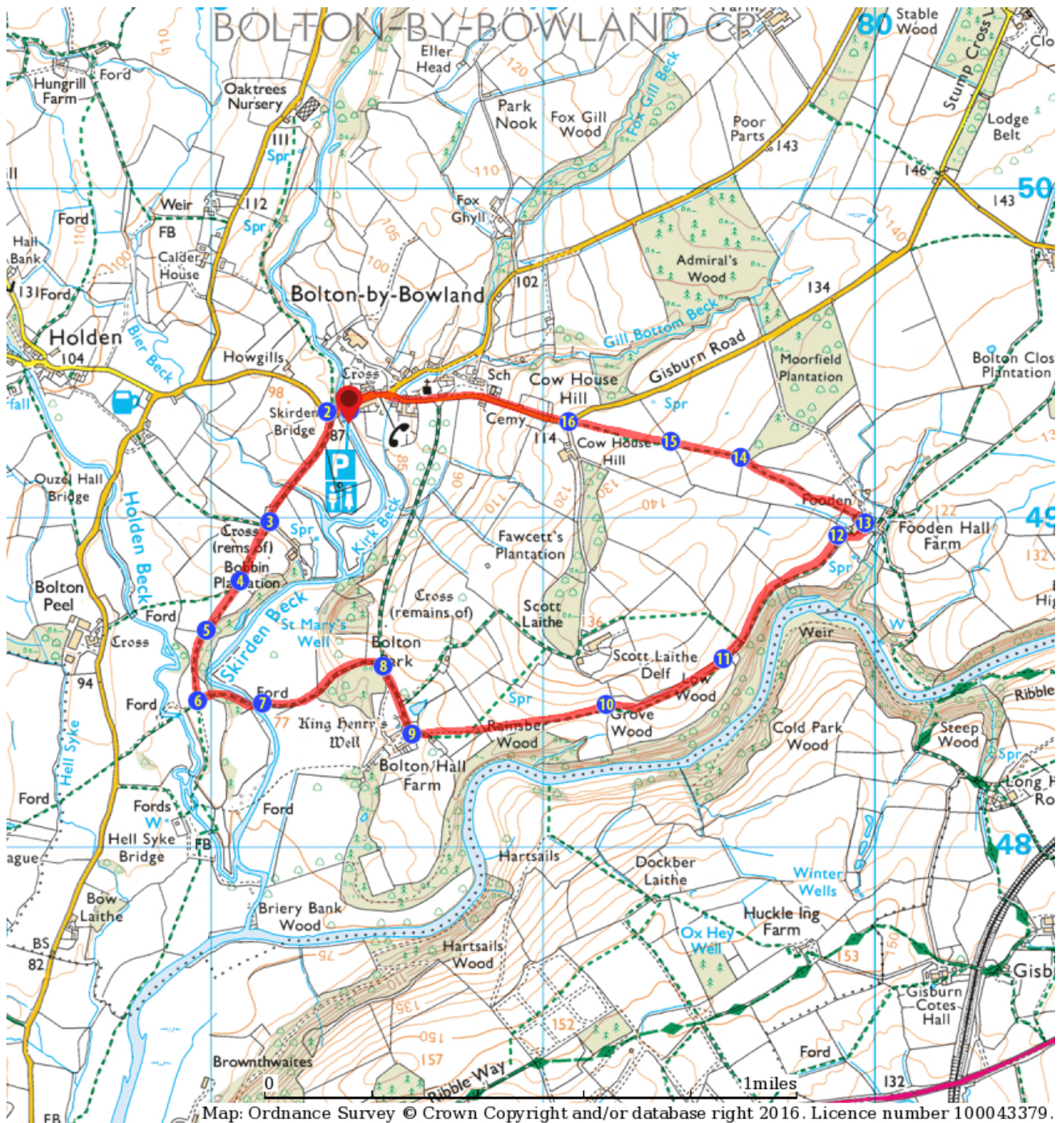
Head diagonally right towards the white house then to a kissing gate in the right hand corner of the field.

## 16 16.

(53.93933; -2.32018)

Join Gisburn Road, turn left and return to the village.

Just past the green is the wonderful old Church of St Peter & St Paul. A quiet few minutes can be spent inside the church examining the tomb of Sir Ralph Pudsey who gave refuge to Henry VI at Bolton Hall. Sir Ralph had three wives and fathered twenty five children and on the slab of limestone all the individuals are shown. Shown in Roman numerals on the lower folds of the women's dresses are the number of children each one bore. Edwina, his third spouse, bore seventeen children.



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