

# LOCKWOOD SPA WALK



This map was created as part of the **Our Holme Project**, made possible thanks to generous funding from the Cummins Foundation.



OTHER  
WAYS  
TO  
WALK

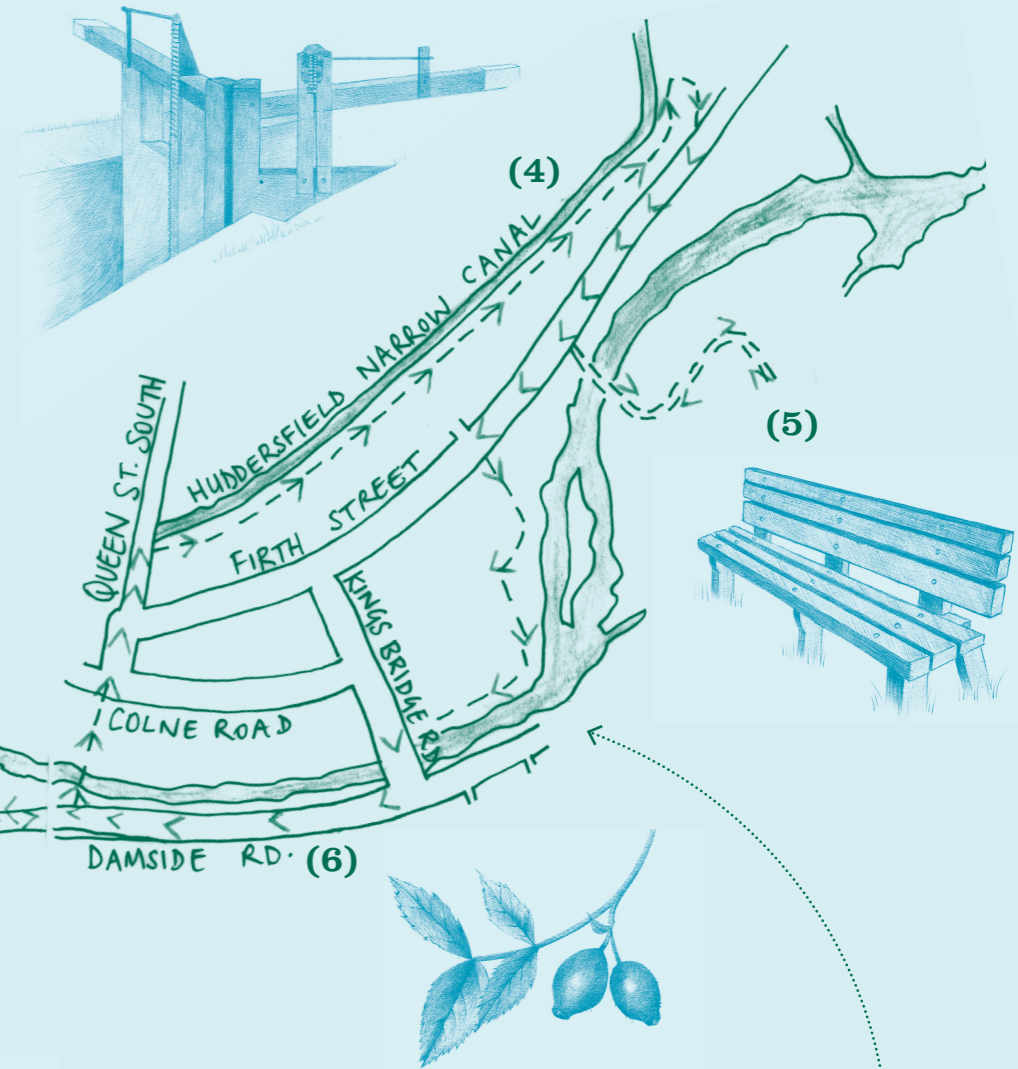
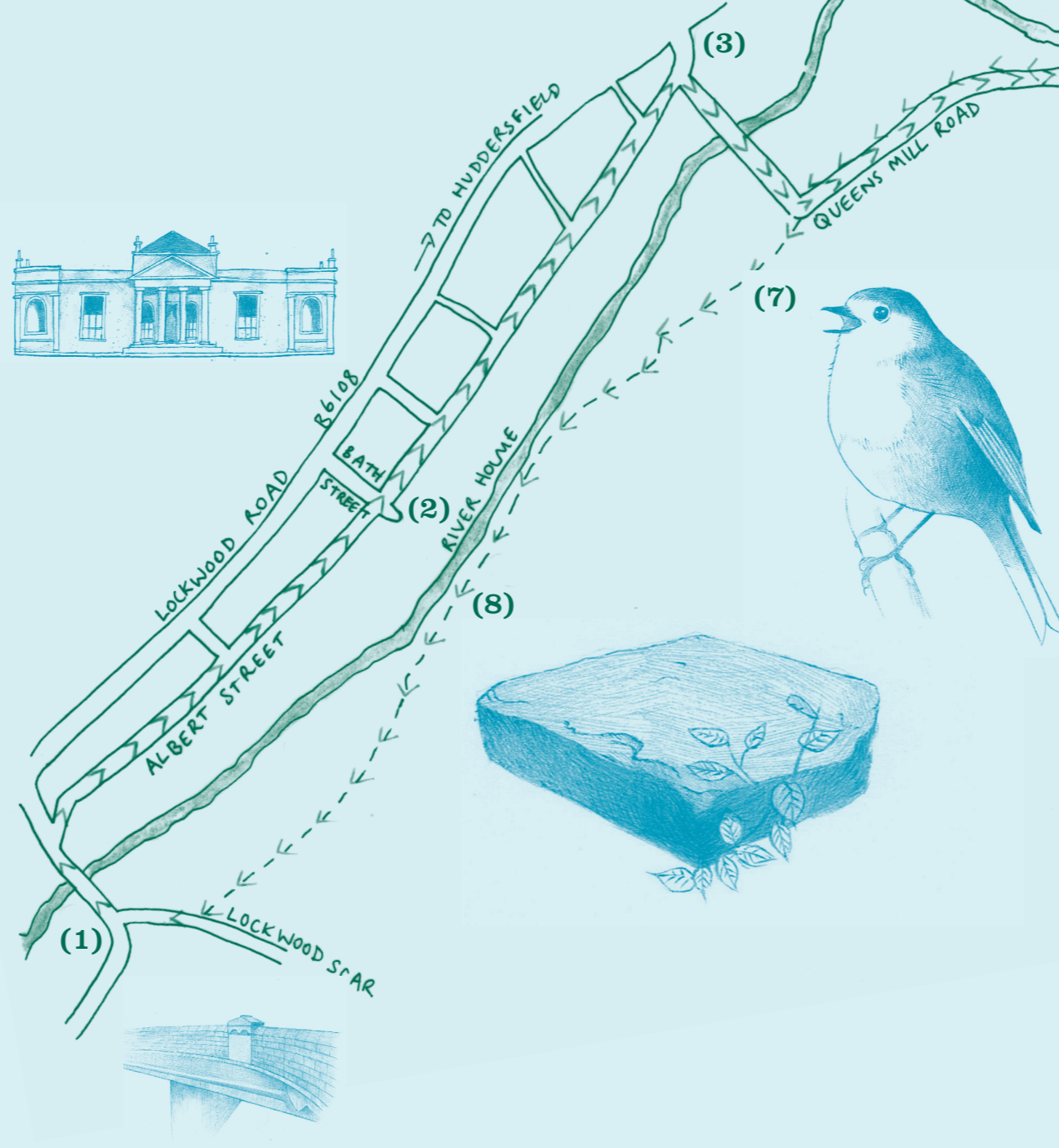
River Holme Connections is passionate about making the river Holme catchment a better place for people and wildlife.

[www.riverholmeconnections.org](http://www.riverholmeconnections.org)

River Holme Connections is the public name for charity, River 2015, registered charity no: 1163873

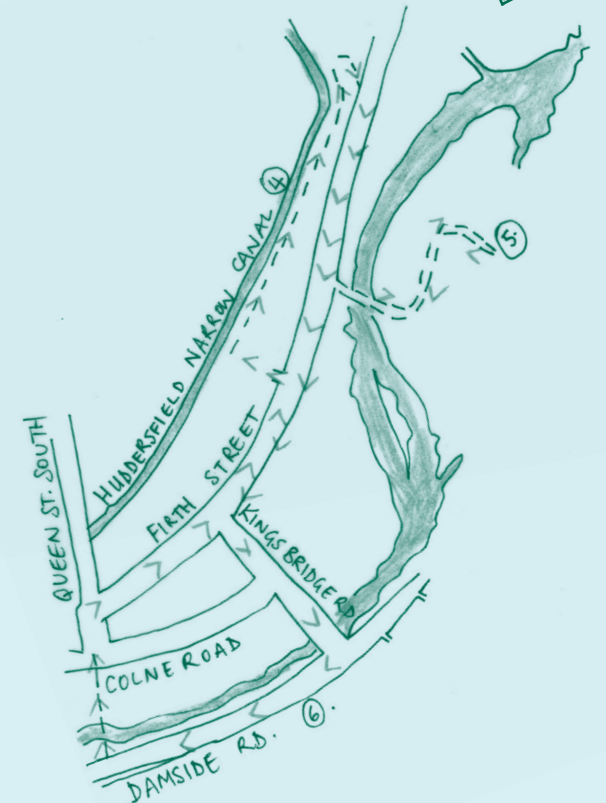
## Key

- Road
- Footpath
- Waterways
- Landmark (1)



## Accessible Route

>>> route avoiding steps

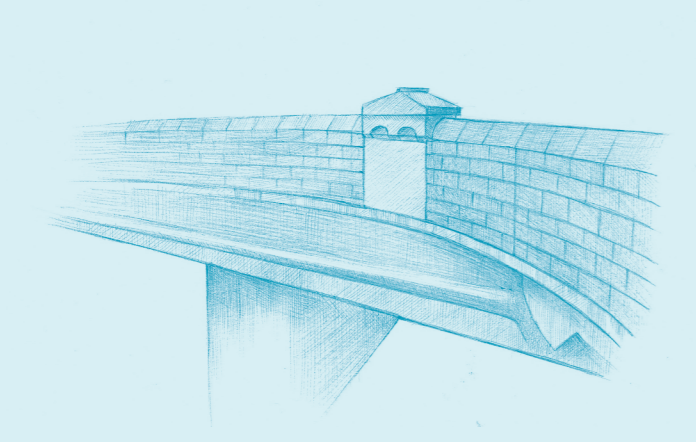


## (1) Georgian Lockwood

Walk onto the bridge opposite Scar Café and stop for a moment. Imagine yourself in 1819, two hundred years ago.

There would be no cars, no factories, no traffic lights. Only this road and bridge you stand on. The buildings to your left where the antique shop is are some of the oldest buildings in Lockwood and were accommodation for visitors and homes for locals. These were part of only a handful of buildings including the Baptist Chapel on the main Lockwood Road and a pub called the Bridge Inn which once stood on the site of Grappolo's. Surrounding you are green rolling fields, hundreds of trees, birdsong, and the constant presence of the river. Lockwood at the time was described as “a romantic and finely sheltered country”.

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Now head right down Albert Street until you get to the junction with Bath Street.



## (5) Snow Island



Some say this island gets its name from the 1940's and 50's when the council would use the island as a good place to deposit large amounts of snow which had been ploughed from nearby roads during harsh winters and couldn't be left to block pavements. It's hard to imagine that much snow these days!

A local resident Mrs Porfitt wrote a memory of wartime Huddersfield and remembered a landmine landing “on an island in the River Colne” which may refer to Snow Island. A hand-drawn map of 1634 marks the island as belonging to the nearby Kings Mill. These stories show that whilst small, Snow Island has had a long and varied life. It now provides a home for students. Take a moment to pause on the bridge and note how the river meets with the new modern buildings surrounding it.

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Walk back across the bridge and turn left to continue down Firth Street. When you reach Firth Street Depot opposite Commercial Street, take the path left towards the student accommodation! At the corner of the student accommodation building take the steps down to the river and walk until you reach the road. Walk over the bridge and turn right on to Damside Road. Turn on to Queens Mill Road

## (2) A Spa Village



Pause at this junction for a moment.

In 1830 you would have been stood in an ornamental park with trees and lawns and floral borders. Look at the building to your right with the triangular pediment and columns. This used to be a spa where people would come to “take the waters” – it was thought to cure illnesses. The spa was built in 1827 in an effort to rival Harrogate Spa. The water was described as being “particularly limpid and sparkling. It's smell and taste are strongly sulphureous” – lovely! The water came from a spring and was pumped into the building by a steam engine. Look up Bath Street. The old building you see at the top of the street used to be the Bath Hotel where visitors to the spa would stay. You can still see the arch where the carriages would enter. Bath Street was a tree lined avenue running from the hotel to the baths. As the baths declined, they became used as a public baths – the fee to enter became cheaper throughout the day as the water became “cloudier”.

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Continue walking along Albert St until you reach Jim & Cathy's café.

## (6) Nature's Gifts

As you walk along Queens Mill road, take note of the bushes and trees to your left.

Lockwood may not be a rural village anymore, but this area of Spa Wood is still similar to how it would have looked two hundred years ago. In this patch of scrub, you will find rosehips (a good source of vitamin c when made into a tea), elderberry, blackberry bushes, rowan trees and nettles. Local residents would have foraged the local bushes and plants for free tasty treats and natural remedies to everyday ailments such as nettles which can help arthritis and inflammation when drunk as a tea. Soldiers would beat their arms and legs with nettles to warm themselves in the war.

Take a look and see what plants and fruits you can identify in the bushes whilst you walk. What recipes do you know for these fruits? Were these recipes handed down by your family members? How do you think recipes of today differ from those of 1800?

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Continue to walk along Queens Mill Road before taking the footpath at the entry to Spa Wood. Make sure you take the righthand footpath when you reach the fork!



## (3) Industrial Expansion

You've just walked through what once would have been a peaceful park.

However, the industrial revolution reached Lockwood in 1860 when Albert Street was built, and factories began to be built along the river. The peace of Lockwood Spa was interrupted, and the golden age of the spa was over. As the area urbanised and became more industrial, people stopped attending the bath as frequently. The river became a vital connection for windustry, providing water for the factory and a mode of transport for goods bringing great wealth into the area. It was no longer used for pleasure, but now for business. Lockwood was no longer a village.

Take a moment to look back down Albert Street and imagine the changes which took place here.

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Follow Queen's Mill Road and then turn left over the green bridge and walk up Queen Street South. Look out for the steps down to the canal side on your right just after the restaurant.



## (7) Audible Heritage

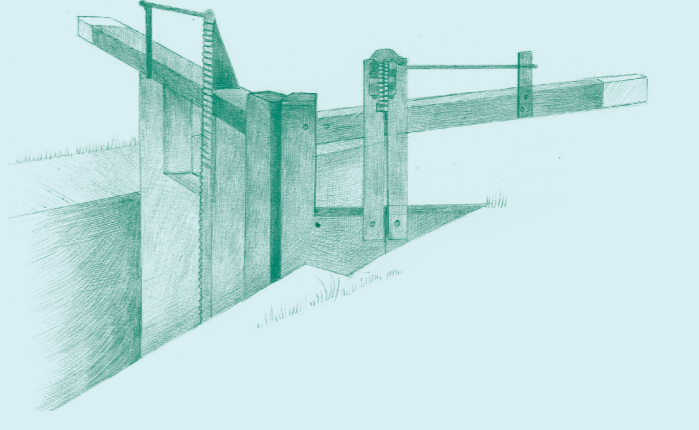


Where the path opens up to a small clearing, pause for a moment.

Not all of our history and heritage is what we can and can no longer see. Audible heritage is very important too. Lockwood would have sounded very different in 1819 when it was fields and a small village – you would have heard very little; birds, the wind, the rushing of the river. By 1880 when this area was full of factories and industry, you'd have heard pounding and clanking from the factories. The chimneys would have bellowed smoke and there would have been lots of busy voices. Stop and listen and think about what else you might have heard over the years and what you can hear now.

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Follow the footpath taking care to keep to the paths. Stop when you come to a large flat boulder on the right-hand side of the path

## (4) Huddersfield Canal



Work began on the Huddersfield Narrow Canal in 1794 and completed in 1811, after a number of delays. It met the Huddersfield Broad Canal which then met the Calder and Hebble Navigation, connecting Huddersfield to all the major local towns which helped Huddersfield's industrial success. In the 1800's you wouldn't have been able to peacefully walk along here as you are today.

Imagine what you might have seen during the industrial revolution. The canal would have been a bustling highway of barges loaded with wool, wood, cotton, coal and more. Huge horses would pull the barges along the canal, and hundreds of men would hoist the materials from the canals into the great factory buildings which overshadowed them. It was mucky, noisy, dangerous work.

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Walk to the road, turn right and walk back along Firth Street. Turn left immediately after the Buckley 3M building, opposite the chimney and the zebra crossing and take the footpath over the bridge to Snow Island. There are picnic benches here to rest and enjoy a break.

## (8) Sunny's Rock

Sunny is a local resident who often walks along this route and pauses here to enjoy the quiet, the sound of the river, and to think about things. This rock is directly behind the spa building that you passed earlier (see the light-coloured brick building).

In 1834 there was a landslide which “shook the whole neighbourhood, as if it had been the shock of an earthquake”. It's possible that this rock has remained here for the last two hundred years, since it's tumble down the hill.

Take a moment to sit on the rock and think about how many years this rock has been here and how many people may have sat on it. Think also about the history of Lockwood and the changes we've discussed. Like the layers of sediment which make up this rock, so Lockwood has layers of time and history, which we have explored today.

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Return to the present and to Scar Café for a well-earned hot drink!

