This map was created as part of the River Holme Connections Routes Project, made possible thanks to generous funding from private donations.



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

www.riverholmeconnections.org

Registered Charity no: 1163873

Details

Distance: 2.7 miles

Difficulty:

Moderate – some uneven footpaths and steep sections

Refreshments:

Thongsbridge Co-op, Devour at the Dyehouse

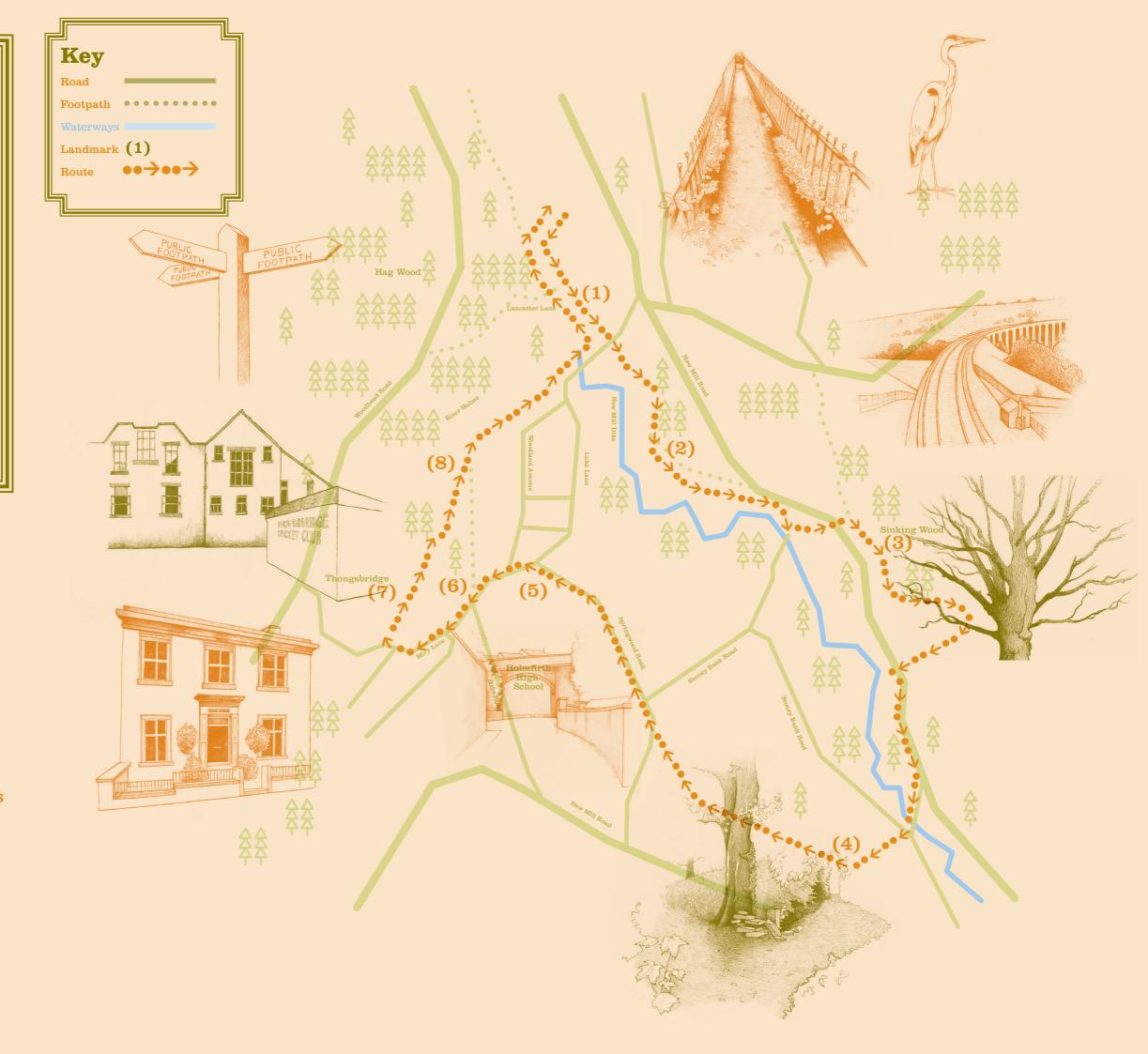
How to Get Here:

By train: Brockholes Station 0.5miles By bus: From Huddersfield, to

Brockholes 314, 316

By Road: Brockholes HD9 7BP





(1) Mytholm Bridge Mill

From River Holme View, turn right at the end of the cul de sac and follow the path over the river and left past the campsite.

This modern campsite is on the former site of Lower Mytholm Bridge Mill and the old mill dam is in the present fishpond. There was a fulling mill on this site as early as 1545 built for John Walker and a later mill which was extended in 1885 for James Lancaster & Sons, worsted cloth finishers.

Continue on the footpath to cross a narrow metal footbridge. This would have been a main walkway for mill workers to access the site. Pause for a moment and think about what this area might have looked and sounded like in the mid-1800's. What would you have seen and heard? Mytholm Bridge was a main river crossing on the route from Brockholes to Thongsbridge. The Holme Valley Riverside Way follows, in parts, the old packhorse routes which criss-cross the valley.



Turn right at the main road and then immediately left up the signposted footpath. After 300metres you'll come to a small car park area with a gate and stile straight ahead. Proceed through the gate (or over the stile) and along the footpath into the wooded area, taking care on uneven surfaces.



(5) Thongsbridge Train Station



If you had stood in this area a hundred years ago, you would have looked over the bridge to see railway tracks and potentially a steam train heading towards Thongsbridge Train Station. The station was sited where the new housing estate is now, but we can still find clues in the built environment for the busy station that used to be here. There are some red brick railway cottages just poking up above the railway bridge which may have been used to house workers at the station.

Keep walking along the main road until you reach the junction with Heys Road. Here, if you'd like to, you can walk up into the cul de sac of the new housing estate. Look at the carved out rock on either side of the houses and you'll get an idea of what the station may have looked like and its size. We know that the station was relatively simple when it first opened in 1850, but it was upgraded significantly in 1893 following a need for a goods yard, and increased platform



Continue on the main road in the same direction you were walking before, heading down hill.

(2) Mytholm Bridge Viaduct



You will emerge at a junction of interconnecting footpaths - at this point you can continue forward into the wooded area to explore ancient beech trees - this is a nice little diversion if you want to get a feel for medieval Thongsbridge. Retrace your steps back to this junction.

Pause here for a moment to find out more about the impressive railway line which ran through here. Sometimes referred to as Mytholm Viaduct, this long viaduct bridge formed part of the former Holmfirth Branch Line. The original viaduct was made mostly of timber but it was damaged by a gale in February 1849. It was rebuilt in time for the opening of the branch line on 1 July 1850 but by then concerns about the safety of wooden viaducts meant that a decision was made to rebuild it yet again, but this time in the form of a 13-arch stone viaduct. This was not without drama as it too collapsed during construction, however it was finally built and completed in March 1867. The line was operational for almost a hundred years until it was closed in November 1959. The branch line was demolished in 1976 but you can still see rubble and large slabs of stone at the side of the footpaths in this area. Take the footpath leading downhill and see if you can identify the railway rubble as you go.

(6) The former Albert Hotel

A little further down Miry Lane you will see a large house on the right with the name "Old Albert" over the door.

This used to be the Albert Hotel, built some time between 1854 and 1894. With all the work taking place at the train station, it's unsurprising then that this area of Thongsbridge grew into its own little village. This pub and hotel - the only one near the station - would have been a bustling local meeting place for villagers.

It was closed in 1966 and transformed by the present owners into a family home. Note the stone slabs in front of the house, taken from the pub's cellars and placed here!

Opposite the Old Albert is a small driveway - cross the road and look up this driveway to see the huge blocked up railway tunnel. Take a moment to picture the view from the doorstep of the Old Albert when large steam trains would have travelled through this tunnel.

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Continue down Miry Lane around the corner (past the drinking trough!). Turn right down towards Thongsbridge Cricket Ground.



(3) Sinking Wood Colliery

Follow the footpath alongside the fields, passing through a smallholding with the river on your right. Walk past a solid metal gate on your left and follow the footpath round to the left up a steep rutted track.

You will meet the main New Mill Road. Carefully, cross the road and walk up the footpath into Sinking Wood. Take the right-hand path. Oliver Heywood, a diarist, wrote in 1684 about visiting New Mill and getting "entangled in a wood, among bogs, and very dangerous precipices". His host told him that the area was known as "sinking hills" due to the many pits underground.

You get a sense of how old this wood is when you look at the trees and the size of the trunks - some of the oldest beech trees here are over 200 years old - can you spot them?

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Continue along the footpath through the holly tunnel. Walk through a kissing gate and turn right, downhill to the main road. Turn left along the road until you reach Kirk Bridge Lane (just before the speed camera). Turn down the lane, taking care as there is no pavement. At the junction you'll see a footpath sign directly opposite. Walk up this steep footpath.



(7) Thongsbridge Cricket Grounds & a spot for a rest



As you walk down this road you will see the old mills to your left. These are Albion Mill, a woollen mill which was present before the industrial revolution but which grew rapidly, as seen on historical maps of the area, as the demand for wool increased. It now houses a number of modern businesses.

The cricket grounds were established in 1860, again showing the growth of this small community. The club was one of the founder members of the Huddersfield and District Alliance League and it is still an active club today.

RHC is developing a wild space at the end of this natural green area, past the football field. By Summer 2021 there will be a picnic chill out area on the banks of the river, with a wildflower meadow, fruit trees and a small copse. Until then, if you want to have a quick rest there are benches alongside the cricket pitch. Please respect the space and don't play on the pitch.

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Retrace your steps back up the road - look out for the public footpath sign on your left, leading you through the trees. Follow this path through a field, at the end of the junction of two footpaths, continue forward into trees.





When you reach the fork in the footpath, pause and catch your breath. Note the changes in your body in response to the demands of the climb. Walking in the landscape connects our body to the place and characteristics of the land. Taking time to notice the details in nature can help improve mood and lower anxiety.

Take a few moments to notice the shapes, colours, smells, sounds and textures of your surroundings. Enjoy discovering all the variety of colours in lichen and bark. Trace the lines and shapes of branches and note the different movements.

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When you're ready, take the left-hand footpath until you reach the gravel parking area. Take the right-hand footpath between the houses. Continue on this path, over a road, past sports fields, and beautiful stables.

Emerge onto Springwood Road and turn right, walking until you reach the Co-Op store. This is a great place for a quick rest or refreshment. Walk past the Co-Op, cross the bridge and stand on the opposite side of the road from the Luke Lane junction. Pause and look back in the direction you've come from.

(8) Other walks in this area

There are some nice spots on this part of the walk to sit, listen to the sound of the river and the birds, and contemplate the landscape and your surroundings as well as the walk you've taken today.

The area is threaded with footpaths and bridleways which you might want to explore further on a future walk. Head uphill towards Castle Hill or Holme Moss or stay in the valley and walk towards Holmfirth or Honley - there are lots of opportunities to tread historic routes across the area. Next time you're out walking look out for the new footpath signs erected by River Holme Connections in the area and see where your feet take you!

Follow the path until you reach the main road turn left and you will see Devour Italian Restaurant on your left. Walk along the main road, over the old pack horse bridge (can you see the evidence in the wall?).

Turn left and retrace your footsteps over the white footbridge. Continue past the campsite back to your starting point $\,$

