



The Stanza Stones Walk: Devised by Mick Melvin.

A fifty mile upland walk from Marsden to Ilkley visiting the six Stanza Stones carved with poems written by Simon Armitage.

Walk 3 Haworth to Ilkley = 32.44Km/20.16mi

Maps: OL21 South Pennines---Explorer 297 Lower Wharfedale

Leave the little square in front of Haworth Parish church (St Michael and All Angels), walk up Main Street turning right before Haworth Visitors Centre, carry on along Changegate until the junction with North Street. Turn left along North Street and in fifty yards turn right into a narrow lane with a finger post reading "Public Footpath Private Road".

Keep straight ahead through the yard and you soon enter a green track which continues on behind a cemetery and leads through four fields to Lower Oldfield Farm. Skirt around the farm on a narrow ginnel and, after crossing the yard at the rear, look for a



concealed ladder stile in the corner behind an oil tank and some bushes. Descend the field keeping a depression and the fence on your right, and after passing through a step stile you come to a very striking pack horse bridge (Longbridge) crossing the River Worth.

Go across the bridge and turn to the right. Don't go into the field on the left; follow the River Worth downstream for a short distance and cross the stile beneath the trees into the next pasture. As the river bends to the North West your path goes north following a stream uphill. Follow the path uphill bypassing a farm on the left and passing through a small copse, until



you reach Lower Scholes Farm and enter the yard via a narrow ginnel. Turn left into the yard and then right before the gap in the houses and walk forward to a large metal gate blocking your way on. The way on goes through this gate and bears slightly left towards a large tree on an overgrown path. Pass the tree on the left and keep right at a fence and a boundary stone hidden in the long grass. The path now passes through a number of stone wall stiles and enters Covey Wood. Once in the wood take the broad

path on the left that rises slightly uphill past a memorial seat and crosses a stile on the far side of the wood. Walk across the broad field beyond the stile and another wall stile leaves you standing on a bend in a track leading to Green Well Farm. Turn left up this farm track and as it begins to turn left again look for a stile in the wall on the right hand side of the track. Walk along the wall on your right and pass through a gap into the yard at Near Hob Cote Farm. Turn left out of the farmyard and once past the wall on your right, look for a gap in the wall with two stone steps in front of it leading onto a parallel drive. At the second drive turn right along it for 20 yards and pick up a path striking off to the left that takes you into the bottom left corner of the field. This stile is in a bad condition at the time of writing and I am attempting to have it repaired. Carry on with the wall on your right as you negotiate this field and pass over a stile to reach a stony track leading off in front of you. Take this track to the next lane junction in front of Denby Hill Farm. Turning left along this lane brings you shortly to a junction with Hob Cote Lane, onto which you turn right for approx. 20 yards before taking the public bridleway on the left (Irish Lane). After the initial left hand bend this lane heads straight as an arrow to a junction with Turnshaw Road. Turn right onto Turnshaw Road and almost immediately after the road bends to the right take the stone stile on the left into a field and follow the path into Griff Wood. On emerging from the wood the path continues until you reach a metalled road at Slack Lane.

Turn left and then right to cross the rough ground which forms a triangle of road junctions and walk down Gill Lane into the hamlet of Newsholme. Once past the Chapel, go round the sharp right hand bend and then turn left between the two houses to enter a grassy track. The track makes a sharp left turn but you go forward through the gap descending the steep hill, through the wood at the bottom and reach the site of a pack horse bridge and clapper bridge in attractive Newsholme Dean.



Take time to look at the bridges in this pleasant spot which was a popular picnic and bathing place for locals during the 1940s and 1950s. Walk across the bridge turn right and pass through a gate at the side of a farm building. The path turns immediately left and goes through the adjoining gate and then turns right. Keep straight ahead then turn right following the garden wall through the trees to a junction with a more prominent track. Don't take this track, stand with your back to the track that you came on and look up to the top of the grassy bank before you, and you will see a walkers' gate set in the wall along the top.

Haworth to Ilkley Leg 2

Make your way up the banking and go through the gate. Remain on the feint path which ascends the steep field with a stream on your left side until you emerge through a stone stile next to a wooden gate onto the road (Todley Hall Road). Turn left along the metalled road for approx. 100 yards to arrive at a stone wall stile into a field on your right. Once over the stile you need to cross seven more stiles and the same number of fields before arriving at Pole Road, named after the old county boundary stone Pole Stoops situated along the road in the field to the left. Walk left along the road for approx 100 yards to a lay-by on the right. At the

far end of the lay-by the field wall forms a corner jutting out into the road. The Pole Stoops can be seen protruding above the wall in the corner on your right side. A better view can be had when you make the turn right 20 yards beyond the lay-by at a finger post beside an iron gate. Once past the gate turn to your right and the leaning stone (Pole Stoops) can be seen in the wall at the top of the field. Straight ahead a wide gateway leads into a second field. Keep walking in the same direction along the bottom of the hill and cross a step stile leading into a



smaller field. Once over the stile, walk diagonally left to the far bottom corner and pass through a steel gate with a second gate on your right.

Go through this gate and turn half left and follow the wall in front into the corner of the field at the bottom. There is a finger post and a stile into a lane. The stile here needs treating with caution as at the time of writing; a steel wire has been strung across the steps which could cause a bad accident to the unwary.

Turn left along the lane and in 40 yards turn right into the paddock and out onto a track leading into the farm yard (America farm). Walk straight ahead between the two cottages to reach a gate near the wall on your left. Pass through the garden to the right and take a second gate into a meadow. A short walk following the left hand wall down a field takes you through a gate and out into a large field and a cluster of farm building away to your left. The footpath here crosses this field towards these buildings before doubling back along a farm track to a point very close to where you entered the field. My personal opinion is, if a crop is growing in the field, to follow the wall on the right for 50 yards to regain the path as it leaves the field through a gate, then to stay on the metalled track until you reach another farm on Ellars Road. Cross Ellars Road and walk through the farmyard at Long House, follow the track where it turns left after the last of the farm buildings. Walk through two fields until the second cross wall and a very muddy gateway. Make your way up the third field passing a ruined building on the left side and aiming just to the right of the top wall corner and a wall stile. The stiles drops you into a shallow stream which is easily avoided and continue up the next field aiming to the left of a clump of trees to locate a stile in the corner of the wall. Turn left and keep on the path passing through the yard at Valley Farm. The path continues as a walled lane which you remain on until you pass through a gate into a long field. Cross a wall stile at the other end of the field close to a telephone mast. Keep on the path as it crosses two more walls and a narrow wood, then rises gently up to the top right corner of the second field before emerging onto a farm track alongside a cattle grid. Turn left along the farm track and after a quarter of a mile turn left again onto the bridleway where a track crosses your path from the right and winds left down the hill in the direction of a wood (Curren Wood). The path bends left before the wood and descends the hill in a north westerly direction. You are now on the Millennium Way which once past an old quarry on the right, bends right and becomes a metalled lane (Moor Lane) which is followed down to the B6265 Main Road.



Turn to the left along Main road and cross over at the controlled pedestrian crossing and turn left again. Immediately after a red telephone box turn right into Green Lane and follow the lane down to the bottom until the junction with Lyon Road. Turn right onto the track (Millennium Way) at the junction and follow the Millennium Way where it crosses the Keighley Skipton railway line then across two damp fields and emerging via a stile onto the side of the A629. Remain on this side of the dual carriageway along the grass verge until you can cross to the other side at an uncontrolled crossing just before the roundabout. I must stress that great care is required here as the road is very busy. Cross carefully over the Bypass A629, there is a crossing but it is not controlled. Walk along the left side of Keighley Road A6034 in the direction of Silsden village crossing the River Aire on a bridge. About 100 yards after the bridge look to the other side of the road for a gap in the wall and a finger post, cross the road to pass over a narrow little footbridge into the meadow.

The walk initially follows the Millennium Way as far as Holden Bridge. From the bridge follow the track which goes to Howden Park Farm, but immediately after going through the gate into the farmyard turn right and follow the grassy track which runs parallel to the electricity pylons and rises through Alder Carr Wood to reach Jayhill Farm and further to Holden Gate.



Haworth to Ilkley Leg 3

At Holden gate follow Holden Lane to the right for approx ¼ mile until you arrive at a gravel track leaving the road on your left and a Public Bridleway sign. Take this bridleway and follow it round to the left. Before you reach a telephone mast turn right into a gateway, ignore the large metal gate and go through a small gate on your left and follow the path, through one more gate to the metal gate at the entrance to the wood.

Take the path which leads into the wood for approx 200 yards until it turns sharply to the left. There in front of you are the Dew Stones.

After visiting the Dew Stones continue along the track which runs between the forest and the fields on your left until you reach a gravel track coming from left to right. Turn left onto the track and then immediately left again back into the forest. Keep faithful to this forest track and after leaving the forest through a wooden gate you reach the farmhouse of Black Pots on the right of the track.



Keep straight on along Jenny Lane for approx 1/3 mile and until you reach Doubler Stones Farm on your left. Immediately before a bungalow on the right, leave the track to the right and follow a feint path with the Doubler Stones on your right in a northerly direction passing through a gate and a stone stile in a wall to arrive at Black Hill. Once through the stone stile it is worth walking forward for 50 yards to the edge of the escarpment and take in the views up Wharfedale as far as Bolton Abbey and Simon's Seat.

Return to the stone stile and don't cross it, follow the wall in a south easterly direction over Addingham High Moor. When the walls converge you can cross the wall on your left through a narrow gate and make your way to the trig point. Once past the trig point cross a new stile in the wall corner and continue following the right hand wall until you reach the West Buck Stones. Next, visit the East Buck Stones and continue walking south east until you have past the wireless station at Whetstone Gate.

About 100 yards beyond the wireless station the path becomes paved with stone flags and



near to the Thimble Stones turns east. Keep looking out on the right side of the path and, approx 150 yards beyond the Thimble Stones, you will see the next Stanza Stones (Puddle Stones) laid out on the heather.

Leave the Puddle Stones and aim for the next trig point which you can see in the distance to the East. From this lofty height we descend to take a look at the Twelve Apostles Standing Stone Circle, before dropping down the Dalesway link path to Gill Head (Backstone Beck).

Cross the beck and turn right to follow the well worn path down the left hand bank of the stream. Watch out for the Cup and Ring marked rock on the left side of the path. After crossing over a major footpath with a stone water channel in the valley on your right, and reaching an area where multiple paths converge, keep going north and cross the stream close to an area of rocks and pick up the path which follows the right hand bank of Backstone Beck. Follow the path which runs close to the beck through some dramatic scenery and descend a very steep rough path (care needed) until you can see the wooden bridge beneath you.

As you approach the bottom of the steep section of path, look out for a large boulder in the gorse on your left between the path and the stream. Squeeze past this boulder and you will see the Beck Stone standing upright in the middle of the beck. After visiting the Beck Stone return to the path the way you came and carry on down to the wooden bridge. Cross over the bridge and walk into Ilkley past the tarn where our walk finishes at the railway station.