**SECTION 3 RIPPONDEN TO CRAGG VALE**

Updated 28/06/2018

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| ***Length and time*** 5½ miles (9 km). Should take you about 4 hours including lunch and view stops. ***Highlights***Mill Bank, good stretches of old causey paths, World War 2 starfish site at Flints, Catherine House Farm. Great views of Cragg Vale and Ryburne valleys.Part of the route is the Sam Hill e-trail which you might want to use to get more information about the herniate of the area. See heart of the Pennines shop for details.***Gradients***Theroute has three significant climbs and descents, but they are spread out.***Terrain***The routeis all on good paths, but some of the woodland sections by be boggy, especially after rain. ***Obstacles***Thereare several stiles and some flights of steps on the route.**Facilities**Hinchliffe Arms (1km off the route) 01422 883256Robin Hood (1km off the route) 01422 885899Craggies (½ km off the route) 01422 417417**Bus access to the route**To get to Ripponden by bus (ask for Brig Royd stop)* 901 from Huddersfield, Mytholmroyd and Hebden Bridge
* Several services from Halifax
* 528 from Littlebrough
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1. From Old Bank Bottom, cross the main and go up Royd Lane opposite for one hundred and ﬁfty metres where you turn right between stone gate-posts
2. Go over a stile heading to a lovely stretch of paved path through fields to a terrace of houses. At the end of the terrace go straight ahead on to a walled lane which you follow to a uphill until the lane turns sharp left. Here, go straight ahead through a gap stile next to a gate.
3. Keep alongside the wall at the top of the field and enjoy the great views of the Ryburn Valley. From this field pass through a gap stile and turn left into Cow Lane leading up to Soyland Town.
4. Turn right at the road and after 150 metres (opposite Making Place Farm), turn right down a paved path by a garden wall which comes out on to a track where you turn right. After 150 metres turn left through a gap stile to descend alongside a wall on your right.
5. The path descends and then goes down some stone steps. The path emerges on to a roughly surfaces drive where you turn left downhill.

*Turning right at the bottom of the steps will lead you on to Link Path D to Kebroyd*.

1. Turn right at the road to descend to Mill Bank Bridge (SE035212). You might want a short detour to explore the hamlet or at east have a good read of the fascinating interpretation board by the bridge.
2. From the bridge in Mill Bank turn left a lane, initially following the stream. The lane becomes a wide path climbing up through woodland. At the top, turn right up the tarmac lane.
3. Keep on this lane for ½ km where you come to a road junction. Go straight across Lighthazzles Road on to the road heading up hill called Eccles Parlour. Keep on this road (passing Hole Head) for ½ km and at the T junction, turn left.
4. After ½ km, just past Soyland New Farm, turn right into a wide track. At the junction of tracks, cross the stile straight ahead on to a footpath which follows the embankment of the derelict Flints Reservoir. At the end of the embankment, cross a stile and continue on a well-defined path over rough ground heading for a finger post on the skyline.
5. At the finger post, cross the wall and continue ahead up a broad stony track to a junction of tracks by the ruins of Flints wartime decoy station. Turn right along the track (initially stony and then grassy) on the moorland ridge passing through 3 gates.
6. After 1km, you reach a junction of tracks where you turn left, following the wall as it gently drops down.

*At this junction Link Path E continues straight ahead to Steep Lane and eventually to the Rochdale Canal at Luddenden Foot.*

1. After ½ km you pass Catherine House Farm, with its distinctive chimney and arrive at a road junction. Go straight across and after 150 metres turn left down a rough tarmac track.

*If you turn left for about ½ km you reach the café called Craggies.*

1. Pass through the gate on where the track becomes unsurfaced. After about 300 metres, where the track forks bear right towards ruined Deacon Hill Farm. The track turns left through a gate and descends to a farmhouse.
2. Just before the farmhouse, turn sharp left on a path heading downhill. The path goes across rough ground but is well defined. The path goes off to the left at a gap in the wall.
3. The route levels out and causey stones appear. Shortly after the path descends again through woodland. You reach a laurel hedge which is the edge of a garden and at the junction, turn right following the garden edge downhill. When you reach the tarmac drive, turn left downhill and you will shortly arrive at the main Cragg Vale road.

At this point, you have three alternatives:

*To continue to the next section (or to drop in to the Hinchliffe), cross the road and follow it downhill for a few metres before turning sharp left to the Church of St. John the Baptist in the Wilderness (SE001232).*

*To get the 901 bus to Ripponden and Huddersfield or to Mytholmroyd and Hebden Bridge either walk up or down the Cragg Road where you will find bus stops.*

*Link Path F (at SE000232) follows Cragg Brook down to the Rochdale Canal at Mytholmroyd.*