

Ripponden to Cragg Vale

Map Co-Ordinates : SE 040 199

From Ripponden, head across the main Halifax to Rochdale road (A58) and walk up Royd Lane. Bear right to go through stone gate-posts at the wide opening below a bungalow, bearing left through a stile. This now follows a paved path through fields to Birks Farm. When you emerge through a small gate, bear left to follow another track in between walls. At the top go through the gate and follow the wall on your left to emerge through a wall stile in to another lane. Bear left up here to arrive at Soyland Town. Turn right to pass **Making Place Farm**.



Making Place was the Soyland home of 18th century cloth merchant Samuel Hill (1677-1759). He ran his business from here from 1706 to 1759, and it was an example of early industrialisation of the wool process in the area.

In the 19th C it was used for various educational establishments and has now been converted into apartments.

On your right, a paved path opposite leads you behind a garden wall onto Highfield Lane. Turn right towards the farm and then next left through a stile leading you through fields onto steps descending to Foxen Lane. Bear left then immediately right following the road to **Mill Bank**.



Descending between Soyland and Millbank.

Turn left when you reach the bridge, and follow the river upstream where you will go through a couple a gates to emerge on Gough lane. Follow this road uphill to emerge on Lighthazles road. Head across to follow the road opposite as it winds its way up hill for about a mile. Bear right into a grassy lane opposite a wind turbine and then turn left to follow this all the way to the **Flints reservoir** which is now derelict.



This shows the marshy bed of the abandoned Flints Reservoir which was de-watered many years ago.

When you reach a T-junction bear left along a lane to a stile. On the left you will get a clearer view of the old flints reservoir. Go through the gate to enter the moor and follow this until you reach a fork. Bear right to follow this track towards the **Ruin** in the distance.



Starfish bombing decoy control bunker, Slate Delf Hill .This was the operations bunker for a 'Starfish' decoy intended to draw German bombers away from their intended target, in this case the railway station and yard at Greetland. The decoy consisted of a double line of about a dozen flash pans, where oil would be burned to simulate incendiary bombs. There would also have been decoy lights and shadow buildings, possibly constructed using walling stone from alongside some of the enclosure period tracks in the area. The bunker consists of two rooms either side of a central entrance passage, defended by a high blast screen. The room on the right housed the generators. The control room was on the left, with a escape / observation hatch in the roof. The decoy itself was located to the south west in the area leading towards Great Manshead Hill.

When you reach the ruin bear right along Waterstalls road where views of **Stoodley Pike** are prominent on the hill to your left.



Continue through gates until you reach a wall corner bearing left as you descend downhill over the stile, passing **Catherine House Farm** on your left with its distinctive chimney.



A farmstead on the western slopes of Crow Hill. The large chimney suggests some light(ish) industry was carried out here at one time.

Continue along this road crossing the next junction until you reach the first set of farms. Here bear left down towards Bent House Farm where a gate at the bottom of the track leads you further downhill.

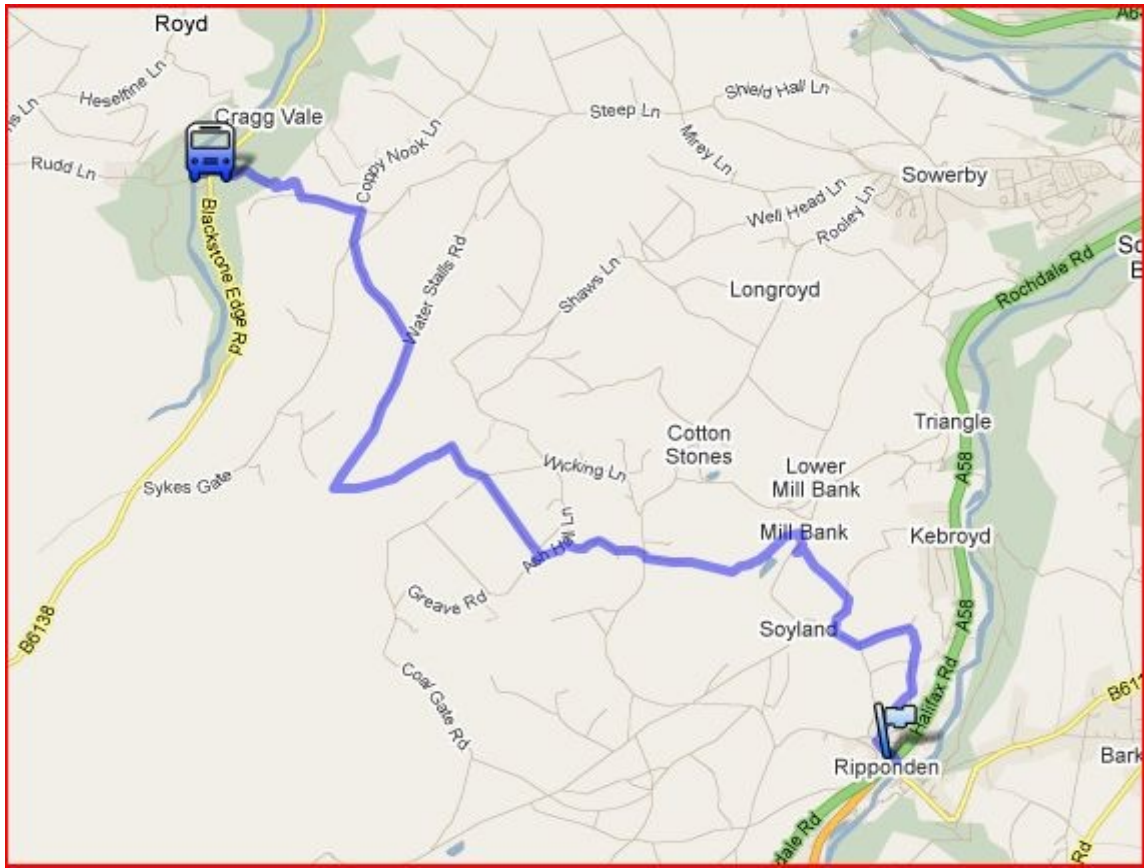
Follow the track bearing right at the corner and then left through a red gate opposite a **ruined building**.



This track winds its way downhill further to the building below.



To the left is a stile leading on to a grassy track descending even further downhill to a gap in the wall on the left. Follow this as it meets a walled lane which now takes you to a newly built house and the road to Cragg Vale. When you reach the main road a bus shelter opposite for services for Mytholmroyd and Hebden Bridge.



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