

## **BLUEBELL HILL** STROLL 2

START Station Road, Broadley

Park on left side of road, before the bridge. Go through the kissing gate on the right of the bridge, down to the main path through Healey Dell. At the path, go straight on.

Drive over bridge, car park on left 150m. ahead. Opposite the car park is a squeeze-stile, leading to a set of shallow steps. Go down, then turn left onto the main Healey Dell path.

Mobility scooters – either parking option, but then use the kissing gate. On the walk itself, the main path is good, all the way to Masseycroft. You'll need to assess

the circuit of Bluebell Hill.

DISTANCE

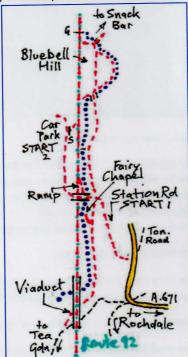
Short

**BUS STOP** 

Station Road, Broadley

This path is now a cyclepath as well as a route for walkers, so be aware of the need to share. Once it was a railway line, built really to serve the needs of the quarries at Facit. To begin with that's where the line terminated, at sidings just beyond Whitworth's other Station Road, at the Halfway House. Later the line was extended to Bacup, with the station at Britannia, at 1000ft above sea level, being the highest on the whole Lancs and Yorks network.

But we're not going that far today (fine walk though it is!) - we're



settling for Bluebell Hill, which is the first lump on your right, about a ¼ mile ahead. Just past the little hill, turn right off the main path, next to the river. Notice the slim bridge – a bit too narrow for a really satisfying game of Pooh-sticks...there's a better one later. Most people will keep turning right, on this path that may be a bit puddly/muddy, but if you wish you can follow the line of the river for longer if you follow an even narrower path just ahead (that's probably a bit puddlier and muddier) around to the left. It'll re-join the obvious path near the Pooh-sticks bridge.



After your game, cross the bridge and walk the length of the duckpond to a junction. Here, going right takes you back to the main path, where you go left, retracing your steps to your car. Going left, up a path that's rough, and always shady, will take those who chose Start 1 directly back to their chariot. If you used Start 2, when you reach the bridge turn right, across it, and along the roadway to the car park.

Twisty Trees by Leanne Davidson

Can you spot other unusual trees in the Dell?

REFRESHMENTS Healey Dell Tea Rooms are down in the Dell – further than you've just done, and uphill after eating. To drive there, go right at the top of Station Road, then right at Healey Corner down narrow, bendy Dell Road, which is very pitted beyond the cottages. Corner shop at top of Station Road Snack bar - turn left at top of Station Road and drive a ¼ mile

## POSSIBLE WALK EXTENSIONS

The Fairy Chapel is very close and signposted down steps from Station Road (but the tricky steps down from *that* path need real care).

Healey Dell viaduct is 300m south of Station Rd ramp.

The snack bar is 300m up from the narrow bridge. JF