

Strolling Whitworth

Simply lovely little Walks

STROLL 8 LEAVENGREAVE

START The boulders opposite St John's Church, by [Cycle Route 92](#) sign.

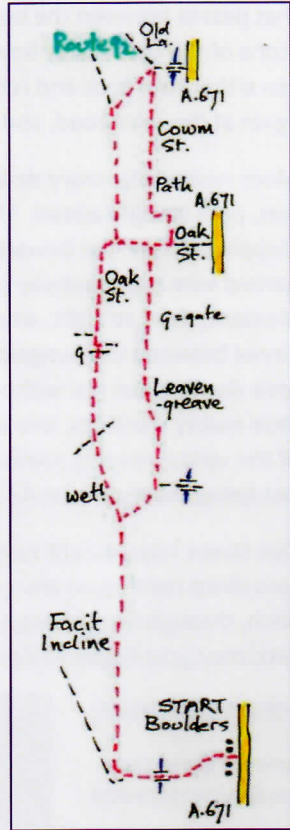
DISTANCE Short

BUS STOP St John's Church

NATURE OF WALK Entirely cyclepath without the woodland loop, so easy surface, and largely flat. The loop adds a steady climb, and the terrain is rain-dependent, so solid footwear is advised.

Walk down from the boulders, being wary of mossy patches. Cross the river at the bottom where a weir just upstream can make the river sound mightier than it is! Where the cyclepath turns sharply right it's worth a very short detour on a left diagonal to the start of Facit Incline, the route by which stone once came out of the quarry up above to the railway sidings down here. The system was ingenious: a gravity loop, whereby full, heavy carts descending sent empty, lighter carts back up the slope. It was also flawed: in 1891 something snapped, and 24 laden trucks hurtled down the Incline, colliding with a passenger train at the bottom, killing three people and badly injuring everyone else aboard.

Back – soberly – to the cyclepath. At the top of the mild slope the cyclepath eases right, and for a flat, out-and-back stroll (and for anyone using a mobility scooter) that's the way you should go, joining the road



that passes between the buildings at Leavengreave, with the monumental stone of the old railway line on your left. When you reach Oak Street you can either turn back and retrace your steps, or you can go right, then right again at the main road, and get back to the boulders that way.

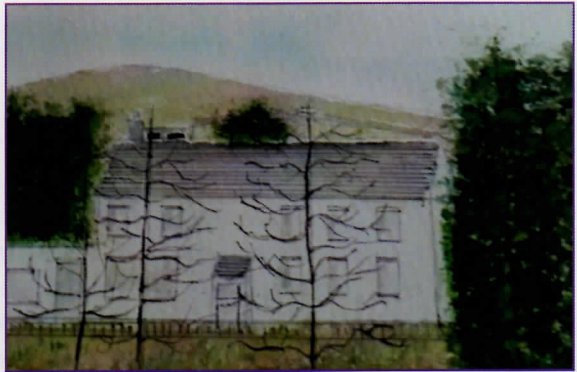
More interesting, more delightful, and quieter is the rough, initially always wet, path straight ahead. The wetness is generally over beyond the *ad hoc* stepping stones: but beware the instinctive grab of the fence to the right – barbed wire top! Halfway up there's a sort of crosspath, and beyond it a pleasant, dead straight, woodland tunnel, ending at a gate. Follow the ginnel between the bungalows, kink left then right onto Oak Street, and walk down it, but not without looking out to the right, to the grassed-over little quarry workings, and beyond them the stretch of hills on the east side of the valley: reading south-north – Brown Wardle, Middle and Hades, the last being the highest at 432m. above sea level.

Oak Street takes a right turn at its visible bottom: at its actual lowest point turn sharp right again alongside the once-and-hopefully-future football pitch, through the buildings at Leavengreave, to rejoin the cyclepath. Easy, with the [Cycle Route 92](#) sign to guide you.

POSSIBLE EXTENSION

(uneven slope, then possibly muddy path)

Follow another [Cycle Route 92](#) off slope of Oak St. 250m. ahead go right, down an old railway access path. (On mobility scooter, carry on to next road



And if you look from the top of the path, across the main road...Wintry Image by Sheila Lucas

junction and turn right down Old Lane.) Turn sharp right and walk the length of Cowm Street, which morphs into the advertised muddy path, crosses a grassy open area, and twists left between buildings back to Oak Street. JF

