

and a gate, go left across the stepping stones, then you need to make a decision ...



Red Deer. Very rare around Whitworth...but not unicorn-rare.  
Pastel drawing by Leanne Davidson

#### Option A

- 4 Go immediately right. This path is straight but increasingly steep, before morphing into Bar Terrace, which leads you down to the busy main road. Cross carefully, and turn left...
- 5 On the bend turn right down the tarmac path that leads over the river and up the other side past the "Kickpit" ...

#### Or option B

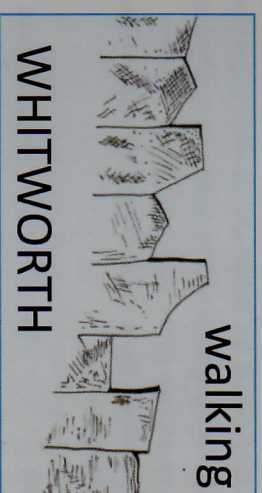
- 4 Bear marginally right and down-ish. This leads to a really nice walkers' descent, sweeping rightward to emerge at the very bottom of

Tonaciffe Road. Cross it carefully, and, just as carefully, the main road ...

- 5 Directly opposite, drop to a small gate beyond which is a steep path (with a helpful central handrail) down to a bridge over the river and steeply up towards the "kickpit" ...

- 6 Straight ahead is a bridge over the main Healey Dell footpath/cycleway. Go over and turn right. Spot the Rossendale Way sign twenty metres on, next to the last house on the cul-de-sac, and a path which sits atop a steep banking falling away to your right – at one point early on quite alarmingly, as a result of a small landslip – take care. Follow this shady path to a junction, where you go left, in front of Wallbank Lodge. Turn right, next to the lodge wall, along the 100m. of Wallbank Drive, to the T-junction with Hall Street.

- 7 You're going straight ahead, up Hall Fold. Beyond the school entrance, at Barnside, where the road bends left and up, you need to bear right and down, between Handel Street and Water Street, then gently up, behind the High School. Leave the broad roadway for a narrow path – the Cockle – that runs down the side of the school field, at the bottom of which turn right, down across a bridge and twistily into a suburban cul-de-sac (Lloyd Street). At the junction with Gowm Park Way turn left and cross the road into William Street. At the junction with Rawstron Street turn left and cross the road into North Street.



This second series of guides follows the same format as the first - all the walks are circular; all start from a place where you can leave a car; most fit comfortably into a morning or an afternoon or a summer evening (walk 14 may be tight); all have ups, to give you the splendid views that Whitworth is blessed with, and downs (obviously); and all have route instructions supplemented with a clear, simple map and a small helping of history.

Whitworth has a fantastic network of paths that can be knitted together into many satisfying walks. But there is a big wide world of walking beyond our valley walls too, of course. Invest in OS map 21 (South Pennines) and explore. You might even find some walks that are half as good as these!

## WALK 11 SHORT CIRCUIT

Produced by Whitworth Sports Council and funded by





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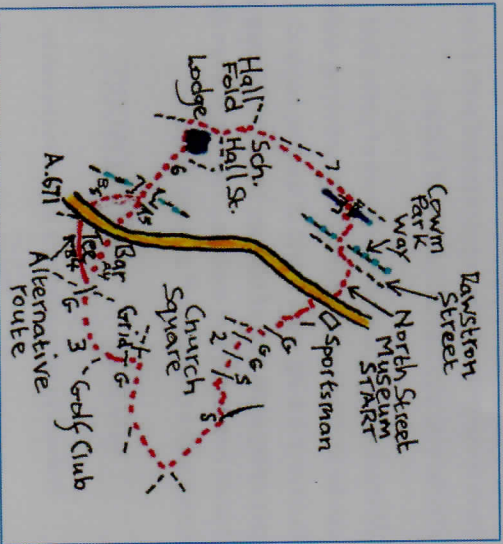
This little circuit is a deliberate attempt to get you to try out a selection of little-used paths. They are decent enough paths, each with its own flavour, but you won't think to use them unless you know they're there.

**START** North Street car park, opposite the *Sportsman*.

**DISTANCE** 2 and a bit miles

**TIME** An hour and a half

**NATURE OF WALK** The first path is uphill, a later one steeply downhill. Sturdy footwear, with a grip.



Map by Steve Flood

**1** A few metres along Market Street to the south of the *Sportsman* (after 438 Market Street) a path leads up and left behind the row of houses between wire fences. Simply follow it up the hill, which quickly opens out to meadows, the one on the right being awash with wild flowers in summer, and to your left look out for rabbits. There may well be more rabbits on the banking opposite the top of the path. The gate at the top releases you from the confines of the fences, only to deliver you into a bit of a bog. You're turning right here – with a tricky few metres to negotiate on stepping stones. And now the whole walk is simple...



Rabbit. Pastel drawing by Leanne Davidson

**2** Go through the squeeze-stile, then step through the flagstone wall on your left, into a small field, at the top of which is a gate. \* Go through, and walk up the left side of the next field, aiming for a second gate, then straight ahead, aiming for a

footpath sign at the broken flagstone wall. To your left you'll see the ruins of Intake, which was the home of Gilbert Holden, who was cruelly executed at Lancaster for making counterfeit coins. There was a strong sense of injustice about the case too, there being more than a whiff of entrapment by the authorities. The upper storey of Intake was rumoured to be haunted by the ghost of Gilbert Holden's baby, though the noises emanating from the house are perhaps better explained by water flowing underground in nearby abandoned mine tunnels (now inhabited by yet more rabbits!) By the 1970s, when the house had well and truly tumbled, people were still hearing ghostly noises, but now, as they claimed, from a cellar.. Here, turn left, climb the stile – the stone steps are great, the wooden rails less so - and turn right along the broad track, with Brown Wardle to your left. Ahead is an open area, in front of a gap in the raised tramway. Before the gap, turn right along another track made of interrupted flagstones, and then turn right again, down the hill...

\*The sign on the gate may speak truth. If this induces doubt, retreat below the flagstone wall, then walk on the way you were going before, through the gate to the left of the building, then through another to the left just beyond. This has the bonus of your walk being overseen by the imperious gargoyles of St Bartholomew's, and will bring you out on Whitworth Rake, just below the Golf Club turn. There, turn right and rejoin at \*

**3** At the Golf Club sign/picnic area turn left and pass through the wide gateway up the ramp ahead of you. Where the path forks, stay left, passing the outdoor gym before it bears right on a gentle descent. At the junction with a cross-path,