

	Almondbury (Huddersfield) Historical Trail (PT No 338 - 11Km)		
START VENUE	Tolson Memorial Museum within Ravensknowle Park, Wakefield Road, Huddersfield, HD5 8DJ		
CAR PARKING	Free car parking facilities are available at the start venue although there is a height barrier (2 metres) at the entrance to the car park to prevent high vehicles from entering. There is unlimited, free on-street parking on roads adjacent to Ravensknowle Park.		
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	Huddersfield Railway Station is less than 3Km from the start venue. The station provides access to trains between Manchester and Liverpool in the north west and Newcastle and Middlesbrough in the north east. It also provides access to mainline East Coast rail services at Leeds and York. Several bus services stop close to the entrance to Ravensknowle Park. First Bus no.372 towards Almondbury departs from Westgate (turn right when leaving railway station, signposted Bus station). Other services, (Pink buses) run from the nearby Bus station.		
GEOCACHING	There are believed to be several geocache locations close to the route.		
DISTANCE/GRADE	11Km Grade 3		
TERRAIN	The route includes paved foot paths, roads without footpaths, and way-marked footpaths through woods and fields. There are some very steep gradients with a total ascent of over 320 metres. Walkers are advised that this is a hilly route and may not suit everyone. It is not suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs or anybody with limited mobility		
GENERAL INFORMATION	Almondbury is a village, now an outer suburb, about 3.2Km south of Huddersfield town centre. It appears in the Domesday Book as 'Almondeberie' and for 300 years until the 17 th century, because of its Monday Market, was more important than Huddersfield. Almondbury is close to Huddersfield's most prominent landmark, Castle Hill which forms part of the route. The trail also passes several other buildings and places of historical interest including Wormald's Hall, now the village Conservative Club and the Grade 1 listed All Hallows Church.		
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES	River Connections: There are no known River Connections on this PT.		
	Royal Connections: There are no known Royal Connection on this PT.		
REFRESHMENTS	Refreshments are available at the start/finish at the Tolson Museum Cafeteria which is open during Museum opening times. Check website for details: https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/museums-and-galleries/tolson-museum.aspx . There are no refreshment facilities along the route.		
TOILETS	Toilets are available at the start/finish at the Tolson Museum Cafeteria which is open during Museum opening times. Check website for details: https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/museums-and-galleries/tolson-museum.aspx . There are no toilet facilities along the route.		
BWF / IVV	This trail is registered until 31st December 2026. BWF declaration on next page.		
ROUTE DESCRIPTION CHECK / UPDATED	14 th October 2024 (Please make sure you are using the most up to date version, particularly if you printed this off a while ago). Admin update 05/04/2026. Section UK IPA Walking Group – BWF Club 113		
DATA PROTECTION	The data provided on this form will be retained until 1st February 2027 for statistical analysis and will then be securely destroyed.		
ENTRY FEE	£1.50 per walker. Payment preferred by Bank Transfer to Metro Bank Account: 45237087; Sort Code: 23-05-80; Name: IPA Region 3 (NB: Metro Bank do not operate "Confirmation of Payee" so a warning indicating this account cannot be checked is likely). Please use PT 338 + Surname as payment reference. Cheques, payable to Mrs J A Smith, accepted only by exception when bank transfer is not possible please.		
TRAIL ORGANISER: (TO CLAIM IVV STAMPS)	Judith Smith (BWF), 13 Chantry Road, East Ayton, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO13 9EP. Email: judith.a.smith@btinternet.com Please use the form on Page 2 to submit your entry and claim IVV stamps. Please enclose a STAMPED SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE [A5 size (162mm x 229mm)] with the form and send it to the Trail Organiser.		
BWF DECLARATION	The organisers are not liable for accidents, thefts and/or damage to property. Every effort will be made by the organisers to make this a safe, enjoyable and memorable event.		

PERMANENT TRAIL COMPLETION & IVV STAMP CLAIM FORM

(Please print details clearly)

PT NAME:	ALMONDBURY (HUDDERSFIELD) HISTORICAL TRAIL	PT NUMBER:	PT338
DATE WALKED:		ROUTE UPDATED:	14/10/2024 Admin – 29/12/2025

NAME:			
ADDRESS:			
POSTCODE:		TELEPHONE: *	
E-MAIL: *			

NAMES OF <u>ADDITIONAL</u> WALKERS:		

AWARD & SOUVENIR STICKER:	At the present time, there is no award available for this trail. If you wish to be notified if an award (cloth badge) is produced, please indicate YES / NO . Please ensure your E-mail address is entered above.
	A free Souvenir Log Book sticker is available YES / NO

Please put my IVV stamps on a new set of insert cards.	YES / NO
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ENTRY FEES:		Walkers @ £1.50 each=	£
		Awards @ £2.50 each =	£ Not Applicable
	Total transferred / enclosed (delete as necessary) =		£

ANSWERS	
Q1:	Q5:
Q2:	Q6:
Q3:	Q7:
Q4:	Q8:

If you wish to make any comments, please add them to a separate sheet.
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If you have a problem with this trail, please try to resolve it with the trail organiser. If you are unable to resolve the problem, please contact the BWF Trails Officer.
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The details on this form will only be used in order to process your claim for IVV stamps and will not be used for any other purpose. Your details will not be passed to any third party.
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*These Details will only be used in the event of a query relating to this claim for IVV stamps.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

TL = TURN LEFT; TR = TURN RIGHT; SO = STRAIGHT ON

From the main entrance to the Museum walk across to visit the clock tower [#1].

QUESTION 1: On a stone plaque below one of the clock faces, on what date was the building renovated?

From there walk past the end of the museum building, passing the old light blue pumping machine and follow the footpath that goes alongside a high beech hedge which borders a croquet/bowling lawn and the grassed playing area. Continue ahead to an arched exit in the boundary wall of the park. On leaving the park, TR onto Ravensknowle Road (no sign) and walk uphill to the end of this road crossing the junctions with Lister Street, Birkhouse Lane, Senior Street and View Street.

At the 'T' junction, look for a diagonal footpath on the opposite side of the road (to the left of the bus stop) and follow it into and through a woodland area. After about 100 metres, at a multiple junction of paths, TL and continue SO up a slight incline keeping a tall green fence to the right, ignoring the path that almost turns back on itself. Turn right to walk along the back of the long building (Veterinary Surgery) and descend into a dip to walk through a stone arch that forms a bridge carrying a road (Somerset Road). After about 50 metres, at a path junction, continue SO with a short row of houses on the left. At the end of the houses, take the left-hand path into the wood (this is known as Penny Spring Wood). Follow the footpath uphill gaining height to walk alongside, hedges, fencing and dry-stone walling. Pass between a set of vertical stone pillars and then past a second set of vertical stone pillars keeping them on the right and continue SO ignoring the first metal finger post (Benomley 100yds).

At the next junction, just prior to a second metal finger post TR along the right-hand woodland path down into the valley (the path to the left continues to climb). Cross over a small metal footbridge and walk up a short incline slightly to the left and in front of you. You will reach an open field. Cross the field diagonally to the right towards a large stone gatepost to join a well-trodden path to the right. TR along the path and follow the tree line down a slope in between mature woodland on the left and a new plantation on the right. Take note of the open views over the town of Huddersfield.

Continue to the end of the mature woodland on the left where there is an indistinct woodland path (approximately 10 metres before gateway into field) marked with "public footpath" arrows on a low wooden post on the left at the edge of the woodland. TL and follow the indistinct path just within the tree line to emerge at a junction with Hey Farm ahead and a tarmac road to the right. TR downhill along this road. After a short distance, you will see a cottage called 'Peny's Hey'. This is a 16th century rebuild of a medieval wooden structure that stood on the site. The cottage was occupied in the 17th century by William Peny, a local Constable, and his family. There is an information plaque in the boundary wall of the property.

QUESTION 2: In what year did William Peny and his family move into this cottage?

Turn around and return to the top of the road. TR and follow the footpath at the side of Hey Farm keeping Hey Farm to your left. Taking care to avoid a hazardous stay wire which crosses the path which you will reach after a few metres, continue SO until the footpath emerges into an open field. Follow the path SO with the rear of houses on the right. Where the main path turns right towards the houses, continue SO along a less well-defined path following the line of the hedge and houses on the right towards a gap in the hedge directly in front. Walk through the gap in the hedge keeping to the right-hand edge of the field ahead until you reach a well secured wooden utility pole. TR along tarmac path to pass between houses onto Lowerhouses Lane (no sign - but you are opposite a sign saying Longley). TL onto Lowerhouses Lane and continue SO uphill into Longley Lane. Continue SO following the footpath to the left to begin a steep climb. The footpath on the left of the road will soon end so cross to the opposite side of Longley Lane when safe to do so and continue walking uphill. Cross the junction with New Laithe Road (no sign) and follow the footpath around a sharp left-hand bend, continuing to walk uphill. Immediately after the last house on the right, TR along a steep paving stone path. Continue walking SO steeply uphill where you will rejoin Longley Lane near a T junction with Kaye Lane on the left and Ashes Lane (no sign) on the right.

TR onto Ashes Lane and continue SO keeping to the right-hand footpath. After about 100 metres, immediately after No 154 Ashes Lane, you will see a junction with Clough Hall Lane. Cross Ashes Road when safe and continue SO into Clough Hall Lane. Take care - this is a quiet single-track road with no footpaths.

After about 150 meters and just before the "Clough Hall" cul-de-sac sign (and before reaching Clough Hall Cottage) TR along narrow track with the cottage on your left

QUESTION 3: How many stone chimney stacks are there on Clough Hall Cottage?

Continue uphill on the track ignoring where the track turns left and continue SO through a wooden pedestrian gate marked Public Footpath to emerge into an open field. Continue uphill to pass a gate and stone pillars until you reach a footpath coming up steeply from the right. TL on this paved path. A bench seat 'Connie's Seat' (plaque on rear of seat) will be on the right. Climb the few steps and concrete paving stone path towards the summit (plateau) of Castle Hill [#2]. Cross the grass area diagonally to the right to reach concrete steps. Continue SO to the Tower [#3]. Known as 'Victoria Tower' or 'Jubilee Tower', this was built by public subscription as a memorial to Queen Victoria. On the wall of the steps to the entrance is a stone plaque.

QUESTION 4: Who appealed for the public subscription for the lantern on the tower?

Take some time to explore Castle Hill, Jubilee Tower and take in the magnificent scenic views towards Lancashire, Derbyshire and Huddersfield.

With your back to the tower, go down steps, across gravel car park to far right corner, then follow path to right to reach some steps to a road. On the opposite side of the road are two marked paths. Directly ahead is the 'Kestrel Footpath' and to the right, diagonally across the road, is the 'Rabbit Footpath' (These are marked with pictures). Cross the road safely and take the 'Rabbit Footpath' where there is an obvious black litter bin.

After about 50 metres you will find a seat and information board on the left. Take the path directly opposite the seat downhill through trees and bushes. This is very steep so take care. Zig zag right and left downhill following indistinct paths then through a wooden gate to emerge into a field on a slope. Continue SO down the field marked Public Footpath. Cross the track passing through a stone stile and continue down field, pass through wooden kissing gate, continue down left of field keeping to path on left to reach bottom left corner. Climb over stile and turn left at the road (caution no footpath).

After about 250 metres, opposite 58 Clay Hall, TR through the farm entrance and pass over the stile next to a new gate and continue towards the second gate. Before the second gate, but after the farmhouse on the left, TL between garden wall and a new wire fence. Pass through two new small swing gates to continue on a path with a wire fence to the left and a hedge to the right. Take care on this path as there is a low metal securing cable passing diagonally over it at a dangerous height.

Cross a small wooden bridge and climb a small incline to pass over stone stile. Bear right over wooden stile or through large metal gateway (there are circular marker signs for Kirkburton Parish Walks/Wardroper Wander) and bear left around a low wall, to reach a metal gate into an open field. Continue SO up the field and pass either side of a large holly bush (stile) then continue SO up the next field towards cottages. Just before the top of the field pass through a metal pedestrian gate immediately followed by a stone stile. TL and follow the track to a narrow tarmac road.

To the right of the junction, view a Memorial plaque to the crew of a Wellington bomber that crash-landed nearby sadly killing all crew members.

QUESTION 5: On what date did the crash happen?

Turn round and follow the road downhill keeping Wellington Cottage to the right (Caution no footpath). After about 175 metres at the road junction TL onto Bankfoot Road (no sign and no footpaths). Cross Bank Foot Road safely and walk along the right-hand side of the road around a right-hand bend continuing SO for about 650 metres into Sharp Lane (no sign). These are usually quiet roads but take extra care during school opening and closing times. Follow Sharp Lane to its junction Lumb Lane which is on the left. Use footpaths from here where available and continue SO and uphill.

At the junction with Almondbury Common, which is on the right, where Sharp Lane becomes steeper and begins to bend to the left, there is a green sign marked 'Almondbury Common' in a small field on the upper side of the junction.

QUESTION 6: What used to take place on this common?

Continue to follow Sharp Lane uphill and around to the left continuing SO to the 'T' junction (When the footpath ends on the left, cross the road to use the footpath on the right but take extreme care because of the bend). At the 'T' junction TR onto Westgate (no sign) and continue along the right-hand footpath past the public house to the second half-timber fronted building. Now the Conservative Club, this was formerly 'Wormall Hall' the home of Isaac Wormall, a wealthy businessman of the 17th century.

QUESTION 7: In what year was the building built? (Adjacent to the door)

Carefully cross Westgate and walk through the main gate of All Hallows Church opposite. At the Church door, TL. Before passing through a gap in the wall onto the street beyond, take note of the stone stocks on the right of the gap. After passing through the gap, continue SO on Stocks Walk keeping the Rectory on your Left. At the end of Stocks Walk, just after The Wesley Centre, TR then continue SO along a path passing a children's play area which is on the left. Along this path there is a board on the left with information about the house (Old Clergy House) directly opposite. There is a blue plaque on the house.

QUESTION 8: From which war were the children evacuated?

Continue SO along the path to the entrance to Almondbury Cemetery (Two large pointed stone gate posts). TR through the adjacent metal bollards and, avoiding the street to the left, walk SO along Wormald Street (no sign) directly ahead. At the 'T' junction with Northgate, TL and use the Zebra pedestrian crossing to cross the road and TL along pavement with shops on right/road on left. After 100 metres, you will find a blue Police telephone box next to the footpath. This building, which has been Grade 2 listed since 1987, dates back to the 1920's. It remained operational and in regular use until the late 1990's. Unfortunately, all reference and identification markings have been removed.

Continue SO along Northgate to Southfield Road. TR onto Southfield Road and cross the road when safe. After about 100 metres, TL onto De Lacy Avenue. Continue SO and walk to the end of De lacy Avenue, crossing the road when safe to do so. At the junction with Fernside Avenue, TR and cross the road at the 'speed humps. Take the foot path to the left of No 23 Fernside Avenue and follow it to emerge into a sloping open field. TL along a new hardcore path, passing over a low stile to continue diagonally across field between high wire fences to a small wooden gate. Pass through the gate and continue SO along a narrow-fenced path to a road junction (Bank End Lane) (no sign) at the end.

TR and walk steeply downhill along Bank End Lane. Ignoring a new, unnamed housing development on the left, cross the road and then turn left where there is a wide junction with a triangular island in the middle. This is Forest Road. Walk up the gradient and continue SO along Forest Road to a sharp left-hand bend where the road narrows. A junction, Felcote Avenue, is on the right. In between Forest Road and Felcote Avenue is a tarmac footpath alongside a high stone wall going downhill. Take the footpath and continue SO. Depending on the time of year, Ravensknowle Park, the Tolson Museum and Clock tower where you started can be seen ahead.

At the bottom of the path continue straight ahead to the 'T' junction, cross the road and turn right and then left through the arched entrance to the park, return to the front of the museum.

Welcome Back. The Section UK IPA Walking Group hopes you enjoyed the Almondbury (Huddersfield) Historical Trail and have also enjoyed exploring this fascinating town with its many interesting historical connections, only a few of which have been mentioned during this walk.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

#1 This ornate building was built circa 1766 as an entrance to the Huddersfield Cloth Hall, a dominant market building in the centre of Huddersfield dedicated to the trading of finished cloth, an industry for which Huddersfield is still renowned. When the Cloth Hall was demolished in 1929/30, the Clock Tower was saved and in 1932 re-erected where you see it today. It now forms a shelter and gateway within the park.

#2 The history of human activity on the Castle Hill goes back over 4000 years. The site was developed as an iron age hill fort, surrounded by defensive ditches and ramparts. In the Middle Ages there was a castle on the hill, of which the well remains.

#3 The present tower was built to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee of 1897. Perched on Castle Hill, Jubilee or Victoria Tower was completed in 1899 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Queen Victoria's reign. The corner-stone of the tower was laid on 25 June 1898 by Mr John Frechville Ramsden and was officially opened by the Earl of Scarborough on 24 June 1899. The walls of the tower are four feet thick at the bottom, tapering to two feet at the top. The tower was renovated in 1960 when the top seven feet were removed. It reaches the height of almost 997 feet above sea level. In November 2012 the lantern light on top of the Tower was replaced due to the original light that had failed. The red LED light on the top of the building meets aviation regulations and uses the same energy as a 35W bulb.