

Hookstone and Fulwith Woods from Leadhall Area

You can start this walk at Hookstone Wood, Hornbeam Park, Fulwith Mill Lane, or Firs Crescent (top of Almsford Bank)

If starting at Firs Crescent or Stone Rings Lane (128 at bottom left of map), cross Leeds Road and walk down Fulwith Mill Lane. After the road turns into a track, take the left fork (north) and go over the railway track, where you see the over-engineered parking area for Railtrack engineering workers.

Come to Hornbeam Park in the vicinity of Rooster's Brewery & Beer Garden, which has moved from Knaresborough to Hornbeam. At Hornbeam Park Avenue, go left for about 20m before turning right to walk to the Hookstone Beck area, where the path turns south-east.

Keep a watch out for the small footpath sign to the right (rather than the left-hand route direct to Hookstone Woods) and after about 200m take a minor track to the left which takes you 20m to a stone trough which was a bathing well¹. This apparently held the water used by Nuns from the Hookstone Road convent for regular washing. Sounds a bit far-fetched to me, but of course it could have been used in the centuries before the convent was built in its present location. It is now just a muddy area.

Return to the main track and continue down the hill to the Crimple Beck, turning left before the beck to follow the path north-east in the vicinity of a disused viaduct² keeping left at the fork in the path. This path takes you to the Yorkshire Showground entrances and exhibitor parking area. Here you do a U turn to walk west and then north-west past the main Showground entrance, and the route turns north to take you past the Sports & Leisure Centre on its way to Hookstone Wood. There are sign boards in the wood describing the wildlife and history of the area. You can walk round the lake and admire the ducks and other wildlife, before turning south-west past the back of St. John Fisher's playing fields and a disused quarry area. Here you turn right and walk north-west to Hookstone Road on a wide tarmac path. Across the road is the afore-mentioned convent.

Cross the road and walk south-west past the entrance to Hornbeam Park. You cross the road and walk down a signed footpath between Halstead Road and Beechwood Grove to pass allotments on the right and Oatlands Primary playing fields on the left, with open fields thereafter. You then come back to the Fulwith area and walk the reverse route to that you started on. You are now back at the top of Almsford bank.

- 1 Marked with a purple dot in the centre of route map.
- 2 If you bear right here, you will get onto the Ringway, where the path is uneven and perhaps slippery. This is where you can extend the route by walking along to Rudding Lane past the Travellers Rest pub to Wetherby Road. The Rudding Lane and Wetherby Road stretches are on grass verges. A short walk up Wetherby Road towards town takes you to the Sainsbury's entrance at Railway Road, where you go south-west past Fodders on your way back to the main route. (This is marked in purple dashes). Whilst you are in the vicinity of Sainsbury's, you could walk over Wetherby Road past the Recycling Centre to enter the Stonefall Park open space. (Marked X on the map, it's the covered-up municipal tip and is a quite pleasant area to walk as well, taking you to near Morrisons)