

Judy Woods

Information points

(1) Royds Hall

Royds Hall is a private residence. In the past it was the home of the Rookes family and later managers of the Low Moor Company, one of the largest 19th century ironworks in the country. Originally a timber-framed house stood on the site and it was clad in stone in the 1600's.

(2) Wild Life Information Stone

Notice that where tree stumps have been left in situ woodpeckers have made nesting holes, insects have burrowed into the wood and fungi are growing on dead trees. This has been done deliberately to increase light onto the woodland floor and provide homes for a diverse numbers of creatures.

(3) Pylon Wires

Access to the pylon wires mean that the woodland canopy at this spot is regularly cut back and you are likely to see butterflies and birds at this spot as they seem to like the environment.

(4) Judy Brig

Locals call this Judy Brig, but its official name is Horse Close Bridge. It crosses Royds Hall Beck which is the boundary between Calderdale and Bradford. It is thought that this bridge dates from Georgian times and no-one is sure why it is so wide. The large ash tree adjacent to the parapet is at least two hundred years old and appears on many old photographs. The bench mark on the masonry indicates that the bridge is 479 feet above sea level.

(5) Judy's Cottage

Judy's cottage stood slightly to the right towards the back wall of the field behind the information stone. There were two cottages on this site from at least the 1780's and they were occupied by the North family. Originally they were weavers but in the 1830's they opened a pleasure garden and sold refreshments to the public. Judy was born in 1795 as Judith Stocks and she married Joseph North in 1847 as her third husband. She was his second wife. Joseph had several grown up children but of her five children only John survived to adulthood. He was known locally as John O'Judy and after his stepfather's death in 1850 he sold vegetables from a market garden here whilst his mother sold her famous parkin, spice and ginger beer. Judy died in 1870 and the cottages were demolished the following year.

(6) Pack Horse Route Information Stone

In the corner of Old Hanna Wood at the junction of Royds Hall Lane and High Fernley Road there used to be a woodman's hut. This is the reason you will find many plants which are "garden escapes" in this area. Old Hanna Wood appears on some old maps as Neddy Wood.

(7) Wood Colliery

The large mounds just off the path are the remains of mine shafts which were part of a small wood colliery which was operated in the 1770's by partners who rented it from Edward Rookes Leedes, the Lord of the Manor. Please do not go down into the hollows.

(8) Old Mineral Line

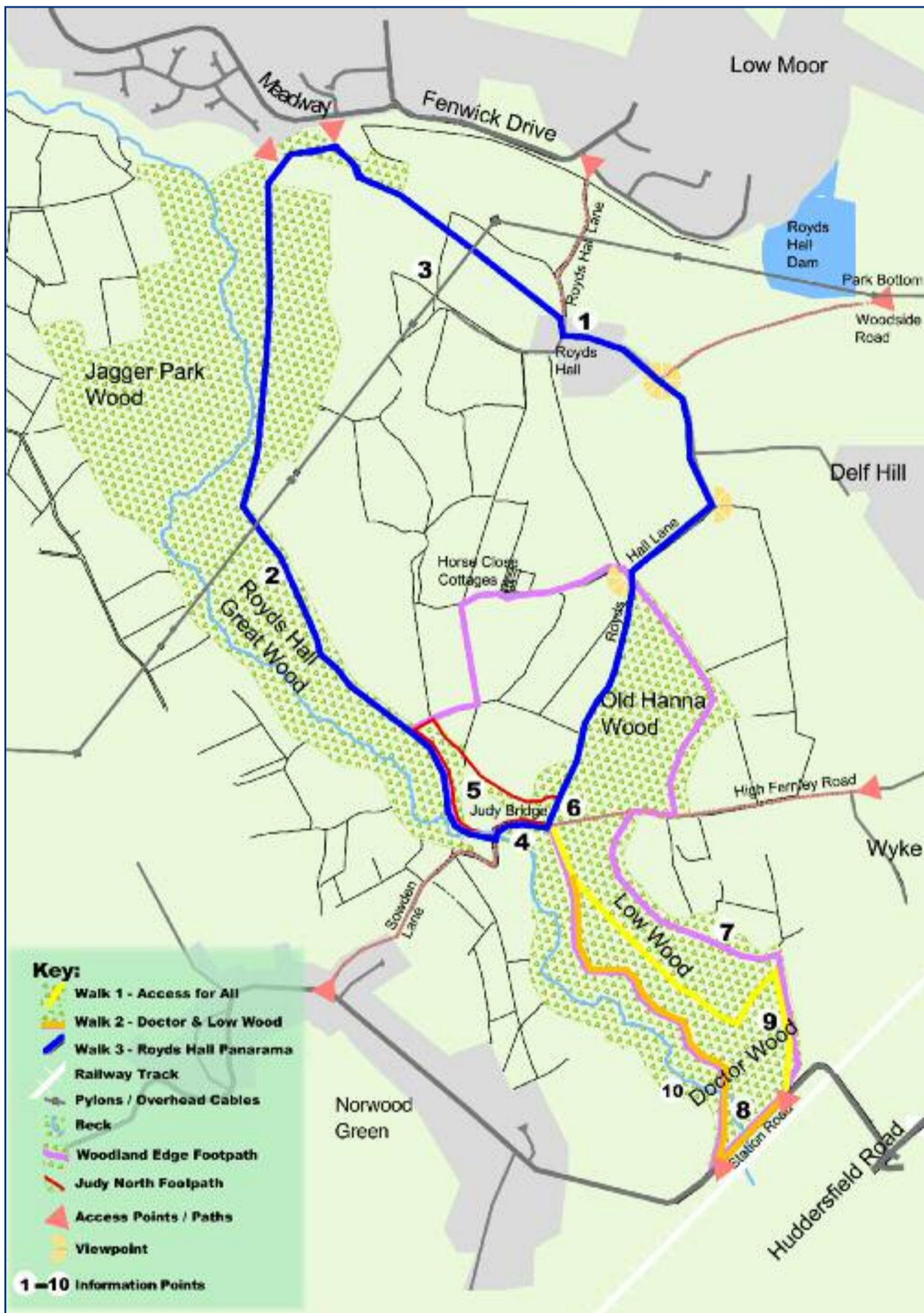
An old mineral line runs through the woods from the former Norwood Green Colliery. A stationary engine which was sited at the top of High Fernley Road pulled wagons full of coal by means of a rope. You can still make out the line through the fields adjacent to Doctor Wood and the Access for All Path uses part of it. Two large embankments were constructed and the streams culverted through them. The line seems to disappear, but in fact a stream has eroded it and the line is clearly to be seen at the Station Road entrance nearest to Norwood Green.

(9) Bell Pit Information Stone

There were considerable deposits of coal, iron ore and sandstone in the south Bradford area. The information stone will tell you more about the mining which went on in the woods.

(10) Site of Norwood Green Colliery

Norwood Green Colliery (also known as Flather's Pit) was one of the last local coal mines and closed in the late 1960's.



(3) Royds Hall Panorama Walk (3.5km - 60 minutes)

Start from the kissing gate off Meadway, Woodside just below the bungalows. This walk goes along field paths, Royds Hall Lane and returns through Royds Hall Great Wood. Go through the kissing gate and branch left through North Brow Wood. At the top of the wood you meet a path, keep left and follow the stone wall on your left. Cross a stone stile and go straight ahead across the field, under pylon wires towards the gate and farm buildings. Go over the stile towards the right hand corner of the wall and into Royds Hall Lane.

In front of you is the side wall of a farm house. Go right and almost immediate left along the lane. Do not go into the farm yard. The buildings to your right are part of the old stables of Royds Hall. The gates to Royds Hall, a private residence, are also on your right. Keep on the lane past two cottages and then fields on your left and a high wall to the right. To your left is a view across Woodside Estate to Low Moor with Royds Hall Dam in the foreground. Where the high wall ends, there is a spectacular view through a gateway to Huddersfield and beyond.

Follow the lane ahead, ignoring a lane coming in from the left. Just before the lane turns to the right there is panorama looking towards Wyke, with Huddersfield and Castle Hill beyond and the Emley Moor mast on the horizon

Follow the lane down with a high grassed bank to your left and a wall to your right. Another view opens up across fields and woods towards Coley and Shelf.

When the high grassed bank ends and the wide track goes to the right, go left through the

gap by the gate and continue down Royds Hall Lane between walls, now very rough under foot with fields to the right and Old Hanna Wood to the left. This is an ancient highway, probably used by the Rookes family of Royds Hall to get to Norwood Green, Coley and Halifax.

Eventually the lane meets High Fernley Road. A metal fence seems to bar the way. Either squeeze through the gap or go through a wider gap a little to the left. Turn right down the path and steps by the side of the wall which avoids the very rocky descent down High Fernley Road to the bridge.

At the bottom of the steps turn left and instead of crossing the bridge, go ahead down the stone steps to find the beck on your left and a hedge on your right.

Cross a wide railway sleeper bridge and keep right up some steps. At the top keep to the main path. Do not turn right but follow with fields and a wall to your right along the woodland edge through Royds Hall Great Wood. Look out to the right of the path for the majestic old tree with its widely spreading branches across the path. It's around 200 years old.

Here the route veers slightly to the right and from now on there is usually more than one path. We recommend staying on one of the main paths as they run along the top of the slope down to the beck. (The path off to the right follows the woodland edge and eventually joins up with the main path near Woodside.)

Go through the kissing gate by the large metal gate at the end of the wood. Go ahead across the field ignoring the gate which leads onto Ullswater Drive. Follow the narrow path right behind the bungalows and turn left through the kissing gate into Meadway where the walk began.

Judy Woods
Three routes around
Judy Woods taking in
different features of
the woods.



**Walks in Parks
and Woodlands**
In association with the friends of Judy Woods

“a breath of fresh air”

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Leisure Services
www.bradford.gov.uk

Judy Woods

Judy Woods has a wealth of beautiful and interesting features. To help you get the most out of your visit we have chosen three walks that should give you an excellent flavour of Judy Woods. The walks vary in distance and they each have their own attractions. The times for completion of the walks are approximate. Why not take longer to spend some time discovering more about this historic woodland.



The name Judy Woods comes from Judy North or “Gurt Judy” who lived in a cottage near Horse Close Bridge in the 1850s and 60s. She was the second wife of Joseph North whose family had tended the “pleasure gardens” on the hillside by the bridge since the 1830’s. Following Joseph’s death in 1850, first Judy herself and then John Barraclough, Judy’s son by her first marriage took over as gardener. In the 1861 census Judy is described as “seller of sweet meats” no doubt to the visitors to the gardens.

Judy Woods

Judy Woods is approximately 40 Ha, the third largest woodland within Bradford District but with adjoining trees in Calderdale. The whole area reflects the history of the Industrial Revolution. In the woodland, there are a number of bell pits which can be clearly seen in the picture above. They are shallow workings that have been dug outwards and are circular in shape, these pits were used to provide coal. All that can be seen now are the remains of depressions left after the roofs have caved in.



Walking for health

How much walking should I do?

Anything is better than nothing, but aim to build up at least 30 minutes a day (at least 5 days a week). If you do more than this, you will burn more calories and increase the chance of losing more weight.

How fast should I go?

You should be warm and slightly breathless, but still able to talk comfortably. For those who are less fit this will be a slower pace than for those who are fitter. As long as you are moderately breathless the effect will be beneficial.

What else can walking do for me?

30 minutes of walking a day can have a positive effect on your blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, osteoarthritis, stress, anxiety and depression as well as lowering the risk of coronary heart disease, strokes and some cancer.

Walk instruction and safety:

Wear comfortable clothing
Try to walk in pairs where possible
Mobile phone: it is always useful to carry a mobile phone while out walking
Medication/food/drink if required
Tell somebody where you are going
Eat after the walk (to maximise benefits unless otherwise instructed by a Doctor or Health Professional)



How to get there:



By Bus

Station Road, Wyke entrances.

363 Bradford to Huddersfield & 227

Heckmondwike to Halifax, get off on

Huddersfield Road (A641).

Meadway, Woodside entrance. 613

Bradford to Buttershaw and 682

Bradford to Halifax, get off at

Fenwick Drive.

Norwood Green entrance Infrequent

bus service, see instruction for Wyke

& follow Station Road round to

Norwood Green

By Car

Station Road Wyke entrances.

Follow A641 (Huddersfield Road) to

Wyke, down Station Road, opposite

Green Lane.

Meadway, Woodside entrance.

Follow the A6036 (Hallifax Road),

turn into Fenwick Drive then right at

junction by fields. Entrance just be-

fore the bungalows on the left.

Norwood Green entrance. Park on

Village Street in Norwood Green.

Sowden Lane on corner just past

the Old White Bear.

Trees and Woodland Manager

Tel: 01274 434826

General Enquiries

Tel: 01274 437789

Or visit the website

www.bradforddistrictparks.org

This leaflet was produced in

partnership with the Friends of

Judy Woods.

www.judywoods.org.uk

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& Bradford Council

1) Access For All Path (1.6km - 30 minutes)

Start from the extra wide kissing gate on Station Road, Wyke. The Access for All Path is suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs and is a linear route to a turning loop near the top of the steps down to Judy Bridge.

Follow the wide path, ignore path on the right. Notice the bell pits to right and left.

When another path comes in down the steps from the right, follow the path around to the left across the former mineral line embankment.

Follow the path around to the right, with benches made from felled trees to your left and passing tree stumps on your right.

The growth rings on one of these tree stumps has been counted and it has been estimated that the tree was planted about 1820.

The path continues until it reaches an iron fence and information stones at the junction of High Fernley Road and Royds Hall Lane. The Access for All Path terminates here. There is a turning loop which allows you to retrace your way back to Station Road.



2) Doctor Wood And Low Wood (2km - 30 minutes)

Start from the extra wide kissing gate on Station Road, Wyke. This short circuit of Doctor Wood and Low Wood follows the same route as the Access for All Path but returns on the path along the top of the valley leading down to the beck.

Follow the instructions for the Access for All Path but instead of coming back the same way turn left at the information stones and with the wooden fence on your right follow the path along the top of slope. (Do not go down the steps or down the slope by the fence towards the beck.)

The path dips and then follows the top of the ravine and eventually crosses a wooden bridge across a dry stream bed.

Keep ahead on the main path as it drops down to meet a dry stream bed. Turn right here on the level path (another part of the mineral line embankment) as it crosses over the culverted stream.

Shortly after passing a bench on your right the path leaves the wood via steps formed by tree roots (be careful on this section) and you leave the wood by a step stile onto Station Road. Turn left to reach the entrance where the walk began.