



Explore your local wildlife...

...at RSPB Fairburn Ings and St. Aidan's

 @RSPBFairburnIngsAndStAidans

 @RSPBAireValley

RSPB Fairburn Ings: 0197 762 8191

RSPB St. Aidan's 0113 232 0529

The RSPB is a registered charity in England and Wales 207076, and in Scotland SC037654.

KEEP MOVING AROUND KIPPAX



A GUIDE TO GETTING OUTSIDE, EXPLORING NATURE AND STAYING ACTIVE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND SURROUNDING AREAS

CREATED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



ALLERTON BYWATER PARISH COUNCIL



The Countryside Code

Respect other people

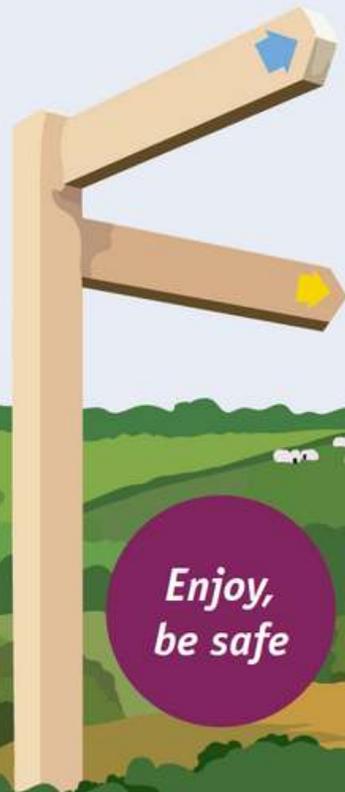
- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Park carefully so access to gateways and driveways is clear
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Follow paths but give way to others where it's narrow

Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit, take all your litter home
- Don't have BBQs or fires
- Keep dogs under effective control
- Dog poo - bag it and bin it

Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead, check what facilities are open, be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs and obey social distancing measures



A NOTE FROM KIPPAX PARISH COUNCIL

We are lucky to live in an area that gives us so many opportunities to get outside in nature, including Townclose Hills, known as Billy Wood to most of us, which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) thanks to its exposed limestone and woodlands and Kippax Meadows which has been recognised as a Site of Ecological and Geological Importance (SEGI) and provides an oasis of rich grassland, habitats and wildlife.

At the Parish Council, we are committed to protecting our green spaces and enhancing them through partnerships with Leeds City Council and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust who maintain and manage these sites. We're also passionate about delivering projects which encourage the community to stay active and get outside, including the recent renovation of the tennis courts, installation of the outdoor gym, our ongoing support of the Leisure Centre and the grants and support we give various sports clubs and groups in the village.

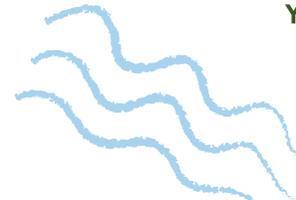
We've worked on this guide, which has been kindly funded by the Local Care Partnership, to not only share some fantastic walking routes which have proven so popular in the past, but also to showcase the myriad of ways that you can get outdoors, be active and create healthy habits for you and your family, whether it's by utilising the free equipment in the village, exploring in nature or joining one of the fantastic clubs and groups running in our community.

We're always keen to hear how we can help make Kippax an ever better place to live. If you have any ideas or comments you'd like to share, please contact us via clerk@kippax-pc.gov.uk.

THIS GUIDE WAS CREATED DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND IS INTENDED TO BE A RESOURCE THAT CAN BE USED NOW AND IN THE FUTURE. PLEASE FOLLOW THE LATEST GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE TO ENSURE YOU ARE STAYING SAFE & DOUBLE CHECK ALL OPENING TIMES FOR VENUES.

THE PARISH COUNCIL AND CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS GUIDE HAVE DONE THEIR BEST TO ENSURE ALL INFORMATION IS UP TO DATE AND ACCURATE AT TIME OF PRINT. PLEASE SEEK ADVICE FROM YOUR DOCTOR BEFORE CHANGING YOUR EXERCISE HABITS AND TAKE CARE TO FOLLOW THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE AND OTHER SIGNAGE WHEN FOLLOWING THE WALKING ROUTES.

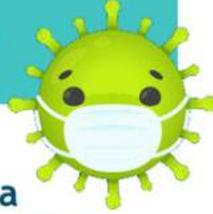
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A NOTE FROM THE LS25 & LS26 LOCAL CARE PARTNERSHIP (LCP)

We want to know how Covid-19 has affected your lifestyle.



Unfortunately due to current conditions, we cannot speak face to face. So we have created a survey hosted by Healthwatch Leeds for you to fill in.



The LS25 & LS26 Local Care Partnership is a group of health and care professionals who are working together to improve health and care services in your area.

What you tell us will help us to see if there are any gaps, whats working well and what can be improved.

Any information you share with us may be used anonymously and will not identify you.



- You can pick up a paper copy in your local Co-op, supermarket, Community Hub or GP Practice
- Ring Healthwatch on 0113 898 0035 and leave your name, number and request a call back
- Scan the QR code to complete the survey online



The LCP is a partnership of local health and care staff working together to deliver local care for local people; working in and with local communities. The partnership includes: third sector organisations, housing representatives, elected councillors, GPs, other NHS health care services and children and adult social care, and aim to agree local priorities and find new ways to come together to help solve them.

As a group, we have an agreed priority to tackle obesity in this area, and work together to help local people live healthy lifestyles. You may be aware that there has been ongoing work around obesity in this area for a while. As a LCP, we are an outlier in the city for obesity data. This means we have a higher percentage of people who are registered as obese (with a BMI over 30) in this locality than the Leeds average, taken from anonymised GP data.

Data from a survey undertaken a few years ago showed us that the top way people in this area felt they could improve their lifestyle was by taking part in more physical activity. Working with Kippax Parish Council to create this guide to show ways of keeping active in the community is just one of the projects we are delivering as part of our work to tackle obesity and we hope you find it useful whether you're just starting on your fitness journey or enjoy regular exercise.

We're also keen to start to understand how people's attitudes to diet and exercise had changed in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and what matters to people, to guide the next steps we take in this project. Please take 10 minutes to fill in this survey. The more responses we get from a range of local people, the more intelligence we will have to know what next steps to take to work together to tackle Obesity.

To stay in touch with the work the LCP is doing, please follow @LcpDevelopment on twitter, or contact licht.lcpdevelopment@nhs.net



WALKING ROUTE: KIPPAX SHORT CIRCUIT

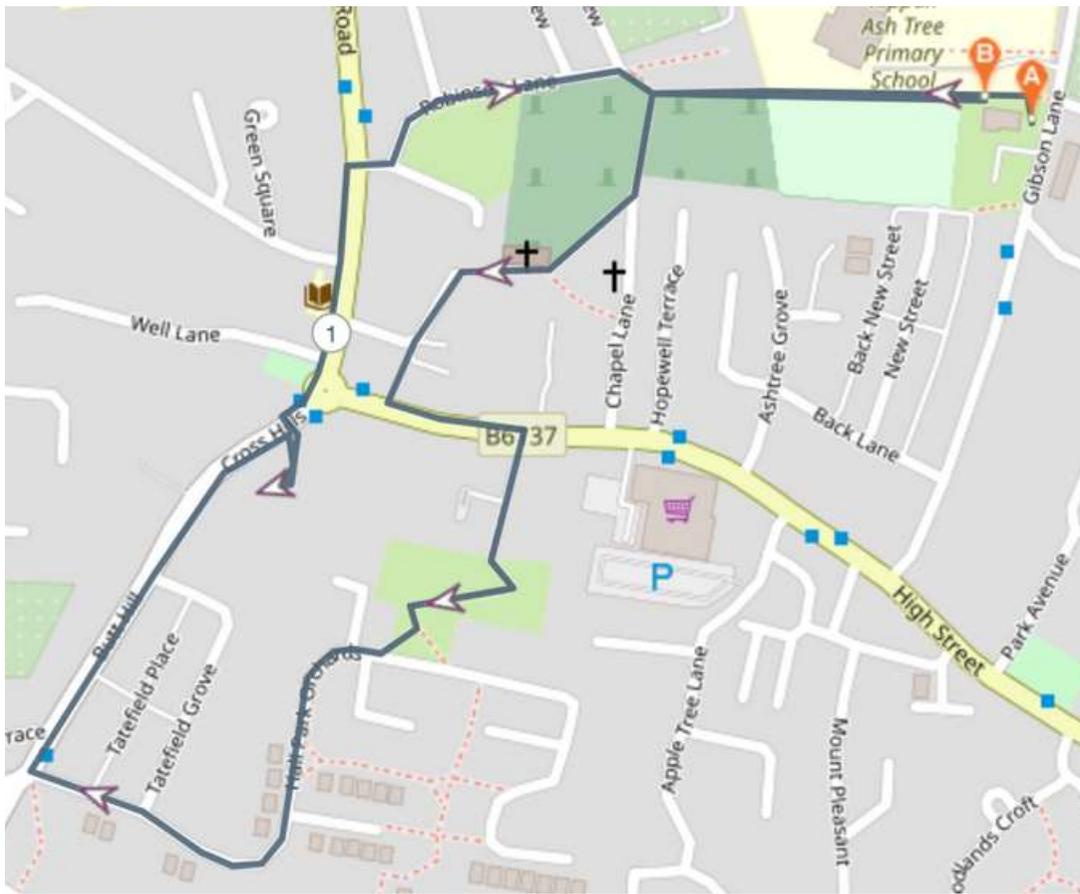
START: GIBSON LANE COMMUNITY CENTRE

DURATION: 0.5-1 HOUR / DISTANCE: APPROX 1-1.5 MILES

TERRAIN: MAINLY FLAT, STEEP HILL OPTIONAL

COMFORT STOP: KIPPAX HIGH STREET / VARIOUS BENCHES

- Start at Gibson Lane Community Centre. Head down the passage which runs between Ash Tree Primary School and the school playing fields.
- When you reach the junction of paths, **turn left** towards Chapel Lane.
- As you reach the car park at the back of the Methodist Church, **turn right** into the graveyard and head towards St Mary's Church
- At the church, **take a left** to emerge on to Church Lane, passing the Church Hall on your left and the Ex Service Social Club on your right.
- **Head straight on**, following the path between the two buildings to emerge on to the High Street
- **Take a left** and follow the path until you reach Central Fisheries on your right. Cross the road safely and follow the path down Hanover Place.
- Keeping to the left of the two houses, (formerly the Housing Office), you will emerge at the top of the 'zig zag' with a lovely view point across the south of the village and surrounding area.
- If you are confident tackling steep hills, follow the zig zag down into the estate and **turn right** onto Hall Park Orchards. Follow the path all the way round as it turns into Tatefield Grove. As you reach Butt Hill, **turn right** and head up the hill. **Turn right** immediately after the zebra crossing to enjoy Butt Hill Gardens.
- *Alternatively*, from the viewpoint, retrace your steps to the High Street and **take a left**, passing several shops and **continue left** at the roundabout. Pass the apartment block, formerly The Royal Oak pub and take an immediate **left** into Butt Hill Gardens. Take a minute to rest and enjoy the space which was created by the now disbanded Kippax Environmental Forum (KEF) on the site of the old bus depot.
- Retrace your steps and cross safely over the zebra crossing. **Turn left** and enjoy Crosshills Gardens on your left.
- Cross over Well Lane and continue on, passing the library and the former school building (now a new build estate). Cross the road carefully and **take a right** on to Church Lane North.
- After a few yards, **take a left** on to Robinson Lane. Notice the information board which tells you all about Manorgarth Hill, known locally as "Cheney Basin" on your right, the former bailey of Kippax Castle.
- Follow the lane around to return to the junction of paths. **Take a left**, passing the school to return to Gibson Lane Community Centre.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A VOLUNTEER HEALTH WALK LEADER?

Training for volunteer walk leaders is a free one-day course for anyone willing and able to lead walks in the community.

The Active Leeds Team are delivering training on
Wednesday 2nd December 2020.

At present, the training will be taking place virtually via Zoom (internet access required). There will also be a practical walk to complete the training (face to face, in small groups).

For more information, future dates and to book a place,
please contact Rachel Cairns:

rachel.cairns@leeds.gov.uk / 07891 272792



WALKING ROUTE: KIPPAX CIRCULAR ROUTE

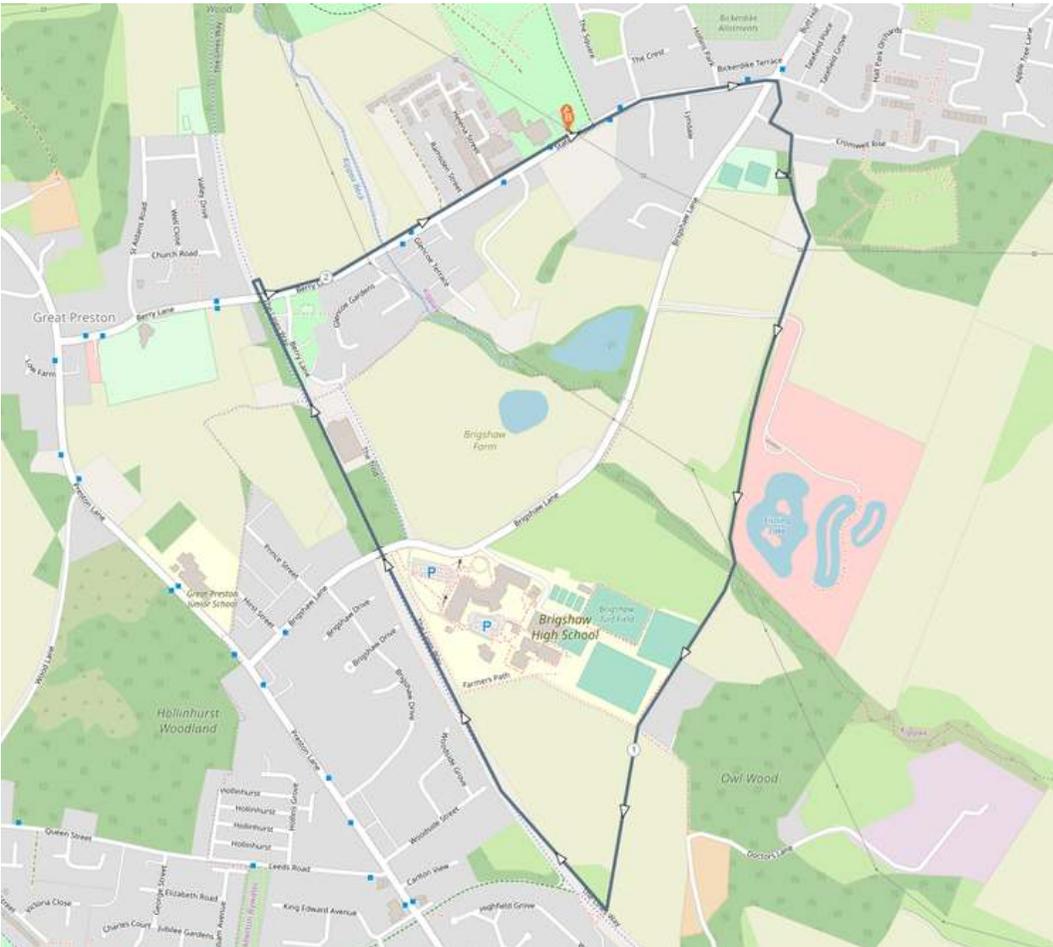
START: KIPPAX LEISURE CENTRE

DURATION: >1 HOUR / DISTANCE: APPROX 2 MILES

TERRAIN: MOSTLY FLAT, SOME NARROW PATHS

COMFORT STOP: NONE

- Start from the Leisure Centre car park and **turn left** on Station Road up the hill, keeping to the pavement.
- When the road bares left, cross the road carefully to enter Tatefield Road.
- Immediately **right**, turn down a signposted footpath, follow this and emerge in a residential street (Cromwell Rise).
- **Turn left** and look for the footpath on your right across the road. Cross the road and turn down this path.
- After a few yards, you will note a path on your **right**, follow this through to the trees to emerge at Brigshaw Recreation Ground, home to the recently renovated tennis courts, outdoor gym and picnic tables.
- Heading back through the trees to the main path, follow this path with no deviations. Mind your step as the path narrows as it can be muddy/slippery.
- Enjoy the wildlife as you continue and look out for the remains of the hall wall on your left.
- You will pass a solid footbridge and eventually reach a large field.
- You will notice a footpath sign which directs you right across the field, heading for The Linesway.
- When you reach the obvious old railway path, **turn right**. Follow this path, eventually passing under a bridge.
- You will emerge into an open space with the old station cottages on your right.
- As you head forward and pass under the next bridge, in a few yards you will see a set of steps **on your right**.
- Climb these steps, taking care on the low branches and overgrowth to emerge on Station Road.
- **Turn left** and walk down Station Road, keeping to the pavement, back to the Leisure Centre on your left.



THE LINESWAY HISTORY

The Garforth-Castleford route was developed to allow coal to be transported from the area, though a passenger service was operated between 1878 and 1951. Kippax was the busiest station on the line as it served a large and well established village. In 1911, 44,000 tickets were issued compared to Ledston's 15,000! All local passenger trains were stopped in January 1951, but excursions and diverted passenger trains continued until 1969.

It is common knowledge in the area that the Royal train had an overnight stay here during the Queen's visit to Leeds in the 1960's when she opened the new Seacroft Centre.

KIPPAX LEISURE CENTRE



We're extremely fortunate to have a leisure centre in Kippax. The centre has a 25m swimming pool, four court sports hall and a selection of other spaces and rooms. In 2020, the centre underwent a £175k renovation with support from LCC and KPC which saw the hall ways and changing rooms undergo a fantastic transformation.

Lots of clubs and groups already use the space including Swimming Clubs, Martial Arts Groups and Gymnastics. For more information on any of the groups using the Leisure Centre, or if you're looking for a space to run your own group, contact the team on 0113 3781275 or kippax.lc@leeds.gov.uk.



Active Leeds provide the Leeds City Council health and fitness provision including fitness classes, Health Referral Programmes and Remote Support Programmes. For more information, visit active.leeds.gov.uk, download the **Active Leeds App**, email health.programmes@leeds.gov.uk or call: **0113 3783680**.

One You Leeds offers a range of programmes to help individuals improve their health including becoming smoke free, eating well, managing weight and supporting individuals who aren't doing physical activity to make the first steps to be more active. Visit oneyouleeds.co.uk or call **0800 169 4219**.

We Are Undeatable is a movement supporting people with a range of long term health conditions to find ways to be active that work. Visit weareundeatable.co.uk for ore information.

PLAYGROUNDS

Playgrounds are a great way to entertain children, burn off energy and keep you on your toes as you run around after them. We're lucky enough to have several parks either in, or within walking distance from Kippax.



KIPPAX WELFARE PARK
Accessible on foot via Park Avenue

GLENCOE PARK
Just off Station Road, by the side of The Linesway

GREAT PRESTON PARK
Access via St. Aidan's Road / Valley Drive or via The Linesway

MILLENIUM VILLAGE PARK, ALLERTON BYWATER
In the middle of the estate, access via Station Road or Park Lane

ALLERTON BYWATER PARK
Access via Leeds Road of the Blands estate

CLUBS & TEAM SPORTS

Kippax is home to various different clubs and sports teams, for children and adults alike including, Lorraine's School of Theatre Dance, Kippax Welfare Rugby Club, Kippax Cricket Club and Kippax Athletic Football Club as well as Table Tennis Groups, Rounders Teams, Basketball clubs, Martial Arts, Yoga Classes, Running Clubs and many more. The local community Facebook pages and KPC website are great places to find out about clubs and what's going on in the village.



WALKING ROUTE: KIPPAX TO GARFORTH CIRCULAR ROUTE

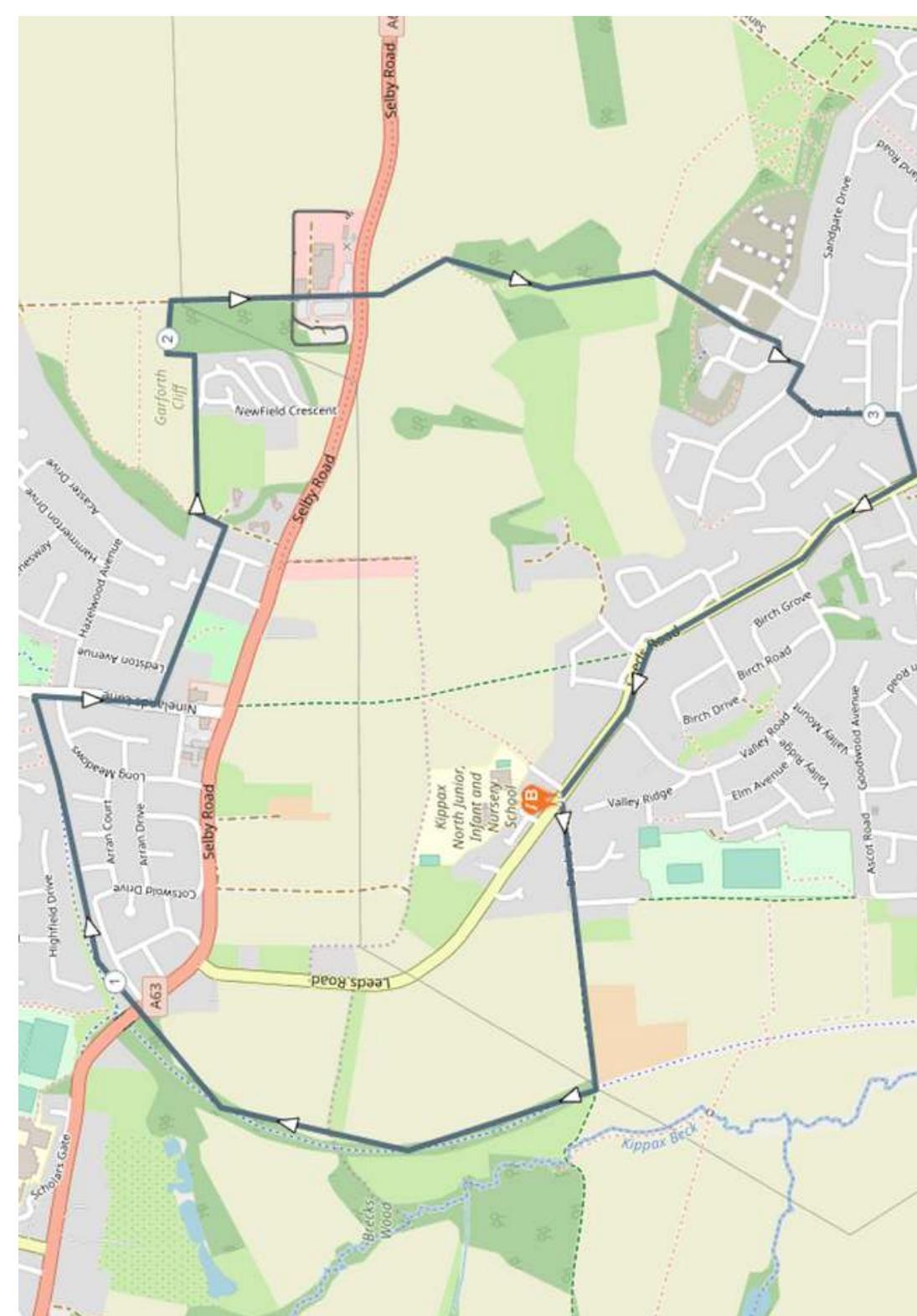
START: BRECKS LANE

DURATION: 1.5 HOURS / DISTANCE: APPROX 3 MILES

TERRAIN: ONE STEEPISH HILL

COMFORT STOP: GARFORTH GARDEN CENTRE

- Start on Brecks Lane (please park carefully) and walk away from Leeds Road along the farm track, passing Sparrow Hall Farm on your left.
- Follow the track until you reach a crossroads of paths and turn **right**. Follow this track for a pleasant, easy walk, passing under an unused railway bridge.
- When you reach the second bridge, continue on the now tarmac path until you reach a main road (Ninelands Lane).
- Cross carefully and **turn right**, walking towards Garforth Fire Station. Just before you reach the station, **turn left** on to Shaw Lane. You will notice Daniel Yorath House now on your right.
- Climb the hill between the houses, keep pausing to admire the view (or get your breath!).
- When you reach a track, **turn left**, after 10 paces you will pass a water tower. **Turn right** into the field.
- Keeping the hedge on your right, follow the track to the corner and then **bare left**, following the edge of the quarry until you reach a farm track (Green Lane).
- **Turn right**, stay on this track and cross the mini railway tracks. You will have Winfields Outdoor shop on your left. Walk a little further and you will find Garforth Garden Centre.
- **This is your opportunity for a toilet break and refreshments.**
- Return to the Exit Road and carefully cross the busy road to the public footpath sign pointing towards a farm track.
- Stay on the farm track as it meanders through a field and then a rabbit warren. The track narrows and can be rough underfoot so take care.
- **Look to the right** for some lovely views of Kippax and beyond to the Pennines.
- Follow the track carefully as it is quite steep, then cross a field on a slight diagonal to enter a wood. The path is obvious and leads to the new housing estate.
- Continue through the houses until you reach a 'ginnel' (or passage to non-Leeds folk!) into Baildon Close.
- Leave the cul de sac and **turn right and then left**. Gibson Lane Doctors Surgery should be on your right. At the surgery **turn right** and then **right again** at the T-junction back on to Leeds Road.
- Follow the road pass the Moorgate Pub and a parade of shops, up the slight incline until you reach Brecks Lane on your left.



THE LINESWAY

Developed along the disused railway and stretching almost four miles the route runs from Garforth to Allerton Bywater with various access points in the village. It's accessible for wheelchairs and pushchairs and popular with dog walkers, cyclists and horse riders..



There's a network of ponds and ditches that host a realm of fresh water life including smooth and great-crested newts as well as an abundance of wildflowers and song birds. It's a fantastic route for seasoned walkers and those just getting started and you can even call into Sparrowhall Farm on route to pick up refreshments and fresh fruit and vegetables in the summer.

Along the stretch, you can access other reserves including Letchmire Pastures, Hollinghurst Wood, Owl Wood and Pit Plantation and Townclose Hills and from Allerton Bywater it's an easy crossover to reach St Aidan's RSPB site.



GROWING & SOWING

Getting out in the garden is a great way to stay active and if you're growing your own vegetables it's a fantastic way to get quality goodness into your diet too. If you're looking for something a little bit more ambitious and sociable, there are lots of way you can put your green fingers to good use in the community.

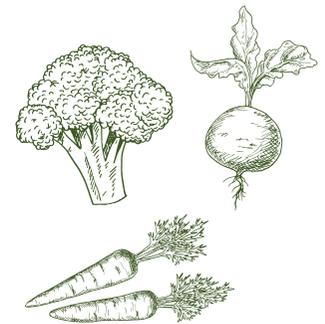


KIPPAX IN BLOOM

Kippax in Bloom spend many hours planting, pruning and perfecting green spaces, flower beds and planters around the village. It's great way to stay busy, enjoy the fresh air and meet new people. Contact Pat Samy for info: psamykib@aol.com / 0113 2862283

ALLOTMENTS

Grow your own veggies, swap tips and tricks with your neighbours and enjoy the fruits of your labour with a plot on one of the village's allotment sites (Station Road, Sandgate Terrace, East View and Hollins Park). Call 0113 3786003 to enquire about Hollins Park allotments or visit the sites to find out more.



INCREDIBLE EDIBLE

A group of volunteers are working to establish a local Incredible Edible group. The initiative encourages the community to grow vegetables and herbs in veg beds on land nearby and share the produce. Look out on Facebook and Kippax Matters magazine for more information as the project develops.



WALKING ROUTE: KIPPAX TO TEMPLE NEWSAM

START: BRECKS LANE

DURATION: 3 HOURS / DISTANCE: APPROX 6/7 MILES

TERRAIN: GENERALLY FLAT, MUDDY IN PLACES

COMFORT STOP: NONE ON ROUTE BUT SOME AVAILABLE CLOSE BY

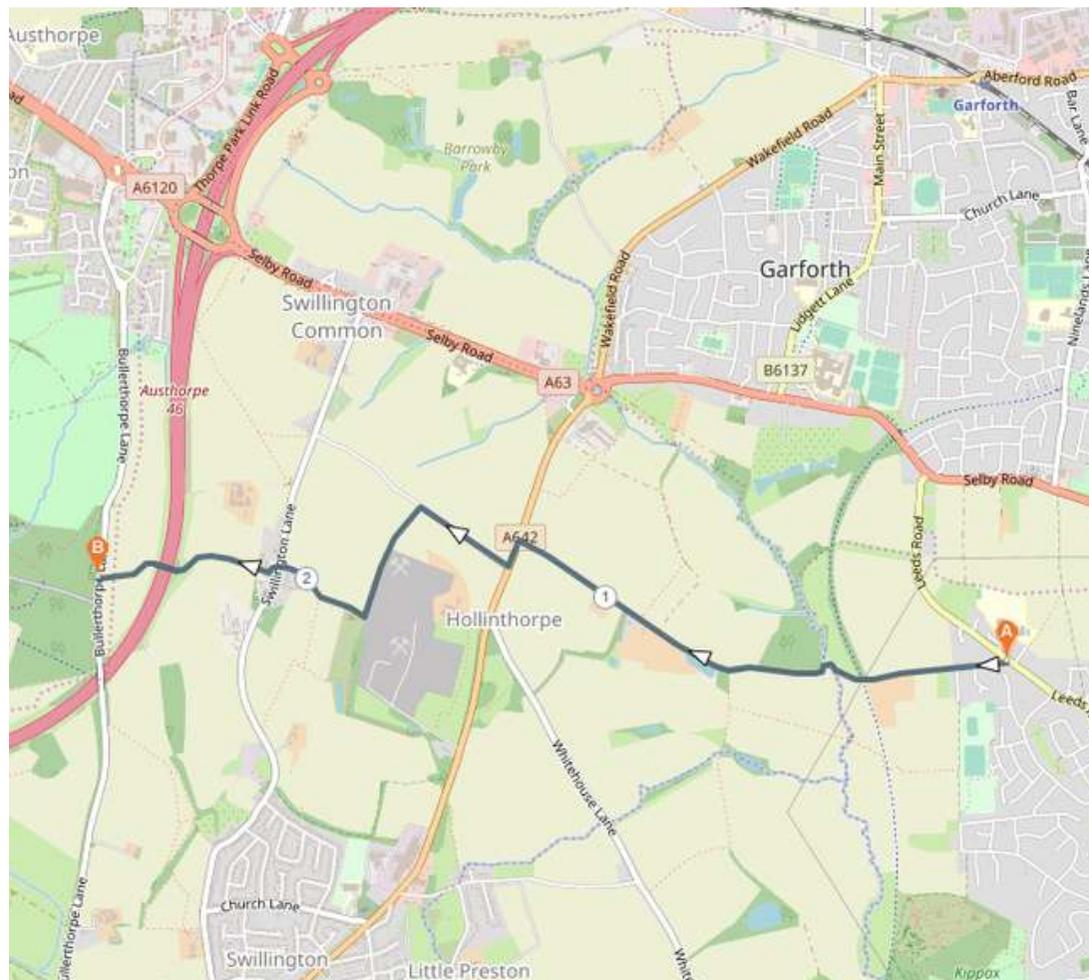
- Start on Brecks Lane (please park carefully) and walk away from Leeds Road along the farm track, passing Sparrow Hall Farm on your left.
- Follow the track until you reach a crossroads of paths, continue straight on down the hill towards the beck.
- Continue up the slope with Brecks Wood on your right, a particularly stunning sight when the bluebells are in bloom.

Continue on to Brecks Farm, which used to belong to the Swillington Hall Estate. The hall was demolished in 1952 due to subsidence from coal mining. It was sold in 1920 to the colliery company who changed it into flats for the miners. It was a lovely hall and one of the gatekeepers cottages can still be seen along Wakefield Road.

- With the farm and houses on your left, continue along the road until you reach Wakefield Road.
- **Turn Left** onto the footpath and walk a short way along until you see the road opposite, cross with care. Follow Leeds Lane for a while until you find a footpath sign and stile on your left.
- Do not cross the stile but take the obvious path to its **right**
- Follow this path with a field on your right. Hidden on your left is an old quarry.

The quarry is a result of the Swillington Brickworks, built by George Armitage who had a history of making bricks in the area since 1824. Initially it was built to produce 30,000 bricks in a day and until 2007 it was producing half a million a week. After several changes in ownership and the housing slump, it closed in October 2007.

- Follow the path as it takes a right turn and follow until you reach Swillington Lane, with some kennel-type buildings on your left.
- Cross the road carefully to enter a yard with dwellings and sheds. The path through it is obvious, as you continue you will start to hear the noise of the motorway.
- Cross the bridge over the motorway and stay with the path heading towards the wood in front of you. The noise of traffic prevents any conversation!
- Cross Bullerthorpe Lane carefully and you have reached your destination. There are many paths leading from here if you wish to extend your walk. You can explore Temple Newsam house or the surrounding woods.
- Reverse these instructions to get back.

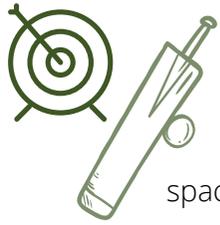


SPARROW HALL FARM SHOP

During the summer this lovely farm shop has a regular supply of eggs, flours, fruits and vegetables and has been a great support for residents during lockdown. It's a great place to stop for drinks or ice-creams in the hot weather!

The farm is also home to the mischievous 'Beaky Blinders' - four young male peacocks who insisted on roaming the area, providing early wake up calls and lightning the mood of lockdown! (albeit, with a few complaints!). They also gave children something unusual and interesting to look at and talk about!





GREAT PRESTON

Great Preston neighbours Kippax and boasts lots of green spaces, pleasant walks and thriving sports clubs and teams.

Great Preston Cricket Club is home to both senior and junior teams as well as an Archery group who meet most Sunday mornings. The New Inn pub also has a sports fields where several teams play including football and rounders.

The Village Hall hosts a variety of groups and classes and also has a garden to the rear with a variety of trees, planting and benches to rest.

Parish Field

Access via Preston Lane next to the Garden Centre or from Prince Street. Enjoy a pleasant short walk in a circular route around the perimeter of the pond and then continue to the bottom of the field and back, following the mown path.

Wildflower Meadow

Situated off Fleakingly Lane, or a signposted path from the Village Hall. The meadow is approx. 5 acres of field bordered by hedges and trees. Wildflowers have been planted and nurtured and information boards are placed in the meadow with benches for a rest or quiet contemplation. The pathways are regularly mown to aid walking. Access is limited through 'kissing gates' on 2 points.

Peasecroft Wood

To the rear of the Whitehouse estate, and accessible via Fleakingly Lane. The wood is particularly attractive when the bluebells are in bloom.

Hollinhurst Wood

Adjacent to Preston Lane and opposite the primary school, the wood stretches down Queens Street and Bowers Row and can be accessed via Preston Lane, Wood Lane and Queens Street. Well-worn paths run through the wood and there is an open space on the Wood Lane side.

WALKING ROUTE: KIPPAX THROUGH GREAT PRESTON CIRCULAR ROUTE

START: BRECKS LANE

DURATION: 2.5 HOURS / DISTANCE: APPROX 4.5 MILES

TERRAIN: MOSTLY GOOD PATHS

COMFORT STOP: PICNIC STOPS / DETOUR TO THE NEW INN PUB

- Start on Brecks Lane (please park carefully) and walk away from Leeds Road, following the track until you reach a crossroads of paths. Continue onwards and at the top of the slope, **turn left**.
- Follow this track until it **turns right** (you must turn right as straight is private). When you reach a gate, cross through at the right hand side of the gate.
- Take care crossing the main road (Whitehouse Lane) at the T-junction with Goody Cross Lane **turn left** and follow the pavement, crossing when it runs out.
- **Turn left** down Hall Road and continue until the end to find Little Preston Hall in front of you, originally built in 1736.
- The footpath carries on bearing **right**, so the the Hall wall is on your left. Follow the path for some time until you reach a T-junction of paths with steps in front of you, **turn left**.
- Follow this lane all the way until you emerge into a quiet road in Great Preston (Whitehouse Avenue). **Turn right** and follow until you reach Whitehouse Lane.
- **Turn right** and then cross the road, at the mini-roundabout, **turn left**. The New Inn (known locally as Doddies) is now on your right.
- Stay on the pavement until you reach the first street (St Aidan's Road) and **turn left**. Follow this road almost until its end and then **turn right**. At the bottom of the street you will see a park - a nice stop for a play or picnic.
- Leave the park through the gap in the new fence back onto The Linesway and **turn left**, continuing until you reach the junction of paths once again then **turn right** back on to Brecks Lane.





ST AIDAN'S, RSPB



The land was formerly an opencast coal mining area that was flooded in 1988, after the riverbank collapsed. Repairs and remediation works cost £20 million and required its own act in Parliament to allow the necessary works to go ahead. Mining ceased at St Aidan's in 2002 and the nature park opened to the public in May 2013 under the care of the RSPB.

There is a giant and unique "walking" dragline known as Oddball at St Aidan's. It was brought to the UK from the US in 1954 when it was the second-largest such machine in the world. Its maximum speed was 0.3 kilometres per hour (0.19 mph), in steps of 2 metres (6.6 ft) at a time. It moved to St Aidan's in 1988 and last moved in 1999, when it was moved to the top of the hill overlooking the reserve, for preservation.

ALLERTON BYWATER

Allerton Bywater has an abundance of facilities around the village as well as clubs and groups which meet regularly, particularly at the Vicars Court Community Centre.

The village also has a series of allotments and an active 'In Bloom' group who work hard to make the local area a pleasant place to live and visit.

Visit the Allerton Bywater Parish Council website to find out more information on the skate park, multi-use games area, cricket, football and bowling clubs and the other facilities and groups in the village.

WALKING ROUTE: GREAT PRESTON, ALLERTON BYWATER & ST AIDAN'S

START: STATION ROAD CAR PARK

DURATION: 2 HOURS / DISTANCE: APPROX 4 MILES

TERRAIN: MOSTLY FLAT WITH FIRM PATHS, TWO STILES

COMFORT STOP: ST AIDAN'S RSPB

- Join The Linesway heading away from Great Preston and the old Railway Bridge. Follow the path along the former railway track with no deviations. When crossing a tarmac road, rejoin The Linesway slightly to the left.
- At the end of The Linesway, **turn right** and follow the pavement, passing Vicars Court Community Centre (a former Victorian school building) on your left. **Turn left** down Vicars Terrace passing St Mary's church.
- Cross the main road (Station Road) and head down Main Street where you will spot The Victoria Pub on your left.
- On your right there is a public footpath sign. Pass through the metal gate and follow this path, up a slight slope towards the river.
- Bare right up the slope to follow this path, climbing carefully over a very solid stile and following the path with the river on your left. Look out for the abundance of wildlife.
- When you reach a junction of paths, **turn right** and follow it, crossing a small wooden bridge, through the woodland to another crossroads, go straight ahead.
- At the next junction **turn left**, onto the disused railway line, carry on, at the next junction of paths go straight ahead. The path opens up with a view of St Aidan's.
- *If the wooden bridge has not been repaired and you are unable to cross, retrace your steps to the river bank and follow this path to emerge onto another path, **turn right**, then at the next junction of paths **turn left**, to see the RSBP centre up on your right.*
- **Head right** to the Visitor Centre for a welcome drink and toilet stop.
- When you leave the centre, follow the carpark footpath out of the main entrance to Astley Lane.
- **Turn left** and walk along the verge for a few yards, looking out for a public footpath sign on the opposite side of the road. Take care crossing the main road and over the stile.
- With the hedge on your left, follow the path on the edge of the field and through a small wood to emerge onto a road junction.
- **Turn left** and walk along the footpath, passing the Village Hall (once a chapel) and the old infant school.
- At the mini roundabout **turn right**, passing The New Inn Pub (known locally as Doddies). Follow the path (crossing over when it runs out), over the bridge and back to the car park on your right.

TOWNCLOSE HILLS / BILLY WOODS



Accessed via the Leisure Centre carpark, Westfield Lane or off The Linesway, Townclose Hills is a prominent knoll of magnesium limestone, with steep-sided grassland plateaus, woodland, wildflower meadows and spring-fed pools.

In Summer, the flora comes alive with clustered bellflower, field scabious and orchids. There are stunning panoramic views of the village and surrounding areas and the woodland boasts wych elm, sycamore, hawthorn, blackthorn ash with sanicle and the regionally rare ploughmans spikenard.

Look out for butterflies and birds, glow worms during late night strolls, swooping owls and maybe even badgers.



It's a great area for walking with plenty of dog walkers, family adventures in the woods, bird watching and mountain biking. There are various guided routes to follow which are displayed on the information boards.

KIPPAX MEADOWS

You can find Kippax Meadows off Cromwell Rise, or park by the tennis courts on Brigshaw Lane and make your way through the trees behind the courts.

The nature reserve has several accessible paths running through it, and benches to rest and take in the views and diverse grasslands.

The reserve boasts a number of notable and regionally scarce plant species including Smooth Tare, Dewbury Common Spotted Orchid, Southern Marsh Orchid and Bee Orchid. There's also a good range of butterfly and bumble bee species to be found. Kestrels, Red Kites and Common Buzzards can also be seen flying over the site and occasionally perching on the scrub. Small mammals such as hedgehogs have been recorded on site as well as several deer sightings.

Kippax Meadows is a peaceful and accessible place for a gentle walk or a picnic.

Site of Ecological & Geological Importance (SEGI)



These sites are managed by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. If you're interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact: info@ywt.org.uk or 01904 659570.

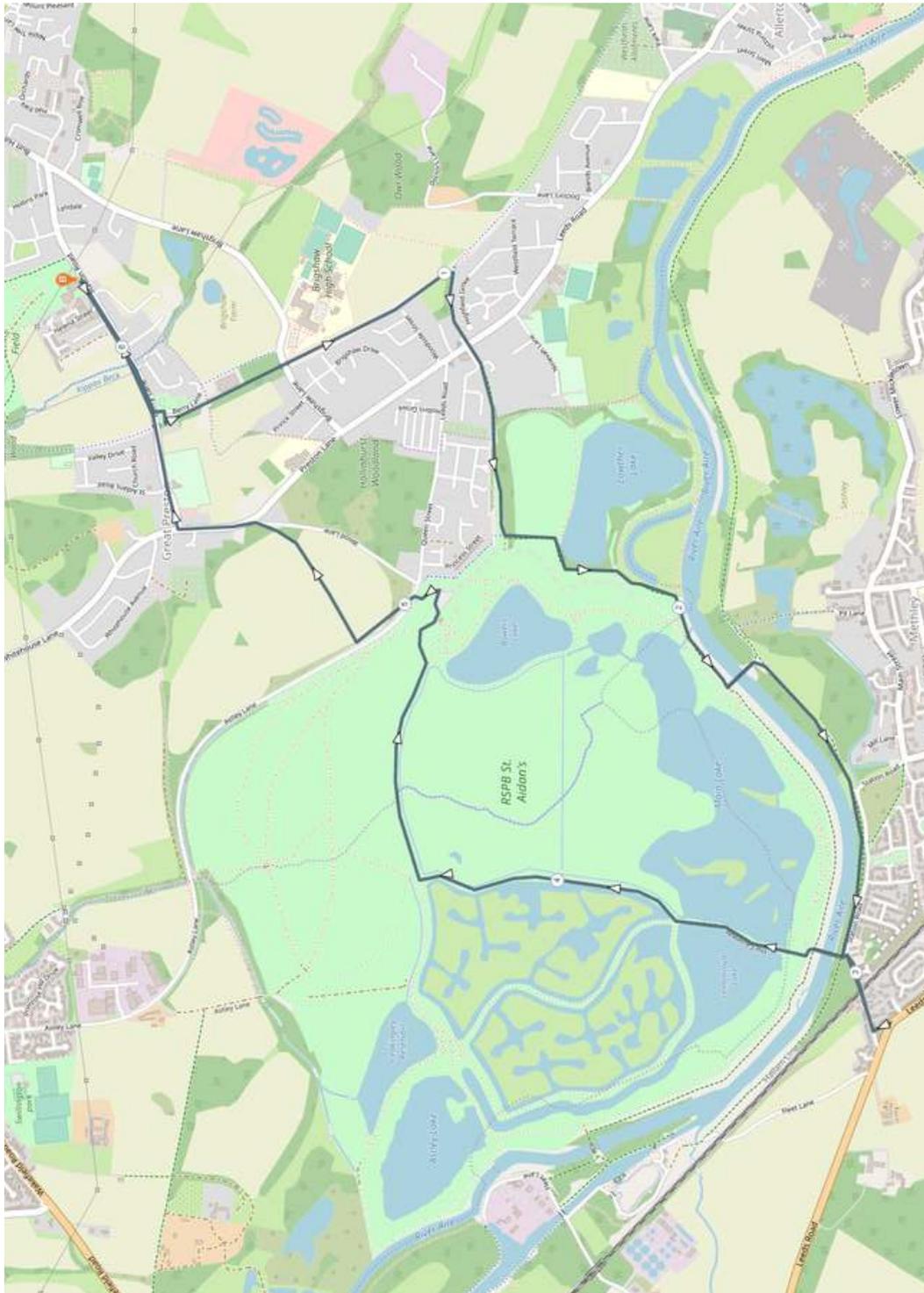
WALKING ROUTE: KIPPAX TO METHLEY CIRCULAR ROUTE

START: KIPPAX LEISURE CENTRE

DURATION: 2-3 HOURS / DISTANCE: APPROX 6 MILES

TERRAIN: FLAT, MOSTLY HARDCORE PATHS

COMFORT STOP: RIVERS MEET CAFE, METHLEY / ST AIDAN'S RSPB



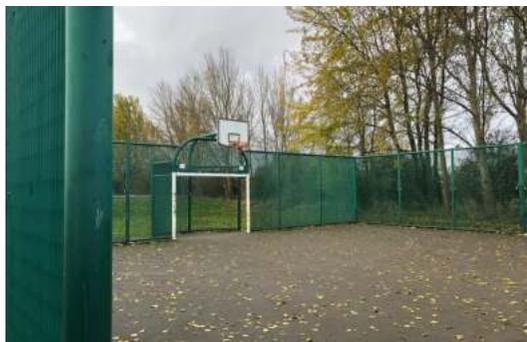
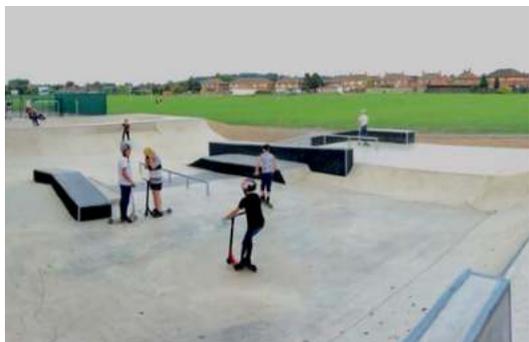
- From the Leisure Centre, **head right** towards Great Preston. Cross the road when you reach the playground and join The Linesway,
- **Head left** away from the old Railway bridge and continue down the path until you reach an open space with a junction of paths, Bowers Junction.
- **Turn right** and continue until you reach the main road (Leeds Road). Cross carefully with the Edward W.M.C on your right. Follow the path, passing the new build estate on your right until you meet a crossroad of paths.
- **Take a left**, and as the path rises slightly a lake will emerge in your left. Follow the edge of this until you meet a slight rise. **Bare right** to a good path, with the fence now on your right.
- Follow this with St Aidan's on your right. After a few hundred yards, look for the bridge on your left, cross this and **turn right**. The river is now on your right.
- Continue along this path until you approach another bridge on your right. Look left for a gap in the hedge, head through and **turn right**. Opposite are some lovely farm buildings which are being renovated.
- In front of you, you will see the railway line, cross safely and then follow the tarmac road, **turning left** along the last street.
- You'll spot a white building, a former pub, the Rivers Meet Cafe. This is a lovely relaxing stop, coal fire, magazine, craft shop and much more.
- Leave the cafe and **turn right** retracing your steps back to the railway line and back through the gap in the hedge.
- **Turn left** once you're through the gap and cross the bridge going over the river.
- Cross the path, pass through the fence and go straight ahead towards the lake. This path crosses through the lake with a wide variety of birds and wild flowers to admire.
- At the next junction of paths, **turn right** and head towards the RSPB centre. This is an opportunity for a second stop with picnic benches, or coffee from the centre.
- Leave the car park, **turn left** and walk along the verge for a few yards, looking out for a public footpath sign on the opposite side of the road. Take care crossing the main road and over the stile.
- With the hedge on your left, follow the path on the edge of the field and through a small wood to emerge onto a road junction.
- **Turn left** and walk along the footpath, passing the Village Hall (once a chapel) and the old infant school.
- At the mini roundabout **turn right**, passing The New Inn Pub (known locally as Doddies) and continue until you return to the Leisure Centre on your left.

KIPPAX COMMON & SKATE PARK

Kippax Common is a fantastic site for staying active. You can access The Common via Green Avenue and Green Lane and it runs alongside The Linesway.

As well as plenty of space for playing games, walking and running, The Common is also home to the Kippax Skatepark which is popular with skateboarders, scooter users and bikers. There is also a Multi-Use Games Area with floor markings and basketball hoops which is perfect for a range of ball games. To the right of the MUGA, there is also an additional area with floor markings, great for young imaginations.

Kippax Parish Council is working hard with Leeds City Council to develop future plans for Kippax Common to make it an even better site for residents and visitors, young and old alike. If you have any great ideas, let us know!



BOWLING IN KIPPAX

Kippax is home to **two** bowling greens, one on Kippax Common and the other on Brigshaw Lane. Bowling is a fantastic way to stay active and socialise, find out how to get involved by contacting the clubs on the information below:

Brigshaw Lane: kippaxbowlingclub@gmail.com

Valley Ridge (Kippax Common):

treval21@btinternet.com / 0113 2866070



BRIGSHAW LANE RECREATION GROUND



TENNIS COURTS | OUTDOOR GYM

Brigshaw Lane Recreation Ground is home to two tennis courts, an outdoor gym plus benches and open space which is great for working out and family time. The

Tennis Courts were refurbished in 2019 with brand new surfacing and fencing and the outdoor gym, found just behind the courts, was installed by the Parish Council at the same time. You can book a court online and you can also borrow adults and children's rackets and balls free of charge from Kippax Community Hub (Library) and Kippax Leisure Centre. You'll also find information boards to demonstrate how to safely use the outdoor gym equipment.

It's a great place to visit or incorporate within a longer walk or run. You can also cut through to Kippax Meadows and take in the nature reserve whilst you're there.