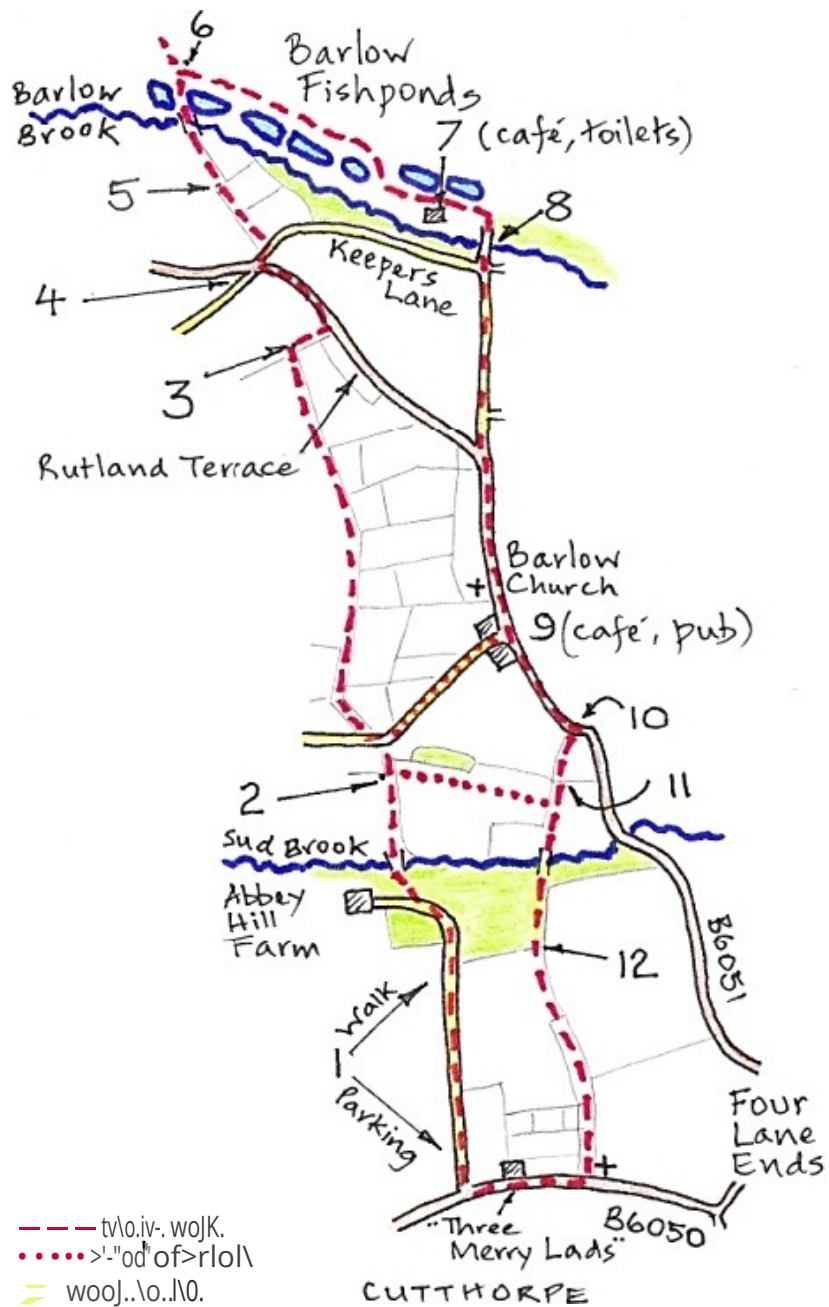


Nice and Easy does it!

A steady walk with a refreshment stop.
Thanks to Pete Stott for this walk



Common Lane to Barlow Fishponds

5.8km (3.6 miles) with two shorter options

Point 1. Walk down Common Lane. Continue past the Restricted Bridleway. Just before the gateway to Abbey Hill Farm, go right and cross the footbridge over Sud Brook. Walk up the field with the hedge on your right. Leave through a squeeze stile.

Point 2. Turn round and look back. On the skyline you can see The Gate, Pratt Hall, Cutthorpe School, the roofs of Cutthorpe, and Four Lane Ends.

Short option 1. Go ahead for a few metres, climb a stone stile on your right, walk down the field to Point 11. Round trip 2.3km (1.6 miles). But be warned: the path in the wood and beyond is rough and wet at times.

Short option 2. Go ahead to the road and resume at Point 9. Round trip 2.7km (1.7 miles). But be warned: the path in the wood and beyond is rough and wet at times.

To continue to the Fishponds, go ahead to the road.

Turn left and after 20 metres climb the stone stile on your right.

Follow the fenced path, and continue with a wall and then a fence on your right. To your right you'll see Barlow Church, traffic on the A61 bypass, and the mast at Hundall. The village ahead of you on the skyline is Holmesfield.

Point 3. The path passes the rear gardens of Rutland Terrace and leads through a gap in a wall. Turn right and walk to the road. Go left along the road for about 200 metres.

Point 4. Cross the road and go along Keepers Lane for a few metres, passing the concrete steps that lead down to houses. About 10 metres beyond those steps go left over a wooden stile. With the hedge on your left, walk through two fields. Leave the second field at a wooden stile on your left.

Point 5. The rough road you are standing on forks here. Walk through the small triangular paddock between the two roads. Cross the footbridge over Barlow Brook and continue straight ahead between two trout ponds.

Point 6. Turn right along the grass and walk along the vehicle track past the trout ponds and between the coarse fish ponds.

Point 7. The café is at Point 7

Point 8. Continue past the ponds and turn right to cross Barlow Brook. Ahead is a surfaced lane which leads to the main road through Barlow, where your route turns left. There's a bus stop near the church.

Point 9. At this point, you might want to turn right to Point 2 and return to Common Lane, because the path through the wood and up the field is uneven and wet at times. But if you're sticking with the main route, continue along the road with the Hackney House café and the Peacock at Barlow pub on your right. (The return path through the wood is a "boots and wellies track" for much of the year, but alternatives are to return along road to Four Lane Ends or retrace steps up Common Lane.)

Point 10. Cross the road at the 40mph sign. Go over a stile beside a gate, and continue towards two gates. Go through the left gate.

Point 11. Follow the hedge until it bends to the right. Continue ahead, cross the footbridge over Sud Brook, and enter a small wood. Bear slightly right and go uphill, passing a fenced hole bearing a Coal Authority sign.

Where the main path veers right, bear left. The path leads uphill, with the edge of the wood on your left.

Point 12. Leave the wood at a stile and continue straight ahead. The path joins the main road through Cutthorpe at the former chapel. Turn right towards Common Lane and the Three Merry Lads (open daily from 12) on your right.