

Boston Spa HERITAGE TRAIL

Boston Spa dates back to 1744, when a mineral spring was discovered. As 'taking the waters' became popular, grand houses and hotels saw the village rise in prosperity, with the new turnpike road from Otley to Tadcaster making travel easier. The Boston Spa Heritage Trail consists of 2 circular routes, each 1½ miles long, which can be combined into one longer walk.

BOSTON SPA BLUE PLAQUES

Look out for blue plaques along the trails for more information.



Boston Spa HERITAGE TRAIL



Wesley Terrace



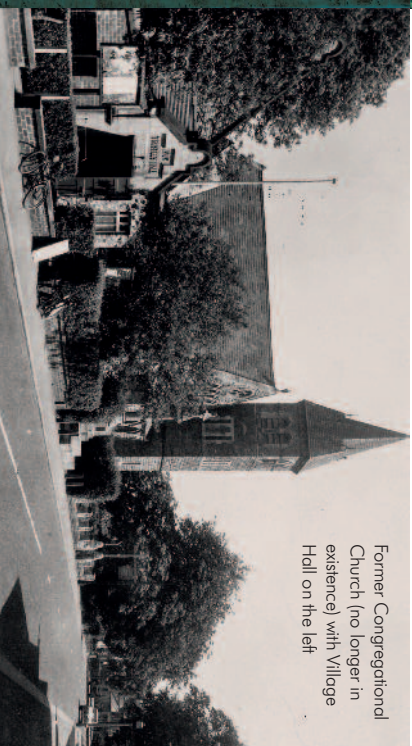
Methodist Church



Bowness Library, now a newsagent



View of Church Fields



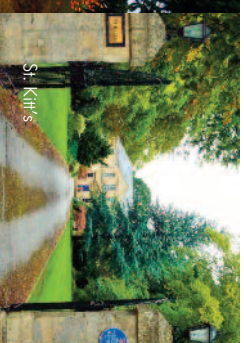
Former Congregational Church (no longer in existence) with Village Hall on the left

Boston Spa HERITAGE TRAIL

2 circular walks, each 1½ miles



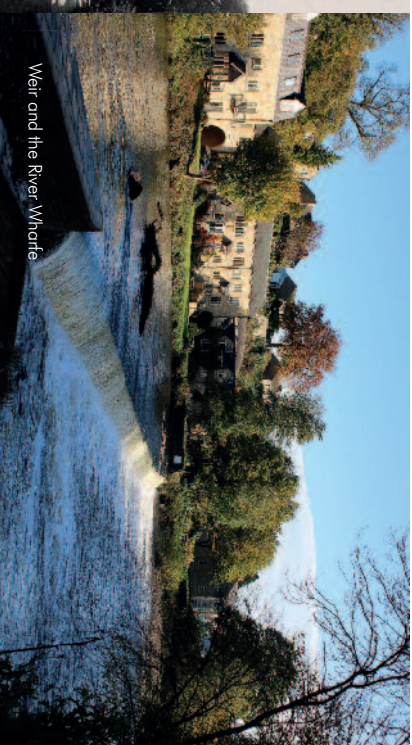
Boston Spa Bridge



St. Kim's



The High Street, Boston Spa



Weir and the River Wharfe

The Eastern Trail takes you along the historic Georgian High Street and back along the River Wharfe. Please read the blue plaques for more information.



This walk starts in the Millennium Garden **1** opposite the oldest commercial building in Boston Spa, built in 1753 as an inn, now housing shops and apartments.

You will pass **2** ● St Kitts, oldest of the grand houses.

Just before you get to the Village Hall (called the Trustees Hall when it was built in 1909), on the other side of the street you will see **3** ● Boston Cottage and Boston Hall.



Walk down the driveway between the doctors' surgery and the new apartments, taking you to the Methodist Church towards the right. **4** ● Pass in front of the church and go through the gate on the other side; turn right along a narrow ginnel (alleyway) called Spa Lane **5** ● - the row of cottages in the lane date back to 1810-20.



Turn left onto the High Street and pass **6** ● Wesley Terrace, consisting of Langton House, Shelly House and Bramwood.



Across the road is Thomas, the Chapel Warden. It housed the post office - when mail came by cart from Tadcaster.

Continuing on, curved walls mark the entrance to the **8** ● Terrace (1788-90). Across the road is Hudson Mews, the former hotel's stable yards and carriage house.

At the **9** Admiral Hawke you may want to raise a glass to Mr. Moberly, the first landlord when it opened in 1798.

A few houses down, also on the right, is the imposing residence, **10** ● Greystones.

Continue along the High Street, past the **11** Fox & Hounds pub; you can see Fainseat Cottage and Fairseat House on the right, originally an inn. As you approach the end of the village, turn left down Wharfedale - once called Gas Works Lane. In 1867, the operation was housed in the residence at the end of the lane, called **12** Oldworks.



This road narrows to a path past several houses; at the end turn left onto the riverside path. As you enjoy these tranquil surroundings, keep an eye out for otters and kingfishers.



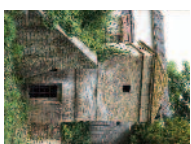
You will pass the high stone wall marking the rear of **13** ● Wharfedale Hall (1850) as well as some lovely natural limestone walls.

Farther along, the path opens up as you walk past the former **14** ● Spa Baths (1834).



A short incline leads to a fork in the path - keep to the right. You can see the **15** Peace Garden (below the Methodist Church), created by local volunteers in 2011, followed by **16** terraced gardens which extend down from St Kitts.

Soon you will enjoy the lovely vista of **17** ● Boston Spa Bridge (1770) - see cover.



Follow the path under the arch of the bridge. On your left, across the meadow, is the Grade 2 listed **18** ● dovecote, originally built for Littlecroft House (above it on Bridge Road). It still contains nesting Platforms, but some say it was used as a 19th Century lock-up.

At the end of the meadow, follow the right hand path to the weir, the fish ladder, and the remains of

19 Dam House. Of unknown origin, it was thought to be used for flax retting in the 18th and 19th centuries and contains hand-carved water management features; it once had an upper storey.

Retrace a few steps and take the right fork, taking you to Holgate Lane bridleway. If you want to do the Western Trail as well, turn right and follow the sign marked 'Public footpath to Deepdale.'

Otherwise, go up Holgate Lane, which brings you back to the High Street with **20** ● St Mary's Church (1872-84).



Turn left on the High Street and walk back to your starting point.



The Western Trail is more of a woodland walk, quite steep in places, along the riverside and back along the High Street.

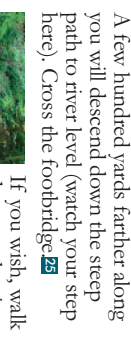


Starting at **21** Holgate Lane next to St Mary's Church, take the footpath down to the riverside. You will take the left fork, signed 'Public footpath to Deepdale,' but first you may wish to walk down to the river to see the weir and **22** fish ladder.

Retrace your steps and climb up some shallow steps to the right. You will pass the back of the churchyard. With the new houses of **23** Church Fields on your left, enjoy some spectacular views of the river and opposite banks of Thorp Arch, with several viewing spots with benches.

This ancient woodland was managed in medieval times, but most of the current trees are less than 150 years old.

The path takes you past the rear of **24** West End - single storey dwellings built to house the munitions workers at Thorp Arch during World War Two. A few hundred yards farther along you will descend down the steep path to river level (watch your step here). Cross the footbridge **25**



If you wish, walk down to the river to see **26** Jackdaw Crag - rocky outcrops of limestone cliffs with fossilized algal deposits.



Then walk up Deep Dale Valley. Like Holgate, it was created by ice age melt-water cutting through the limestone.

At the end of the path turn left onto the road. In the hedge on your right are sandstone gate posts, marking the entrance to different owners' fields **27** (19th century).

Follow the road back to the High Street past the **28** West End Estate. At the High Street turn left. On the right side is **29** Boston Lodge, a grand house (now offices), which originally owned the land at West End Estate.

The playground of **30** Deepdale Park is on your left, and across the road is **31** Ashley House, once known as Ivy House.

You will pass the curved walls on your left leading to **32** Moorlands, built c1820 as Rose Villa, now private dwellings.

On your right is **33** Springfield (c1820) - a small lane of 14 cottages; in 1851, 5 farm labourers, 2 charwomen, 1 groom and 3 cordwainers lived here (cordwainers made fine shoes and luxury leather goods).

34 No 122 High Street is Lane Lodge, built c1790.

You have now reached the end of the Western Trail at **35** ● St Mary's Church (1872-84).



Jackdaw Crag

