

1. Making History: Kirkheaton & Lascelles Hall

Duration: 1 Hour

These two villages epitomise the mix of industrial and rural in Huddersfield. While being close to the industry of Dalton, Kirkheaton offers visitors a mixture of urban and rural, there being plenty of shops alongside the usual village requisites – church, school, pub and cricket club. Kirkheaton was one of the 13,418 places mentioned in the Domesday Book but the Kirkheaton referred to was the original settlement higher up the slopes at Upper Heaton. If you visit Kirkheaton during May (Spring Bank) you might be fortunate enough to see Yetton Rant taking place. This is a fair which has been held for over 100 years in fields adjacent to the Beaumont Arms public house. Lascelles Hall, just across from Kirkheaton, remains very rural and offers visitors tranquillity and superb views. Both villages have a reputation for producing great cricketers, many of whom have gone on to play for Yorkshire and England.

Park up at **Bankfield Lane**, Kirkheaton right by the first of our two cricket grounds, the home of **Kirkheaton Cricket Club** (below). Walk along the lane with the cricket ground on your right, Emley Mast on your left and Castle Hill ahead. At the sharp bend in the road, take the public footpath on the left over a stile. Here if you look directly back you can see the industry of Dalton. Follow the well-worn footpath across the field through a kissing gate and into a second field.



Walk directly across this small field and go through a gap into the wall into a third field, again walking directly across it into a fourth field. Walk along this field keeping close to the boundary wall on the left. At the end of the fourth field, go through the gap and cross over into the path enclosed between a wall and a fence. Follow the path round and descend the steps to the road, coming out near **Kirkheaton Parish Office**.



Cross over the road into Church Lane (you might want to go into the churchyard [above] to view the memorial to the children killed in a mill fire at nearby Colne Bridge on 14 February 1818). Take the left along the public footpath just in front of the **Beaumont Arms** public house.

Go through a gap in a fence, ignoring the footpath on the left but going straight ahead. Turn right to cross the brick-walled bridge over the stream and walk uphill along the edge of the wood, heading towards **Lower Lascelles Hall Farm**.

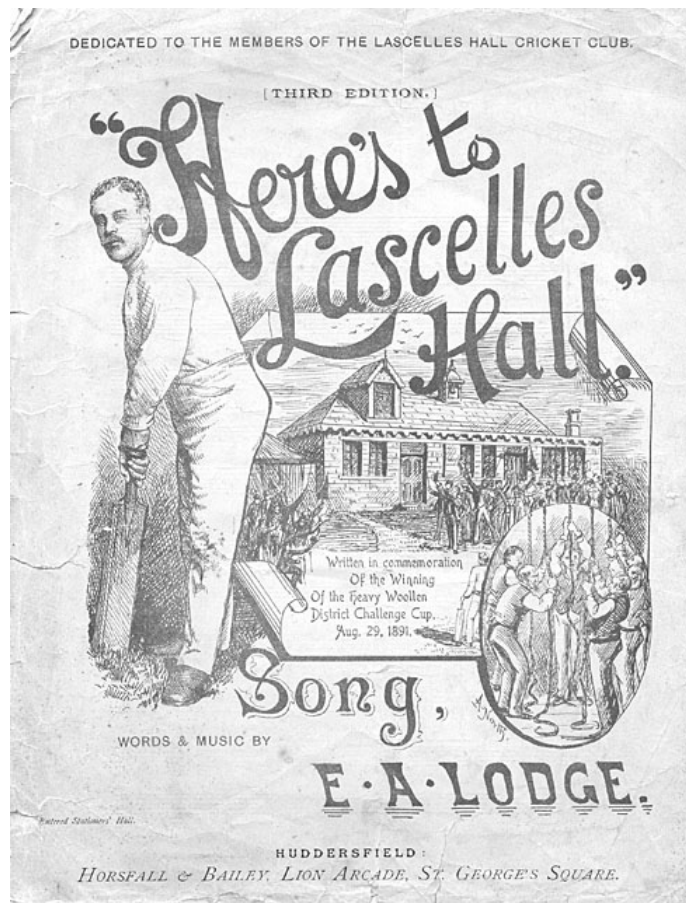
Go over a stile into a field and continue straight ahead up the field. Go over a second stile and continue straight ahead. Climb a third stile and then walk up the enclosed footpath (there are bulls in these fields if you are walking in spring and summer so keep to the marked path).



Continue up this path and you will eventually reach a stile which leads into the second of our two cricket grounds – the home of **Lascelles Hall Cricket Club** (above). This is a good place to have a rest after the uphill climb or a bite to eat if you have a picnic with you. If so, cross over a brick stile and take a well deserved rest on the benches of the cricket ground. If you don't want to take a rest, turn left just before the pavilion stile. Walk along the enclosed path which runs adjacent to Lascelles Hall's ground.

Go through a kissing gate into a second field, continuing straight ahead with the edge on the right until you reach a wooden makeshift stile at the road. Turn left onto **Gawthorpe Lane**. At the end of Gawthorpe Lane take the left along **Lane Side**. Continue along Lane Side - you are now heading back towards to Kirkheaton.

Just after the **cemetery**, turn right up **Stafford Hill Lane**, eventually joining **Shop Lane**. Walk up Shop Lane, turning right on to **Lane Town Road**. At a fork in the road, near **Bankfield Avenue**, take the right fork. You are now back at **Bankfield Lane** where the walk began.



A famous club song from 1891