

9. Baptists and Brickworks: Blackley and Back

Duration: 45 Minutes

This walk centres on Elland, and takes you up and then down, and via a beautiful cricket club with a pub on the boundary!

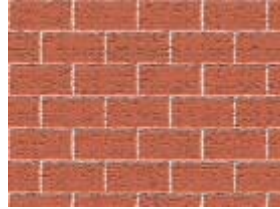
Start at **Elland Cricket Club** (below), Hullenedge Road, Elland – there's plenty of parking, excellent bar and catering facilities, and some high-standard Huddersfield League cricket to watch and admire.



Leave the ground via the main entrance by the scoreboard. Turn left and then left again down **Hammerstones Road**. At the crossroads carry straight on past houses on your left. Soon you will come to a little gate on your left, which leads to a footpath, that will save you some time. Follow the footpath upwards.

When you exit the footpath, stay walking on the pavement on the left-hand side of the road. Keep looking left and admire the amazing view out over Elland, including the cricket ground you have just left – which looks like a well manicured bowling green from this new vantage point.

On your right, you will come to **Blackley Baptist Church** – a very handsome building – which is flanked by a graveyard and an attractive and peaceful garden. There will probably be lots of sheep weighing you up in the fields on your left, so say hello to them. The derelict complex you pass on your left, with a protruding chimney, is the **brickworks** – something that once made Blackley famous in the local area. On your right you will then spot **Hollins Key Landfill Site**.



More impressive views will greet you on the right – the assorted greenery of the area encompassing Outlane, Holywell Green and Stainland. Take the right down Lindley Road and **Blackley Cricket Club** will greet you on your left. The ground is one of the loveliest in the area. Both the premises and the playing area are well kept – and there's a bar to boot! Admire the views in all directions, even up to the M62 which lies only a few hundred yards away on your left as you look out from the pavilion.



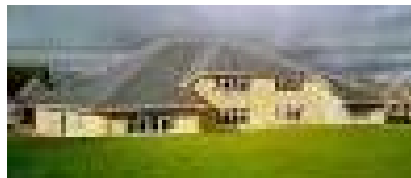
Take a stroll to the **Golden Fleece**, which is situated on the boundary, near the road. It is a friendly and very homely pub, which does excellent food.

When you have finished eating and drinking re-trace your steps back down Lindley Road until you come to the intersection with the main road. Instead of turning left, look for **South Lane** on the other side of the road and follow it down

and to your left. Start descending down the path, which eventually becomes a set of steps. Keep looking in front of you because there are some magnificent views out over Elland, Halifax and Calderdale in the middle and far distance – so many spires, factories, warehouses in and among the busy roads and areas of dense housing.

It is a nice descent. On your left you will come to **Woodman Works Industrial Park**. Turn left down the first road you come to – Cobden Terrace – and then left again down Elsinore Avenue. You are now wending your way back to Elland CC via a residential area. Take a left down Crestfield Avenue, then right down Cross Lane and left down Fields Road. Another right brings you out on the main road.

On your immediate left you now encounter **Brooks Bank School** (below), whose spacious grounds once hosted Halifax Association cricket. Cross over to the pavement on the right-hand side of the road and see if you can spot the football pitch, cricket ground or floodlit bowling green at the venue you began your trek at. You should be able to see bits of Elland CC by peeping in between the houses on your side of the road!



You pass a care home on your right and a house called 'Elandene' (no.110). Turn right down Hammerstones Road, noting **Elland Golf Course** further up the main road on your right. Head back in to the cricket ground – and see what the score now is!