

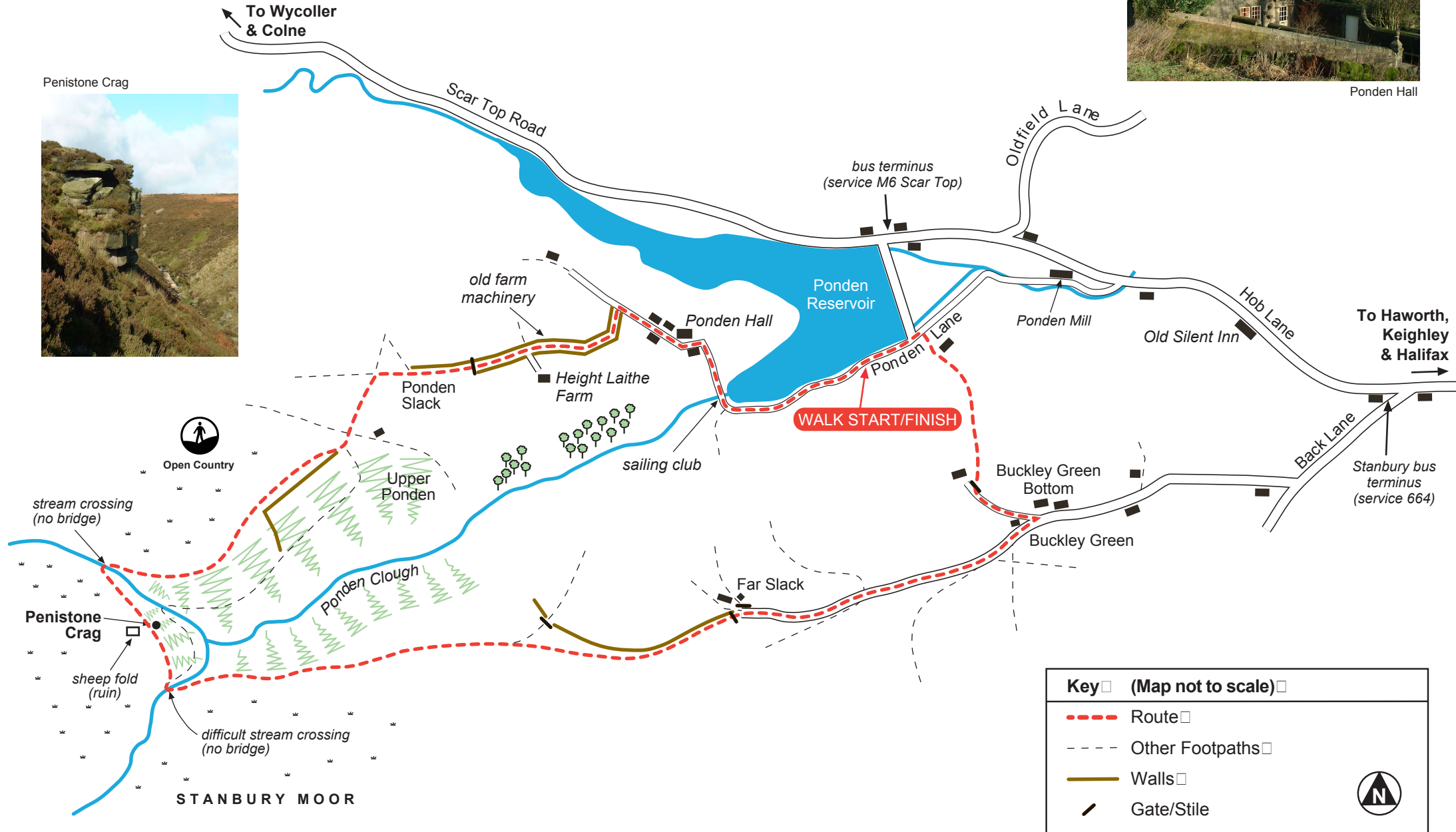
Penistone Crag, Stanbury Moor

Circular Walk - 3 miles (4.8km)



Ponden Hall

Penistone Crag



STANBURY MOOR



Countryside & Rights of Way

Penistone Crag (Stanbury Moor)

3 mile (4.8km) - circular walk

Walk start point is Ponden Lane adjacent to Ponden Reservoir near Stanbury village in the Upper Worth Valley.

Public Transport

A very infrequent M6 service operates between Keighley bus station and Scar Top, which is near to Ponden Reservoir.

An alternative service 664 from Keighley bus station to Stanbury runs hourly but this will add approx. 1½ miles (2.4km) to your walk. There is no Sunday service on either route.

Contact Metroline on 0113 245 7676 for further details.

Car Parking

There is informal car parking along Ponden Lane, please park with care and consideration, don't block field gates or access tracks.

Can I Take My Dog?

Yes, providing that you stay on the public right of way as described in the route information and that your dog is on a lead.

Walk Information

Outdoor clothing to suit the season and strong, waterproof footwear is advisable. It is also recommended that you take a light snack and drink.

For the first 1½ miles (2.4km) you will be walking uphill on to Stanbury Moor, this part of the walk is best described as strenuous, however, the effort is well rewarded by the good views of the Worth Valley and the distant skyline view of the world famous Ilkley Moor. After the first stream crossing, approximately half way round the walk, the going gets easier with a short section of level moorland to cross before starting your downhill walk back to Ponden Reservoir. This walk is not suitable for pushchairs and wheelchair users.

The Walk Route

Assume the position of overlooking Ponden Reservoir from Ponden Lane and turn left to walk along the level, partially surfaced lane along the side of the reservoir. After a short distance follow the lane as it turns right uphill, at the top of the incline turn left, still following the lane uphill as it changes to a rough track as you walk between the cluster of houses and a farm in the hamlet of Ponden, passing Ponden Hall on your right as you go.

Once through the hamlet continue up the track for approximately 150yds (137m), to where the track divides. Turn left here and continue uphill following the track, eventually walking between the drystone walls, passing two farmyards, both filled with a variety of old farm vehicles. At the second farmyard the track divides again, continue straight ahead to the farm gate, which can be seen ahead. Climb over the stile at the side of the gate and out onto Ponden Slack, the open moorland in front of you.

From here continue straight ahead, following the well-defined vehicle tracks, keeping to the dry stone wall on your right. At the wall corner continue following the vehicle tracks for approximately 50yds (45.7m) further, before turning sharp left off the track to walk steeply uphill. Follow the faint path across the rough moorland grass, heading for the wide gap in the dry stone wall, to the right of the farm building, which can be seen ahead on the skyline. On nearing the gap in the dry stone wall the path divides, our route turns sharp right uphill to follow the dry stone wall on your left, to the very top of the hill.

On reaching the top of the hill at the wall corner, continue straight ahead following the faint path through the grass and heather as it eventually bears to the right and across a stream. Once across the stream turn left and follow the well-defined path along the escarpment. After a short distance on your right can be seen the remains of an old pinfold (sheep enclosure), Penistone Crag is directly opposite overlooking the valley to your left.

Continue along the path as it bears right, then eventually left a short distance down to a second stream, here turn right to cross over the stream and follow the path as it bears to the left uphill onto open moorland. Follow this well-defined path level

at first, then as it drops down heading towards a ladder stile over the dry stone wall, which can be seen ahead. On nearing the ladder stile the path divides, our route ignores the stile by bearing to the right, where after a short distance you should be walking parallel to a dry stone wall on the left hand side.

Follow the wall all the way down to a gate, which will lead out onto a farm track at Far Slack Farm. Follow this track for quite a while until you reach a few houses at Buckley Green. Here, where the farm track joins a tarmaced road turn sharp left behind the houses you have just passed and go down the unmade road for approximately 100yds (91m) to Buckley Green bottom. Here turn right to climb over the stile or go through the gate to walk down the walled track to your starting point at Ponden Reservoir.

Footnote

We hope you have enjoyed your walk onto Open Country. If so tell your friends, if not, or you have encountered any problems please tell us at:

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Transportation, Design & Planning
The Countryside & Rights of Way Service
5th Floor, Jacobs Well, Bradford BD1 5RW

Tel: 01274 432666

e-mail: danny.jackson@bradford.gov.uk

Just For Interest Along The Way

Ponden Reservoir

Built in the early 1870's as a compensation reservoir for the former Keighley corporation waterworks, to supply water to the mills in the Worth Valley. The reservoir now owned by Yorkshire Water supplies drinking water for the high level areas of Keighley, parts of Oxenhope and Crosshills.

Ponden Hall (Thruscross Grange)

Originally dating from 1634 the Bronte family were regular visitors to the hall, being good friends of the Heaton's who lived there in the mid 1800's, the hall is generally thought to be the house Emily re-named Thruscross Grange, home of the Linton family in her novel Wuthering Heights.

Stanbury Moor

Stretching as far as the eye can see and a designated SSSI (Site of Special Scientific interest). The moor is managed for grouse shooting and is an important natural area for water gathering, home to varied wildlife, some of the many birds to be seen are grouse, curlew, ring ouzel, lapwing and meadow pipits. Many wildflowers and grasses can also be found with ling and bell heather being the most predominant, seen at its best mid August to early September. Recently Stanbury Moor has become part of the open country access area.

Penistone Crag (Photo)

This large outcrop of gritstone is thought to have been a favourite haunt of the Bronte sisters. Emily Bronte writes about it being the meeting place of

Cathy and Heathcliff. At the base of the crag there is a hole in the rock, which Emily describes as the Fairy Cave, local legend suggests that unattached people passing through will marry within the year.

Buckley Green

Home and workplace of Timmy Feather (1825-1910), last of the handloom weavers in the Haworth area, his grave can be found in the graveyard near to Haworth Church.

