

Countryside & Rights of Way

Nesfield & Upper Austby - from Ilkley

6¹/₂ miles (10.4km) Circular walk

A walk suitable for reasonably fit, occasional walkers, along the level valley bottom following the river, before starting a gentle climb from Nesfield up the wooded hillside to the highest point of our route near Upper Austby. From here it is level or down hill all the way back. This walk is not suitable for the less mobile, wheelchair users and children in pushchairs.

Sensible footwear, wind and waterproof clothing and a packed lunch recommended.

Please take care along the riverbank and keep children under close supervision at all times.

Public Transport: Ilkley is well served by both bus and rail. For further information contact Metroline on: 0113 245 7676.

Car Parking: On street parking near the walk start point is available along both sides of New Brook Street.

Walk Start Point:

The stone steps leading down onto Riverside Gardens, off New Brook Street, Ilkley.

The Route:

With your back to Ilkley town centre, turn left to go down the steps and walk parallel to the river, passing the children's play area and the Riverside Hotel and public house on the left before climbing the steps up onto the old stone built bridge over the River Wharfe.

Turn right to walk across the bridge, turning immediately left on the opposite side of the river along the unmade path along the river bank, emerging on Nesfield Road by the electricity sub-station. Turn left here and cross over to walk along the right-hand side of the road facing on-coming traffic. Continue along Nesfield Road for quite a distance, passing both Ilkley Golf Club-House on the right and the golf club green keeper's buildings on the left following the road as it meanders through the countryside. A short distance beyond the green keeper's buildings the road turns sharp right (near the unofficial

car parking lay-bys), here look out for two gates in the fence on the left. Go through the smaller of the two gates to walk straight across the golf links skirting the trees on the left, to another gate which can be seen ahead.

Once through the second gate, continue straight ahead uphill to a narrow stile in the wire fence; go through the stile and cross the road diagonally to the left and up the grass verge to a second stile, through the second stile the path goes left diagonally straight across the field (head for the electricity pole with a transformer attached, seen beyond the trees), to another stile. Go through the stile back onto the road, turning right uphill for a short distance to Nesfield village.

On entering the village the road divides. Take the road off to the right. After a short distance turn off the road, again to the right, through a gate signed 'Dean Farm'. Follow the unmade farm track uphill under the trees and past the farm buildings on the left. Just beyond these buildings the path leaves the track by bearing left uphill to go through a metal gate passing the gable end of the stone built house on the right.

Continue uphill to where the path divides again, our route follows the well-worn, level path to the right, before climbing again eventually reaching another metal gate. Go through the gate bearing right onto the surfaced driveway in front of the stone-built house. Walk straight ahead along the drive between the farm building and yard at Upper Austby to emerge onto the road.

Continue by turning right down the road passing 'Ling Park', 'Ling Park Cottage' and some large farm buildings on the right. Walk along the level section of road for approximately 1/4 mile/0.4km to where the road starts to bear left, here look out for a gate on the right (opposite a gate on the left). Go through the gate on the right and follow the track straight ahead downhill across the fields, going through three more gates to join an unmade road. Follow the road downhill, passing a few cottages on the left, before turning left at the bottom to join the surfaced entrance road to the new buildings adjacent to Myddelton Lodge.

Continue straight ahead to join Hardings Lane at the 'T' junction, turning left uphill to follow the road as it bears right at the junction signposted Middleton. After a short distance and just beyond the house (The Hollies) on the right, look out for the stile going over the fence into the field. Go over the stile and down across the field

heading to the left of the large tree at the bottom end of the field look out for another stile in the fence into Middleton Woods. As you enter the wood the path divides, our route follows the wide track to the left across a small stream. Walk along this track for approximately 200 yds/183m, look out for a narrow, less defined woodland path on the right, noticeable by a large stone at its junction with the main path. Turn right here off the main track and start your descent through the woodland, follow this path down two flights of stone steps, across a wooden bridge and along the boardwalks, then down more steps and through the metal kissing gate onto a road (Curly Hill).

Continue by crossing the road diagonally to the left to go down the steps onto the picnic area and car park at Ilkley swimming pool. Walk straight ahead with the buildings on your left across the grassy area to a gap in the fence. Go through the gap and cross Denton Road to the gap opposite, go through and follow the field boundary straight ahead to the river bank.

On reaching the river, turn right and follow the riverside path, to eventually walk up the ramp at the side of the bridge out onto New Brook Street. Turn left across the bridge to your start point.

Footnote

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

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
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5th Floor, Jacobs Well,
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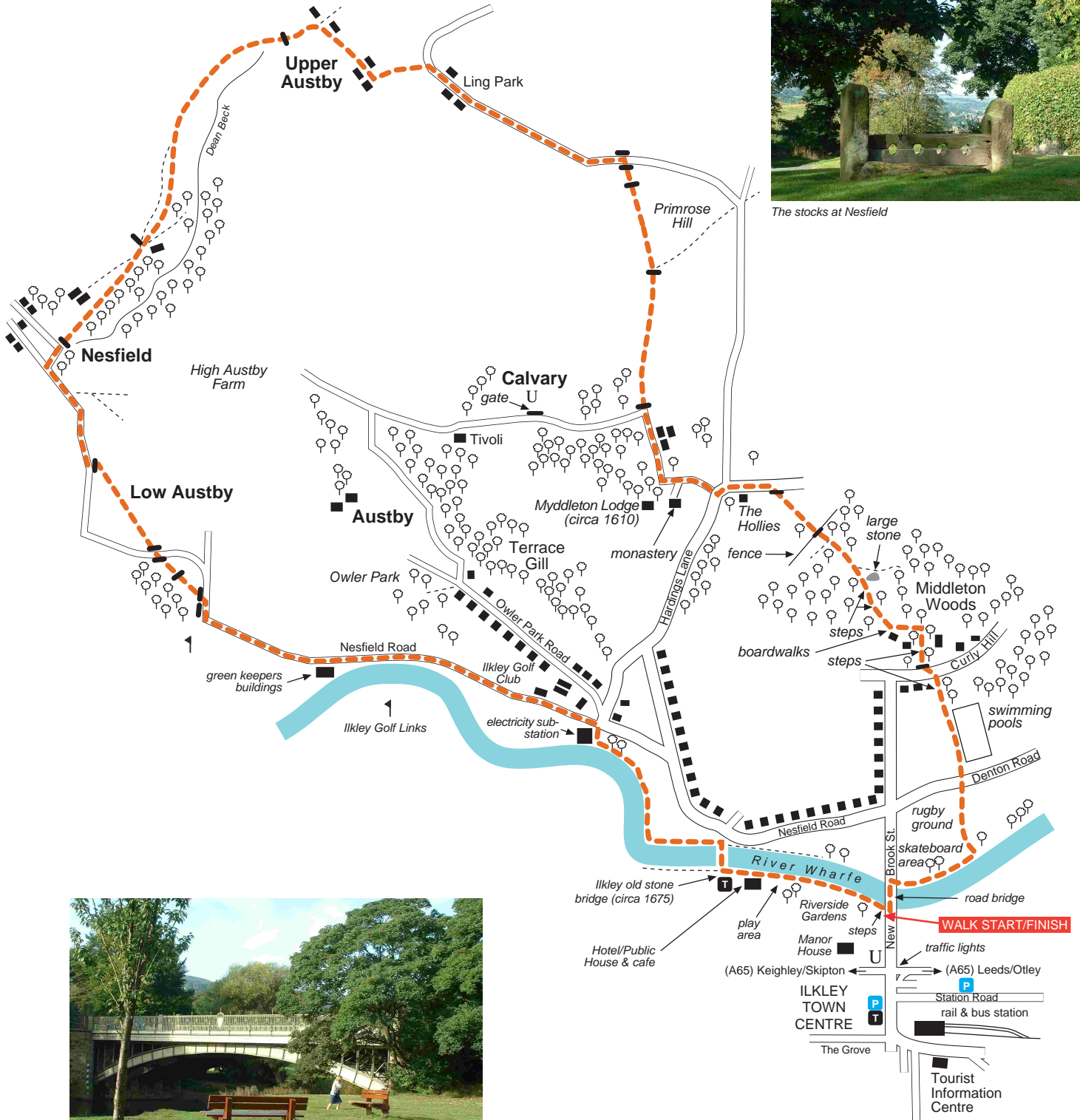
APRIL 2010

Nesfield & Upper Austby

6 1/2 miles (10.4km) Circular walk



The stocks at Nesfield



New road bridge, Ilkley

Key (map not to scale)

- - - - Route
- - - - Other Footpaths
- Gate/Stile
- P Pay & Display car park
- T Toilets

