

Countryside & Rights of Way

Crow Hill

A hard circular walk. 7miles (11.5km)



Open Country

Walk start point: Stanbury Bus terminus, Hob Hill, at the western end of Stanbury Main Street.

Public transport: A regular hourly bus service 664 operates Monday to Saturday from Keighley bus station. There is no Sunday service. For further details contact Metroline on 0113 245 7676.

Car parking: Very limited parking near the bus terminus, there is however an informal parking area 300 yds up Back Lane (see map), where the walk route passes by so you can start the walk from there. Please park with care and consideration, do not block field gates or access tracks.

Walk information: An easy first 13/4miles (3km) to Top Withins Farm (ruin), deceptively hides the hard walk ahead across what is arguably the most remote and rugged moorland in the Bradford District. Due to the nature of this terrain, the walk is only suitable for fit, regular walkers who should be fully aware of the potential dangers whilst walking on this type of terrain. It is essential that good wind and waterproof clothing be worn, along with strong waterproof walking boots. Plenty of food and drinks are also required along with an OS South Pennines OL21 explorer map and a compass. A mobile telephone could be useful, but please don't rely on this, as often there is no signal in remote areas and the batteries can fail at a crucial moment. Check the weather before setting out and let someone know your route and expected time of return.

Compass bearings given in the walk instructions are for a guide only and should be checked by the individual walker on the day of their walk.

The Walk Route

From Stanbury bus terminus walk up Back Lane (the narrow lane leading uphill from the bus terminus). At the first road junction continue straight ahead, following the road as it changes from a hard surface to a rough track and eventually past the rough, informal car parking area. Just beyond the parking area the rough track divides, take the right hand track uphill to the gate and cattle grid at the top of the incline. Go through the gate out onto open moorland to where the track divides into three, once again follow the right hand track and continue uphill following the track all the way until you reach Top Withins Farm (ruin), 11/2 miles ahead, passing as you go the former farmhouses of Lower and Upper Heights. On reaching Top Withins farm, which is thought to be the setting for Emily Bronte's 'Wuthering Heights', walk



Crow Hill Delphs

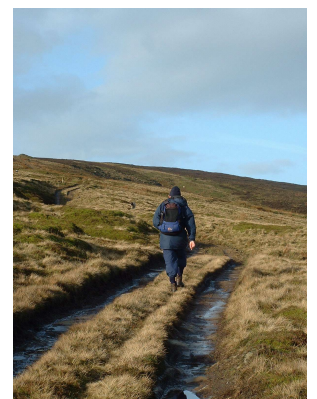
round to the rear of the building and take the narrow but well-defined path leading steeply uphill from the building, walking in a north-westerly direction. Follow this narrow path, which will eventually lead you to the trig point above Delph Hill (444m/1456ft above sea level). On reaching the trig point look across the moorland to your left, in a south westerly

direction of 248 degrees, to see Alcomden Stones our next landmark. Continue from the trig point by following the narrow path through the heather to the stones, once there walk among the stones to the southern edge of the cluster. Here amongst the heather look for the faint path, which runs from left to right at 309 degrees and forms the boundary between the Bradford and Calderdale districts.

On finding the path turn right and follow the boundary walking in a northwesterly direction of 309 degrees. Continue across the moorland for 1mile (1.6km) before reaching the Lancashire boundary, here at the bottom of the incline, bear slightly to your right (323 degrees) and walk uphill to your destination, Crow Hill (458m/1503 feet above sea level). The exact location being arbitrary as there is no indication on the ground as to where the top is.

To Return

Assume the position of overlooking Water Sheddles Reservoir in the valley below and turn to your right to walk in an easterly direction of 80 degrees, along the top edge of the moorland escarpment for just over 1/2 mile (0.8km), to the large marked boundary stone, here we cross back into the Bradford District.



Ponden Slack

From the boundary stone continue downhill in an easterly direction of 90 degrees, to enter the top end of the now disused quarry workings at Delph Hill Quarry. Here, follow the well-defined quarry track through the workings and across the moorland grasses of Ponden Slack to a gate and a stile, which leads into a double walled farm track. Climb the stile and follow the farm track as it meanders downhill, passing a farmyard on the right, before eventually reaching the junction with

another track, which crosses from left to right. Turn right here and walk downhill through the houses and farmyards which make up the hamlet of Ponden, following the road as it turns right downhill before bearing left alongside Ponden Reservoir.

At the far end of the reservoir, near to the dam wall turn right off the wide surfaced road, to walk uphill following the unmade farm track for quite a distance, until you reach a gate/stile at the top end. Climb the stile to emerge onto another track at Buckley Green Bottom, turn left uphill and follow the track straight ahead as it changes to a surfaced road. Follow the surfaced road to its junction with Back Lane, the road we walked up earlier. Here, public transport users turn left downhill to the bus terminus and car users who park their car on the informal parking area, turn right uphill for 150yds (137m) to find your vehicles.

Can I Take My Dog?

In general, you may take your dog with you but, if there are livestock around or it is between 1st March and 31st July, you must keep the dog on a short lead, no more than two metres long.

On some land there may be a total ban on dogs for all or part of the year, or an extension of the period when you must keep your dog on a lead. This may be for the purposes of land management or nature conservation.

These restrictions will be shown on signs at access points and must be observed; the alternative to restrictions on dogs may be to close land to the public altogether to protect ground-nesting birds and other wildlife.



For up-to-date information on Open Country

Access Maps online at
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england>

General Information

Open access contact centre
Telephone: 0300 060 2091

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
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