

Villages Along the Aire Valley

7 miles/ 11.26km Circular Walk



Grove Cottages near West Morton

Walk Start Point

Bingley fire station, at the junction of the B6265 Keighley Road with Bingley Main Street and the B6429 Harden Road.

Public Transport

Bus services 662/760 operate between Keighley, Leeds and Bradford. These buses pass the walk start point, the stop you require is Bingley Parish Church. Bingley railway station is nearby with frequent rail services along the Airedale line from Skipton, Leeds, Bradford and beyond. For details of public transport contact Metroline on 0113 245 7676.

Car Parking

Limited on street parking along the B6265 Keighley Road adjacent to Bingley Parish Church, with a pay and display car park 150yds (137m) from the walk start point.

Route Information

This walk has been devised by joining two web walks to form a not too demanding longer route along the Aire Valley, incorporating the urban fringe of Bingley and Riddlesden. The route, linked by farmland and the villages of Micklethwaite and East and West Morton, makes good use of the Leeds/Liverpool canal towpath for an easy level return to your start point at Bingley. Refreshments are available from the Busfeild Arms public house at East Morton. Public toilets are also available

at the same location. A regular bus service operates along the old Bradford Road should you wish to shorten your walk at the half way point at Riddlesden.

The Route

Start by facing Bingley fire station to take the concrete ramp at the left hand side of the building leading from the main road, to go over the Aire Valley trunk road via the footbridge and onto the towpath of the Leeds Liverpool canal at the Three Rise Locks. Turn left up the towpath to walk the short distance to the swing bridge at the top of the locks, turn right here and cross the canal via the bridge. Turn left on the opposite side following the narrow path alongside the canal. Eventually the path bears to the right up a slight incline away from the canal to join several minor roads where the footpath ends. Here bear slightly to your right to continue by going up Plevna Terrace, the patchy surfaced road opposite, continuing straight ahead at the crossroads until you meet Hallbank Drive at the T junction in front of the houses with dormer bedrooms at the far end. Turn left along Hallbank Drive continuing straight ahead to the next T junction at the end with Beck Lane. Turn left down Beck Lane crossing almost immediately to your right to turn first right up the narrow 'drive like' road opposite.

Follow the narrow road uphill for a short distance to where it ends. Here our route continues by going through the metal kissing gate located between the gateways to the houses of Stone House and Beck Thorpe Lodge. From here the path continues to climb exiting at the top onto Gawthorpe Drive via a flight of steps and through a stile. Cross Gawthorpe Drive and continue uphill via the narrow footpath opposite until you reach Pinedale, a cul de sac. Walk up the pavement on the right hand side of Pinedale to its junction at the top with Oakwood Drive. Here cross the road straight ahead to rejoin the narrow footpath opposite as it continues to climb, meandering beneath the trees on the final pull to the highest part of your walk. Nearing the top end of the woodland the path divides, our route continues straight ahead climbing steeply up the hard surfaced path and up the steps and through the gate at the top out onto Lady Lane. Turn left along the pavement of Lady Lane for the short distance to the road junction with Greenhill Lane. Turn left down Greenhill Lane following the pavement past the entrance to Deer Park and Greenhill Manor on your right and the buildings of Greenhill Farm and Woodlands Cottage on your left.

Eventually as you make your way downhill the pavement becomes very narrow before ending completely. Here at this very bad bend in the road turn right crossing the

road to walk along the narrow walled footpath Wood Lane opposite, along the top side of the buildings of Greenhill Mews. Continue straight ahead along the easy to follow level path along the hillside, where after a while the path starts to climb, bearing left at the top of the incline before levelling out again and through an old wooden gate.

Through the gate continue straight ahead to a second much wider gate with a stile on the left hand side, squeeze through the stile at the second gate out onto a limestone access track. Here the public right of way is straight ahead and along the back of the buildings of Fairlady Farm, which can be seen directly ahead, or if you wish, the landowner prefers walkers to skirt the building by bearing right then almost immediately left to following the limestone track, walking parallel to the public right of way until you rejoin the public footpath at the far end of the farm buildings.

After rejoining the path continue along the limestone track walk straight ahead until you reach the point where the track turns sharp left. Here leave the track to continue straight ahead, either through the field gate or over the broken down stile at the right hand side of the gate leading into a field. Cross the field straight ahead eventually exiting at the far end out onto Carr Lane, a very steep road at the top end of Micklethwaite village. Turn left down Carr Lane through the village for approximately 250yds (228m) before turning right off Carr Lane to go down Beck Lane along the side of Micklethwaite Methodist Church. At the bottom of the incline continue to follow Beck lane as it turns right, then left in front of 'Spring Beck House' to follow the rear of the buildings of 'Spring Beck Barn' on your left to 'The Barn House' at the far end. Turn right here along the now rough surfaced track for a short distance to where it divides.

Here our route follows the level grassy track on the right, straight ahead. Eventually the track narrows as it bears left downhill to cross Hebble Bridge over Morton Beck in the valley bottom. On the opposite side of the bridge follow the well worn path along the side of the beck before starting a steep climb up the hillside to emerge at the top onto Cliffe Mill Fold. Turn left up Cliffe Mill Fold for a short distance to the junction at the top of the incline with Dimples Lane. Go along dimples Lane to where it meets with the main road opposite the Busfeild Arms public house in the centre of East Morton. Turn left here along the main road passing the public toilets and the bus terminus on the opposite side until you reach the Morton Memorial Institute building on your left.

Here turn right and cross the main road onto the village green (the landscaped area opposite), exiting at the rear of the green via a flight of steps. From the top of the steps ignore the first right turn to follow the second right turn gently uphill continuing up as the road changes to a rough track. On reaching the top of the hill near to where several driveways converge look out for lamppost number 4, here the route continues by turning left off the track to follow the narrow footpath parallel with and to the rear of the stone built cottages. At the far end of the cottages the path turns left and goes through a stile and continues gently uphill between the metal fence and stone wall, eventually passing some allotments on your left before exiting out onto the busy country road Street Lane via a stile.

Turn right up Street Lane for approximately 200 yards/ 182m until you reach the second gateway on your left, here go through the gateway into the field to follow the obvious vehicle track straight ahead across the field to a second gateway which can be seen ahead. Through the second gateway continue by turning right to follow the wall on your right across the next field to a third gateway, here again continue to follow the wall on your right to a fourth gateway, this time with a stile at the side. Over the stile it's much the same still following the wall on your right even when the wall becomes semi derelict until you reach the fifth gateway with a stile which can be seen ahead. Over this stile the path is along a wide walled grassy track, where after approximately 100yds / 91m, at the junction with four other gateways our route continues straight ahead, squeezing between the rusty old gate and the stone gate stoop. Cross the next field by following the wall on your left, exiting at the far end through a stile leading out onto Bury Lane, a bridleway which crosses from left to right.

Turn right up Bury Lane following the grassy track as it bears left then right eventually going through two gateways following the surfaced track as you make your way uphill between the houses at the small hamlet of West Morton. Just beyond the houses and not far up the track, lookout for the limestone access track that leads down to Dean Cottage on your left. Here turn left off the tarmac road but do not go down the limestone track, the path you require is to the right of the limestone track, leading off under the trees and vegetation before going over a stile into a field to follow the wall on your left to a gap in the wall at the far end. Through the gap continue following the wall on your left for a short distance down a slight incline to find a stile hidden from view at the bottom left hand corner of the field.

Over this stile the path is straight ahead cutting the corner of the next field to reach a stone squeeze stile which can easily be seen at the far end of the field. Once through turn right along a short section of permissive path across the next field following the fence on your left, exiting at the far end via two large gates out onto a surfaced access road. Turn right and continue straight ahead at the road junction passing Cherry Tree barn on your left and Barn House farm and Grove cottages on your right. At the far end of the buildings go through the stile at the left hand side of the gate into a small farmyard to follow a limestone track downhill as it bears left and crosses the bridge over Howe beck. Across the bridge continue straight ahead the short distance before leaving the track to climb the stile situated between the two field gates. The path now follows the wall on your right, until you reach the stile in the top right hand corner of the field.

Through the stile cross the next field by following the fence line on your left, eventually reaching and going through a narrow squeeze stile on the right hand side of the next gateway. Continue by going straight ahead across the field heading for the next stile which can be seen in the wall ahead. Once through the stile the path follows the wall on your left all the way along the field perimeter to find another stile/ gate at the far end of the field. Go through the stile and continue by following the stone wall now on your right as it bears right to another gate and stile situated below a large electricity pylon. Continue

straight ahead along a very wide path before going through the next stile to the left of a field gate to enter a very narrow walled section of path at the rear of the houses. At the end of this section of narrow path turn left down a flight of stone steps leading through the back yard of a couple of houses and out onto Barley Cote Road. Here cross the road to go down the steps onto a narrow setted path opposite, leading steeply down between the houses crossing Barley Cote Avenue as you continue downhill to its junction at the bottom with Southfield Avenue opposite Carr Lane.

At this point you can cut short the walk and return to Bingley by bus. The bus stop is located at the bottom of Granby Lane on the Old Bradford Road (see map).

Cross Southfield Avenue turning left onto Carr Lane following it to its very end at its junction with Southlands Avenue. Turn right down Southlands Avenue for a short distance onto Hospital Road at the bottom, turning left up Hospital Road towards the old gateway into the former isolation hospital. From here continue straight ahead following the path to the left of the old hospital gates walking with the stone perimeter wall of the former hospital grounds on your right. Continue following this path straight ahead crossing the occasional access road leading to the new houses and eventually crossing Howe Beck for the second time before going through an old stile into the field. Here the path is straight ahead following the fence / wall on your right, along the bottom of the field and the top of the housing estate. At the far end of the field go through a gated stile and along a narrow walled/fenced footpath, eventually emerging through a stile at the junction of Thorneycroft Road, Carr Lane and Swine Lane. Here turn right down Swine Lane following the surfaced path to eventually reach the new footbridge over the Leeds Liverpool canal. Cross the bridge turning right at the opposite side to go down the ramp onto the canal towpath. Turn right along the towpath passing beneath the new footbridge and the old road bridge number 198, to follow the towpath all the way back to your start point, crossing Morton Lane and Micklethwaite Lane to continue following the towpath passing Bingley boatyard and moorings on your left and the Five and Three Rise Locks. Before turning right to cross the footbridge back over the Aire Valley trunk road to return to your start point at Bingley fire station.

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
Countryside and Rights of Way Service
4th Floor, Britannia House, Hall Ings
Bradford BD1 1HX

Tel: 01274 432666
www.bradford.gov.uk/countryside

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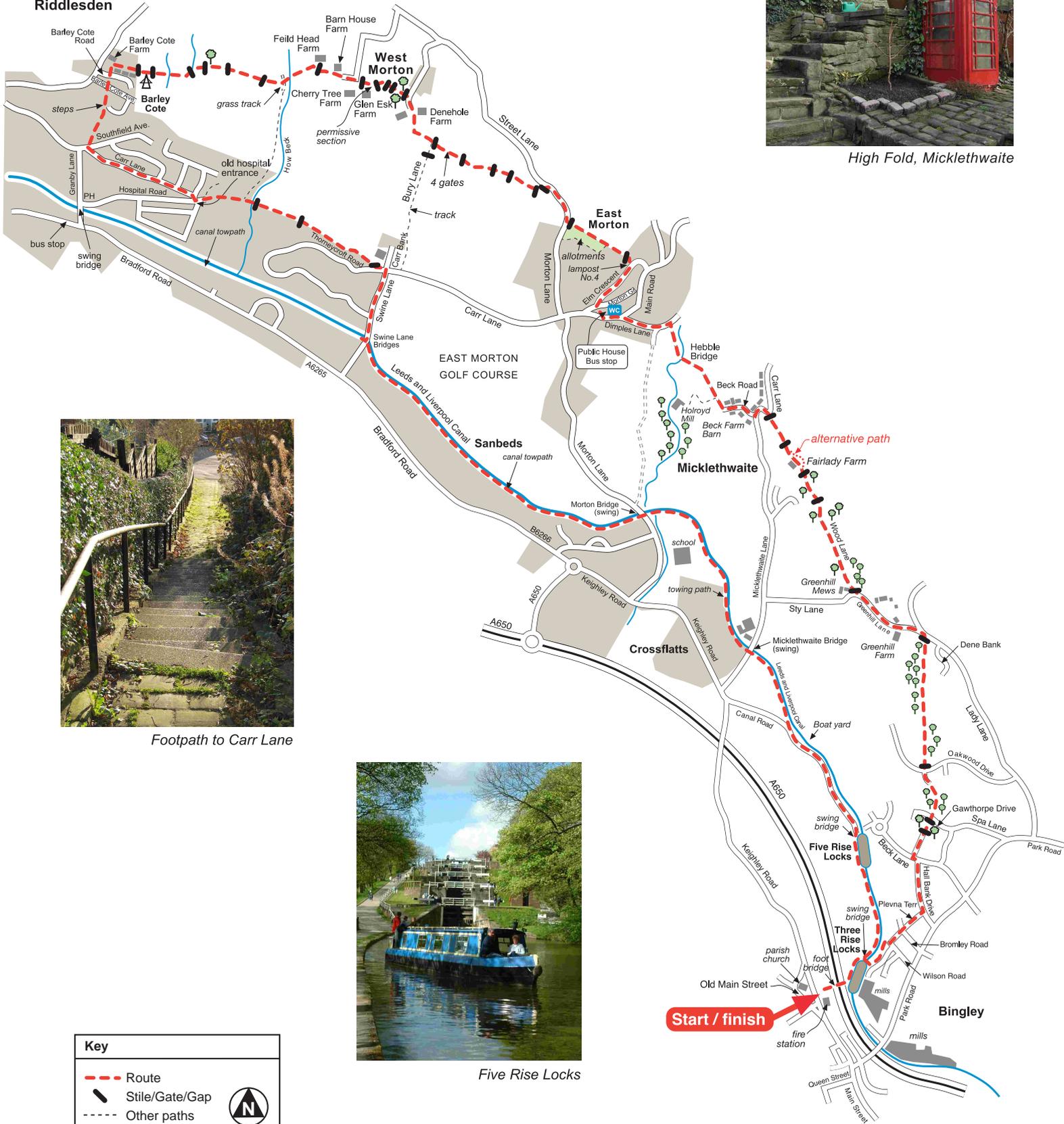
Villages Along the Aire Valley

7 miles (11.26km) circular walk



High Fold, Micklethwaite

Riddlesden



Footpath to Carr Lane



Five Rise Locks

Key

- - - Route
- Stile/Gate/Gap
- - - Other paths

