

Countryside & Rights of Way

Around Keighley Moor



Open Country

A hard circular walk. 6miles (10km)

Walk start point: Morkin Bridge, Slippery Ford, Oakworth (Grid Ref: SE003404).

Public transport: There is no public transport available for this walk.

Car Parking: There is limited unofficial parking on rough ground at the walk start point at Morkin Bridge.

Walk Information:

The first 1³/₄ miles (3km) are relatively easy walking, however the terrain changes dramatically especially between the trig point at Little Wolf Stones and the landmarks of Maw Stones and Hitching Stone to a rough, moorland landscape with peat bogs, deep gruffs and hidden obstacles amongst the long heather. The finish is slightly easier across Intake fields as you near Slippery Ford Lane and Morkin Bridge.

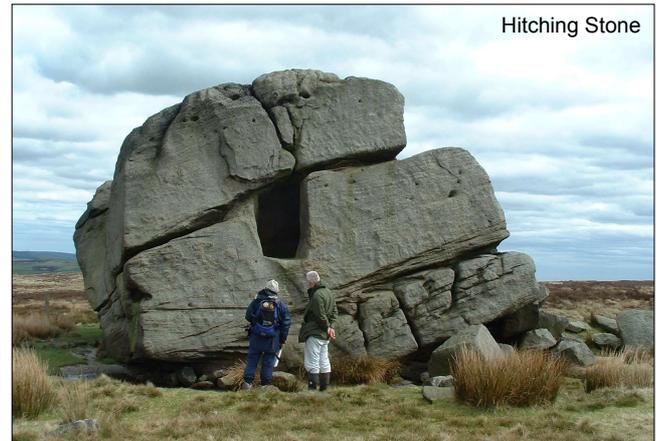
Due to the nature of the terrain the walk is only suitable for fit, regular walkers who should be aware of the potential dangers whilst walking on this type of terrain. It is essential that good wind and waterproof clothing be worn along with strong waterproof walking boots. Plenty of food and drinks are also required along with an OS South Pennines OL21 Explorer map and a compass. A mobile telephone could also 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 time. 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:

Start by going through the gate or over the stile to the rear of the informal parking area at Morkin Bridge, which leads onto the narrow surfaced water board access track to Keighley Moor reservoir. Follow the track uphill for approx. 1 mile (1.6km) until you reach Keighley Moor Reservoir, passing through the gates and in front of the gamekeepers lodge at Higher Intake. On reaching the reservoir turn left across the footbridge and walk along the dam wall embankment to the very far end. Turn right here and follow the obvious vehicle tracks as they head in a south-westerly direction up the slight incline, across the open moorland. Continue straight ahead when you reach the point where some vehicle tracks veer off to the right, to eventually meet the Pennine Way which crosses from left to right at the corner of the dry stone wall near Old Bess Hill.

Turn right to walk in a north-westerly direction, following the well-trodden Pennine Way, where after approx. 1¹/₃ mile (0.5km) near a large natural pond on your right, leave the Pennine Way by turning left up the steep incline and across the rough grass to the trig point at Little Wolf Stone, which can be seen clearly on the skyline ahead. Crossing over an old fence as you go. From the trig point the walking gets difficult so you should ignore any other paths or marker posts and take a compass bearing of 46° to walk in a straight line, in a north-easterly direction for 3¹/₄ mile (1.2km). Following the boundary between the Bradford District and North Yorkshire, cross over the Pennine Way and the very rough moorland to your next destination of Maw Stones, which due to the landscape and in spite of their size cannot be seen until you are upon them. On reaching the Maw Stones your next destination, Hitching Stone, can be seen 1 mile (1.6km) across the moorland in a north-easterly direction, however it is important to take a compass bearing of 22°, as the undulating terrain makes it impossible to see the landmark all the way there.



On reaching Hitching Stone turn right in front of the stone and walk along the well-trodden path, keeping near to the dry stone wall on your left. Follow the line of the wall straight ahead at first then as it bears to the right, eventually reaching an obvious wall corner. Here leave the wall and continue in a straight line in a south-easterly direction of 160° across the rough moorland, down an incline into the clough and across a small stream as you head for the building, which can be seen ahead. Once at the building, walk round to the front to join a grassy track. Follow the track downhill and climb the stile next to the field gate at the opposite end of the building. From here just follow the track across the fields and through a second gate, to walk down a walled track before going through a third gate out onto Slippery Ford Lane, near to Middle Slippery Ford Farm. Turn right down the lane to return to your start point at Morkin Bridge, passing near Slippery Ford Farm along the way.

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
The Countryside & Rights of Way Service
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www.bradford.gov.uk/countryside

