

Goitstock Woods & Harden Beck

2¼ miles (3.5km) Circular walk

A relatively level walk along the valley bottom, walking mainly through woodland on unsurfaced footpaths which are often wet and boggy, including one short section where a handrail has been fitted to assist the walker over a narrow and rocky section. Please take care! This walk is not suitable for pushchairs, wheelchairs and people with restricted mobility.

Walk start point: Harden Beck Bridge, junction of Wilsden Road and Harden Lane, adjacent to the Malt Shovel Public House.

Bus Services: 616 Bradford/Bingley and 727 Keighley/Cullingworth pass the walk start point. Contact Metroline 0113 245 7676 for details.

Car parking is limited to on street parking, please park with care. Although the Malt Shovel has a car park it is limited to patrons only.

The Walk

Start by walking along Goit Stock Lane between the houses and garages, following the sign for Harden and Bingley Caravan Site.

Continue along the lane walking parallel to Harden Beck on your left, all the way to the entrance to the caravan site. On reaching the caravan site follow the road through the site walking between the neatly trimmed hedges to where the site road turns to the right.

Here the route leaves the caravan site by going straight ahead to walk in front of 'The Bungalow' and through the gap in the fence into Goit Stock Wood. Follow the well-defined path through the woodland, again walking parallel with Harden Beck, which is now on the right hand side. Eventually the path starts to narrow down and is strewn with rocks, a handrail has been fitted here to help your passage and great care is required.

Continue along the footpath as it starts a gentle but rocky climb, passing two waterfalls and crossing a railway sleeper bridge. After a short distance you will meet with a bridleway path crossing from left to right. Turn right downhill and across the bridge (Hallas Bridge), which spans Harden Beck, then turn immediately right again

on the opposite side and follow the path a short distance up to the metal railings which can be seen above, and over the stile in to a field.

Cross the field diagonally to the right going uphill to another stile. Climb the stile back into the woodland and follow the well-defined path as it meanders through the trees, eventually reaching a stile in front of a large meadow.

Go through the stile and straight ahead across the meadow, keeping to the left of the row of mature trees in the centre of the meadow before crossing a metal footbridge at the far end.

The path now follows the dry stone wall on the right, uphill and through the stile next to a field gate. Here bear right following the wall on the right to its end, before bearing left across the field towards the Goitstock Mill stone built chimney and the electricity pylon.

As you pass below the chimney the footpath crosses over the chimney flue. Continue along the path for a short distance and go through the stile at the side of the gate to where the path joins a track. Bear left along the track and around the right hand side of a gate to walk in front of a row of cottages (Goit Stock Cottages). Continue along the now tarmaced track to walk around the right hand side of a second gate.

After approximately 125yds (115m), just beyond the first bend look out for a narrow footpath off to the right. Take this path through a small gate walking downhill at first, through thick vegetation and over a small railway sleeper bridge, before bearing right and then left near to the large rocks.

Continue by following the dry stone wall on the left, through a field gate and straight ahead in front of the farmhouse (Ivy House Farm). Just beyond the farmyard bear left on to the farm access track, which you should follow back to the main road from where you started the walk.

Points of Interest Along the Way

Like many valleys in the Bradford District, mills were built during the Industrial Revolution so as to take advantage of the ready supply of running water needed for the water wheels and steam engines.

Along our short walk evidence of three mills can still be found. At the start of the walk on your left on the other side of Harden Beck the former Harden Bridge Mill has now been converted to a printing works.

Further along the route at the caravan site, stood Goitstock Mill, the chimney of which can be seen built into the hillside on the return part of the walk. Towards the end of its life, Goitstock Mill had parts of the building converted for recreational use. Mill machinery was removed to make way for a ballroom and cafe.

Just beyond the half way point of the walk at Hallas Bridge the mill there has been converted for residential use.

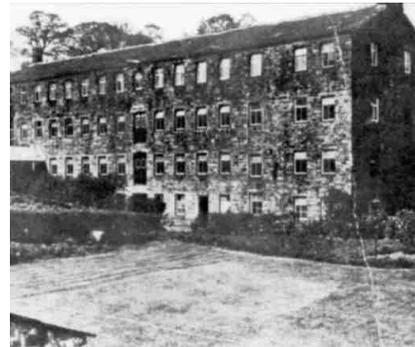
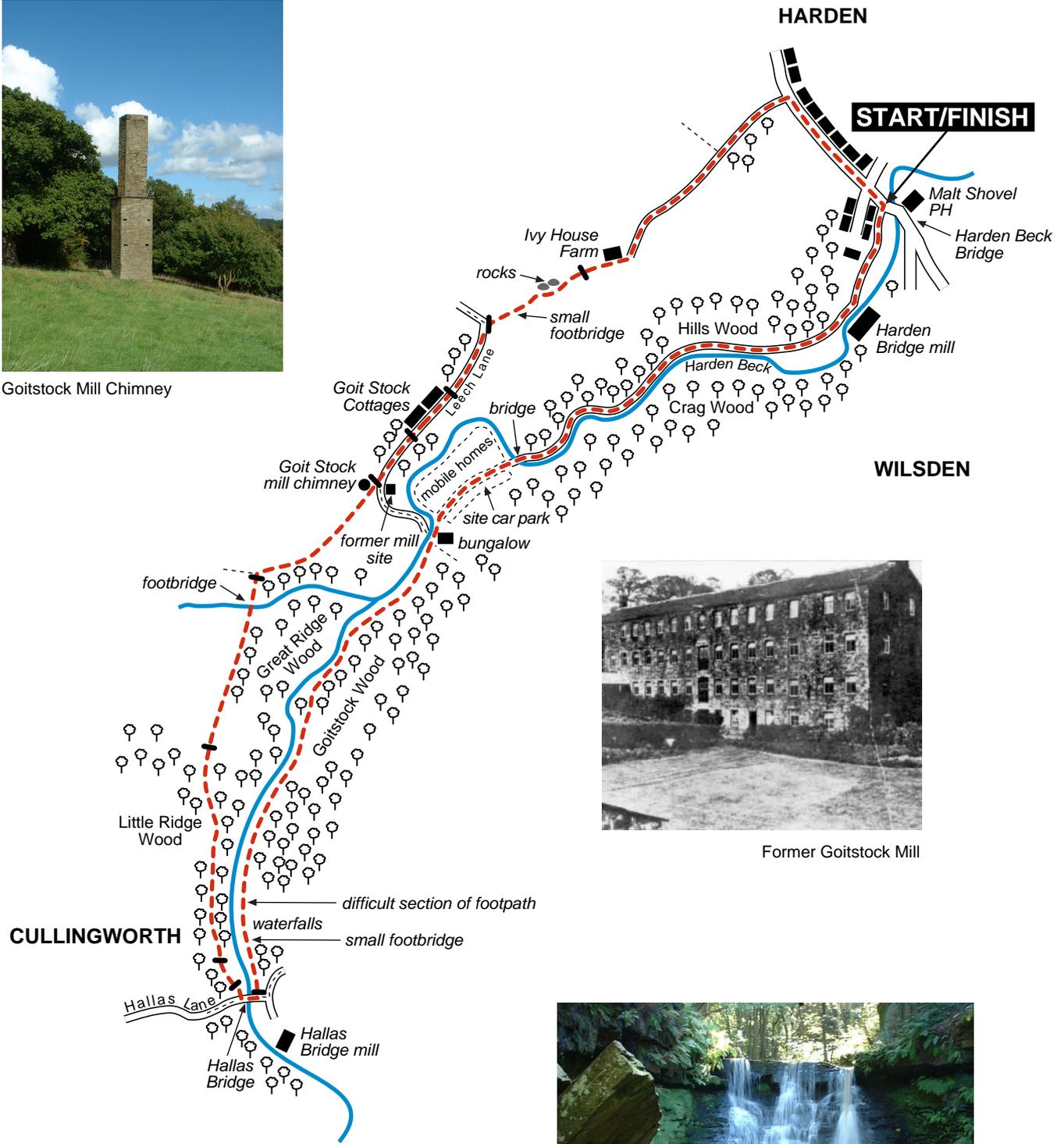
Walking through the woods and along the beck many different species of birds can be seen along with a wide variety of wildflowers.

At the end of your walk the Malt Shovel Public House offers that much needed refreshment.

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Goitstock Mill Chimney



Former Goitstock Mill



Goitstock Waterfalls

| Key | |
|-----|------------|
| | Route |
| | Stile/Gate |
| | Footpaths |
| | |