

Countryside & Rights of Way

Around St Ives Estate

4 miles (6.4km) circular walk

The Route

Although this circular route is only 4 miles (6.4km) the walk involves quite a bit of climbing, most on rough, unmade paths across fields, woodland and moorland. There are also short sections of narrow country lanes and other surfaced roads where great care should be taken especially if walking with children. Most of the walk is on the St Ives Estate, the former home of the Ferrands family and passes by the Coppice Pond, Lady Blantyre's rock and the Ferrands Memorial before leaving the estate to visit Druids Altar with its spectacular views of the Aire Valley.

Information about the Ferrand's Memorial and Lady Blantyre's Rock can be found at their location.

The St Ives Estate is managed by the Parks and Landscape Department of Bradford Council and offers the opportunity for a wide variety of outdoor activities including walking, fishing, archery, golf and a children's play and picnic area. For further information ring: 01274 434826.

Useful Information

Public Transport

Bingley is well served by bus and rail links from the surrounding towns and cities, call Metroline on 0113 245 7676 for full details.

Car Parking

There are several pay and display car parks near the start of the walk.

Walk Start Point

Main entrance to Myrtle Park, adjacent to Bingley Swimming Pool.

Follow the wide surfaced path through the park passing on your right the Bowling Green and the war memorial. Here the path divides, take the path to the left and continue to follow the path as it meanders downhill bearing to the right beneath the trees.

Nearing the bottom of the incline at the junction with another path which joins from the right. Continue down a bit further before taking the first, much narrower path off to the left to cross the footbridge over the River Aire, before walking along the path down the side of the allotments to eventually emerge onto Beckfoot Lane. Turn right along the lane and follow the narrow surfaced road behind Templar Cottage and across Beckfoot footbridge. Once across the bridge, turn right through the narrow stile and then immediately left to follow the dry stone wall for a short distance to a second stile. Go through the stile to rejoin Beckfoot Lane turning right uphill to follow the lane as it bears to the right passing the few houses on the left.

Continue uphill, eventually reaching the Bingley to Harden main road. Cross the main road to go through a wide gap in the stone wall opposite into the St Ives Estate, following the path as it bears left uphill under the trees, where after a short distance you will emerge onto the main St Ives Estate driveway near a small parking area.

Turn right up the drive and cross diagonally to the left and climb the stile in the fence on the lefthand side (opposite the large car park). Follow the well-trodden path straight ahead across the field to a second stile at the side of a gate. Climb the stile to cross the next field to a third stile and gate. Over the stile, cross the field heading for the small gate in the dry stone wall - which can be seen ahead. Go through the gate into the woodland and follow the path as it meanders uphill through the trees to join a wide track, which crosses from left to right. Turn left here and go a short distance towards the old farmhouse buildings. Here, at the junction of several tracks, turn sharp right and follow the track uphill beneath the trees. At the top of the hill at the junction with another track turn left and walk straight ahead and through the gateway, following the track as it bears right uphill out onto the surfaced road.

Here cross over diagonally to the left and through the gap at the side of the gate opposite to follow the path under the trees walking alongside the Coppice Pond.



At the top end of the pond go through the gateway in the dry stone wall and continue to follow the path between the Rhododendron bushes before it starts to bear to the right on its steep climb up to Lady Blantyre's Rock. Nearing the top of the hill in the small clearing in the

woodland leave the main path and turn left up a few steps passing Lady Blantyre's Rock on your left.

Continue up the path and across a short rough rocky section, where after a short distance you will reach a large stone memorial to the Ferrand family. Leave the memorial by taking the path off to the right to walk between the young trees and the bracken, eventually rejoining the wide path we left earlier. Turn left here



and follow the well-trodden path alongside the wall taking great care not to be hit by golf balls as you cross between the fairways. On nearing the top end of the path continue ahead crossing behind golf tee no.9 towards the metal kissing gate, which can be seen in the dry stone wall ahead.

On reaching the gate don't go through it, but turn sharp right and follow the woodland path as it meanders under the trees for quite some distance down to a second kissing gate. Go through the gate and out onto a wide, rough road and turn left to leave the Estate via the gateway out onto Altar Lane. Cross the lane diagonally to the left to find a well trodden path through the vegetation leading the short distance to the rocks, known as Druids Altar. After enjoying the spectacular views of the Aire Valley from the Altar Rock retrace your steps back onto Altar Lane.

Turn left down Altar Lane following the perimeter wall of St Ives Estate all the way downhill to the main Bingley/Harden road. At the road cross carefully to go down the track opposite following it downhill under the trees of Holme House Wood, eventually emerging into a meadow. Cross the meadow bearing slightly to the left, before turning left across the metal bridge which spans the River Aire, back into Myrtle Park. In the park bear left and head towards the large flight of steps which can be seen ahead. Climb the steps and follow the path along the side of the tennis courts to return to your start point at Myrtle Park gates.

Footnote

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

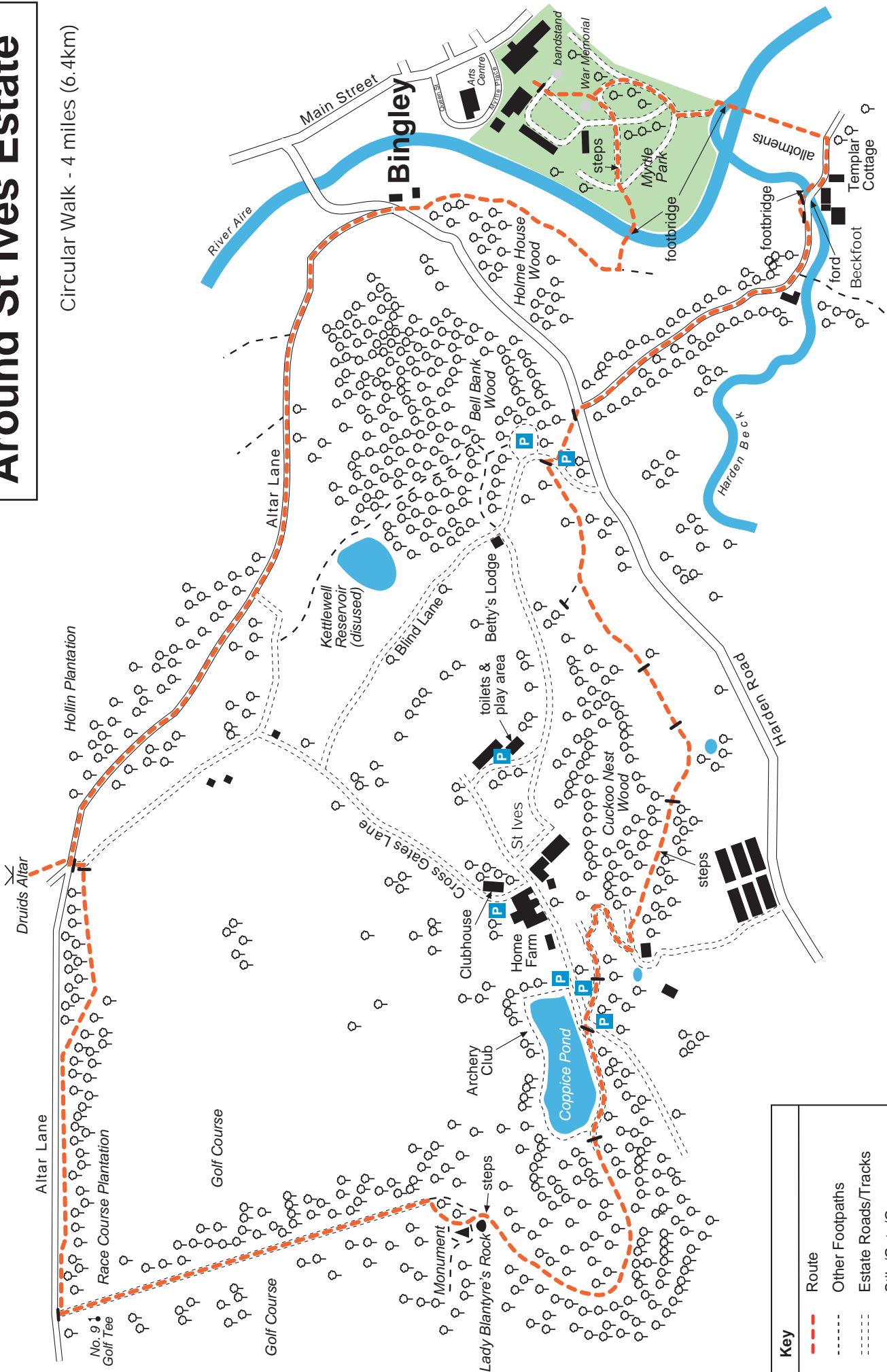
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www.bradford.gov.uk/countryside

April 2010

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Key	
	Route
	Other Footpaths
	Estate Roads/Tracks
	Stile/Gate/Gap
	View Point
	Parking area

