Bradford on Foot

DISCOVER OUR WONDERFUL DISTRICT

WALK NAME

The Bradford Pennine Gateway National Nature Reserve Trail

LOCATION

Ilkley to Haworth

DISTANCE

29.6 km / 18.4 miles

STAGE 1

Ilkley to Saltaire
(12.6 km / 7.8 m)

STAGE 2

Saltaire to Bingley
(4.8 km / 3 m)

STAGE 3

Bingley to Haworth
(12.2 km / 7.6 m)



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Culture Company

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Bradford Pennine Gateway National Nature Reserve

INTRODUCTION

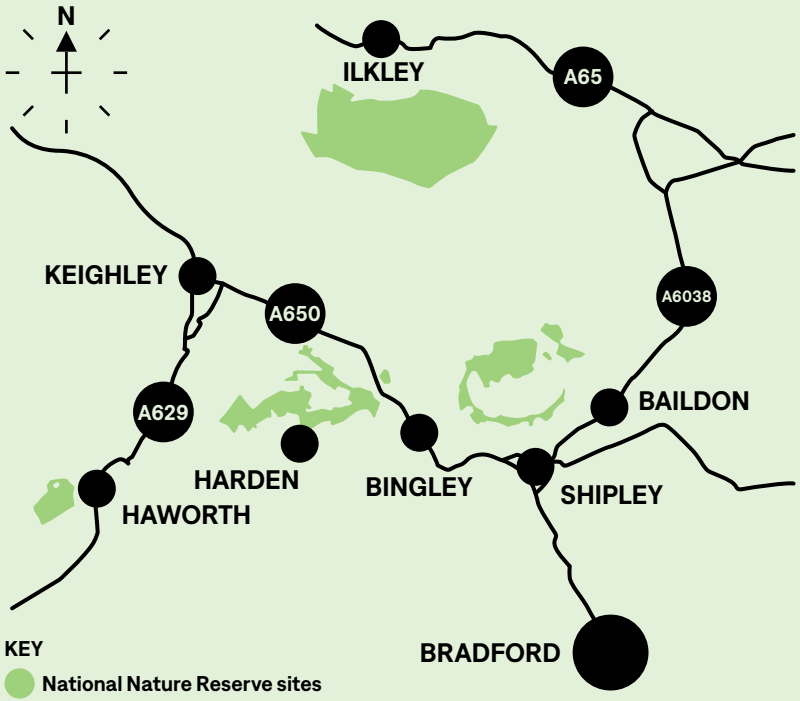
Welcome to The Bradford Pennine Gateway Trail, a 29.6 km / 18.4 miles route from Ilkley to Haworth that connects the eight sites of Bradford's National Nature Reserve.

The trail takes you from the soaring moorlands of Ilkley and Baildon, down into ancient woodlands and rare habitats at Shipley Glen and Trench Meadows. It continues onto the wetlands of Bingley North Bog, through idyllic woods and heathlands on the St Ives Estate and Harden Moor, before finishing at Penistone Hill Country Park above Haworth, to take in the landscape that inspired the Brontë sisters.

Whatever the season, we guarantee big Yorkshire skies, sweeping views, and diverse habitats for rare birds, plants, and wildlife. The Bradford Pennine Gateway Trail is a celebration of these precious places.

The Bradford Pennine Gateway National Nature Reserve

While Bradford is famous for its industrial heritage, historic canal locks, and many woollen mills, two-thirds of the district is actually rural. This unique landscape offers wild moorlands alongside easily accessible countryside right on the doorstep of local communities.



In 2025, during Bradford's landmark year as the UK City of Culture, the government's conservation agency, Natural England, officially designated the Bradford Pennine Gateway as a National Nature Reserve (NNR). As the very first NNR in West Yorkshire, the reserve spans 1,272 hectares across eight key sites: Ilkley Moor, Penistone Hill Country Park, Shipley Glen, Baildon Moor, Trench Meadows, the St Ives Estate, Harden Moor, and Bingley North Bog.

This designation formally recognises these sites for their vital role in providing nature access, supporting wildlife recovery, and fostering community action. Rich in biodiversity, these habitats support migrating birds, insects, amphibians, wildflowers, mosses, and ancient woodlands. By safeguarding these spaces, the reserve combats climate change, reduces flood risks, improves air and water quality, and builds resilience against wildfires—all while providing opportunities for recreation and inspiration for the arts.

All eight sites are managed by Bradford Council, with invaluable support from local Friends groups and conservation charities. Together, local people and local government work side-by-side to learn about, protect, and restore these magical places.

The Trail

The 29.6 km / 18.4 mile Bradford Pennine Gateway Trail is a linear walk, beginning in Ilkley and ending in Haworth. It is described in three stages, taking in clusters of the NNR sites.

The route follows public rights of way, on footpaths and bridleways, with some stretches across open access land, and short sections on public roads when there is no suitable alternative. The NNR sites themselves are mostly publicly accessible, though Trench Meadows and Bingley North Bog have more limited access to protect their fragile habitats.

The terrain is variable and the weather on the moors can be very different from that in the valleys so suitable footwear and clothing should be worn. Access to shops is limited so food and water should be carried with you. Mobile phone reception is generally good across the route but can be patchy around Haworth.

The described route is correct at time of printing, but we advise walkers take the relevant Ordnance Survey Maps (OS 297, 288 & OL21) or the OS mapping app with them to accompany this guidebook in case you get lost! Search Bradford Pennine Gateway Trail GPX.

The trail passes through various types of stiles and gates and is in some places very steep. It is not suitable for prams or wheelchairs. Public toilets can be found, at Ilkley, Saltaire, Bingley, St. Ives and Haworth, though these are sometimes a considerable distance from the route.

With a good level of fitness the trail can be walked in a single day, otherwise it lends itself to three stages which start and end near towns and public transport:

Stage 1 (12.6 km / 7.8 miles)
Ilkley to Saltaire – NNR sites; Ilkley Moor, Baildon Moor, Shipley Glen and Trench Meadows.

Stage 2 (4.8 km / 3 miles)
Saltaire to Bingley – NNR sites; Trench Meadows and Bingley North Bog.

Stage 3 (12.2 km / 7.6 miles)
Bingley to Haworth – NNR sites; St Ives, Harden Moor and Penistone Hill.

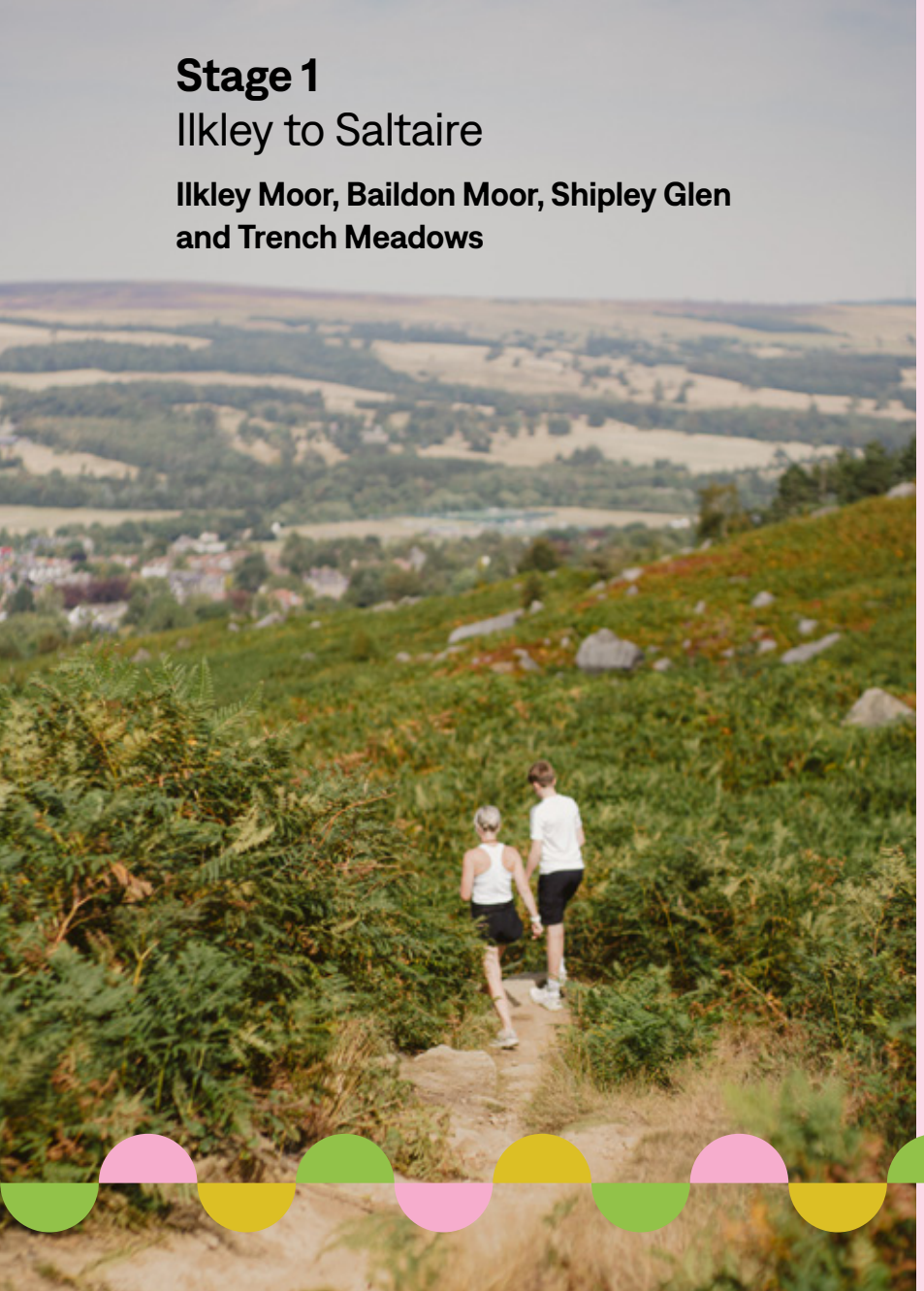
Remember
Please keep dogs on leads in the spring and summer to help protect ground nesting birds, wildlife and livestock. Always pick up your dog's poo. Help reduce risk of wild-fires – strictly no BBQs or camp fires.




Ilkley to Haworth
29.6 km / 18.4 miles
Stage 1 (12.6 km / 7.8 miles)
Ilkley to Saltaire
Ilkley Moor, Baildon Moor, Shipley Glen and Trench Meadows.
Stage 2 (4.8 km / 3 miles)
Saltaire to Bingley
Trench Meadows and Bingley North Bog.
Stage 3 (12.2 km / 7.6 miles)
Bingley to Haworth
St Ives, Harden Moor and Penistone Hill.
KEY
National Nature Reserve sites
Trail route
Road
River / canal
Trainline
Train station
N
ILKLEY
River Wharfe
A65
1
River Aire
A650
KEIGHLEY
Leeds & Liverpool Canal
BINGLEY
3
BAILDON
HARDEN
2
SALTAIRE
A650
SHIPLEY
HAWORTH
END
A629

Stage 1
Ilkley to Saltaire

Ilkley Moor, Baildon Moor, Shipley Glen and Trench Meadows



Ilkley Moor

Covering 676 hectares (or around 500 professional football pitches), Ilkley Moor is the largest site within the Bradford Pennine Gateway NNR.

The area is internationally important for its upland heath, peatland blanket bog and the breeding bird populations that live here, which include golden plover, short-eared owl, merlin, curlew, twite and lapwing. It is part of the South Pennine Moors Special Protection Area and designated and protected as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Significant concentrations of Neolithic carved rocks, recorded and protected as Scheduled Ancient Monuments, can be found across the moor. These include the iconic cup and ring marked rocks plus more elaborate carved stones which can be found on the northern edge of the moor, west of Ilkley.

Ilkley Moor is one of several neighbouring moors, held in a mix of public and private ownership, that together are known as Rombalds Moor. Ilkley Moor is managed to protect its habitats and species. Healthy blanket bogs play a key role in the fight against climate change. They lock up carbon within them and reduce runoff, storing water on the moor for longer.

The Friends of Ilkley Moor work alongside Bradford Council in caring for the moor.

1.1
Starting at Ilkley rail station on Station Road, cross over and head up Wells Road to the junction with Crossbeck Road. Here, cross straight over into the small parking area and through the wooden pedestrian gate that leads to the boating pond. You have now entered Ilkley Moor NNR. Take the stepped path on the left side of the pond and make your way uphill to White Wells Spa Cottage.

The spa pool at White Wells is fed by a spring on the moor. People used to visit and bathe to ward off illness. The restorative effect of the water led to the spa's popularity (at its height in Victorian times) and to the development of hydrotherapy centres, hotels and the railway in Ilkley.



1.2
To the right, behind White Wells, a wide path marked with a Millennium Way finger post, leads further uphill onto the moor and heads towards the crags of Rocky Valley. Follow the path and climb the steep steps, at the top keep following the main path and do not turn left or right along the ridge paths, take the narrow path straight forwards (southwards) towards Backstone Beck, heading towards the top of the moor.

1.3
Drop down into Backstone Beck and cross it, follow the stone flagged path that leads towards the top ridge of the moor. Take care in wet conditions to stay on the flags (even if under water) as the moor on either side can be very boggy. On your left, as you approach the ridge you will see the yellow posts that mark the boundary between Ilkley Moor and Burley Moor.

1.4
Passing the information panel, you will reach the top of the ridge, on the southern boundary of Ilkley Moor. When you cross the line of boundary markers just past the information panel, you have left Ilkley Moor and the NNR.

Ilkley Moor is one of the five moors that collectively make up Rombalds Moor, the large moorland block that lies between Airedale and Wharfedale (the others are Burley, Hawksworth, Bingley and Addingham Moors – all of which are in private ownership).

1.5
Take the wide path straight ahead and you will soon see the Twelve Apostles stone circle on your left – which is on Burley Moor. Follow the main path slightly downhill past the Twelve Apostles and you will see Baildon Moor straight ahead in the middle distance – a brighter green domed hill with occasional trees.

On a clear day you can see for miles, to Leeds, Bradford and to the Ovenden Moor wind turbines above the Calder Valley and to the Emley Moor TV mast. From here there is no major town or city to the north until Glasgow – just the uninterrupted countryside of the Yorkshire Dales, the North Pennines and the Scottish Borders.



1.6
Heading south after about half a mile, the path bends slightly to the right and passes a line of timber grouse butts on the left. At the large stone marker on the right of the path, take a less distinct, narrower path which branches off to the left across the moor. This is part of the Dales High Way which is a higher-level alternative to the well-established Dales Way. If you miss the turn off and head through a gateway in a drystone wall ahead, you have gone too far and should double back to the stone marker.

1.7
Follow this path across the moor, which can be indistinct and muddy in places but aim towards a wall that runs across the route in the distance. You will eventually make out two posts with signs on them in the wall ahead – aim for these and go through the gate in the wall at the signposts.

1.8
Continue following the path slightly left towards a large boulder on the ridge ahead and follow on down the moor with a wall to your left. Ahead you can see Otley Road and Weecher Reservoir, which is where you are heading. Follow the path all the way to emerge onto the Otley Road near Weecher Reservoir.

1.9
Here, turn right and stay on the moor-side of the road following the gravel verge for about 200m and head towards a stone building across the road, until you are opposite the access track down the side of Weecher Reservoir. Cross the road (take care) and follow the tarmac access track (signed Public Bridleway). At the far end of the reservoir, the tarmac road bends to the right but take the unmade track to the left and follow this downhill.

1.10
You will pass alongside a farmhouse which sits below the track to the left and then head round a bend to the right with another property on the right. Just past this, where there is a junction and a choice of going left or right, go left through a metal field gate. This leads past more properties and through Faweather Grange stables then onto Sconce Lane, a partly tarmaced route with grass down its centre, passing Faweather Grange holiday chalets on the left.

1.11
Carry on along Sconce Lane, passing Ash House Cottage and Farm on the right. The next building you see is Sconce scout campsite on the right. Here, go right, through the narrow gap stile next to the main gate, cross the car park in front of the building and head out between the wall and fence to emerge onto Baildon Moor.

Baildon Moor

Baildon Moor is an upland heath supporting an abundance of moorland grasses and birds. Skylark, Curlew, Meadow Pipit, Tree Sparrow and Lapwing all live and nest among the heather, grasses and bilberries. The NNR covers a significant portion of Baildon moor.

There is a long history of industrial, agricultural and recreational activity on the moor. The moor is common land, with rights of access on foot, and a number of the farms on the edges of the moor have grazing rights. In the past, mining on the moor was extensive and bell pits and small quarries can be seen dotted across the hillsides. The moor has also previously been used for military training but today is used for recreational pursuits, with fine views across the district waiting for those who reach the top.





1.12
As you leave the Scout camp turn right to follow the path which runs along the boundary wall (on your right). You will eventually see some timber weekend cabins in the field to the right, keep on along the path round the corner and past more cabins in the adjacent field.

1.13
Just before reaching the second-to-last cabin, a small path heads off to the left and towards a tee (with marker board) – this is the 9th Tee. Head for the path at the front of the tee (a well-defined surfaced track) and follow this for a short distance, then take the left fork and cut straight across the fairway towards the edge of the bracken on the slope beyond. Turn right and follow the edge of the fairway heading to a wide track heading uphill with a stone hut (with two doors) on its right.

1.14
Near the top of the rise, turn sharp left and follow the edge of another fairway (to your right), heading towards a clump of trees on the left. As the path levels next to the trees, pass two marker posts on the right, follow a short, surfaced track and proceed between two greens. Head toward the car park at the side of the Bingley Road, which you will see ahead.

1.15
Leave the car park at the roadside and cross directly over the road, heading straight up a broad grass path that runs up towards the left shoulder of the hill ahead, between bracken beds. This part of moor is included in the NNR. As you reach the top of the rise, you will see the Trig Point and benches on the top of Baildon Hill ahead – the highest point on the moor. Head towards this and you will emerge onto the wide limestone access track to Dobrudden Farm caravan park.

1.16
Here, you have the option to cross the track and walk up to the top of Baildon Hill for some panoramic views across the district, or you can turn right along the track towards Dobrudden Farm.

1.17
If you choose to walk up to Baildon Hill, on reaching the Trig Point, head west (to the right) and descend back down onto the access track to Dobrudden Farm.

1.18
If you chose to stay on the access track rather than climb up Baildon Hill, you will soon pass a rocky outcrop on your right – Some people think this rocky outcrop is the remains of an ancient meteor. It isn't, it's a clinker pile, a remnant of the historic mining, smelting and industrial activity that took place on the Moor.

1.19
Just past the rocky outcrop, and before reaching the entrance to Dobrudden Farm, a path heads off the main track to the right and leads towards the right-hand corner of the boundary wall around the caravan park (there's a boulder at the side of the track where the path leaves the track). Follow this path to the wall corner next to a bench.

1.20
At the wall corner, follow the Public Bridleways sign pointing to Shipley Glen and walk alongside the wall to its bottom corner. About halfway along this wall is a Neolithic carved rock standing upright which was found on the moor and moved to the wallside.

1.21
At the bottom corner of the caravan park, head slightly left and take the path ahead which leads through bracken and down the slope. You will see the wooded Shipley Glen down in the valley below. Head for the field boundary in the distance adjacent to Glen Road. As you move down the slope you will cross the tarmac road leading to Crook Farm caravan park, go directly over this road and head downhill towards a footpath sign at the field corner on the Glen roadside.



Shipley Glen

Shipley Glen is a steep glacial valley, with Lode Pit Beck running through it. The glen contains ancient semi-natural woodland (mainly oak, beech and birch) and has evidence of medieval charcoal burning on platforms dug into the wooded slopes.

In Victorian times Shipley Glen was a popular destination for local people to visit, attracted by funfairs, aerial glides and toboggan runs. The attractions have long gone, but the historic Shipley Glen Tramway, run by volunteers, still operates today transporting people from Roberts Park up to the glen.

Bracken Hall Countryside Centre, above the glen on Glen Rd, is well worth a visit. It has a permanent exhibition about the natural and human history of the area and hosts regular nature-based activities and events.



1.22
As you reach Glen Road, cross over and turn left, following the open Glen top past the WWII Tank Trap opposite the wall corner (which looks like a wide ditch). Keep along the top of the Glen with the wooded valley to your right. Eventually you will pass through a parking area and beyond that, the Glen top narrows and the path heads down a slight dip and up again.

1.23
Just past this dip, carry on along the open Glen top, passing Bracken Hall Countryside Centre (worth a visit). Keep going past Bracken Hall, with Glen Road on your left and you will see a small car park with a tea room and pub (The Old Glen House) just beyond. Head towards the pub and just before it, turn right down a walled bridleway that runs down the side of the pub and into the wooded Glen. Follow this all the way down, and eventually Trench Meadows open out on either side of the bridleway.

1.24
Follow the bridleway to its junction with Higher Coach Road.

Trench Meadows

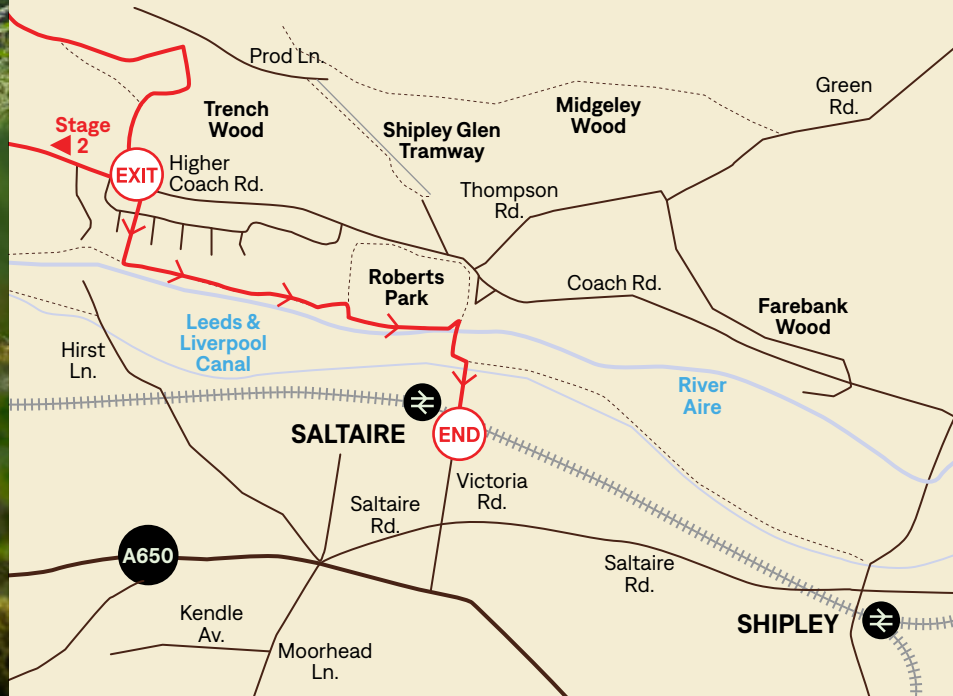
Trench Meadows lie at the bottom end of Shipley Glen. The 4.7 hectares of lowland meadow sit either side of the bridleway and are designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Grasses and wildflowers on the site include Red Fescue, Sweet Vernal and Crested Dog's-Tail, Herb Black Knapweed, Bird's-Foot Trefoil and Devil's Bit Scabious. Public access to Trench Meadows has been restricted to protect this nationally rare habitat.

Exit Stage 1

You can choose to finish the walk at the end of Stage 1 or continue on to Stage 2.

If you wish to end the walk, head across Higher Coach Road and forward between the houses down towards the river. Turn left on the riverside path and continue to Roberts Park. Cross the river via the footbridge, then turn left onto Victoria Road and into Saltaire where you will find public transport.

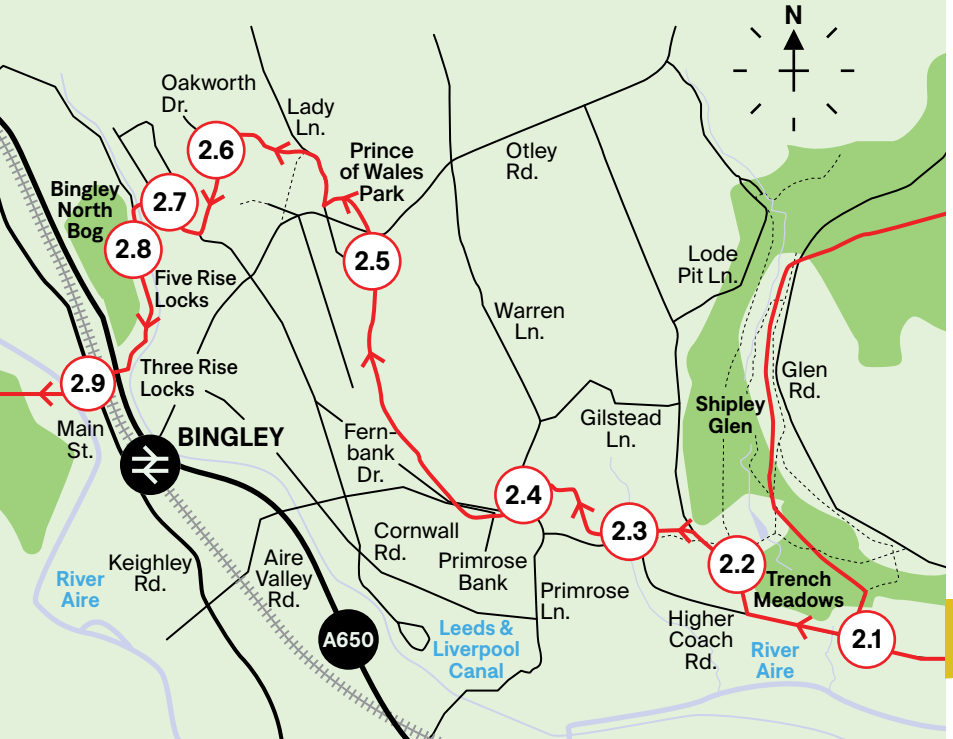
Alternatively, to carry on the trail, continue to 2.1.



Stage 2
Saltaire to Bingley

Trench Meadows and Bingley North Bog

If you are starting this stage of the walk from Saltaire, take the riverside path through Roberts Park, continue to the next footbridge over the river. Do not re-cross the river but instead turn right and make your way up through the estate over Glenwood Road and on to Higher Coach Road. Pause to take in Trench Meadows and then continue with the route.



2.1
At the bottom of the bridleway that runs through Trench Meadows you join Higher Coach Road – which was the driveway leading towards Milner Field, once the home of Titus Salt Jr, whose father founded Salts Mill and Saltaire village. Turn right and follow the lane which becomes a wide rough track with hedges on either side. At the top of the lane is a gateway into the grounds of Milner Field with large stone pillars. Do not go through the gateway but turn right up a narrower track which leads back uphill towards Shipley Glen.

2.2
Pass through the rather elaborate metal kissing gate and turn left along the bridleway at the top with stone setts down the centre. Follow this uphill and once it levels out, take the path to the left, through two stone stoops and down the narrow walled path signposted Sparable Lane / Gilstead.

2.3
Follow this downhill into a dip crossing a small beck, and uphill again until it levels out. Here the route passes alongside the remnants of Milner Field's kitchen garden, with surviving espaliered fruit trees along the boundary wall. The route turns sharp left and eventually emerges onto Primrose Lane in Gilstead.

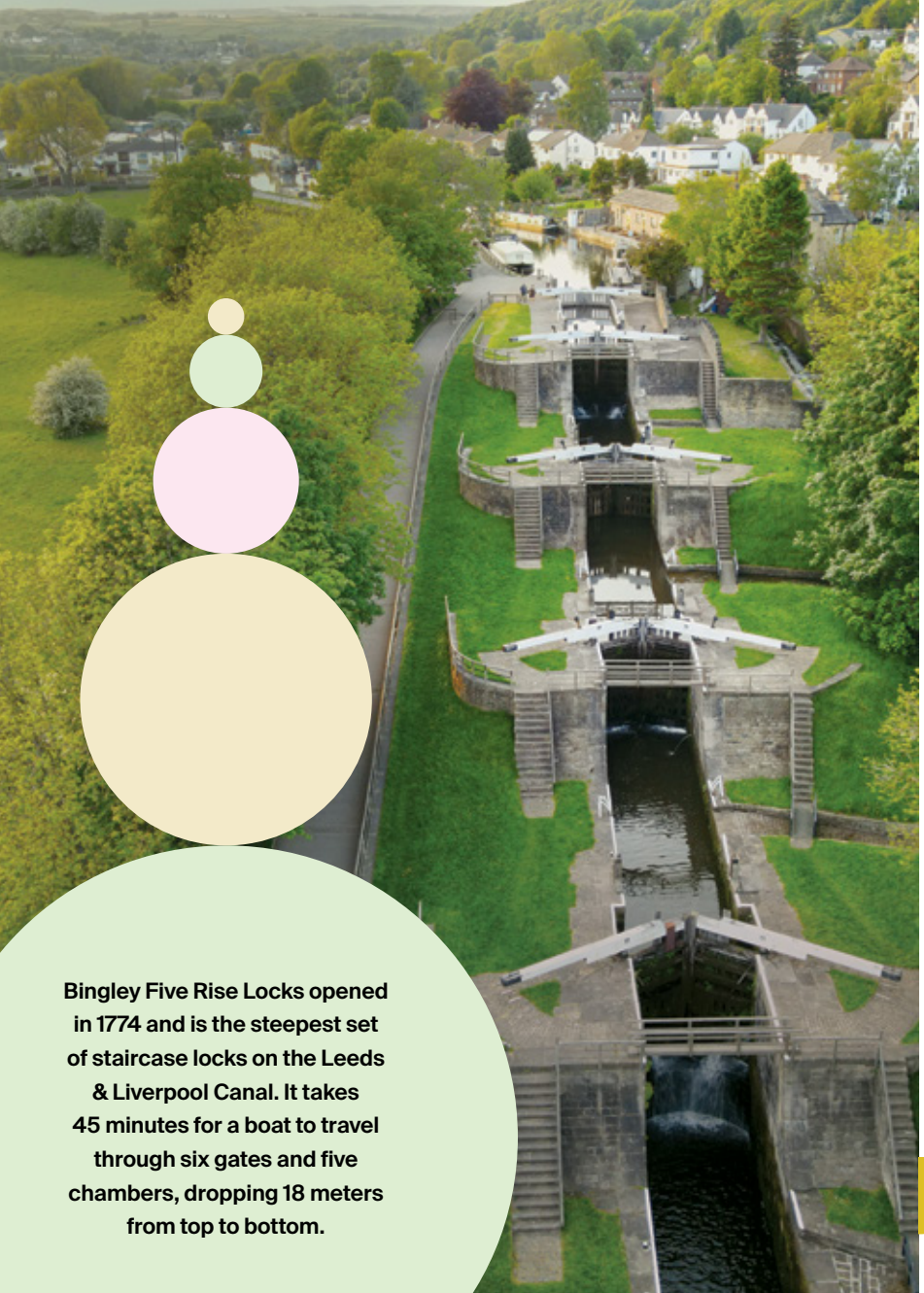
2.4
Cross Primrose Lane and turn right uphill to join Gilstead Lane. At the junction, turn left passing St Wilfrid's church and head round the bend towards Pendle Road on the right. Turn onto Pendle Road and then first left along Rombalds Drive. At the end of Rombalds Drive head through the vehicle barrier onto Gilstead Moor Edge, once part of the Yorkshire Water estate. Follow the path past old disused stone buildings and keep left along the top of the steeply wooded slope. Eventually the path merges with a bridleway that runs alongside the gardens below.

2.5
Continue along the track until it emerges onto Park Road opposite Prince of Wales Park. Here, you can either turn left downhill and then first right onto Lady Lane; or you can cross Park Road and head into Prince of Wales Park, making your way through it towards the exit onto Lady Lane.

2.6
Head along Lady Lane to its junction (on the left) with Oakwood Drive – ignoring the Public Footpath sign just before. Turn down Oakwood Drive and follow it round until you see a left turn down Pinedale. At the bottom end of Pinedale a narrow footpath runs between the houses (numbers 10 and 12). Follow this path and cross the road (Gawthorpe Drive) to continue down the steps to the kissing gate where it emerges onto a narrow tarmac lane between houses. Continue to the end and turn right onto Beck Lane.



The mansion at Milner Field, originally built for Titus Salt Jr in 1872, became known as a cursed house after a succession of owners met early deaths or suffered family tragedies. The mansion eventually fell into ruin and was demolished in the 1950s.



Bingley Five Rise Locks opened in 1774 and is the steepest set of staircase locks on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal. It takes 45 minutes for a boat to travel through six gates and five chambers, dropping 18 meters from top to bottom.

2.7
Passing Beck Lane allotments on the left, keep going to the small roundabout and turn left downhill to the swing bridge across the Leeds & Liverpool Canal, at the top of the famous Five Rise Locks.

2.8
Cross over the canal and turn left down the towpath to the bottom of the locks. At the bottom of the locks on the right is a wooden gate into Bingley North Bog.

2.9
Go through the gate and turn left to follow the path that runs alongside the Bog. Visit the bird hide, off to the right, before continuing upslope back onto the canal towpath at the top of Three Rise Locks. Head down the locks on the towpath and turn right onto the footbridge that crosses over the busy Bingley Relief Road and railway line, emerging on Bingley Main Street opposite the Parish Church.

Exit Stage 2

To finish the walk at this point, turn left on Bingley Main Street for bus stops and the train station. Alternatively, to carry on the trail, continue to 3.1.



Bingley North Bog

Sandwiched between the busy A650 Road and the Leeds & Liverpool Canal, at the foot of the famous Five Rise Locks, Bingley North Bog is one of the smaller sites within the NNR. Formed from glacial activity, the area became waterlogged and developed into a wet mire. The site supports a wide range of insects, birds and amphibians, including dragonflies, damselflies, frogs, toads, and bats. The Canal and River Trust have identified Mallard, Grey Heron, Canada Geese, Moorhen and Kingfisher as birds you might spot around the bog. Bradford Ornithological Group have also spotted Blackcap, Chiff-Chaff and Reed Bunting.

Don't be concerned if you see cattle grazing in the reserve. They are temporary visitors helping to manage the site for wildlife. The cattle help wildflowers to grow through the grasses.

Bingley North Bog is undergoing restoration work, supported by Aire Rivers Trust and by the Dawoodi Bohra community, that has included hedge laying, tree planting and a new bird hide overlooking the wetland.

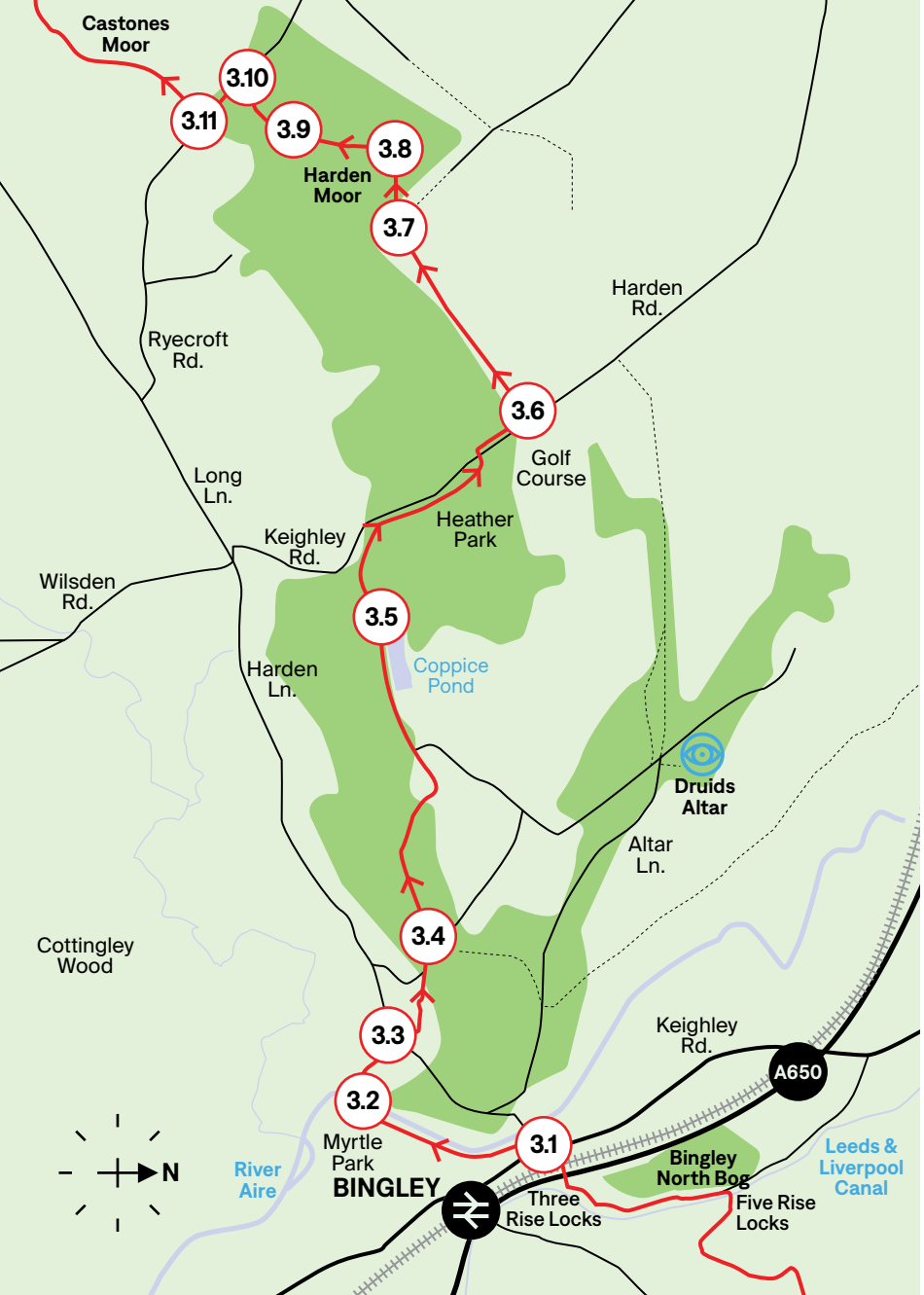


Stage 3
Bingley to Haworth

St Ives Estate, Harden Moor and Penistone Hill Country Park

If you are starting this stage of the walk from Bingley, enter Myrtle Park via Myrtle Place and head down to the bottom of the park by the river or walk along Main Street to the fire station and continue with the route below.

3.1
From Bingley Main Street, cross the road at the fire station. Head downhill onto Harden Road / Millgate, passing the Old White Horse pub on the right and head towards Ireland Bridge over the River Aire. Do not go onto the bridge, but take the public footpath on the left, Riverside Walk and Myrtle Park, and follow the path along the river.



3.2
The path eventually emerges onto the open meadow area in Myrtle Park. Keep right alongside the river then cross using the metal footbridge. Once over the river, head straight forward into the woodland and up the stepped path. Go left then right and carry on up the stepped path which levels out through the woodland to emerge onto Harden Road. Directly opposite, across the road, is a gap and a path leading into St Ives Estate. Be careful crossing the road.

3.3
Having crossed the road follow the path leading to the right uphill quite steeply through the woodland and head towards the drystone wall above. Near the top of the wood, turn left and, keeping the wall on your right (don't veer off on to paths on the left), until you reach the small gateway through the wall which leads across a track and into the large car park. Head diagonally across the car park to the far-left hand corner and head through the A-frame, turning left and following the path which runs parallel with the main access driveway.



St Ives Estate

Once the home of the Ferrand (or Busfeild-Ferrand) family, St Ives Estate was bought by Bradford Council in 1929 and is now free for everyone to enjoy. The 217 hectare estate features a wide range of habitats as well as an adventure playground, Bingley St Ives Golf Club, a café, the old Mansion House and Home Farm buildings. The NNR areas include grasslands (managed through conservation grazing), woodlands, heathland and Coppice Pond, along with its associated wetland, which is home to a small but important population of White-Clawed Crayfish.

Management of the NNR at St. Ives aims to enhance biodiversity value. Recent widespread Rhododendron and Larch tree clearance, to combat the spread of disease, resulted in the opportunity to re-plant with native deciduous tree species.

The estate is supported by the Friends of St Ives, an active group with a Practical Task team who work to restore, plant and make improvements to the site.

3.4
After a short distance, go through the gate as the path drops back onto the access road, past Betty's Lodge on the right and then back off the access road (signed Play Area) along the path for a while until you walk past the children's play area. Head to the right through the small car park and round the corner to the right. Turn left to follow the access road alongside the golf course fence and passing a turn to the Club House on the right. Carry straight on passing along the farm buildings and past the small café. The golf course, play area and farm and café buildings are not included in the NNR. Continue along the walled road past the café and then branch slightly right through the gate and along the edge of Coppice Pond.

3.5
At the far end of Coppice Pond, follow the broad main path through the woodland straight ahead. With the Estate boundary wall in sight straight ahead, the path curves uphill to the right, but follow the branch to the left, past the wooden bench, heading closer to the boundary wall. Turn right and follow this path uphill alongside the boundary wall. After the path levels off, continue for several hundred metres until you see a timber walk through frame. Walk through this and turn left via the gap in the boundary wall and exit onto Keighley Road. Cross the road (take care) and head for the gap straight opposite.

3.6
Once across the road, go through the gap in the wall opposite, you are now on Harden Moor. Turn immediately right to follow the well-defined path alongside the boundary wall and parallel with the road. When this path joins another at a T-junction, turn left and follow the path along the northern boundary of the moor, keeping the stone wall on your right.

3.7
Follow this along its length, keep going and keep to the right until you eventually drop down through some trees and onto a stone causeway across the head of Deep Cliff Wood. Carry on up the slope and stay on the path with the wall to your right and the fence line to your left.

3.8
Eventually, the path reaches a corner and turns right around the boundary wall. Ignore the stile to your left and just around the corner, turn off the path and go through a metal kissing gate on your left, heading uphill towards a rocky outcrop. As the path levels out at the rocks, you will see a phone mast ahead. Follow the path towards the mast, which soon swings left down a slight slope on the open moor.

3.9
As the path levels off it crosses a wide track surfaced with old flag stones. Take the flagged route to the left heading towards a wooded area. Many people mistakenly think this is a Roman road, but it was a track that served the quarries on the edge of the moor – the grooves in the flags were worn by years of use by horse and cart.

3.10
Soon, this path curves right, but here, take the branch ahead of you and slightly to the left between some young Birch trees. Follow this path, keeping right into an open area with quarry mounds on the left and eventually passing alongside a deep quarry hole on the left. Stay on this path and follow it, with a fenceline to the left, keeping left all the way to the edge of the moor and out via the gate, onto Ryecroft Road.





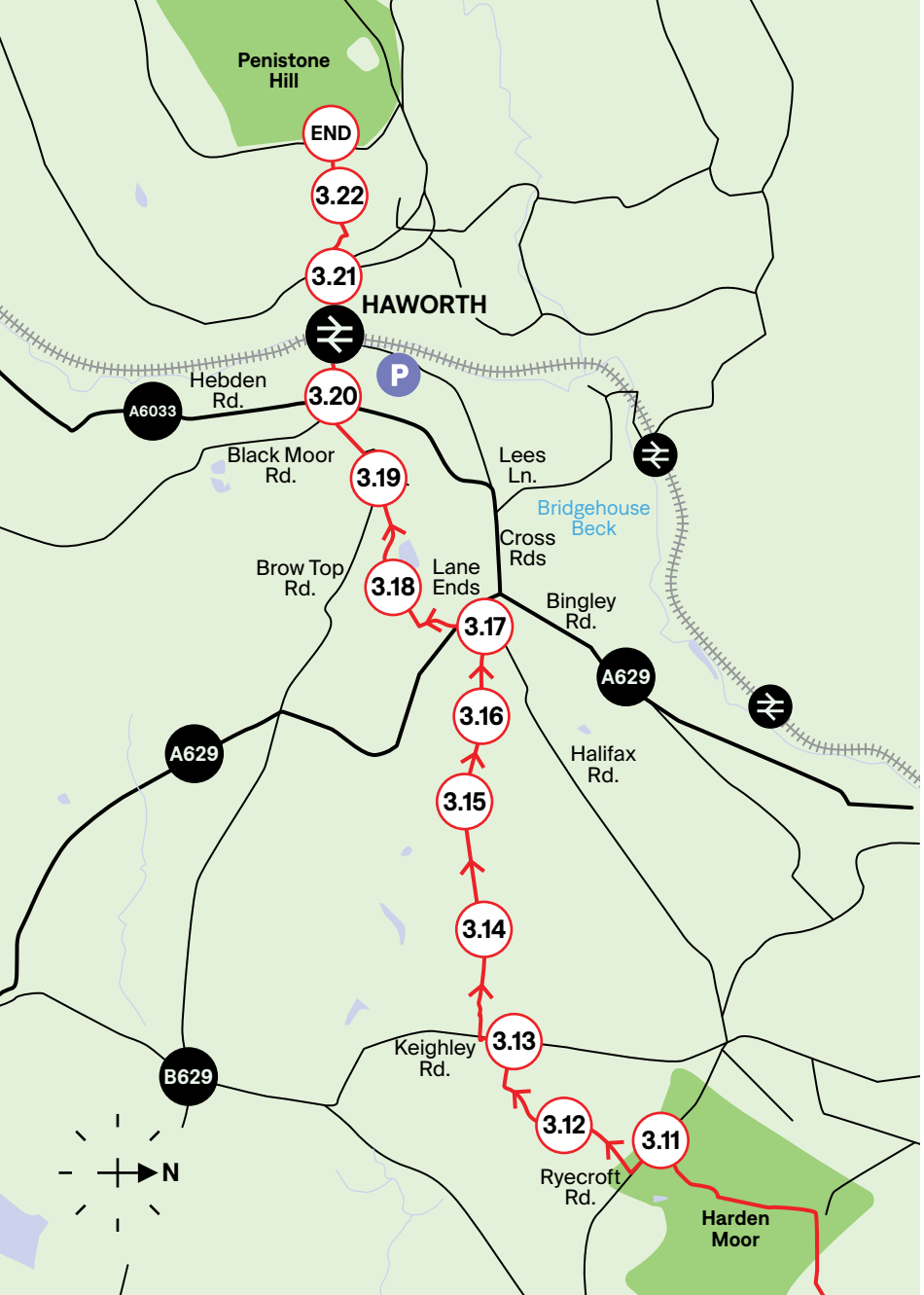


Harden Moor

Harden Moor is a dry heath alongside mixed woodland. The dry, sandy nature of the underlying soil and geology make the moor an ideal habitat for bees and wasps, spiders, flies, grasshoppers and other diverse invertebrates. Harden Moor is an important site for the Tormentil Mining Bee, which lives in burrows underground and whose population is in decline. On the southern boundary of the moor, abandoned quarry workings have re-naturalised creating niche habitats for heathers, ferns and bilberry plants.

The moor is classified as open country with a right to roam on foot over the area. However, off-lead dogs are increasingly disturbing the ground nesting birds, leading to a reduction in bird populations. If you are walking this trail with your dog, please stick to the footpaths and keep your four-legged friend under control.

Management of Harden Moor includes re-wetting; managing water flow along the extensive path network to deflect water back onto the moor. Leaky dams have also been installed in the beck which runs through Deep Cliff Wood to reduce peak flood flows into Harden Beck and ultimately the River Aire.



3.11
Emerging from Harden Moor onto Ryecroft Road, take good care as you turn left and follow the road downhill for a few hundred metres until you see the public footpath sign (Keighley Road) on the right, leading through a pedestrian gate onto Catstones Moor. Go through the gate and follow the path ahead alongside the wall boundary.

3.12
Soon the wall swings away to the left but stay straight on through a semi-wooded area, follow the path as it heads downhill and curves to the right around a disused quarry. Continue on downhill, curving left around the quarry and eventually dropping down onto a broad walled lane (Dolphin Lane) which is a bridleway and leads out onto Keighley Road to the right.

3.13
At Keighley Road, turn left and head down the road to the public footpath through a gate on the right, which heads along a grassy walled lane, dropping downhill into a wooded valley and up the other side. Keep on the path at the field edge following the wall on the right and passing alongside Highcliffe Farm to the right.

3.14
Head out of the field through a small gate and onto a broad track leading to properties ahead (Cliffe View). Carry on past them (don't turn right) to join the public bridleway near Cliffe House. Here, follow the long tarmac track to the right, uphill alongside the now fully restored Sugden End Tip on the left.

3.15
As you reach the top of the rise, there is a fine view of Haworth straight ahead, with the Parish Church clearly visible in the middle distance. Slightly to the left, you can see the raised block of moorland which is Penistone Hill, the final destination.



Beyond Haworth lie the Brontë Moors (Haworth Moor, Stanbury Moor, Keighley Moor) and, in a dip just below the far horizon, slightly to the left, you can see the sycamore tree that stands alongside Top Withens – the location that some say, inspired Wuthering Heights.

3.16
As the track swings to the right past some newly built properties, take the public footpath (Senior Way) to the left and follow it downhill. This eventually turns right into a narrow walled alley with stone setts and emerges onto Bingley Road at Barcroft. Turn immediately left and follow the short road downhill onto the A629 Halifax Road.

3.17
Cross over Halifax Road towards the sign saying Hardgate Lane, and follow the track to the left, curving round to the right, then the left. As the lane runs alongside a property on the left, take the public footpath on the right opposite the house, through a narrow stone stile and along the field boundary at the bottom of a steep slope. Follow the path along the wall (don't turn off it) until it enters a wooded area via a narrow gap in the wall, and climbs slightly uphill across a heather-clad bank.

3.18
Keeping the valley on your right, the path crosses over a broken-down stone wall and carries on, to the right down in the valley you may see a small reservoir behind the trees. Take good care along this section as the path is indistinct, quite narrow and uneven. Carry on uphill towards a phone mast which should be visible ahead. Soon a car park appears on the right and the path passes the base of the phone mast on the left. Here, you will emerge and walk ahead onto a tarmac track (not towards the car park), which goes uphill briefly until you emerge onto Brow Top Road.

3.19
Turn right and head downhill along Brow Top Rd to its junction with Hebden Bridge Road. Go straight across and head steeply downhill on Brow Road, curving sharply left and on downhill to the mini roundabout on Bridgehouse Lane. Go left over the railway bridge passing the war memorial on your left (look out for the steam trains as you cross over the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway on the road bridge). Carry on uphill with Central Park to your right.

Keighley and Worth Valley Railway opened in 1867 and was built to connect the mills and villages of the Worth Valley to nearby Keighley. Today, the heritage railway is managed and operated by skilled and dedicated volunteers. The line achieved global fame as the backdrop to the 1970 film The Railway Children.



3.20
At the top of the hill curve right in front of Haworth Old Hall and on to the stone setts of Main Street. A very short distance up Main Street, on the left, look for a gap between the houses (numbers 3/5 and the physio practice). Head up this alleyway along the surfaced path, through the car park of the Old Hall, carry on up the steps on the right to emerge on the access track of Brontë Village car park.

3.21
Turn right and follow the access track (consistently signed Way Out for drivers) uphill to the upper parking levels. Keep going until you reach the uppermost parking level and instead of turning right into the parking area, turn left and leave the car park through a gap next to the timber field gate. You will emerge onto Balcony Lane, which leads straight uphill, signed Top Withens, Brontë Way. At the top of the lane you will emerge onto Dimples Lane with Penistone Hill, your destination straight ahead across the road.

3.22
Cross over Dimples Lane and continue up the Brontë Way. Turn left over the short plank footbridge and head up the hill. At the top take the path on the right and follow it to the trig point and the end of the walk!

To return to Haworth re-trace your steps to the Dimples Lane and cross straight over. Follow the lane to the bottom and either, turn left to go to the church and Brontë Parsonage Museum, or continue retracing your steps to the bottom of Main Street.

Penistone Hill

The NNR Trail ends here at Penistone Hill, an area of common land, owned by Yorkshire Water and leased into the care of Bradford Council.

The main habitats at Penistone are moorland grasses and heaths with occasional wet areas and ponds. Like other moorland sites in its ownership, Bradford Council aims to maximise re-wetting and carbon capture possibilities by managing the site in ways that re-direct water flow, reduce sediment run-off and encourage peat development.

There is considerable geological interest on the hill with exposed Carboniferous bedding and fossil plants – meriting its own geology trail.

The area has a long history of human intervention, with gritstone excavated from the site providing the building material for local settlements. The distinctive hollows and mounds of the old quarries can still be seen, now revegetated and naturalised.

Penistone Hill sits between the Brontë Moors to the west and Haworth village to the east. It is easily accessible, making it an ideal launch point for exploring the sites and history associated with the Brontë family, including: Top Withens, Penistone Crag, Brontë Falls and, of course, Haworth Parish Church and the Brontë Parsonage Museum.



Get involved

You can help care for the Bradford Pennine Gateway NNR through one of these local organisations:

Ilkley Moor

Friends of Ilkley Moor
ilkleymoor.org

Baildon Moor, Shipley Glen and Trench Meadows

Bracken Hall Countryside Centre
baildontowncouncil.gov.uk/
bracken-hall-countryside-centre

Bingley North Bog

Aire Rivers Trust
aireriverstrust.org.uk

St Ives Estate

Friends of St Ives
friendsofstives.co.uk

Explore more of the Bradford district by joining a local walking group:

Baildon Walkers Are Welcome
baildonwalkersarewelcome.org

Bingley Walkers Are Welcome
bingleywalkersarewelcome.org.uk

Burley Walkers Are Welcome
waw-burleyinwharfedale.org

Ilkley Walkers Are Welcome
discoverilkley.co.uk/walkers-are-welcome

Bradford CHA
bradfordwalking.org

Long Distance Walkers Association – West Yorkshire
ldwa.org.uk/westyorkshire

Bradford Ramblers
bradfordramblers.org.uk



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For other walks in the series search for Bradford On Foot at bradfordculture.co.uk

Bradford Culture Company

Bradford Culture Company is the charity which delivered Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture – a huge year-long celebration of the city and district. Through a programme of more than 5,000 events, creative education programmes, investment into buildings and organisations across the local sector, it has helped lay the foundations for the long-term transformation of the district.

