

Countryside & Rights of Way

Micklethwaite and the Three and Five Rise Locks

3½ miles (5.6km) Circular walk



Leeds and Liverpool Canal near Crossflatts

Start Point:

Bingley fire station, at the junction of the A6265 Keighley Road with Bingley Main Street and the B6429 Harden Road.

Walk Information

An urban walk on the fringe of the countryside with lots of interest. The walk starts with a climb for the first mile or so out of the valley bottom to the highest point on Lady Lane. Then it's downhill or level as you make your way round the route via the typical Dales village of Micklethwaite, finishing along the towpath of the Leeds Liverpool canal. There are no public toilets or shops along the route although there is a café at the Five Rise Locks as you near the end of the walk. Due to the very nature of the countryside this walk is not suitable for wheelchairs, pushchairs and people with limited mobility.

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 Metrolink on 0113 245 7676..

Car Parking

Limited on street parking along the A6265 Keighley Road adjacent to Bingley Parish Church, with a pay and display car park 150yds (137m) from the walk start point.

The Walk 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 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 right hand 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 and 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 follow the top 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 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 sharp right off Carr Lane to go down Beck Lane, walking along side of Micklethwaite Methodist Church. Just beyond the church building where Beck Road turns right, leave Beck Road by turning sharp left in front of the gate leading into Rose Cottage, to go through the gateway on your left to follow the stone paved vehicle tracks the short distance downhill onto the stone setted road at the bottom. Follow the stone setted road as it bears to the right to a gateway with a stile; through the gate continue along the track by again following the stone paved vehicle tracks to the next gate and stile which will lead you into a field. The footpath now follows the wall on your left downhill to a stile at the bottom left hand corner of the field. Climb the stile; turning right on the opposite side to follow the fence line on your right for approximately 100yds (91m) until you almost reach the wooden electricity pole which can be seen ahead. Here the path divides, our route is left and through the stone squeeze stile down into a field, to follow the well trodden path down the right hand side of the field boundary to find a stile at the bottom right hand corner. Climb the stile and turn immediately left to walk along the woodland path with Morton Beck on your right.

Eventually the path turns sharp right down a grassy bank leading to a bridge over Morton Beck. Cross the bridge to follow the footpath straight ahead walking parallel with

the stone wall on your right for the short distance to where our path joins a surfaced path which crosses from left to right. Turn left along the surfaced path climbing the steps at the far end leading out onto Morton Lane. Turn left down Morton Lane and across the canal swing bridge before turning left on the opposite side of the bridge onto the Leeds Liverpool canal towpath. Walk along the towpath eventually crossing 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 have enjoyed your walk, if so please tell your friends, if not, or you have encountered any problems please tell us at:

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Countryside & Rights of Way Service
5th Floor, Jacobs Well, Bradford BD1 5RW
Tel: 01274 432666
Web: www.bradford.gov.uk/countryside
Email: crow@bradford.gov.uk



Footbridge over Morton Beck

Micklethwaite and the Three and Five Rise Locks

3 1/2 miles (5.6km) Circular walk

