

West of Ilkley

4½ miles/7.2km circular walk



Heber's Ghyll

Start Point

Just a couple of minutes walk from the bus and rail station at the junction of Station Road, The Grove and Wells Promenade in Ilkley town centre (GR 117 476).

Route Information

Starting with a very steep climb up the streets and alleys of south Ilkley, the walk soon starts to level out as you walk in a westerly direction along the bottom edge of Ilkley Moor, eventually reaching the highest part of the walk at the top of Heber's Ghyll. Then it's downhill through woodland before crossing farmland as you make your way down to the valley bottom for your return walk along the River Wharfe. Strong waterproof footwear is essential with outdoor clothing to suit the season. There are no shops en route; therefore it is advisable to take along food and drinks. This walk is not suitable for pushchairs, wheelchairs or people with limited mobility.

Public Transport

Excellent bus and rail links. Contact Metroline on 0113 245 7676 for further details.

Car Parking

Good on street parking if you are lucky enough to find a space. Alternatively there is a pay and display car park near to the walk start point on West Street, which is just off Brook Street, Ilkley town centre.

The Walk Route

Starting on the Grove at the junction with the top of Brook Street in the heart of Ilkley town centre, turn your back on all the shops and from the large circular flowerbed

(formerly a fountain) walk the short distance either up Wells Walk or Wells Promenade to find the entrance to the gardens which are between the two roads. Here take the left path walking uphill with the stream on your right to where the path divides. Here our route takes the right fork to go down and under a footbridge before branching off to the right and crossing a bridge, continuing uphill, now walking with the stream on your left.

Follow the path for approximately 50yds/44m or so before turning right just before the next path junction to leave the gardens via a few steps and a kissing gate to go out onto Wells Walk. Here cross straight ahead to go along Albany Walk, a level road opposite for quite a distance, crossing straight ahead at the first crossroads, now walking with the woodland on your left. Where the woodland ends and Albany Walk changes its name to Parish Ghyll Drive, turn left off the road to start a steep climb up a few steps to follow a steep footpath up the side of the woodland. On reaching the top of the first incline cross Princess Road straight ahead to continue to climb the short distance up to Queens Road.

Here again cross straight ahead to continue your climb up the wide stepped path opposite, before going through a kissing gate to follow the path, now with trees to your left and a stone wall on your right. On nearing the top of the woodland go through a second kissing gate to continue straight ahead the short distance to the next flight of steps leading to the junction with Wells Road, Keighley Road and Westwood Drive. Here turn right to walk along Westwood Drive going through the gate at the side of the cattle grid for approximately 175yds/160m to the road junction with Queens Road. Here our route continues straight ahead up Westwood Drive up the slight incline again for approximately for 175yds/160m until you arrive at the Lodge, a house on the corner of Moorlands, a small complex of recently built houses on your left. To the rear of the lodge near the post box turn left off the road to go up the wide steep stepped path to a kissing gate at the top which leads out onto Ilkley Moor. Through the gate bear right along the well trodden path through the bracken a short distance to a wide sandstone track. Here turn right to follow the track along the bottom of Ilkley Moor, walking parallel with the stone wall on your right for quite a distance before reaching a gateway.

Through the gate continue following the track straight ahead eventually passing Panorama Reservoir on your right. Just beyond the reservoir the path passes a few large boulders on your left before reaching a footbridge at the top end of Heber's Ghyll. Cross the bridge here and follow the metal fence on your right, the short distance down to where the path divides. Here take the path to the right to go through the kissing gate following the rock strewn path, initially on the level for a short distance before turning right down a few stone steps to

follow the path steeply down through the woodland of Heber's Ghyll, crossing several footbridges as you go. On nearing the bottom of the footpath immediately beyond the small building on your left and before crossing the last bridge, our route takes a sharp left turn to go alongside the building following the well worn path as it undulates through the trees, walking near to and parallel with the road on your right. After approximately 250yds/228m just as you start to climb the path divides, our route takes the right fork and continues parallel with the road.

Eventually as you near the stone wall which can be seen ahead, the path divides again. Here again take the right fork which will lead you the short distance to a wide gap through the wall ahead. Go through the gap and across the grass verge straight ahead and onto the surfaced road, passing on your way the gates into Brackenwood, the entrance to a large house on your left. Here continue straight ahead passing through the second gateway for only a short distance to where the footpath has been diverted at the rear of Briery Wood Farm cottage. Leave the surfaced track near to the metal lamppost by bearing left up the obvious grassy path walking with the stone wall on your left up a slight incline until you reach the stile to the right of the field gate.

Climb over the stile and into the field, here the footpath divides; ignore the path which is straight ahead across the field. Our route bears to the right for approximately 100yds/91m diagonally across the field to a small ramshackle wooden kissing gate, just beyond the field gate on your right. Go through the kissing gate and down the field to the next gate at the bottom right hand corner which can be seen ahead. Through this gate the field path goes diagonally to your left heading for the wooden electricity pole and continues in a straight line to a stile at the bottom end of the short section of stone wall which can be seen across the field. Through this stile cross the next field by bearing slightly to the right heading for the old stone gate stoop which can be seen across the field. Passing the stoop continue across the field to a field gate which can be seen in front of the buildings at Netherwood Farm. Through the gate bear right and cross the access road to walk straight ahead passing the farm complex and pond on your left, the short distance to where the surfaced roads end.

Turn right here through the metal field gate into the field to walk straight ahead skirting round either side of the circle of large conifer trees which are blocking the direct route to a stile at the bottom of the field. On reaching the stile climb over and cross the access road to a kissing gate on the opposite side. Through the kissing gate the path is along the top of the field walking with the post and wire fence on your right to a stile at the top right hand corner of the field. Over the stile and in the next field the path is again along the top of the field following the stone wall and fence on your right to a gateway. Through the gateway the path goes diagonally to the left straight ahead across two large fields, crossing a minor stream as you go, to eventually find a stile at the bottom right hand corner of the second field near to a small stream.

Over the stile turn right the short distance along the top of the field following the fence on your right leading to another stile. Over this stile cross the small stream to again walk diagonally to the left across the next field to a gateway at the bottom right hand corner. Through the gate walk straight ahead following the old fence and hedge on the left for approximately 100yds/91m to find a stile

next to the field gate leading out onto the main Skipton road. Cross over the main road turning left on the opposite side to walk along the pavement for approximately 100yds/91m before taking the first turning off on your right at the entrance to Hall Croft. Here just beyond where the two driveways divide look for the entrance to the footpath on your left located at the far side of the field gate on your left. Follow the fenced path for quite a distance, eventually crossing a small bridge at the bottom end. Here the path divides; our route is to the right crossing over a second larger bridge as we now follow the popular Dalesway route towards Ilkley, walking parallel to the River Wharfe on your left.

Eventually after crossing two more footbridges and passing a small building on your right go through a kissing gate. Here the path divides; our route turns right still following the Dalesway by going through a small gate into a field. From here the well trodden path is easy to follow, walking straight ahead along the right hand side of the field following the stream on your right to eventually reach a small gate. Through the gate turn left and then almost immediately right now walking along a very wide fenced track. On reaching the end of the track continue straight ahead through a kissing gate to follow the fence on your right across the next field to a second kissing gate. Through the gate turn right following the hawthorn trees and fence on your right to a third kissing gate, crossing the next field straight ahead to emerge through a fourth kissing gate onto the car park of Ilkley Tennis Club.

Turn right following the car park access road out of the tennis club until you reach a minor road junction with Stourton Road. Here cross straight ahead onto the narrow surfaced path opposite to again be walking along the Dalesway with the river on your left, eventually emerging at the bottom of Stockeld Road near to Ilkley old bridge at the junction with Bridge Lane. Continue straight ahead along Bridge Lane following the road up the slight incline passing Riverside Gardens children's play area on your left, still following the road as it bears to the right. Just beyond the right hand bend look out on your left for Castle Hill, a narrow street leading off Bridge Lane. Here turn left up Castle Hill for the short distance onto the courtyard in front of the Manor House Museum. Turn right in front of the museum following the setted path going through the stone archway and out onto Church Street. Turn left along Church Street passing in front of Ilkley Parish Church on your left until you reach the traffic lights at the main crossroads with Brook Street and Leeds Road. Here turn right and cross Church Street, turning left and immediately right on the opposite side to walk all the way up Brook Street to the very top from where you started your walk.

Footnote

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

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Countryside and Rights of Way Service
5th Floor, Jacobs Well, Bradford BD1 5RW

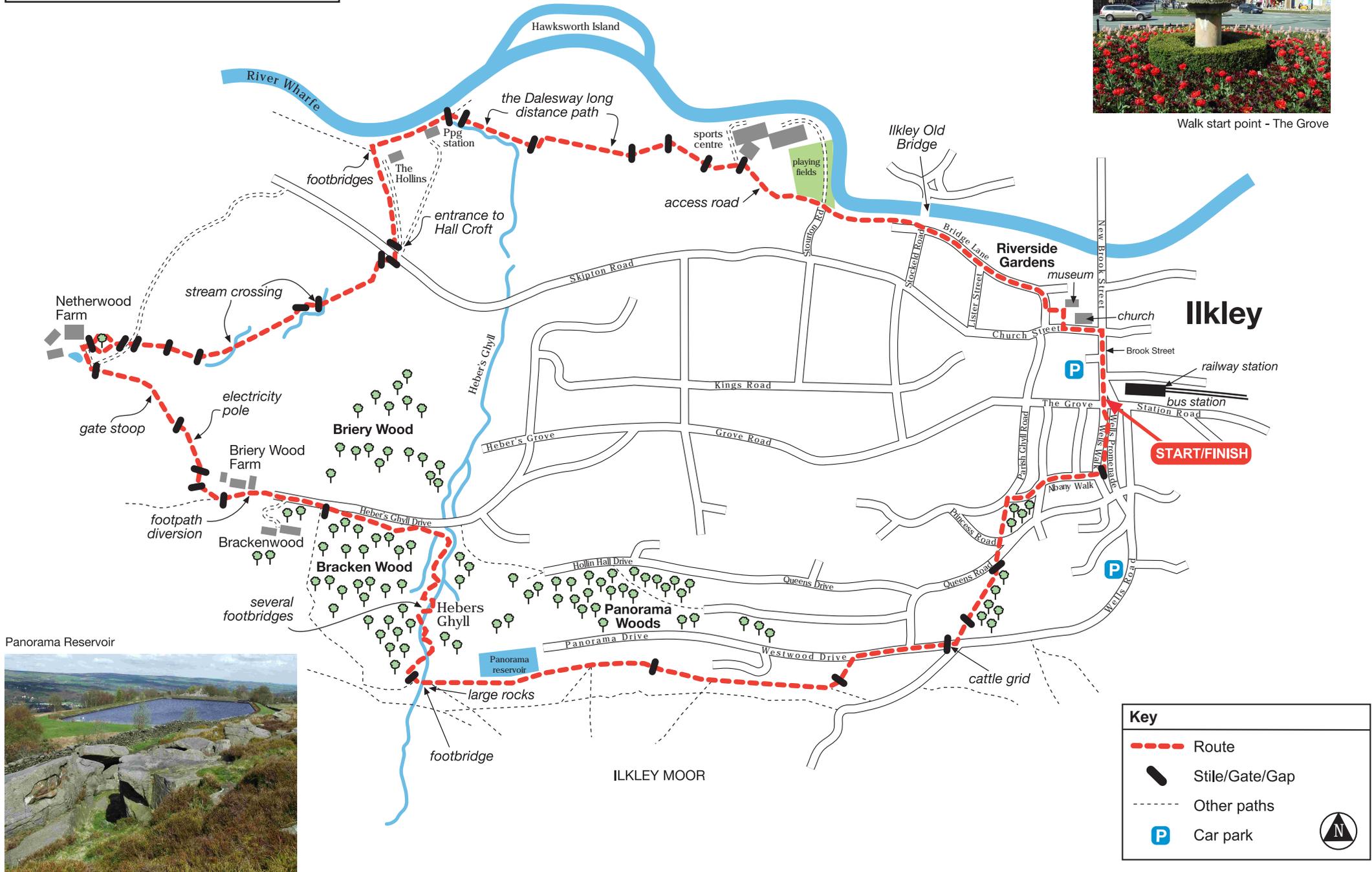
Tel: 01274 432666
www.bradford.gov.uk/countryside
e-mail: danny.jackson@bradford.gov.uk

West of Ilkley

4 1/2 miles / 7.2km circular walk



Walk start point - The Grove



Panorama Reservoir

