City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Countryside & Rights of Way

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Norr Hill

6 miles (9.6km) circular walk

Start Point:
The junction of New Close Road, Nab Lane and the main A650 Bradford Road at Nab Wood GR125 375 between Cottingley and Saltaire.

Public Transport
Bus services 662/760/622/619/623 all pass the walk start point. For further details contact Metroline on 0113 245 7676.

Car Parking
Plenty of good on street parking.

Route Information
A surprisingly rural walk through what most would consider an urban area, where the level, easy start soon changes as you start climbing, steeply in places, as you make your way to the top of Norr Hill (282m/925ft) above sea level. Then it's level or downhill on your return, finishing along the River Aire in the valley way below, skirting the edge of Cottingley and Nab Wood housing estates along the way. Although the route is predominantly on tracks and field paths, the crossing and use of roads is inevitable, to link together the public rights of way.

Strong waterproof footwear is essential, wind and waterproof clothing to suit the season. A packed lunch and drinks is also advisable. There are no public toilets or shops along the route. This walk is not suitable for wheelchairs, pushchairs and people with limited mobility.

The Route
Starting from the bottom of New Close Road, at its junction with the main A650 Bradford Road, walk up New Close Road a short distance before turning second right through the wide gap at the right hand side of the field gate onto the surfaced footpath. Follow the path initially with the stream on your right, ignoring the first footbridge on your right as you make your way straight ahead crossing four bridges before eventually following the perimeter of the playing field on your right and the fenced off grounds of Nab Wood Grammar School. To the rear of the school the path turns sharp right, then after a short distance turn sharp left up a slight incline as you make your way towards Cottingley New Road emerging near the pelican crossing. Cross Cottingley New Road via the pelican crossing turning left and then immediately right on the opposite side to walk up the right hand side of Cottingley Moor Road, passing Cottingley village junior school on your left and the new houses on your right, until you reach lamp post number 13, adjacent to house number 5.

Here turn left and cross the busy road to go down the bridleway opposite and through the gate at the bottom of the short incline. Once through the gate walk straight ahead, following the fence on your left for approximately 100yds (91m) before turning sharp right to follow the well trodden path into the densely covered wooded area, as you start a gentle climb past a small derelict building on your left, until you reach a gate giving access into a field. Once in the field, the path is straight ahead uphill going between the two old metal gate posts which can be seen at the top end of the field. From here the path continues uphill following the hedge line on your left, walking parallel to Cottingley Moor Road, which is clearly visible way over to your right, until you reach a second pair of metal gate posts. Through these gate posts the path now follows the stone wall on your left passing the two breeze block buildings on the left, before going through the smallest of the three gates ahead out onto North Bank Road. Turn right along the road for a short distance, before taking the first turn left off the road to follow the well defined fenced path uphill eventually walking between the old allotments until you reach another track which crosses from left to right at the top end. Here turn right along the track the short distance to its junction with Cottingley Moor Road, bearing right to cross the road to go down the track opposite following it to its very end at the stone built house. Here opposite the concrete garage and next to the garden gate a stile can be found on the right leading into a field. Through the stile turn left to follow the wall on your left walking in front of the house and beneath the trees along the top end of the field. On nearing the top left hand corner of the field, the path bears to the right to cut across the corner of the field to find a stile through the wall ahead, 10yds/9m to the right of the field gate which can be seen in the wall corner. Through the stile the path follows the stone wall/hedge along the top of the next field and in front of the bungalow near to Stock House Farm, before crossing the surfaced access road to a stile in the wall ahead, again leading into a field.

From here the path is straight across this very large field, heading for the field gate and stile which is situated in front of the cluster of buildings which can be seen in the distance. Climb the stile at the left hand side of the gate and onto the surfaced access road turning left up the road, where after approximately 150yds (137m) the road divides, here our route is to the left, walking steeply uphill towards the buildings of Back Norr Hill Farm and stables. On reaching the buildings the footpath follows the road bearing left, then right to walk uphill passing

in front of the farm house and continues uphill the short distance to the two field gates which can be seen ahead. Here the footpath is through the larger of the two gates on the left and into the field. Once in the field the path starts a steep climb as you make your way diagonally to the left heading towards a field gate at the top left hand corner of the field which can be seen clearly as you reach the top of the incline. On reaching the gate do NOT go through but look for the stile in the wall corner on your left. Climb the stile turning right up the field to follow the stone wall on your right, all the way to the top right hand corner of the field to find another stile through the wall on your right. Go through this stile turning almost immediately right again to go over a second stile, before turning sharp left to follow the stone wall on your left across the level field until you get to another stile at the far end. Through the stile the trig point at your destination on Norr Hill can be seen and is reached by walking diagonally to the right across the field. From the trig point continue by turning left to follow the stone wall on your right across the undulating field, eventually dropping steeply downhill to a small gateway which leads out onto a rough access track.

Here turn left along the track for approximately 100yds (91m) to a stile through a wall on your right leading into a narrow walled path. Follow the path downhill eventually going over the stile at the side of the buildings at Claremont Farm and out onto the driveway. Follow the driveway downhill to its junction at the bottom with Coplowe Lane, a surfaced road which crosses from left to right, here turn right along the road, passing in front of Norr Rise, a bungalow on your right walking on a further 75yds (65m) or so before turning right off the road to go up the steps onto the narrow, gated walled footpath situated between the two large field gates and hidden behind the stone wall and the two semi mature trees. After only a very short distance the walled path ends, here turn left through the stile and into the field, following the wall on your right as it bears right around the hillside. Eventually the path starts to bear to the left away from the wall down the steep hill side crossing a very wet section of ground as you cut across the corner of the field to find the stile over the wooden fence near the bottom right hand corner of the field. Climb the stile to cross the often very muddy track, walking straight ahead to find a stile over a second wooden fence a few metres to the left of the field gate.

Cross the next field straight ahead heading for the gateway which can be seen at the far end of the field. Through the gateway the path continues straight ahead bearing slightly to the right to a stile at the bottom right hand corner of the field which leads out onto Lee Lane along the side of Flush Cottage, the house which can be seen in the distance. Turn left along Lee Lane for approximately 75yds (68m), before turning right off the road to go through the large metal gate onto the bridleway. Follow the bridleway gently downhill going through a second gate before bearing left passing a field full of large boulders on your left, before arriving at March Cote Farm complex, through a third metal gate. Here the track changes to a concrete drive as you walk between the buildings bearing right and going through yet another gate to where it joins a tarmaced road. Turn right along the tarmaced road going through the gate at the side of the cattle grid to follow the road for quite a distance until you almost reach the rear of the houses which can be seen ahead.

Here where the road widens out to form a car passing point just before a second cattle grid, turn left off the road to walk across the field the short distance to the stile through the stone wall which leads into the woodland. Through the stile walk straight ahead following the well worn path as it meanders through the mixed woodland trees for 157yds (144m), ignoring all other paths off to the left and right which may tempt you to stray, until you eventually reach the junction with a wide path which crosses the end of our path in front of the line of pine trees at the perimeter of the Cottingley Woods estate. Here do not enter the pine woods but turn right to follow the wide path as it eventually goes between the back gardens of the houses on the right and the pine tree plantation on your left, turning left and right near the wired up gateway to eventually exit through the partially blocked gateway at the end of the path out onto Beckfield Road.

Turn left to walk all the way down Beckfield Road passing the dead end road sign until you reach the large metal gate at the bottom, where on the left, the footpath continues by going steeply down over the boulders and tree roots between the woodland and the gardens emerging at the bottom onto a driveway. Turn right along the drive for approximately 50yds (45m) before turning left down a short length of path onto a narrow road Ghyll Wood Drive. Continue to walk straight ahead as the road widens out between the houses to follow the road steeply downhill to its junction at the bottom with the main A650 Bradford Road. On reaching Bradford Road cross over turning left on the opposite side to walk along the pavement for quite a distance until you reach Cottingley Bridge over the River Aire. Here opposite Beckfoot Lane go through the gap in the wall on the right and down the steps onto the footpath along the riverbank walking between the river and the buildings. Where the path emerges onto the Bradford and Bingley sports club rugby ground the path continues to follow the river as it meanders towards the viaduct of Bingley bypass road.

On nearing the viaduct the footpath goes over a small wooden bridge then straight ahead under the viaduct. Beyond the viaduct the path bears to the right up a slight incline and through a small gate and along the narrow walled perimeter path of the Bankfield Hotel, where, after

a short distance the path divides at a stile in the wall. Here our route turns sharp right still following the walled path, passing along the top end of a field on your left before going over the stile to walk between the houses and onto a short section of tarmaced driveway leading onto Branksome Drive. Ignore the continuation of the footpath opposite and turn right up Branksome Drive to its junction at the top with the main A650 Bradford Road. Here cross over Bradford Road using the pelican crossing turning right on the opposite side before crossing Nab Lane near to 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
Transportation, Design and Planning
The Countryside and Rights of Way Service
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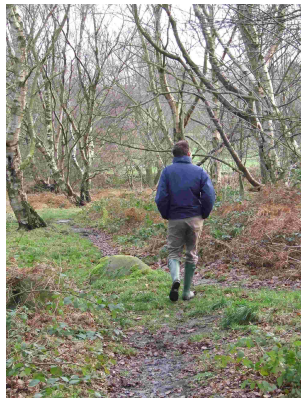
Norr Hill

6 miles (9.6km) circular walk



Mixed woodland off Foxcroft Lane

Trig Point at Norr Hill

ASH GROVE
BECKFOOT LANE
River Aire
RUGBY GROUND
Cottingley Viaduct
walled path
BRADFORD ROAD
Cottingley Bar
footbridge
hotel
Nab Wood
pelican crossing
START / FINISH
A650
Ghyll Wood Drive
MANOR DRIVE
nursing home
fence
BRADFORD OLD ROAD
school
MAIN STREET
MANOR ROAD
pelican crossing
COTTINGLEY CLIFFE ROAD
lamp post No.13
school
COTTINGLEY MOOR ROAD
metal post
NORTH BANK ROAD
allotments
Sandy Lane
Stocks House Farm
LEE LANE
Cottingley Wood Estate
PRIVATE LAND
pine forest
mixed woodland
BECKFIELD ROAD
AIREDALE AVE.
Cottingley
Black Hills
March Cote Farm
large rocks
cattle grid
FOXCROFT LANE
cattle grid
The Meadows
Flush Cottage
Stock-a-Close Farm
track
steep decent
COPLOWE LANE
wet area
Claremont Farm
walled path
Norr Fold Farm
Norr Hill Farm
Norr Farm
Norr Hill
two gates
Back Norr Hill Farm
Riding Centre
steep climb
Wilsden
Nook House
Norr
CRACK LANE
CEMETERY

Key

- Route
- Stile/Gate (approx. location)
- Other paths
- Hedge
- Trig Point

N

Not to scale