

Above the Aire Valley

Linear 4 miles (6.4km)

Walk start point

Keighley Railway Station (on the A650 Bradford Road).

Public Transport

Several bus services stop at Keighley railway station and along with the frequent trains which operate along the Airedale Line this walk is very easily accessed by all. For further information contact Metroline on: 0113 245 7676.

Car Parking

Although there are several car parks near the station, these are restricted to shoppers or rail users; therefore the parking is limited to on street. Alternatively why not leave your vehicle where the walk finishes in Bingley Town Centre and use public transport to get you to the walk start point at Keighley Station?

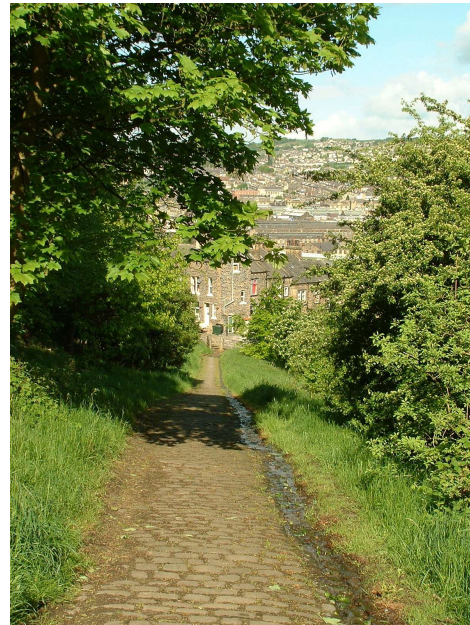
Walk Information

The walk linking the two market towns of Keighley and Bingley is suitable for most reasonably fit occasional walkers starting with a steep uphill climb through the urban back streets of Keighley, levelling out as you cross the fields and moorland high above the Aire Valley with its long distance views from Druids Altar. From here its downhill all the way to finish walking mainly through the woodland of the St Ives Estate, before crossing the River Aire into the more formal surroundings of Myrtle Park as you near the end of your walk in Bingley town centre. From where you return to Keighley by public transport.

You will require strong footwear and outdoor clothing to suit the season. Packed lunch with drinks is also recommended. This walk is not suitable for pushchairs, wheelchairs and people with limited mobility.

The Walk Route

With your back towards the station buildings, leave the station forecourt by turning left and then first left down Low Mill Lane, eventually crossing the River Worth and walking under the stone built railway bridge. Immediately after the railway bridge, where Low Mill Lane meets Pitt Street leave the road by turning right going steeply up the narrow surfaced path, where after only a very short distance leave the surfaced path by turning sharp left to climb up the steps and along the short unmade footpath



Path through Park Wood

between the metal railings on your left and the wall on your right, to emerge onto Parkwood Street. Turn left along Parkwood Street for approx 30yds (27m), until you reach lamppost number 16. Here turn right and cross over Parkwood

Street to walk steeply up Haynes Street opposite. At the top of Haynes Street cross over the unsurfaced road to go through the kissing gate to the right hand side of the wide field gate. Here start your climb through Park Wood by following the wide stone setted path steeply uphill walking beneath the trees and eventually going through a second gate as you near the houses of Thwaites Brow.

On reaching the top of the setted path cross the minor road and continue straight ahead to follow the obvious wide path between the houses. After a short distance the path divides. Here take the right hand fork and continue making your way gently uphill crossing straight ahead over two more minor roads to eventually emerge at the bottom of Moorland Terrace. Here again continue straight ahead for a short distance along Fairmount Terrace to its junction with Thwaites Brow Road opposite Golden View Drive. Turn right up Thwaites Brow road for approximately 50yds/45m before turning left across the road, to walk up the footpath opposite following the well worn path along the wide dirt track which will lead you out between the houses onto open countryside. From here walk straight ahead following the wall on your left along the perimeter of the cricket pitch, over or through five gateways/stiles, walking in an easterly direction towards the rear of the buildings at Currer Laithe Farm which will soon come into view.

On nearing the buildings at the farm the fifth stile is in the dry stone wall, a few yards to the right of the wide gateway which can be seen ahead. Once over the stile, turn right down the fenced section of path, following the wall on your right a short distance downhill to join the farm access track near the small duck pond at the

bottom. Turn right up the access track for approximately 100yds/91m before turning left across the wide grass verge over the drainage ditch, to go through a kissing gate at the right hand side of the farm gate into a field. Once through the gate follow the path parallel to the wall on your left all the way across the bottom of the often wet field to go through a second gateway into the next field.

Continue following the wall on your left until you reach the next gateway which can be seen ahead. Here do not go through the gate but climb over the stile to the wall on the left of the gateway leading onto the moorland terrain. Our route from here follows the wall on your right gently walking uphill before levelling out as you walk between the bilberry bushes, bracken and silver birch trees, parallel to and high above the noisy Aire Valley trunk road in the valley below. Eventually the path crosses a surfaced access road; here continue straight ahead crossing the access road to follow the moorland path which will lead you to an area of rocks and boulders, the largest of which is known as Druids Altar. To continue follow the obvious path over the rough terrain as it bears to the right through the trees emerging at the junction of several rough surfaced tracks. Here cross straight ahead to go through the wide gateway into the St Ives Estate, bearing left to follow the wide rough road gently downhill until you reach the first right hand bend.

Leave the rough road here by bearing left along the side of the semi derelict building on your left to follow the narrow path downhill to its junction with a track which crosses from left to right. Here turn left down the track and then almost immediately right, following the track downhill as you walk between the dry stone walls. After approximately 200yds (182m) look out for the two stiles in the dry stone wall on your right, here go through the left of the two stiles and immediately through the gate to walk down across the field path passing the electricity pylon on your left and the disused reservoir on your right. Before going over a stile and across a second field leading to a third stile into the woodlands. In the woodland follow the very wide obvious path straight ahead ignoring all other paths which might tempt you to explore further. Eventually the path bears left downhill (from here keep a look out for the many carved wooden sculptures which



Carved wooden sculptures in St. Ives

can be seen hidden amongst the trees). Continue following the wide path as it soon starts to bear to the right, up a slight incline. At the top of the incline the path divides, our

route is to the left and over the broken down stone wall to the left of the field gate which can now be seen ahead. Continue to follow the well worn path as it bears left downhill before turning sharp right to meet some obvious vehicle tracks in front of the St Ives service reservoir. From here turn left to follow the vehicle tracks downhill before bearing right and through two gateways adjacent to the parking area out onto the main surfaced access road for the St Ives Estate.

Turn left down the access road for approximately 25yds/22m before turning left off the road to walk down the narrow path along the top end of the parking area beneath the trees for a short distance to exit the estate out onto the very busy Harden Road. Cross the road to walk down Beckfoot Lane opposite for approximately 400yds/364m, before turning left off the lane to walk along the driveway to a house called Hesp Hills, crossing the cattle grid as you go. On nearing the house leave the driveway by bearing left across the grass to walk down the left hand side of the buildings. At the rear of the building the footpath joins another footpath which crosses from left to right, here turn left and go through the stile in the dry stone wall. Follow the well worn path along the top of the woodland, before descending steeply down to cross a small footbridge before turning right down a few steps into a field. Cross the field and over the River Aire via the metal footbridge which will lead you into Myrtle Park.

Once in the park bear left across the grassy area to climb the flight of steps which can be seen ahead leading you to a surfaced footpath along the side of the tennis courts, children's play area and bowling greens. Continue to follow the path by bearing left at the side of the war memorial to exit the park near Bingley town centre. From here there are plenty of buses or trains to get you back to your start point at Keighley railway station.

Footnote

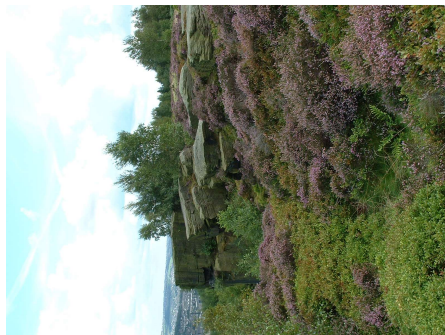
We hope you enjoyed your walk. If so tell your friends, if not, or you have encountered any problems please tell us at:

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
The Countryside and Rights of Way Service
4th Floor, Britannia House, Hall Ings,
Bradford, BD1 1HX

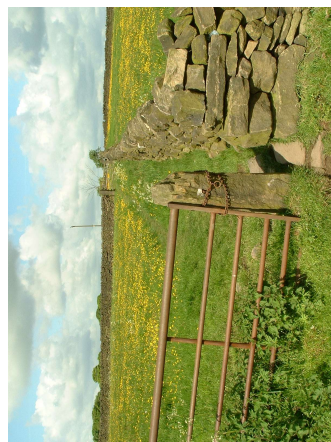
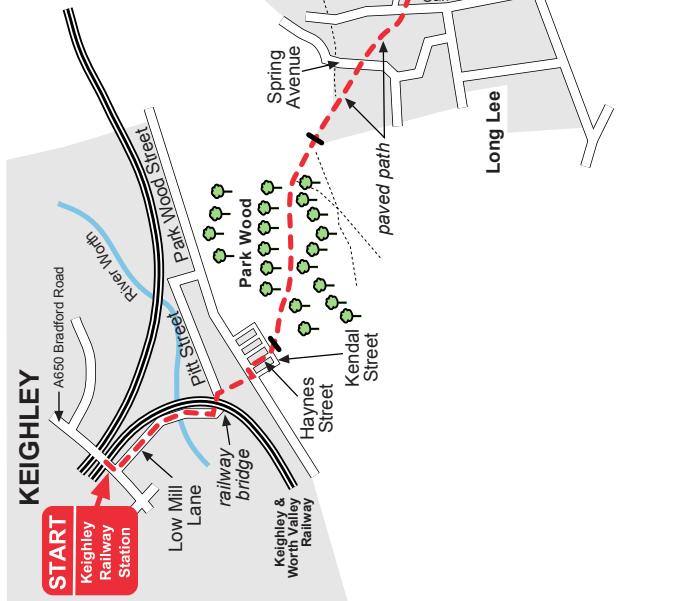
Tel: 01274 432666
www.bradford.gov.uk/countryside

Above the Aire Valley

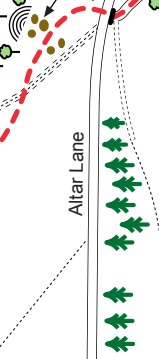
4 miles/6.4km Linear walk



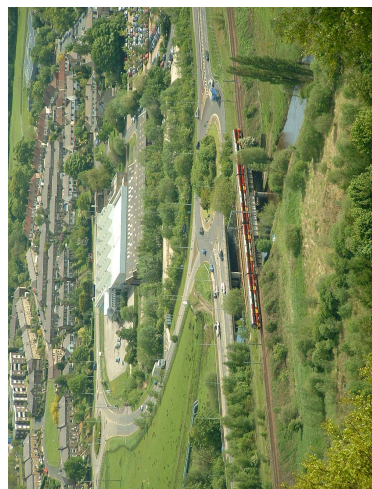
Druids Altar



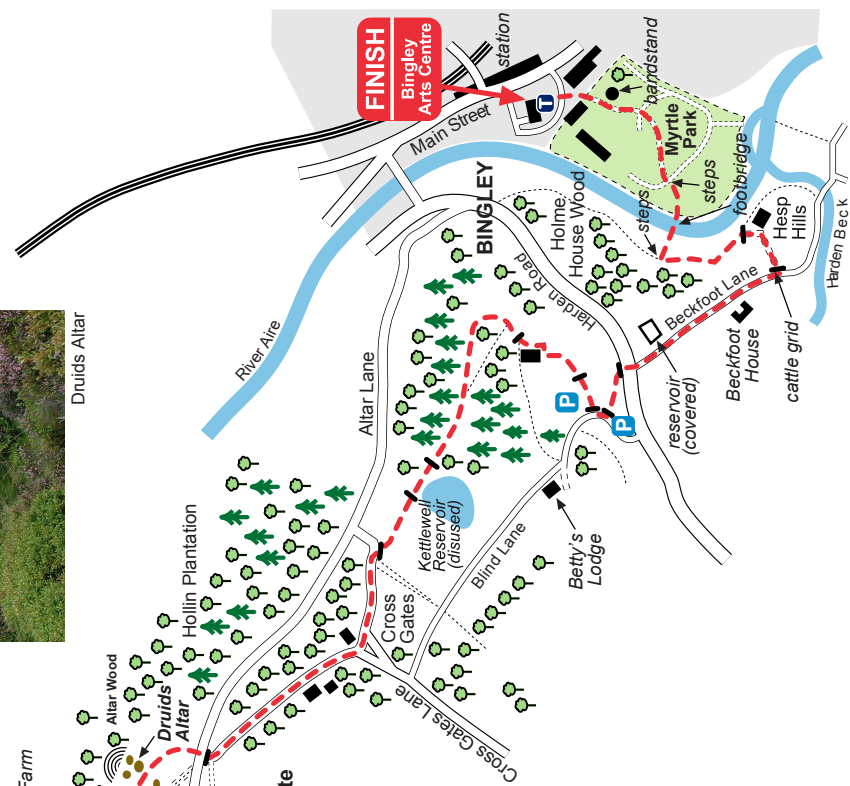
Across the top of Thwaites Brow



St Ives Estate



The view from Druids Altar



Key	
	Route
	Stile/Gate/Gap
	Footpaths
	Parking
	Viewpoint
	Toilets