

Brass Castle and West Morton

5 miles (8km) Circular Walk



Path near Brass Castle

The Start Point

The War Memorial Institute building, Scott Lane. Near the junction with the top of Bar Lane, Riddlesden near Keighley. GR 075 424.

Walk Information

A demanding start walking steeply uphill for the first mile until you reach open country on the fringe of Morton Moor, then it's level across the moorland grasses before starting your steady descent down to West Morton via Upwood Hall Farm and Grass Road. From West Morton the footpath crosses farmland soon leading you through a new housing estate in the valley, finishing the walk along the Leeds Liverpool canal.

You will require strong waterproof footwear and outdoor clothing to suit the season. It is advisable to take along food and drinks. Due to the very nature of the countryside this walk is not suitable for the less mobile, pushchairs and wheelchairs.

Public Transport

Local bus service 708 from Keighley bus station passes the walk start point; other buses are available stopping at the nearby bus stop at the bottom of Bar Lane, Riddlesden. For more details contact Metroline on 0113 245 7676.

Parking

There are no public car parks near by therefore parking is on street. Please park with care.

The Walk Route

Start with your back to the Riddlesden War Memorial building, crossing the road to join the stone setted footpath opposite to walk steeply uphill between the houses. After a short distance the path divides, ignore the path off to the right and continue straight ahead going steeply uphill eventually joining a long flight of steps leading out onto Banks Lane. Cross Banks Lane to continue your climb up the stone setted footpath opposite eventually exiting at the top via a few steps out onto Ilkley Road opposite the Willow Tree public house.

Turn right up Ilkley Road for approximately 50 yds/45m before crossing over to your left in front of Ilkley Road Methodist Church. Bear left in front of the church building then follow the narrow access road as it bears right up a hill to a field gate. Go through the gate into the field to follow the path parallel to the mature trees on your left, keeping close to the perimeter of the field, before eventually passing an old stone gate stoop on your right.

Continue uphill crossing a second field as you make your way up to a farm building at Rivock Farm which can be seen at the top. On reaching the building the footpath follows the farm track along the back of the building the short distance until you reach the concreted farmyard at Rivock Farm.

Here turn right to cross the farmyard in front of the cottages and between the farm buildings walking straight ahead and through a gate into a field. Cross the field straight ahead to the far side keeping as near as possible to the stone wall on your right to find a stile between the end of the wall on your right and the wooden fence at the rear of Heights Farm. Climb the stile into a small overgrown enclosure adjacent to the gable end of the farmhouse and walk downhill for a short distance to find a stile hidden behind a tree at the bottom left hand corner. Climb the stile into a field turning, almost immediately, sharp left up the left hand side of the field keeping as close as possible to and parallel with the mature trees as you climb steeply uphill to a ladder stile at the top left hand corner of the field.

Over the stile continue uphill for approximately 50yds/45m taking great care not to fall into the drainage gully on your left before turning left to cross the gully using the railway sleeper bridge located near the fenced off gateway. Turn right on the opposite side of the bridge walking uphill very close to the stone wall on your left and the gully on your right to eventually reach a step over stile. Climb the stile into the next field continuing uphill still with the wall on your left to a second ladder stile leading out onto the busy Silsden road via a second

sleeper bridge. Turn right along Silsden Road for approximately 250yds/228m to just beyond Moorcock Farm, the first building you come to on your right. Here turn left to cross the busy Silsden road to rejoin the footpath by going through the field gate opposite. Through the gate the path is straight ahead up the field keeping close to the wall on your left to the step over stile at the top left hand corner.

Over the stile onto the fringe of Morton Moor (open country), follow the well worn path more or less straight ahead walking parallel to but some distance away from the dry stone wall over to your right, eventually reaching a field gate. Through the gate turn left then almost immediately bear right to join the well worn path. Follow the path across the moorland grasses as it gradually bears to the left. Eventually two standing stone gate stoops come into view to your right across the moor and nearby the path divides. Here take the right hand path to walk towards and between the gate stoops to continue to follow the path as it bears right to join another path which crosses from left to right.

Turn right along the easy to follow path across the rough moorland terrain at Brass Castle to a field gate. Through the gate ignore the stile over the fence on your left and continue straight ahead following the line of the fence on your left to a second field gate located at the far end of the fence. Through this gate bear slightly to the left following the obvious worn path for a few yards/metres to where it joins another path. Bear right here following the path some distance from but parallel with the wall over to your right, eventually reaching a step over stile on the right hand side of the gate. Over the stile it's straight ahead the short distance across the field to yet another field gate, this time go through the wicket gate at the side of the main gate and out onto Ilkley Road.

Turn right along Ilkley Road for approximately 100yds/91m before turning first left off the road to walk down the wide limestone farm access road/bridleway leading to Upwood Hall Farm, going through a gateway as you pass the farmhouse on your right. Through the gate continue straight ahead past the farm buildings until you reach a gate where the track turns left and right. Here our route leaves the limestone track and continues straight ahead through the narrow squeeze stile to the right hand side of the field gate, to join the obvious muddy vehicle tracks down the right hand side of a field to a gate and stile at the bottom right hand corner. Through the stile to the right of the gate, the track becomes enclosed by stone walls; our route follows the walled track steadily downhill at first before eventually turning sharp right to start a much steeper descent.

Approximately 275yds/251m after turning sharp right down the steep section of the track, lookout on your left and right for the two stiles leading off the walled track. Here turn right to go through the stile on your right adjacent to Moorlands farm which can be seen across the field. Through the stile the path follows the wall on your left across the field heading for a gateway which leads to the rear of the farm buildings at Moorlands Farm. Go through onto a farm track following it straight ahead behind the buildings continuing straight ahead up a slight incline passing the silage store on your left. At the top of the

incline turn left then almost immediately right to go through a gateway into a field. Continue up the field straight ahead to make your way through the middle of the three gates which can be seen ahead.

Through the gate the path is along the walled track for a short distance to where a stone wall blocks the way; here use the step over stile to continue straight ahead across the next field, keeping close to the wall on your left to the next stile. Over the stile turn right along the top of the field keeping close to the wall on your right to a field gate. Through the gate continue straight ahead now following the wall on your left to a field gate and stile which leads out onto Street Lane.

Turn right up Street Lane for approximately 250yds/227m until you reach the hamlet of West Morton. Here leave Street Lane by turning first left along the access road/bridleway which leads into the hamlet. After approximately 100yds/91m the access road turns left, here just below Brownhill Bungalow on your right rejoin the footpath by turning right off the road to go through a field gate onto the driveway of Brownhill cottage. Walk along the driveway for approximately 10yds/9m to find a step over stile over the low stone wall on your left, near to the stone built pillar. Climb the stile turning right on the opposite side to go through the narrow gate and into the horse arena. Walk straight ahead across the arena exiting at the far side through a field gate to go through the gap between the wooden stable block and shed to a stile over the stone wall. Over the stile in the field walk straight ahead following the hedge on your left, dropping down the contours of the field to find a step over stile just beyond the small gate in the stone wall on your left.

Climb the stile onto the access road near to the recently converted Dimples Farm turning right uphill the short distance to join another road which joins from the right. Here walk straight ahead steadily downhill at first before following the road round the left hand bend and down a much steeper incline. At the bottom of the incline where the track divides in front of the stone sign for Cherry Tree Barn, bear slightly to the left to cross the road to go through the large gate opposite leading into Aireview Cottage. Through the gate walk downhill between the buildings following the narrow stone paved path to where it changes to a grassy track. Here just beyond the buildings continue down a further 75yds/68m to where a field gate blocks the way, here look to your right to find a stile over the stone wall on your right, go over the stile and into a field. In the field the definitive footpath bears slightly to your left crossing the obvious vehicle tracks and heading the 120yds/109m or so to walk between the corner of the stone wall on your left and the large dead tree on your right. However this short section of the route is extremely wet and boggy and almost impossible to cross, therefore as a temporary measure until drainage work can be done follow the vehicle tracks straight ahead walking above the boggy section and passing the dead tree on your left for approximately 100yds/91m following the line of the fence on your right. Beyond the dead tree bear left to rejoin the footpath still picking your way carefully across the soft ground as you head downhill across the field to the gate at the bottom right hand corner. Through the gate ignore the obvious vehicle tracks straight ahead and bear right

to cross the next field walking parallel with the line of the mature trees over to your left to find a stile under the trees and shrubs at the bottom left hand corner of the field. Over the stile cross How Beck (no bridge) turning left downhill on the opposite side following the line of the trees down the left hand edge of the field to a stile. Over the stile continue downhill for the short distance to a second stile leading out onto a steep limestone path between the houses. Follow the limestone path downhill crossing two estate roads before eventually going down a few steps onto a walled path which crosses from left to right. Turn right along the tree covered walled path for approximately 200yds/182m crossing two more estate roads before eventually emerging at the top of Hospital Road. Walk down Hospital Road all the way to its junction at the bottom with Granby Lane, here turn left and cross the canal swing bridge turning right on the opposite side to walk along the canal towpath to the next swing bridge at Bar Lane. Here leave the canal tow path turning right to cross the bridge to walk the short distance uphill onto Scott Lane 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
The Countryside and Rights of Way Service
4th Floor, Britannia House, Hall Ings,
Bradford BD1 1HX

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

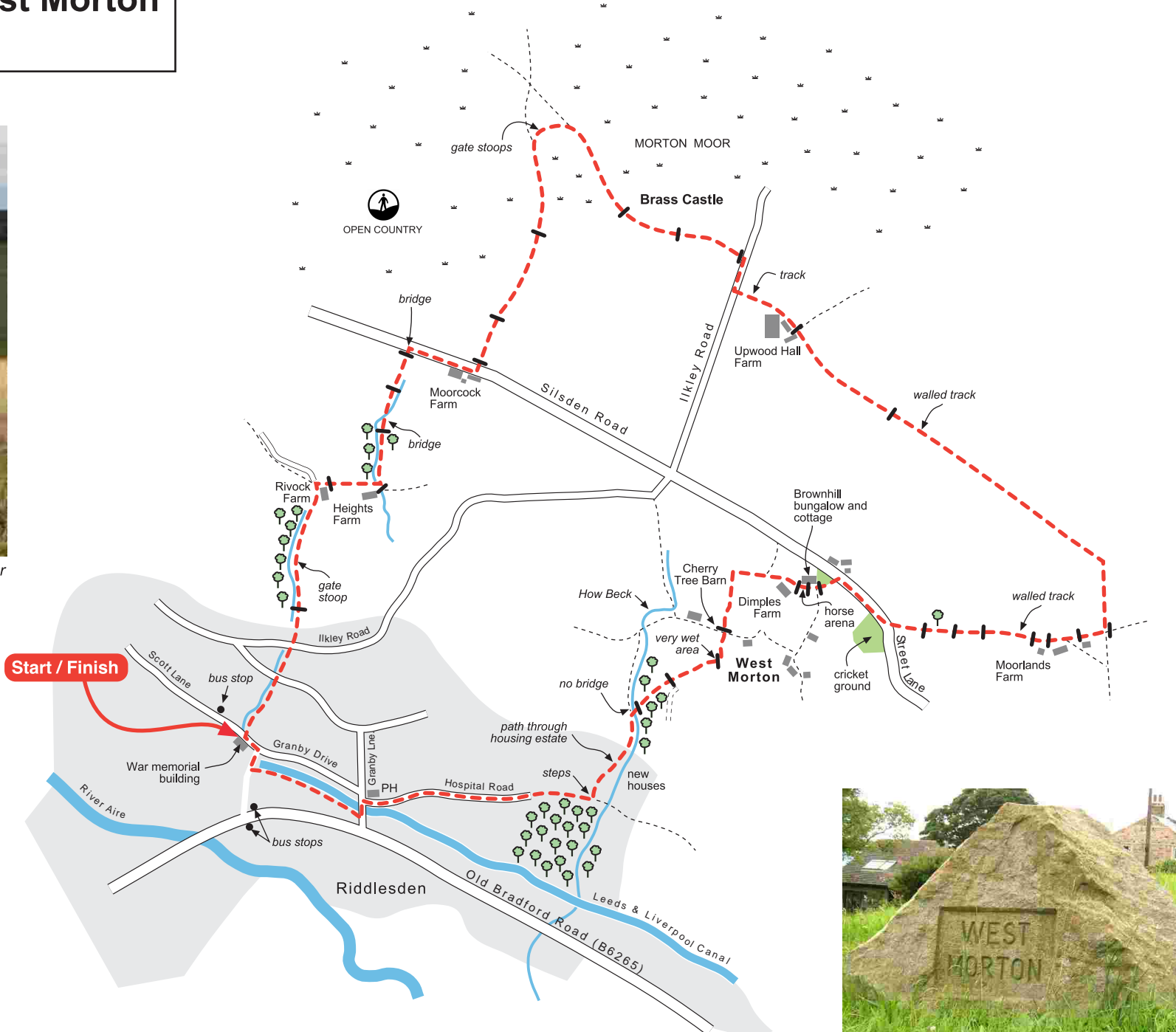
October 2008

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Morton Moor



Key

- - - Route
- Stile/Gate
- - - - - Footpaths

Not to scale

