

# Countryside & Rights of Way

## East Morton, Sunnydale and the Glen

3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> mile (6km) circular walk

**A hilly walk, through a mix of woodland and farmland starting at the centre of East Morton. Comfortable strong walking shoes/boots are recommended, with outdoor clothing to suit the season. A packed lunch is advisable. This walk is not suitable for pushchairs or wheelchairs and people with restricted mobility.**

**Walk start point: Morton bus terminus, bus services 727/728/729 from Keighley/Bingley.**

**Car parking is limited to on-street parking, please park with care.**

With your back to the bus terminus turn right up Main Road turning immediately right into the village green. Follow the stone paved path through the gardens and up the steps at the rear out onto the junction of the two minor roads. Turn right up the second road on the right and continue up as the road changes to a narrow track. At the top of the incline continue following the track through the courtyard area of 'High Fold' and down a slight incline before bearing right to rejoin Main Road.

Turn left and first left up Green End Road, following it for 1/4 mile as it meanders between the houses eventually passing Morton Hall on the left. Round the corner beyond Morton Hall continue following the road up the slight incline, passing Lower Botany Farm on the left and Lakeside on the right. After approximately 100yds at the gateway of a private drive to 'Moorfield', turn left off the road onto the public footpath and go over a stile into a field, follow the wall on the left across the field to a second stile. Once through the second stile continue to follow the wall on your left uphill to join a farm track at the wall corner.

Turn right up the track eventually going through a kissing gate next to a field gate. After a short distance the track divides, here take the track off to the left uphill at the side of the concrete reservoir overflow turning right at the top to cross the metal footbridge onto the top of Sunnydale reservoir embankment. Cross the reservoir embankment and continue forward at the other end, to go up the steps of quite a steep banking. At the top of the steps the footpath divides, our route turns left to walk through the trees above Sunnydale reservoir and in front of a large pond.

At the far end of the pond follow the well-defined path over the remains of a dry stonewall to turn right along the top edge of the woodland. After a short distance the path starts to drop downhill, here great care should be taken as the steep, narrow path leads down to a footbridge. Cross the bridge and continue

to follow the path eventually crossing a second footbridge before turning right again, keeping to the top edge of the woodland at a second broken down dry stonewall. Continue to follow the well defined path over a third wall and walk straight on, eventually emerging out of the woodland at a field gate. Go through the gate onto the farm track turning left downhill, after only a short distance go through a second field gate and follow the farm track to the farm building ahead.

On reaching the building turn left through the stile at the side of the field gate on the left. Keeping the wall on your right, cross the field to go through a second stile, next to the gate at the far end of the field, into a double walled track. Follow this double walled track for quite some distance as it drops back down onto Green End Road, via Upwood Lane, to retrace your steps back through East Morton to your starting point.

### Sunnydale

Today, Sunnydale is a place of solitude and a haven for wildlife. However, this cannot be said of the past 200 years or so. At the end of the 1700's the industrial revolution arrived in Morton. Mills and factories were built along Morton Beck where the ready supply of water was used to power the water wheels and steam engines.

Along the upper reaches of Morton Beck three mills were built. Sunnydale Mill was located at the head of the Dale, just below the reservoir. Here paper was produced for banknotes and stationery. Further downstream just below Morton Dam, Upper Mill was built as a cotton spinning mill. Near the bottom of the Dale was Botany Mill, the largest woollen mill in the area.

Workers for the mills came from all over Britain. Mill cottages were built to house them and these can still be seen today at Providence Row and Upper Mill Row. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the mills. These have all but gone, though the remains of the engine house at Sunnydale Mill can still be seen hidden amongst the vegetation.

The Morton Village Society have produced a very informative paperback book full of fascinating facts and photographs of East Morton and Sunnydale titled "East Morton, a Thousand years of History" priced at £5.00. For more information check out the village web page [mortonvillage.org.uk](http://mortonvillage.org.uk) or telephone Mr Stephen Duxbury on 01274 518299.

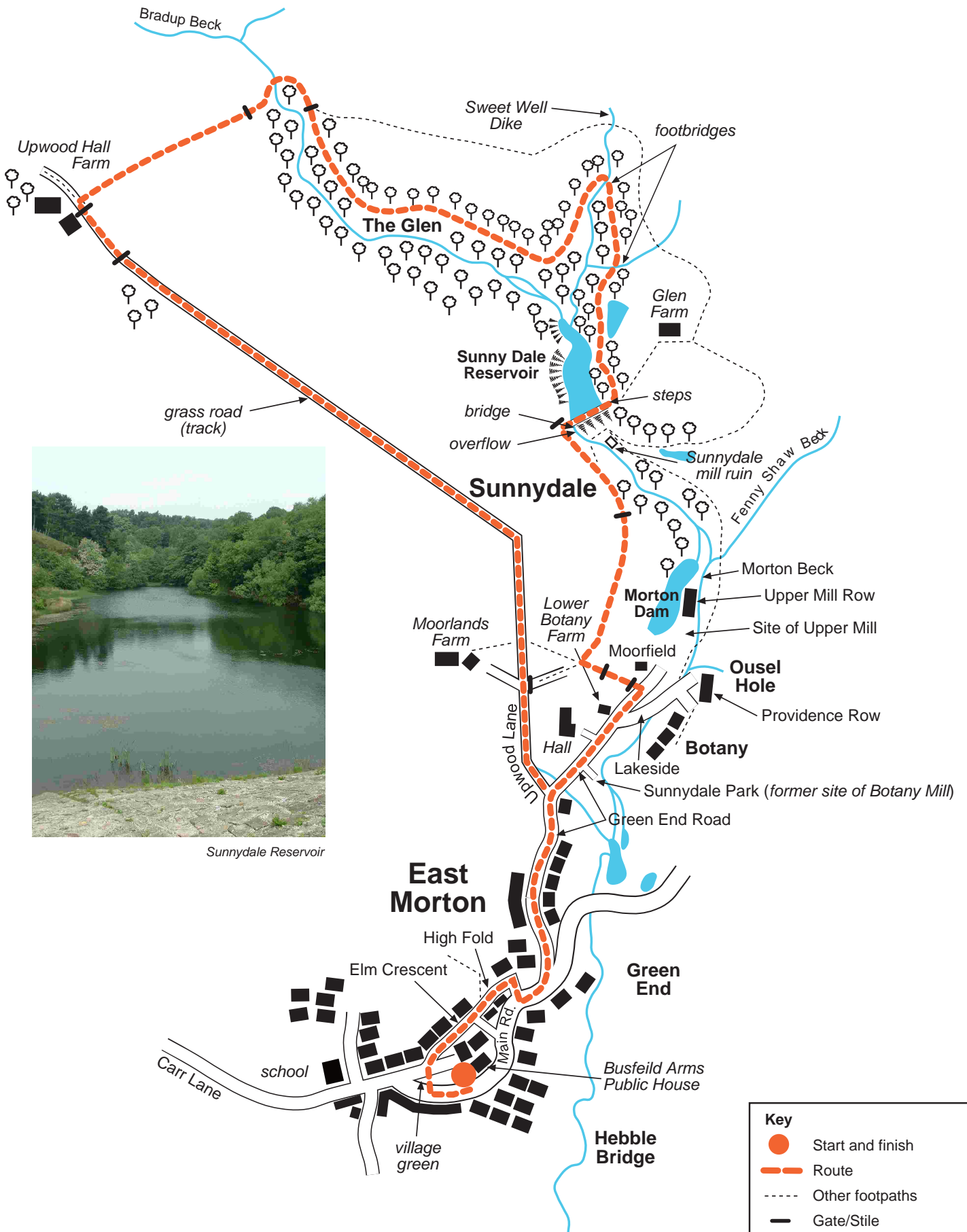
We hope you enjoyed your walk. If so tell your friends, if not, or you have encountered any problems please tell us at:

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Tel: 01274 432666  
[www.bradford.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/countryside)

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Sunnydale Reservoir