



## Countryside & Rights of Way

# Walk 2: Bradford District Fair Trade Way

## Shipley to Bingley

**4 miles (6.5km) Linear (return by train)**

### Bradford District Fair Trade Way

The Fair Trade Way was created by the Bradford Fairtrade Zone as a scenic, circular walking route linking all the Fairtrade Villages and Towns in the Bradford District: Bradford, Shipley, Bingley, Baildon, Burley in Wharfedale, Ilkley, Keighley, Haworth (world's first Fairtrade Village) & Thornton.

Fairtrade is a global movement for change for both people and planet. It aims to end exploitation and poverty, mitigate the impact of climate change, and create economic, social and environmental sustainability and trade justice for farmers and workers in low-income countries.

[www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)



This walk follows well-trodden paths along the Aire Valley and passes under more modern trunk routes and railway. The history of some features is uncertain, but they leave a clear impression of importance and affluence in the past. Pencil sketches by Roy Lorrain-Smith are acknowledged with grateful thanks.

There are several places from where you can start this walk. For the benefit of the route information this walk starts from Shipley Station which is highly accessible and links with the first leg of Bradford Fair Trade Way. There is parking and access to bus routes as well as the centre of Shipley.

A 3 mile (5km) level walk through beautiful countryside, taking in the Leeds and Liverpool canal, the River Aire, and Hirst Wood.

An ideal family walk with plenty of industrial heritage and natural history, as well as some close up views of the magnificent structures along the Bingley bypass road. Comfortable strong walking shoes are recommended along with outdoor clothing to suit the season. A light snack/picnic is advisable especially when walking with children. Please take care when walking along the river and canal banks and keep children under close supervision at all times. This walk is not suitable for pushchairs or wheelchairs and people who have walking difficulties.

Public transport information:

**Metro Line:** 0113 245 7676

<b>TIME</b>	1 hour 30 mins to 2 hours
<b>GOING</b>	Easy - could be some muddy sections
<b>MAP</b>	OS Explorer 288 Bradford and Huddersfield
<b>TRAIN</b>	Frequent services to Shipley
<b>PARKING</b>	Roads around station and at Bingley Arts Centre
<b>TOILETS</b>	Shipley station, Pubs and cafes in Saltaire and Bingley
<b>FAIRTRADE</b>	Hedgehog Organics, Supermarkets

## THE ROUTE

From Shipley station take the main entrance road down to Leeds Road crossing at the lights. Then take the path on left of the building ahead (Killips Carpets) to the narrow footbridge across the Leeds and Liverpool canal. Looking back towards Leeds an ancient packhorse bridge spans the canal at the Bradford canal junction.



Turn R and pass under the bridge towards Shipley. Walk the canal towpath for approximately 1.5 miles passing a variety of industrial relics including Salts Mill.

(Alternatively, turn L. Go down the steps to the street (Croft Road) and follow L to main road. Across Otley Road turn R to Baildon Bridge (look out for the dog in the dinghy on the bridge) and take riverside Sculpture Trail (signed Airedale Way) for about a half mile where this path rejoins the canal at Salts Mill.)



Follow the towpath. Immediately after the bridge look L across the canal to see Saltaire United Reformed Church, one of the jewels of Saltaire. The route can be accessed from Victoria Road, Saltaire at this point.

Follow canal towpath to the next lock (Hirst Lock) and cross by the bridge to a car park. Enter Hirst Wood through the gate and take the line of the main path through an area of mature beech woodland. Do not deviate until you see a low, broken wall on the L. At this point fork L and take a less walked path down past a finger post directing to "Woodland Walk". Drop down to the riverbank and turning L go under the railway viaduct. Cross the small bridge and follow the riverbank. Caution - this section can be muddy and slippery when wet and is very close to the river. To avoid this short river section take path L past the stable and turn L onto Branksome Drive for 100m. Go around the bend on Branksome Grove to a finger post marking the start of a walled path R back to the river.



At this point you enter a section of high walled path before dropping down under the Bingley bypass viaduct to a wooden bridge over Cottingley Beck and a section of railway sleeper and boarded walk across a boggy area. Again, take care when wet. Follow the path and round a loop of the river past Bingley Rugby Club sports fields.



Keep to the riverbank past gardens and workshops to steps climbing up to the B6265 which should be crossed with great care. Now walk along Beckfoot Lane past Shipley Golf Club until you reach a signed narrow path on R. 200m beyond this point further down Beckfoot Lane is picturesque Beckfoot Bridge and ford – worth a look but not part of this walk.



Take path running alongside allotments toward Myrtle Park and river. Across the river follow the path with the railing along the edge of Myrtle Park. Keep on this path bearing left until you reach the centre of Bingley. Cross the main road for a bus to Shipley or descend to the station. Alternatively, walk through the station car park and follow the path on the R until you find signs to the canal and follow the towpath back to Saltaire and Shipley.



#### 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  
4th Floor, Britannia House, Hall Ings, Bradford BD1 1HX

Tel: 01274 432111

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



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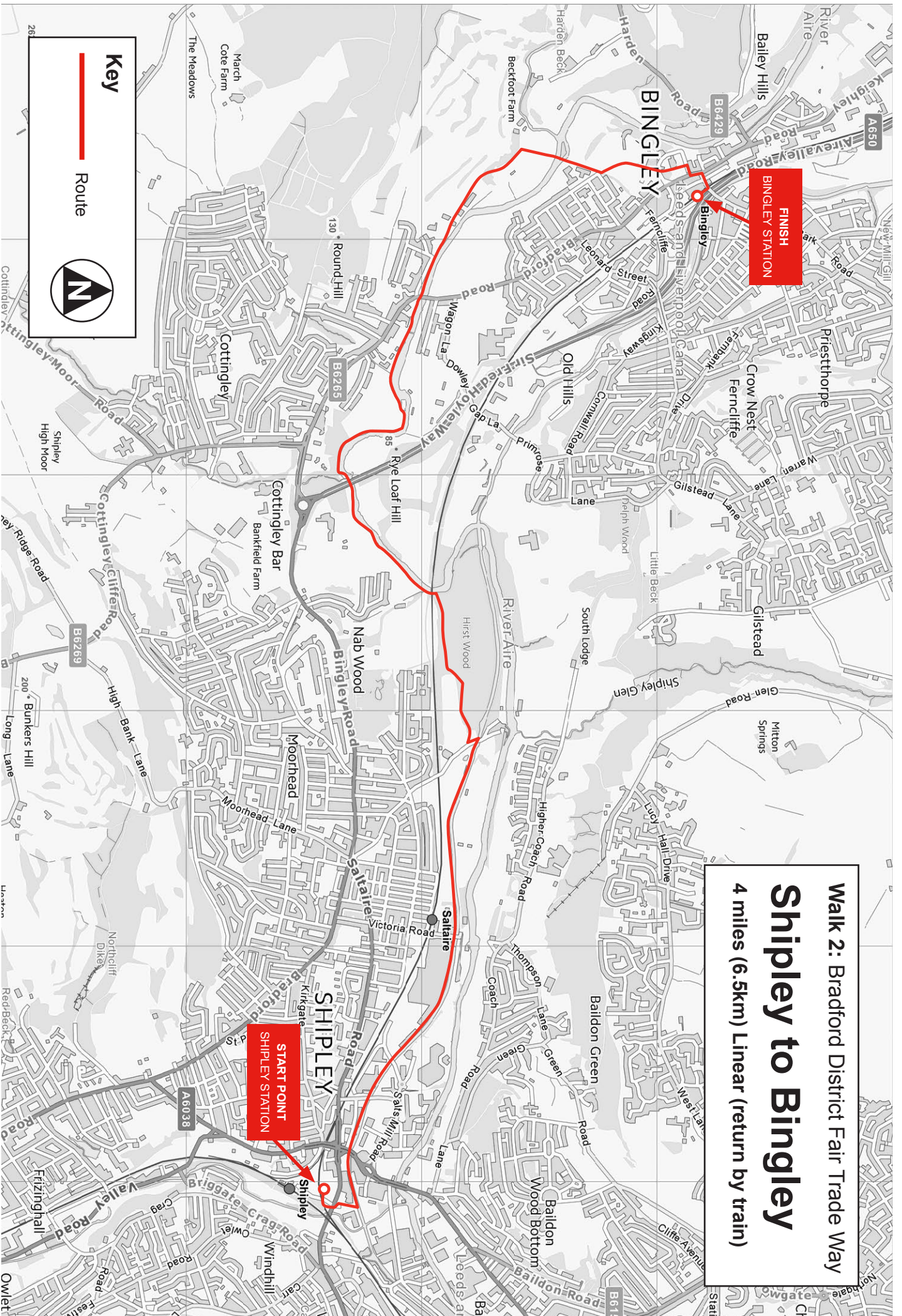
Walk route devised by  
Bradford Fairtrade Zone



City of  
**BRADFORD**  
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

January 2025





**FINISH**  
**BINGLEY STATION**

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**START POINT**  
**SHIPLEY STATION**

**Key**

— Route

