

Countryside & Rights of Way

Walk 6: Bradford District Fair Trade Way

Ilkley to Keighley

6.5 miles (10.25km) Linear

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

The route starts in Victorian Ilkley then climbs up onto Ilkley Moor following the route of the old road linking Ilkley to Keighley. Excellent views across and along Wharfedale are contrasted with good views of Airedale and its settlements after crossing the summit of Ilkley Moor. Moorland up to and down from the summit is somewhat remote and abounds in wildlife, particularly birds from small songbirds to various raptors.

The route then drops down into farmland before crossing the Leeds & Liverpool Canal and continuing through the historic industrial landscape of Airedale into Keighley.

A Fairtrade cafe is located within Christchurch. Originally built in 1868, Christchurch has been a joint Methodist/United Reformed Church since 1981.



From Ilkley Station or Christchurch on The Grove at Ilkley across Ilkley Moor to Keighley Station the walk uses existing footpaths, tracks and roads. The climb up from Ilkley is steep in sections. Walking boots and good wind and waterproof outdoor clothing is strongly advised. This route is not suitable for disabled access. Dogs should be kept on a lead at all times on open moorland.

It is essential to carry enough food and drinks to last throughout the walk as there are no refreshment stops before Keighley.

Public transport information:

Metro Line: 0113 245 7676

MAP	OS Explorer 297 Lower Wharfedale & Washburn Valley
BUS	762 & 765 from Stand N in Keighley Bus Station
PARKING	Ilkley Shoppers Car Park
RETURN	Train Keighley to Ilkley via Shipley
TOILETS	Ilkley Car Park, Christchurch
FAIRTRADE	Christchurch, Oxfam, Supermarkets

THE ROUTE

Start from Ilkley Station and walk towards Christchurch, on the Grove. Turn L uphill on Wells Road, (a scenic, initial section is via Mill Ghyll on the right, above the sphagnum moss fountain – taking the wooded walkway beside the stream), and continue until you reach the edge of the moor and find Keighley Road on L. (A deviation R at the top of Mill Ghyll along Queens Road takes you past the Panorama Stones with cup and ring marks. They were moved here, opposite St Margaret's Church, in 1890.)

Take this metalled road uphill. It is the old road from Ilkley to Keighley. Follow this road to the first sharp bend R. Here, fit walkers may go straight ahead up the signposted path which soon rejoins the old road to Keighley, now a track unfit for vehicles. A gentler option is to follow the old road. On a clear day, you can look back to enjoy fine views over Wharfedale and the more distant fells as you climb. You may well see and hear some of the grouse which live on Ilkley Moor.



As you continue your ascent you will see the wireless masts at Whetstone Gate higher up the hillside on L. Look R to find Cowpers Cross. Little is known about this cross with the inscription ILB.IM.1803. It may be a Christianised megalith site or a boundary stone but its original date and purpose are uncertain. From the summit near the gate, at 378 m you have long views northward up Wharfedale and the Aire valley with higher fells beyond.

Follow the track through the gate as it becomes a narrow unfenced metalled road and bends R across Whetstone Allotment. There is no footway along the road until turning off onto a footpath to Heights Farm, after the crossroads .

Continue your descent into the Aire Valley as the road drops down Morton Moor and passing Upwood on the L. This old road is very straight until you reach the Silsden to Morton road and looking across the desolate moorland there is considerable wild life.

Cross the Silsden to Morton Road and descend towards Riddlesden past Moor Side Farm on L. As the road bends L, take the footpath straight ahead towards Heights Farm. Follow the path into the farmyard at Heights Farm with the farmhouse on R. Turn L on the track going downhill at the end of the farm building with the external stone staircase. The grassy track continues on L of the beck leading downhill towards Riddlesden. Through the gate the track develops into a road by the side of the Methodist church on Ilkley Road.

Cross over the road, turn R for about 30 metres then take the signposted footpath downhill to Banks Lane. Cross this road and continue downhill on the footpath to Scott Lane. Turn L on Scott Lane then almost immediately R to cross the canal on the Bar Lane bridge.

Having crossed the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, walk straight ahead down Bar Lane to the B6265 Bradford Road from Riddlesden to Keighley. Turn R along this road towards Keighley, crossing the River Aire then looking out for the blue signpost for the Airedale Greenway. Following the Airedale Greenway signs, cross the B 6265 at the pedestrian crossing just past the Stockbridge Arms and before Autospot and turn L into Aireworth Road. Bear R into Aireworth Grove adjacent to the Harrison Clough building. Continue following the signed route along the River Worth, via the underpass, until you reach the road, Worth Bridge Road. Turn L and go on to Dalton Lane at Dalton Mills.



Dalton Mills, a listed building now destroyed by fire, was once the largest mill in this part of the Aire Valley. Turn R along Dalton Lane and follow until the T junction opposite ASDA.

Turn L for Keighley Station. Pass the station and cross the road to go R up Cavendish St to reach the bus 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
Countryside and Rights of Way Service
4th Floor, Britannia House, Hall Ings, Bradford BD1 1HX

Tel: 01274 432111

www.bradford.gov.uk/countryside



Find us on facebook:
[fairtrade.bradford](https://www.facebook.com/fairtrade.bradford)

Walk route devised by
Bradford Fairtrade Zone



City of
BRADFORD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

January 2025

Walk 6: Bradford District Fair Trade Way

Ilkley to Keighley

6.5 miles (10.25km) Linear

START POINT
ILKLEY STATION

FINISH
KEIGHLEY STATION

Key

Route

