

Countryside & Rights of Way

North of Thornton

5 miles (8km) circular walk

The Walk

Once away from the urban area of Thornton, this walk has quite an international feel as you are soon passing the outskirts of both Moscow and Egypt, along with the occasional sighting of llama, native of the Andes.

Walking on mainly little used paths across pasture land, the footpaths are linked together by busy country lanes. This walk is suitable for most reasonably fit walkers, agile enough to negotiate the many stiles. Comfortable strong waterproof shoes/boots are essential, with outdoor clothing to suit the season. A packed lunch is advisable. This walk is not suitable for pushchairs, wheelchairs and people with restricted mobility.

Car Parking

There are no public car parks; therefore parking is limited to on street parking. Please park with care and consideration.

Public Transport

Bus service 697 operates between Keighley and Bradford via Thornton village. Contact Metroline on: 0113 245 7676 for further details.

Starting Point

Thornton village centre.

The Route

Starting from the centre of Thornton village at the junction of Market Street and West Lane. From here start your climb out of the village by walking up West Lane for quite a distance to its junction with the top of James Street. Here cross over West Lane to walk along the road opposite, Reservoir View. At the end of Reservoir View go through the gap in the stone wall and continue by walking straight ahead following the well worn path along the hillside, climbing several stiles and crossing fields until you reach the rusty metal railings and kissing gate at the entrance to Thornton Cemetery. Don't go through the gate into the cemetery but turn sharp right uphill through the gap in the dry stone wall, to walk uphill keeping close to the trees and fence on your left, to the very top end of the field. On reaching the top of the field go through the stile and across the dirt track to continue under the trees and up the narrow path, to emerge onto Hill Top Road, near the Ring O' Bells pub and restaurant.

Cross over Hill Top Road straight ahead, to go through the wrought iron gate opposite to walk between the houses along the stone paved path before going through a second gate and out into a field. Once in the field follow the dry stone wall on your right to climb a stile at the bottom right hand corner into a short narrow section of fenced path, before climbing a second stile and down a short incline to a third stile. Climb the stile to walk along another short section of narrow fenced path negotiating a further two stiles and crossing another footpath which crosses from left to right, to eventually enter another field.

In the field the footpath bears slightly to the right along the top edge of a deep gully, which is on your right. Before joining a grassy track to walk a short distance downhill to a field gate, passing the ruined building on your left. On reaching the gate go through the gap at the right hand side, out onto Upper Heights Road, here turn left diagonally across the road and through the stile, next to the field gate opposite. In the field keep close to the dry stone wall on your left and continue downhill to the stile in the bottom left hand corner of the field. Here climb the stile out onto Lower Heights Road, turning left to walk along the road towards the Rock and Heifer Inn.

At the junction in front of the Rock and Heifer bear right and then immediately turn right down Egypt Road. After approximately 150yds (136m) along Egypt Road leave the road by turning left up the narrow gap in the dry stone wall, climbing a few steps to walk along a short section of walled footpath. At the end of this short section of walled footpath, climb the stile next to the field gate to follow the partially paved stone path across the field, keeping close to the dry stone wall on your left, as it bears left to go through a narrow gap in the next dry stone wall. Here cross a rough field track and continue straight ahead, again keeping close to the dry stone wall on your left and over another stile to continue along following the dry stone wall on your left to a second stile, as you start to drop down to a small hamlet which can be seen in the distance. On nearing the hamlet of High Stream Head at the bottom of a flight of steps, the footpath turns sharp right and over a stile passing the ornamental gates on your left before joining the surfaced driveway in front of the row of cottages at Upper Stream head (please be aware of the many dogs in the vicinity). Here turn right along the drive following it as it bears left uphill to a small gate at the right hand side of the building. Go through the gate onto a small rough surfaced parking area to continue straight ahead the short distance to a second gate near the gable end of the next buildings at High Stream head (often obscured by vehicles).

Once through the gate and in the field the path follows the gable end wall of the house gently uphill for approx. 25yds (23m). here the path bears to the right diagonally downhill to follow an obvious 1yd (1m) wide level grass path leading down to a gateway through the drystone wall ahead. Through the gap, again cross the next field diagonally to the right heading for a narrow squeeze stile below the houses at Low Stream Head which can be seen ahead.

Climb the stile into a narrow walled path, immediately crossing a small bridge over Pitty Beck, before walking uphill through the metal gates between the house and the kennels and out onto a wide dirt road, Stream Head Road. Here walk up the road to its junction at the top with Old Allen Road, turn right to walk up Old Allen Road, passing Hill View, a bungalow on your right and continue up the road a short distance to Little Moortop Farm. Here walk just beyond the buildings of the farm and look out for a stile in the dry stone wall on your left, go through the stile into the field to follow the footpath along the farms perimeter dry stone wall on your left. After a short distance the wall ends, here continue by walking diagonally to the left towards the stile, which can be seen in the dry stone wall ahead.

Once over the stile into the next field continue by walking straight ahead and over the broken down stone wall, where the next stile should be to continue straight ahead again over the next field to another stile at the right hand side from the farm gateway. Once over this stile continue walking straight ahead following the dry stone wall on your left and through another stile onto a farm track. Follow the farm track again straight ahead eventually to go through a stile next to a gate and out onto a surfaced road (Stevenson Road). Follow the road to its junction with Back Lane and turn left here to walk down Back Lane for approx 300yds (273m), before turning right off the road and through the second stile in the dry stone wall on your right. Once through the stile follow the footpath up the incline to the dry stone wall on your right. At the top of the incline where the field levels out cross an obvious filed track and continue straight ahead towards the wide gap in the dry stone wall, still keeping to the wall on your right.

Go through the gap in the wall and continue straight ahead across the next field a short distance until you reach the broken down dry stone wall in the top left hand corner of the field. Here climb over the broken down wall where the stile should be and continue by walking with the dry stone wall on your left, as you turn left following the wall across the field to the next stile. Once over the stile continue to follow the wall on your left across the next field to another stile in the wall corner of the rear of the farm buildings of Shay House Farm, to walk along a narrow walled path to emerge out onto the farm access track. Here cross the track straight ahead to go through a stile on the opposite side and continue by walking down the path with the dry stone wall on your left and an agricultural building on your right before going through another stile into the field. Keep close to the wall and hedge on your left and cross the field to a stile leading into the gardens of the white

painted house. Once in the garden follow the obvious paved path through the garden, turning right and then left before going up the steps at the side of the building out onto a rough surfaced road in front of several other houses. Follow the rough road to just beyond the last house on the left, here where the road turns sharp right leave the road and continue straight ahead down a small grassy embankment and under the bushy tree.

Continue by following the dry stone wall on your left straight ahead crossing two fields and three stiles to emerge out onto a grass track, follow the track uphill to its junction with another track which crosses from left to right. Turn right here and follow the well-worn track through a gateway and out onto the main Allerton Road. Turn left to walk along Allerton Road for quite a distance before turning right down Cote Lane, 50m beyond the junction with Prune Park Lane. Continue down Cote Lane passing all the houses on your right before turning right along the narrow surfaced road leading to Bailey Fold. Follow this narrow road as it turns left steeply downhill in amongst the houses and stables at Bailey Fold.

The surfaced road ends here and the route continues downhill through a gateway, now following a wide muddy track downhill to the next gate. Here the track ends and the footpath is accessed through a gap in the fence to the right of the gate into a field. From here follow the dry stone wall on your left, still walking downhill to pass between two gateways. Just below the bottom gateway the wall on the left finishes, bear slightly to your right here to follow the line of trees on your right as you continue downhill to the bottom of the valley and across Pitty Beck via a flat stone bridge. After crossing the bridge bear to your left to walk the 50yds (44m) or so to the stile in the dry stone wall. Once through the stile go straight ahead uphill following the dry stone wall on your left to go through a second stile halfway up, before eventually reaching the stile next to the gateway at the top. Here turn left through the stile and follow the dry stone wall on your right to a second gateway with stile, the footpath joins a grassy track here leading you through the hamlet of Upper Hoyle lngs and out onto Northcliffe Lane. Follow Northcliffe Lane downhill to its junction with Spring Head Road, here turn right to walk along Spring Head Road before taking the second turning on the left to walk along Bronte Old Road, through Thornton village and back to your start point.

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
Department of Regeneration
Countryside and Rights of Way Service
5th Floor, North, Jacobs Well, Bradford BD1 5RW

Tel: 01274 432666
www.bradford.gov.uk
e-mail: crow@bradford.gov.uk

North of Thornton

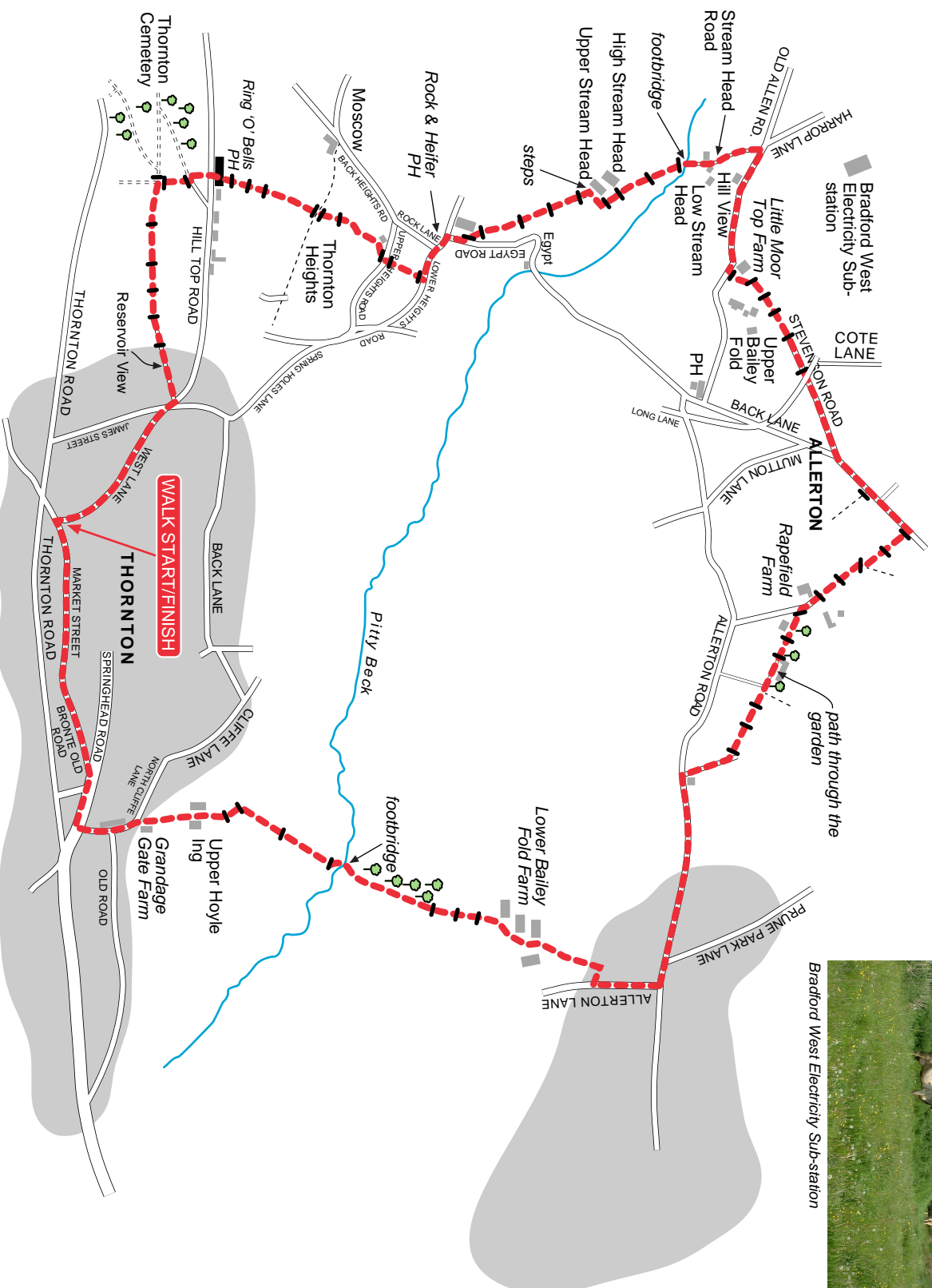
5 miles (8km) circular walk



Rock & Heifer



Bradford West Electricity Sub-station



Key (map not to scale)

- - - Route
- Gap/Stile/Gate
- - - Other Footpaths

