

Countryside & Rights of Way

Walk 9: Bradford District Fair Trade Way

Thornton to Bradford

5.5 miles (9km) Linear (return by bus)

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



This walk passes through open country on the edge of the Pennines, passes through an old village and then takes an ancient route down past one of Bradford's many stone quarries. Into the edgeland of the city we pass a large cemetery and housing estate before reaching the dense urban settlement of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Local enterprise is seen and then the University of Bradford stands on high ground above the city centre. You take the Bronte Way from Thornton across a valley of open countryside to Clayton before turning down towards rural fringe, residential and urban city scape.

This is a hard walk with some climbs, very muddy sections, rough track and uneven pavements. There are often cattle, horses or sheep in the fields and dogs must be kept on a lead. Walkers are advised to wear strong footwear and clothing appropriate to the weather. This route is not suitable for disabled access.

Public transport information:

Metro Line: 0113 245 7676

TIME	3 hours
MAP	OS Explorer 288 Bradford and Huddersfield
BUS	607 Thornton, 696, 697 Keighley Dismount at Kipping Gardens
TOILETS	South Square, St James Church, City Park, Bradford Interchange, Cathedral
FAIRTRADE	Bradford Cathedral, supermarkets

THE ROUTE

Start from Kipping Gardens, corner of Thornton Road and Kipping Lane, at the centre of Thornton Village which received Fairtrade status in 2011.

Walk up Upper Kipping Lane past the post office and onto Market Street. Walk along Market Street passing the Bronte Birthplace. Continue ahead onto Bronte Old Road towards St. James Church, go down snicket at side of St. James Church signposted Bronte Way.

St. James Church on Thornton Road. Cross over road to the restored Old Bell Chapel and graveyard (marking where Patrick Bronte preached, well worth a visit as is the Bronte display in the Church). Turn left and walk down Thornton Road to the unmarked road on R signposted – Bronte Way.



Go down to the bottom of the unmarked road. At the bottom are the impressive gates to Thornton Hall, to L of these gates go through the small iron kissing gate into the field below- following the Bronte Way signs. Though the path is indistinct it makes a diagonal line across the field towards a gap in wall at bottom L corner of field. As you walk down the hill look R and take in the wonderful views across the valley to Green Lane and Thornton Viaduct.

Go through gap in wall, turn right following track uphill past farm buildings, crossing over Pinch Beck bridge and continue uphill until you reach Chat Hill Road. Turn R and follow road uphill for 20 yards to first junction on L of the road, be careful as there is no pavement on this stretch of road.

Cross the road immediately after the junction and follow the pavement down this road (Low Lane). Continue down Low Lane to the dip where the road crosses a stream and go R through the gate following the Bronte way sign keeping the stream on R. (If there are cows in the fields you may choose to remain on Low Lane and continue up the road to Clayton Village to rejoin the route at the roundabout. This is a narrow lane with much traffic in both directions.)

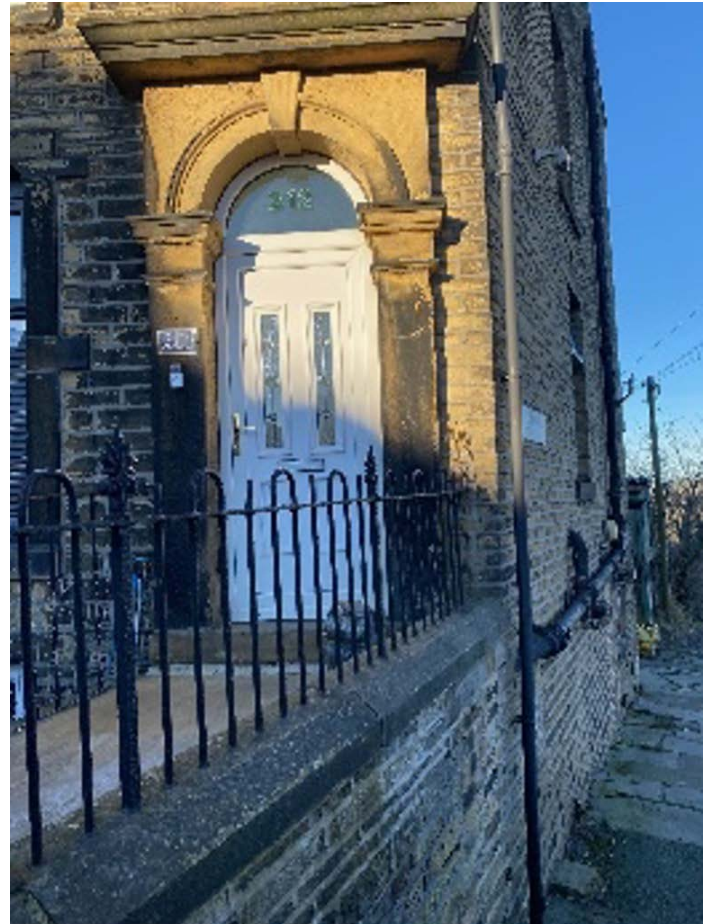
Follow this track for about 20m and look for the end of a dry-stone wall on L. Head up this wall and continue uphill keeping the dry-stone wall on L.



After 400m you will go through a gap with a marker stone with central hole, follow the public footpath signs. Continue up following L side of the field, Low Lane will remain below L. Go through gap in wall and take a diagonal line L across the fields looking for a gap in wall. Continue up across the next field and go through another stile. A good spot to sit and look back across the valley to Thornton Viaduct.

Continue uphill till you reach a main track and turn L. Follow downhill as it leads between two dry stone walls and past a row of cottages (Holts Lane.) Pass the cottages to reach the road, Low Lane. You are now in Clayton Village. Turn R and pass the mini roundabout, cross over Low Lane before the main roundabout.

Turn L at the main roundabout down Bradford Road. Keep L past houses for approx. 100m and take the track on L, Deep Lane. The numbers on the wall show that these are back-to-back houses still clearly in demand.



"On old maps it was the main route from Clayton to Bradford - it featured in the Domesday book," John Baruch, Clayton Footpath Group. This is a direct route down from Clayton used over centuries. Is this the ancient route which later became a dreary path to labour in the quarry or mills of the growing city and:

Generations have trod,
have trod, have trod;

And all is seared with trade;
bleared, smeared with toil;

And wears man's smudge and
shares man's smell; the soil

Is bare now, nor can foot feel,
being shod.

G M Hopkins 'The Grandeur of God'



As you go down this country track some parts will be very uneven, parts may be very wet and muddy but there are wonderful views across the fields to Industrial Bradford (see if you can spot Lister's Mill) and back towards Thornton. You will be on this track for some distance (over 1/2 mile) do not turn off L across the fields. As you continue down the track you will pass a high dry-stone wall on R and then a large quarry on R.



Just past the quarry you will see some large blocks of stone and track leading off R. This may be a good spot for a quick Fairtrade snack and cuppa from your flask.

Go past the blocks of stones and continue down Deep Lane between smaller stone walls. Follow Deep Lane to a point where there are open fields on R. Look for a large gate stone at a stile with way marker on R.



Cross the stile and walk along the field with the stone wall on R until you come to another stile R. Cross this stile and walk along the ancient stone flagged path towards the woodland. (Stone flags were lain along well-used footpaths as 'job creation' following the Napoleonic wars.) As you continue on this straight line you will notice a shiny new gate ahead surrounded by lush growth of Japanese Knotweed. The path lies through the gate and up the hill. If you skirt round either side and find the path directly ahead it will take you to the wall of Scholemoor Cemetery.



Keeping the wall on L go uphill on the footpath, through a gate and continue on pavement with the wall on L. Use Walker Avenue and go on until you pass the main entrance to Scholemoor Cemetery on Necropolis Road. Continue past the cemetery entrance on Necropolis Road until you reach a main road (Cemetery Road). Turn R and walk approx a 100m until you reach the junction, cross the road; turn L and cross Cemetery Road also. Continue down the main road, Legrams Lane, or turn R and walk towards Wheater Rd.



Alternatively, avoid the main road by taking a back alley R after the cemetery entrance. Cross the next road and look for Mabel Royd which is diagonally across R. Follow to the end and pass through a gate to emerge on Clayton Road. Cross towards St. Wifrid's Church and walk L on Lidget Terrace towards the main road. Look for traffic island or go L to traffic lights.

Cross the main road and walk R to Wheater Rd. Turn L and go to next street where you turn R and go down to Spencer Road. These are terraces of urban housing built around the end of 19th century which now provide low cost housing for a largely immigrant community. Corner shops thrive in this area.

Along Spencer Road is the Khidmat Community Centre, primary schools and playing fields. Continue to Horton Grange Road, use pedestrian crossing, turn R and then turn L down Woodhead Road. Follow this road to Shearbridge Road passing Bombay Stores on R. Either continue on Longside Lane or walk through the University of Bradford campus towards Great Horton Road which lies further on R. Or walk to the end of Shearbridge and turn L towards the city centre on Great Horton Road. Pass the university, the imposing old college buildings and the new Bradford College campus. Bear left and take pedestrian walkway down the side of the Alhambra Theatre and the recently renovated Bradford Live venue. Cross the main road to City Park to admire fountains, find refreshment, or even paddle!

To continue on to Bradford Cathedral go along pedestrianised Market Street towards the Broadway shopping mall. Go through this and past the Bradford Arts Centre to find Church Bank. Go up alongside the cathedral to Stott Hill, turn L and enter the pedestrian gate into the Cathedral Close. The cathedral is only open from 9 to 3pm Mon to Thursday and also on Sundays.

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

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Tel: 01274 432111

www.bradford.gov.uk/countryside



Find us on facebook:
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Walk route devised by
Bradford Fairtrade Zone



City of
BRADFORD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

January 2025

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