

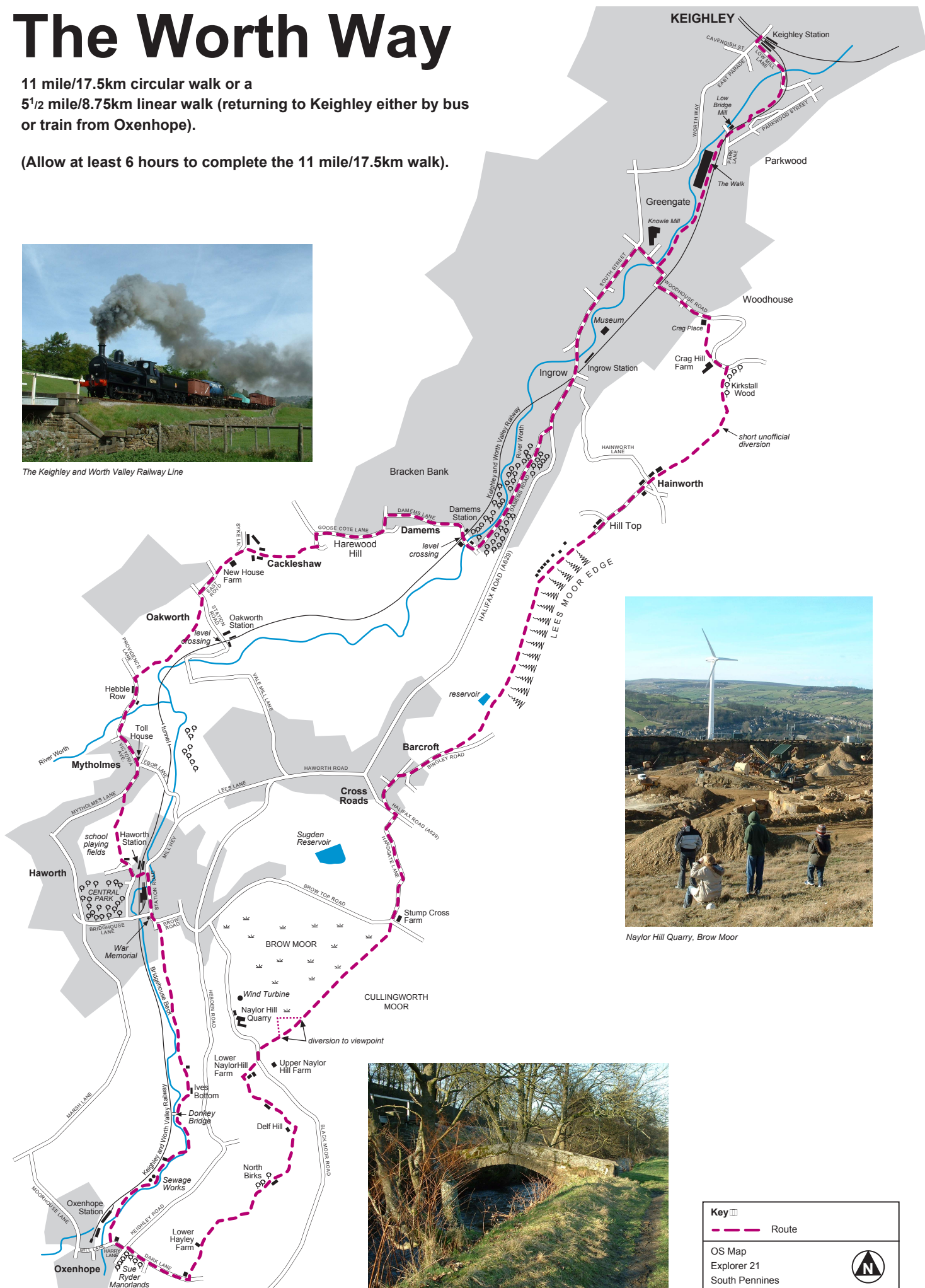
# The Worth Way

11 mile/17.5km circular walk or a  
5½ mile/8.75km linear walk (returning to Keighley either by bus  
or train from Oxenhope).

(Allow at least 6 hours to complete the 11 mile/17.5km walk).



The Keighley and Worth Valley Railway Line



Naylor Hill Quarry, Brow Moor



Donkey Bridge, Bridgehouse Valley

# Countryside & Rights of Way

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**Ordnance Survey Map Explorer 21 South Pennines covers the whole route.**

The walk has been devised by linking existing footpaths, tracks and roads and is best described as strenuous. Walking boots and good wind and waterproof outdoor clothing is strongly advised.

It is essential to carry enough food and drinks to last throughout the day. Refreshments may be available at Oxenhope station when the trains are running. There are also several food shops and a public house near Haworth station.

**Public transport information:**

**Metro Line: 0113 245 7676**

**Worth Valley Railway: 01535 645214**

*Worth Way cloth badges are available and are obtainable from Haworth Tourist Information Centre, 2/4 West Lane, Haworth BD22 8EF, or by post. Tel. 01535 642329 for details.*

### THE ROUTE

From the rundown Victorian ginnels of industrial Keighley, climbing steeply to the contrasting hill top village of Hainworth where the route offers superb views along the whole of the Worth Valley. Then on to Oxenhope, a typical South Pennine village and terminus of the Worth Valley Railway. Returning along the picturesque Bridge House Valley, between Oxenhope and Haworth, before continuing along the Worth Valley via Oakworth, Damens and Ingrow, back to Keighley.

Starting at Keighley Railway Station with your back to the building, turn left at the station forecourt and immediately left again down the cobbled Low Mill Lane. Pass over the River Worth to turn right just before the stone built railway bridge off the road to walk along the narrow Victorian ginnel.

Follow the footpath as it weaves under the Worth Valley railway line, turning right across the metal footbridge spanning the now dismantled GNR railway line and under the stone archway, to emerge onto a road (Park Lane) at Low Bridge mill. Turn left and cross over Park Lane onto the road opposite (The Walk) and walk along for approx. 100yds/91.5m before taking the path off the road to the left and up the slight incline between the railway and the old mill buildings. Continue along the path along side the River Worth, climbing the 12 stone steps at the end of the path onto Woodhouse Road.

Turn left following Woodhouse Road as it bears right and then left to go over the railway bridge. Continue uphill over the road junction to where the surfaced road finishes and a narrow, unmade track starts, just beyond the row of terraced houses on the right (Springhurst, Crag Place). Turn right here up the 3 stone steps leading off the rough track and up the very steep, narrow walled path. Nearing the top of the path go through the stone kissing gate, then immediately turn left over a stile back onto the rough track. Turn right up the track passing the entrance to Crag Hill Farm and continue uphill for approx. 100yds/91.5m, turning right at the corner of the dry stone wall on the right into the woodland (Kirkstall Wood). Follow the path as it meanders through the trees along the bottom of the wood to a gated gap stile.

Through the stile the path goes diagonally left across the field to the 2 gateways ahead, here the definitive line of the path goes through the left hand gate keeping the dry stone wall on the right, to a stile at the other end of the field. However, when surveyed the path has been unofficially diverted through the right hand gateway, to follow the same wall but now with it on your left, finishing at the same point 75yds/68.5m by the stile.

Continue straight forward for a short distance to go through the stile in the next wall which can be seen ahead, keeping the wall on your right, continue straight ahead across 2 fields and over 2 more stiles onto a rough farm track. Follow the track with the wall on your left and pass between the farm buildings, emerging onto the surface road (Hainworth Lane) at Hainworth village.

Cross the road to walk through the village, where, after a short distance the surfaced road ends and changes to an unmade road (Hill Top Road). Follow the unmade road for

approx. 300yds/274m to where the road forks at Hill Top, here take the unmade road to the left uphill, walking behind the farm buildings and cottages along Lees Moor Edge for approx. 1/2 mile/0.8km as it passes between the old quarries, moorland and fields before joining a surfaced road (Bingley Road).

On reaching the road turn right downhill through the hamlet of Barcroft, following the road as it bears left downhill to join the main A629 Keighley-Halifax road. Cross the main road to join the unmade track opposite (Hardgate Lane). Follow Hardgate Lane as it climbs steeply uphill to meet a surfaced road (Brow Top Road). Cross over onto Brow Moor and follow the wide path straight forward keeping the wall on the left, until you meet a surfaced road (Black Moor Road) near Naylor Hill Quarry.

Turn left up Black Moor Road for approx. 100yds/91.5m before turning right off the road and across the grass and heather verge, to a stile in the stonewall. Go through the stile and down the hillside and the steps onto the farm access tracks, taking the second track on the left to walk in front of the farmhouse at Lower Naylor Hill Farm.

At the far end of the farmhouse turn left and bear to the right, walking between the fence and wall and across the field for approx. 100yds/91.5m to the far end of the field. Here a small amount of surplus soil has been dumped creating a steep slope, thereby making direct access to the stile below difficult. To avoid the steep bank, walk round the left edge of the soil heap in a semi-circle, to get to the stile. Go through the stile and turn left along the dry stone wall and over 2 more stiles onto a farm track. Cross the track and go through the small gate opposite, following the path behind the building, going through 2 more small gates before emerging onto a second farm track.

Turn left up the track and through a gate passing Delph Hill Farm on the right. A little further up the track, beyond the farm look out for the stile in the wall on the right. Go through the stile and straight forward across the field crossing a broken down wall and across a second field to the stile by the gateway. Once over this stile continue straight forward for a short distance to a walled track and turn right through the gate and down the track walking in front of the building (North Birks Farm). Follow the track down to its junction with another track, here look for a stile hidden in the corner of the wall on the left. Go through the stile into the field and walk straight forward, following the field boundary wall/fence on your left, as it bears right to a stile in the wall ahead. Once through the stile the path goes diagonally to the right across the field and over the stile in the wall onto a walled track. Follow the track straight forward to go through 2 gates at the rear of Lower Haley Farm. Now follow the dry stone wall on your left for a short distance to a very narrow stile in the wall corner. Once through keep the wall on your left and walk straight forward over several other stiles to emerge onto a surfaced road (Dark Lane).

Turn right down Dark Lane to its junction with the main Keighley/Hebden Bridge Road. At the main road cross over to the left and go down the road opposite (Harry Lane). At the bottom of the incline on Harry Lane access to Oxenhope station is gained by walking straight along the road, now

called Mill Lane. Our route continues by turning right at the bottom of Harry Lane and along the track just beyond the house on the right.

Follow the track for a short distance and go through the stile at the end into the field. The path now goes along the side of the beck (Bridge House Beck) to the metal footbridge. Turn left across the bridge and turn right on the opposite side along the narrow walled path, still following the beck, to emerge through a kissing gate onto a farm access track near to Oxenhope water treatment works.

Continue straight forward passing the treatment works before bearing right to a stile adjacent to a renovated farmhouse. Follow the path round to the right and across a metal footbridge, turning left to go through a stile into a field.

The path now follows the beck over a wooden bridge and round the edge of the field, passing on the left a stone built 'Packhorse Bridge' (Donkey Bridge), bearing right uphill onto the farm access track. Turn left down the track and walk in front of the former farmhouse building (Ives Bottom Farm). Just beyond the building the path bears slightly down to the left, follow the dry stone wall to a stile. Go over the stile and across another farm access track to walk straight forward, passing on your right a derelict farm building. The path now runs parallel with Bridge House Beck and the Worth Valley railway line along the valley bottom, passing the metal bollards (boundary markers of the former Haworth and Oxenhope Rural District Councils) before turning right to cross a second metal bridge, before turning left across the fields to emerge onto Brow Road in Haworth. Turn left down Brow Road, bearing right at the bottom and walk straight forward along Station Road to Haworth railway station.

Facing the station take the footbridge to the left of the station building, turning right immediately after crossing the bridge to walk up the narrow road between the bungalow and the houses. At the top of the road turn left in front of the cottages, then turn right down the side of the same cottages and walk along the path into a field. Cross the field, following the surfaced path to the right, then go through a stile in the wall at the far end onto the unmade road.

Turn left along the unmade road for a short distance to its junction with a main road (Mytholmes Lane). Here turn right down Mytholmes Lane to follow this busy road for quite some distance, passing as you go the old Toll House and children's play area on the right, before reaching the bottom of the hill. Here the road changes its name to Providence Lane which you walk along passing Hebble Row, a row of cottages on the left, and a garage on the right.

Just beyond the garage turn right off the road and ascend several stone steps onto a footpath. Follow the footpath straight forward and continue as it bears left uphill to a kissing gate on the right. Go through the gate and across the field, then through a second kissing gate out onto Station Road. Cross over Station Road bearing left uphill to walk up the narrow road opposite (East Royd), follow this surfaced farm access road, ignoring the private road sign, straight on through the farmyard at New House Farm.



On leaving the farmyard the footpath leaves the now unmade track by turning right between the gardens and fields of Cackleshaw to a gap stile at the far end of the hamlet. Go through the stile into the field and walk straight forward following the wall on your right, after the second field the path bears to the left up a slight incline and through a gap between the broken down walls and across the field to a stile ahead at Harewood Hill. Climb over the stile to turn left along the short unmade road to join the surfaced road (Goose Cote Lane). Here turn right down Goose Cote Lane, bearing left as you near the bottom of the hill approaching the houses on the fringe of Bracken Bank estate.

Turn right at the bottom of Goose Cote Lane, down the wide, unmade road (Damens Lane) and continuing straight forward as the road narrows to a track down to Damens Station. Cross over the railway line to turn left along the wide, unmade road just after the bungalow on the left. Follow this unmade road (Damens Road) straight forward to its junction with the main A629 Keighley/Halifax Road. Cross over the main road and turn left downhill, now using the pavement follow the main road for about 3/4 mile/1.2km passing Ingrow Station, the Museum of Rail Travel and a petrol filling station on your right. Turn right off the main road at the road junction in front of the large mill building ahead (Knowle Mill) down Woodhouse Road.

At the bottom of the hill, where the road levels out look out on the left for the gap in the wall, go down the steps back onto the footpath along the side of the River Worth to re-trace your steps back to the starting point at Keighley Station.

## Points of Interest Along the Way

**Low Bridge Mill, Keighley** - a listed building. Look for the three carved stone heads built into the chimney, who they are and what they represent are a mystery.

**Hainworth** - a quaint hilltop settlement, look out for the unusual plaque built into the wall of the row of cottages on the right.

**Naylor Hill Quarry** - a short diversion of the route whilst crossing Brow Moor will give the walker an overview of the full extent of the working of this family run quarry. This vantage point also offers a panoramic view to the west of the Bronte village of Haworth and beyond to the county boundary on the skyline with Lancashire. Please take care on the edge of the quarry.

**Oxenhope** - a typical South Pennine village, well worth a return visit another day to explore the surrounding countryside. The O/S explorer 21 map is suitable for this purpose.

**Haworth Village** - a quaint hilltop South pennine village made world famous by the Bronte family. It's steep cobbled Main Street is a hive of activity with visitors from around the world. The well maintained central park is also worth a visit, as is the surrounding countryside with its many walks over the Bronte moorland landscape. The O/S Explorer 21 map is suitable for this purpose.

## ALL THE STATIONS ON THE WORTH VALLEY LINE

**The Worth Valley Line** - opened in 1867 to service the mills and villages along the Worth Valley.

**Keighley Station** - a listed building. Platforms 1 & 2 are for main-line operations and platforms 3 & 4 are for the Worth Valley line and retain many of their original features.

**Ingrow Station** - re-built by the Worth Valley Railway from a disused station building at Foulridge Lancashire, following total vandalism of the original building after the line was closed by British Rail. Nearby is the museum of rail travel, a collection of period railway carriages and other railway memorabilia, rated second only to the National Railway Museum in York. Exhibits are often used for period filming.

**Damem Station** - Britain's smallest station which is often used in filming, the most recent being 'Ormston' in the BBC series '*Born and Bred*'. Nearby is the Worth Valley Railway line passing loop

**Oakworth Station** - a well preserved Edwardian period, gas lit station used many times for film and TV productions, the most famous being the 1970 film '*The Railway Children*'.

**Haworth Station** - head office of the Worth Valley Railway. Nearby are the engine sheds and maintenance workshops. Alight here to explore Bronte country and Haworth village.

**Oxenhope Station** - terminus of the Worth Valley Railway. Here is an exhibition shed with a display of locomotives and carriages. There is also a picnic area and buffet car, which opens when the trains are running.