

Bingley To Cullingworth

Starting point and OS Grid reference	Bingley – On street parking at Fairfax Road. (SE 107402)
Ordnance Survey map	OL21 South Pennines – Burnley, Hebden Bridge, Keighley and Todmorden OS Explorer Map 288 - Bradford & Huddersfield
Distance	12.6 miles
Traffic light rating	

Introduction: This walk from Bingley to Cullingworth is something of a wandering ramble. It shows that it is possible to have a decent walk without trekking off into the wilds. There are a lot of interesting features on this walk including the famous Bingley Five Rise Locks on the Leeds/Liverpool Canal, River Aire, Goit Stock Waterfalls and the Hewenden Viaduct which you cross.

For me, one of the most interesting features was the George Hotel in Cullingworth for lunch! A wide range of Old Spot beers are brewed “up t’road” by the owner of the pub and the quality of the OSB I had and the food were exemplary.

Attractive black faced stone cottages abound and the terrain varies from tarmac to field footpaths and moorland. The walking itself is quite easy but the route is quite complicated to describe in places and the directions are therefore quite lengthy. In part, the walk follows the Millennium Way.

Unfortunately, although there are many good views, on the day I did the walk, it was rather murky so I did not take view photos.

The walk starts near the Bingley Five Rise Locks and the best place to park is in the residential street Fairfax Road. To get there from the centre of Bingley, turn north at the main traffic lights up Park Road. Look out for Beck Lane on the left and follow it to a small roundabout. Beyond is Fairfax Road. There is also parking on Beck Lane but it is narrow.

Start: Walk back along Fairfax Road (SE 107402) and at the little roundabout, turn right down Beck Lane, to Bingley Five Rise Locks. These were opened in 1774 and lift the canal some 60 feet.

Cross the canal via the bridge and turn left to walk along the canal towpath to Three Rise Locks also built in 1774, this time lifting the canal by 30 feet. Turn right here and take the footbridge over the busy A650.

At Bingley’s main street, cross over, turn left then right at the traffic lights down Millgate. Only 20 or 30 yards from the junction, at the end of the first group of buildings on the left, turn left along a narrow walled footpath indicated by a small green fingerpost (SE 106394).

The footpath follows the course of the river Aire for a short distance, then opens out into Myrtle Park. Turn left here to walk along the edge of the park at the lower level

(do not go up the steps). At a split in the path, take the right hand fork and head towards the footbridge over the river. Over this, follow the path alongside the allotments.

At the end of the allotments, turn right along the broad track which is part of the Millennium Way. Cross the packhorse bridge at Beck Foot and turn left through the trees (SE 105384). After about 300 yards, descend some stone steps on the left by a group of buildings.

Cross another small packhorse bridge which leads to the golf course. The way across the course is marked by white painted boulders. Obviously, look out for flying golfballs and co-operate with golfers as to who waits for whom!

As you exit the golf course, stay on the Millennium Way which bears left towards the trees. In the trees, when the path forks, keep left continuing to climb. You arrive at an area enclosed by a wire fence. Go right and follow its perimeter. When it ends, go over a stone stile and follow the obvious track across the fields.

At a metalled track (SE 096375), turn left and almost immediately right indicated by a yellow arrow and a green fingerpost.

The footpath exits into Coplowe Lane. Turn right then as the road bends left, turn right along Cross Lane (SE 095371). There is a public bridleway sign for the "Calder Aire Link" and "Cullingworth 2½ miles". This is a broad track to start with but then narrows and descends towards Wildden. As it starts to level out, look out for the footpath on the right hand side indicated by a yellow arrow and turn off here (SE 092369).

Follow this path alongside the wall, ignoring a turn to the right close to a large rock across the path. When the path forks, go left descending gently through the trees.

At the next fork, just before passing between two large rocks, take the left fork. At a broad track (SE 090376), turn left then immediately left again, following the yellow arrow. As the path opens into another broad track, turn left again following the yellow arrow. You should be passing some stone cottages below you on the right.

At the road, opposite the garden centre, turn left and walk along the road for no more than 100 yards. Turn right at a row of stone cottages Cheery Tree Row (SE 089375) following the Millennium Way.

The path follows a stone wall for a while and then forks. The millennium Way marked with a yellow arrow goes left but you go right, descending through the trees. Look out for a bungalow on the right with a large wooden fence and turn right here and drop down to Harden Beck (SE 081373). Turn left through Goit Stock Woods.

You arrive at Goit Stock Falls (SE 078367) which are quite impressive after rain. The path climbs rather precariously here. There is a handrail and you need to ascend to its right initially then pass under it half way up. Continue to follow the beck until you get to a footbridge. Do not cross it but turn sharp left here. An old mill is ahead of you, which has been converted to residential use. You pass a double fingerpost indicating a bridleway in your direction and a footpath to Hewenden in the other.

Now leaving the Millennium Way, you arrive at the hamlet of Hallas Bridge. Just past some garages, turn right passing Moss Cottage.

Follow the road as it bends left and follow the Calder Aire Link.

We now have some road walking to do the purpose being to give the opportunity to cross the Hewenden Viaduct and as the road climbs, it is visible to the right in the distance. At the 'T' junction, turn right continuing to follow the Calder Aire Link.

At the road junction (SE 081359), turn left into the hamlet of Harecroft. As you get to the Station Hotel, turn right down Station Road.

You get to the old station buildings, now converted and extended cottages and then cross the former railway bridge. Turn right through a metal gate joining the Great Northern Trail and crossing Hewenden Viaduct. The path is now metalled and passes Hewenden Reservoir where there is a handy bench for lunch. The Great Northern Trail was formerly part of the Great Northern Railways linking Halifax, Bradford, Queensbury and Keighley. The viaduct has 17 arches.

Stay on this path crossing the viaduct and over a tarmac track and when the path forks, go right under the bridge. This leads into Cullingworth, following the signs for Cullingworth Bowling Club. The path goes round the bowling club and between the houses coming out in Station Road. If you are frequenting the The George or want to look at the attractive church, turn right. Otherwise turn left.

Cross the old railway bridge (SE 064367) and turn immediately right along a broad track, passing the entrance to Lakeside Farm. Take a path on the right hand side passing between two stone gateposts. It descends gently and goes under a railway bridge and at a mill dam, turn left. At a broad track, turn right.

As that track starts to bend right, go through a metal walkers' gate on the left indicated by a yellow arrow (SE 064371).

At the road turn left. You could now simply continue along the road to The Guide pub or, to reduce the amount of road waking and get better views, just after the national speed limit sign, turn right on to a public bridleway signposted as the "Senior Way" (SE 065377).

Take a left fork, just after passing a gap next to a gate, and head through a kissing gate up the moors. There are good views here to the right to Cullingworth and Wilsden.

At the next road turn left (SE 071382). This road can be quite busy. Walk along it to The Guide pub (SE 066387) and turn right here signposted as a public bridleway and "To Calder Aire Link".

At a 'T' junction of tracks (SE 071392), turn right following the fingerpost for "Permissive Bridleway". As the track swings left to a farmhouse, take the right fork indicated by the Calder Aire Link sign.

Follow the main bridleway route ignoring minor turns off and at a fork turn right through a metal walkers' gate. It is difficult here to give accurate directions as there are so many tracks amongst the trees but the route you want approaches a wall on the left. Follow this along and at the corner, turn left (SE 074389). The route swings round to the left and goes through a stile and across a short grassy section before going down some stone steps to a broad track (SE 083387). Turn left.

The village below to the right is Harden.

The track becomes a proper road passing rows of cottages and at the road junction, turn left.

After about 200 yards, turn right into the St. Ives Estate (SE 087387). Stay on the tarmac drive through the estate turning right at the Sports Turf Research institute. Go left at the Disabled Care Centre drive.

Follow the drive to the road then turn left to Bingley traffic lights and retrace your steps to the car.

