

Bradford to Ilkley - The Dalesway Link

12¹/₂ miles (20km) Linear walk



Dalesway Link start point - Forster Square, Bradford

Walk Information

The route has been devised to provide a link to the start of the Dalesway long distance path at Ilkley. It also offers a good recreational linear walk with good public transport links to get you back to your start point. For the first 3¹/₂ miles (5.6km) the route is along the Canal Road corridor, here expect some surprises with hidden gems of green space, some with long distance views. As the walk nears Shipley the path on which you will be walking could, in the not too distant future form part of the proposed Bradford Canal towpath. Beyond Shipley the route along the Leeds Liverpool canal passes Saltaire village (a World Heritage Site) before leaving the valley bottom at Hirst Wood locks to start uphill through the woodlands of Shipley Glen, before crossing farmland to reach the highest part of the route near the Twelve Apostles stone circle as you cross Bingley, Burley and Ilkley Moors. Then it's downhill into Wharfedale passing the top of Ilkley Crags with views over Ilkley and beyond, before continuing down passing White Wells spa cottage as you make your way to Ilkley town centre and to the start of the Dalesway long distance walk at Ilkley Old Bridge in the valley bottom on the River Wharfe. You will require outdoor clothing to suit the season along with strong waterproof footwear, food and drinks are also recommended. Due to the very nature of the countryside this walk is unsuitable for pushchairs, wheelchairs and people with limited mobility.

Walk Start Point

The large elaborate metal gates in front of Bradford Cathedral on Forster Square, Bradford.

Public Transport

Excellent public transport to the centre of Bradford, not only from the surrounding district but nationwide. Contact Metroline on 0113 245 7676 for further information.

Car Parking

There are several pay and display car parks in the city centre along with on street meter parking. Contact Bradford Tourist Information Centre on 01274 433678 for further details.

Information about the Dalesway Long Distance Walk

Guide books and information are available from the Tourist Information Centre, Ilkley. Tel: 01943 602319. e-mail: ilkley@ybtic.co.uk or the Dalesway Association, PO Box 1065 Bradford BD1 9JY. www.dalesway.org.uk

Walk Route

Starting with your back to the large elaborate metal gates which give access to the grounds of Bradford Cathedral on Forster Square, turn right to walk along the pavement for a short distance before turning right again to walk up the flight of stone steps on your right. At the top of the first flight of steps continue uphill following the stone paved path, to eventually exit at the top out onto Stott Hill. Bear left here, diagonally crossing Stott Hill to walk along Captain Street, the level setted road opposite, to its very end at the junction with Bolton Road near the Goldsborough public house. Turn right here to walk up Bolton Road to the traffic lights which can be seen up ahead at the junction with the busy Shipley Airedale Road. On reaching the traffic lights turn left down the Shipley Airedale Road for a short distance to the pelican crossing, turning right to cross the main road to rejoin Bolton Road on the opposite side. Continue up Bolton Road for approx 300yds (274m) before taking the first opportunity to turn left off Bolton Road to walk down Lawson Street. At the bottom of this very short setted street, turn right along Coleman Street to gain access to Boars Well nature reserve at the far end. Enter the nature reserve via the kissing gate to follow the well trodden path through the reserve as it meanders along the hillside. After quite a distance the path divides, here ignore the path leading off to the left and continue straight ahead to eventually come out at the end of the path onto Kings Road.

Turn right up Kings Road to the traffic lights which can be seen ahead at the junction with Queens Road. Somehow cross this busy road junction so that you find yourself walking up the left hand side of the continuation of Kings Road. Approx 200yds (183m) beyond the Kings Road and Queens Road junction at a second road junction Bolton Lane crosses Kings Road. Turn left here to walk down the right hand side of Bolton Lane, eventually crossing Kingsley Avenue as you near the bottom of the hill. After crossing Kingsley Avenue take the next right along the narrow unmade road Holling Lose Lane. Follow this unmade road as it eventually bears right up a slight incline leading to the gateway into a stone built detached house. Here leave the rough road by taking the narrow footpath on your right to walk between the back of the detached house on your left and the newer houses on your right. Follow the footpath through the metal bollards where after only a short distance the well trod path divides. Our route is straight ahead climbing steeply uphill eventually walking beneath the tree canopy. Where the path comes out from under the trees near to the new housing development it joins another path which crosses from left to right, here turn left to follow this well trodden path as it changes from dirt to stone sets and eventually tarmac. Continue straight ahead following the surfaced path up a slight incline to where the path divides. Here our route ignores the two surfaced paths leading off to the left and right and continues straight ahead up the grass verge and onto the wide disused road (Poplars Park Road).

Cross the road straight ahead before starting a steady climb of approximately 100yds (91m) up the grass banking opposite until you reach the old stone gate stoop as you near the top of the first incline. Here our route turns sharp left behind the stone gate stoop to follow the well trodden path around the contour of the hillside as it eventually bears to the right to a kissing gate. Once through the kissing gate continue straight ahead to follow the path as it starts its descent towards the corner of the dry stone wall on the right. On nearing the wall corner the path divides again, you can use either path as they both merge as you make your way down the hillside to eventually reach Chestnut Grove, a surfaced road to the rear of the block of flats (Alwinton House) which can be seen below and ahead.

Walk along the surfaced road behind the flats to its junction at the far end with Livingstone Road, here turn sharp left to walk steeply downhill passing the school on your right and the New Vic public house on your left, all the way down to where the road levels out. Here at the bottom of the hill cross over Gaisby Lane to take the next turning right along Powell Road. Walk along Powell Road until you reach the gate and the metal bollard which blocks the road. Here look to your left to find a path leading off Powell Road down amongst the vegetation, following the line of the metal security fence. After only a short distance the path divides, take the right hand path through the vegetation and over the vehicle barrier at the bottom out onto Poplar Crescent.

Follow this long tree lined residential road to its junction at the far end with Poplar Road, here continue straight ahead crossing Poplar Road onto the large grassy area opposite, to follow the obvious path eventually walking parallel to Bradford Beck and the noisy Valley Road to your left and the tree covered hillside on your right. On nearing the stone built bridge which will eventually come into sight, leave the grassy area by turning left to cross a small bridge over the Bradford Beck and out onto Valley Road. Here turn right along Valley Road, crossing straight ahead at the first road junction to continue along Valley Road. After approx 100yds (91m) beyond the junction as you near the metal sided road/rail bridge, look for the gap at the end of the dry stone wall on your right. Turn right here off the pavement to walk down the narrow footpath under the trees keeping as near as possible and parallel with the metal security railings on your left. Eventually the path turns left under two railway arches and emerges out onto the entrance road to Shipley railway station at the junction with Leeds Road.

Cross the station access road to walk the short distance up Leeds Road to the pelican crossing. Here turn right and cross the main road, turning left on the opposite side along the pavement for approx 100yds (91m), until you reach the six concrete bollards on your right. Turn right here off the main road, walking between the bollards straight ahead across the parking area, to find the narrow footpath between the buildings which leads to a footbridge over the Leeds/Liverpool Canal. Cross the bridge, turning right at the bottom of the steps on the opposite side onto the canal towpath, turning immediately right again along the towpath passing beneath the bridge you have just crossed.

Follow the towpath for 1¹/₄ miles (2km) passing through Sir Titus Salt's World Heritage Village of Saltaire (shops, cafés and toilets), until you reach Hirst Wood Lock, the first canal lock you come to after Saltaire village. Here lookout on your right as you make your way up the incline at the side of the lock for the gap through the stone wall on your right. Turn right off the towpath to go through the gap and down a few stone steps to follow the well used short section of non definitive path, straight ahead onto the metal footbridge over the River Aire. Cross the bridge and continue straight ahead on the opposite side, following the tarmaced and paved path past the houses of Bowland Avenue and crossing Glenwood Avenue before reaching the bus shelter and turning area which can clearly be seen ahead.

From the bus shelter leave the turning area to the left and cross Coach Road straight ahead to join the rough surfaced bridleway opposite. From here it's quite a gentle climb up the bridleway to where the path divides. Here our route is to the left and continues steadily uphill into the woodland of Shipley Glen. After a short distance at the top of the incline, the rough woodland path levels out. Here continue to follow the path straight ahead along the hillside, eventually walking parallel to, but some distance above Lode Pit Beck, which can be seen in the valley bottom.

Eventually the path bears to the right and starts a long but steady climb out of the woodland, exiting at the top near to two memorial benches on Bracken Hall Green. Walk between the benches onto the level grassland turning left to follow the wide well trodden path walking parallel to Glen Road and the stone wall over to your right. After quite a distance and opposite the wall corner on your right, continue straight ahead for a further 75yds (68m) to where the path divides. Here leave the wide well trodden path before reaching the two concrete bollards which can be seen ahead, to take the narrow path which bears slightly to the right. Walk straight ahead to follow the grassy path through the bracken, eventually passing on your left some old quarry workings. Just beyond the quarry the path goes down an incline and crosses straight ahead at the intersection of another path which crosses from left to right, as you make your way towards the trees which can be seen ahead.

On reaching the trees the path continues straight ahead, along the side of Glovershaw Beck on your left, before crossing a small footbridge and through a gated stile on an easy to follow path. Eventually the path turns left to cross a second bridge, passing the farm buildings of Glovershaw Farm on your right and exiting through a stile onto the very busy Glovershaw Lane. Cross Glovershaw Lane to walk up the driveway opposite, leading to Willowfield and Golcar Farm. Follow the tarmaced drive to its end, continuing straight ahead where the surface changes to a rough track, until you reach the buildings of Golcar Farm at the top. Here where the track turns left into the farmyard, continue straight ahead the short distance across the grass to where the footpath divides, our route bears to the left on a short permissive diversion to avoid the farm yard. Go through a bridleway gate, turning right after only a short distance, before turning immediately left along the gable end of the farm building to follow a wide grassy track out of the farm complex. Approximately half way up the track climb the stile to the right hand side of the field gate and continue up to the next field gate at the top. Do not go through the second field gate but turn sharp left to go through the adjacent gate, still following the track, walking with the stone wall on your left, to yet another field gate which can be seen ahead.

On reaching the gate climb the stile on the right into a field to again continue straight ahead across the field before bearing slightly to the right as you pass a wooden electricity pole as you make your way to a field gate which can be seen across the field. Through this gate the path follows a wall/fence on your left, up the next field to go through a gate at the top which leads out onto a tarmaced drive adjacent to the two large detached houses on your right. Walk up the drive for approximately 200yds (182m) to the first bend in the drive, here opposite the trees on your right look for the stile over the wall on your left. Climb the stile into the field to follow the path, walking parallel to the wall on your left, crossing a very wet section before reaching the stile at the bottom left hand corner of

the field. On reaching the stile do not go over but turn sharp right up the field you have just crossed, again following a stone wall on your left. Approximately half way up the field the wall on the left turns sharp left, here our route leaves the wall and continues straight up the field bearing slightly to the right to a stile through the stone wall at the top, out onto the very busy Otley Road.

Through the stile turn left along Otley Road for approximately 300yds (274m) to Dick Hudson's Public House, here at the rear of the building turn right off Otley Road to rejoin the footpath by going through a narrow gate to start a steep climb up a very rough walled path which leads onto Bingley Moor. At the top of the incline cross the broken down stone wall and continue straight ahead following the post and wire fence on your right until you reach a second gate. Through the gate follow the very obvious well worn path passing a large standing milestone indicating Ilkley 3¹/₄ miles (5km). From here the path continues in a northerly direction straight ahead across the moor for approximately ³/₄ mile (1.2km) until you reach a third gate in the boundary wall between Bingley Moor and Burley Moor. Go through the gate onto Burley Moor, where the path passes a second standing milestone near to where several paths converge.

Here again our route continues straight ahead towards the highest point of the route near to the Twelve Apostles (an ancient stone circle) which can be found on the skyline ahead. Just beyond the stone circle the path divides, our route takes the path bearing right leaving behind Airedale as you make your way down the well worn path into Wharfedale, passing the tall stone boundary marker between Burley and Ilkley Moors over to your left. After a short distance the path uses two sections of boardwalks to cross a wet section of moorland before continuing downhill to an intersection of footpaths at the top of Ilkley Craggs. Our route is straight ahead following an obvious path as it bears to the left to go down a very steep flight of stone steps. At the bottom of the steps continue down the wide sandstone path for quite a distance until you reach the mature trees on your right. Just beyond the trees leave the main path by turning right down the much narrower path leading to the rear of White Wells Cottage (refreshments available when the flag is flying and public toilets). On reaching the back of the building turn right then immediately left down the steps to walk alongside the gable end of the building and straight ahead to join a very steep path downhill, eventually passing between the paddling pool on your left and a shelter on your right before exiting at the bottom through a gate onto a small parking area.

Cross the parking area and Crossbeck Road straight ahead before turning right down Wells Road, following it to its junction at the bottom with Station Road in Ilkley town centre (shops, cafes and toilets). Here cross Station Road via the crossing, turning left then immediately right on the opposite side to walk down Brook Street to the traffic lights at the bottom at the junction with Leeds Road.

Cross Leeds Road via the pelican, bearing left, and then turning immediately right down New Brook Street taking the first opportunity to cross New Brook Street to walk down the left hand side. After approximately 200yds (183m) just before the road bridge over the River Wharfe, turn left off New Brook Street to go down a flight of stone steps leading down onto Riverside Gardens, to walk parallel to the River Wharfe, passing the children's play area and Riverside public house on your left to eventually reach Ilkley Old Bridge, the start of the Dalesway long distance path.

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

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

MAY 2009

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Bradford - Ilkley

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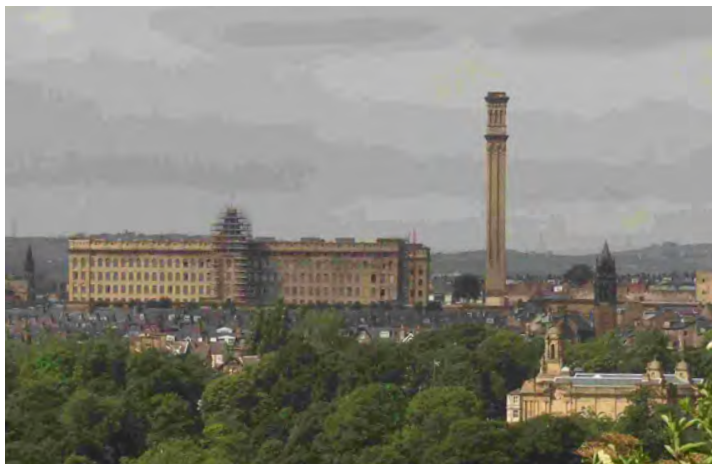
Map 1 of 4



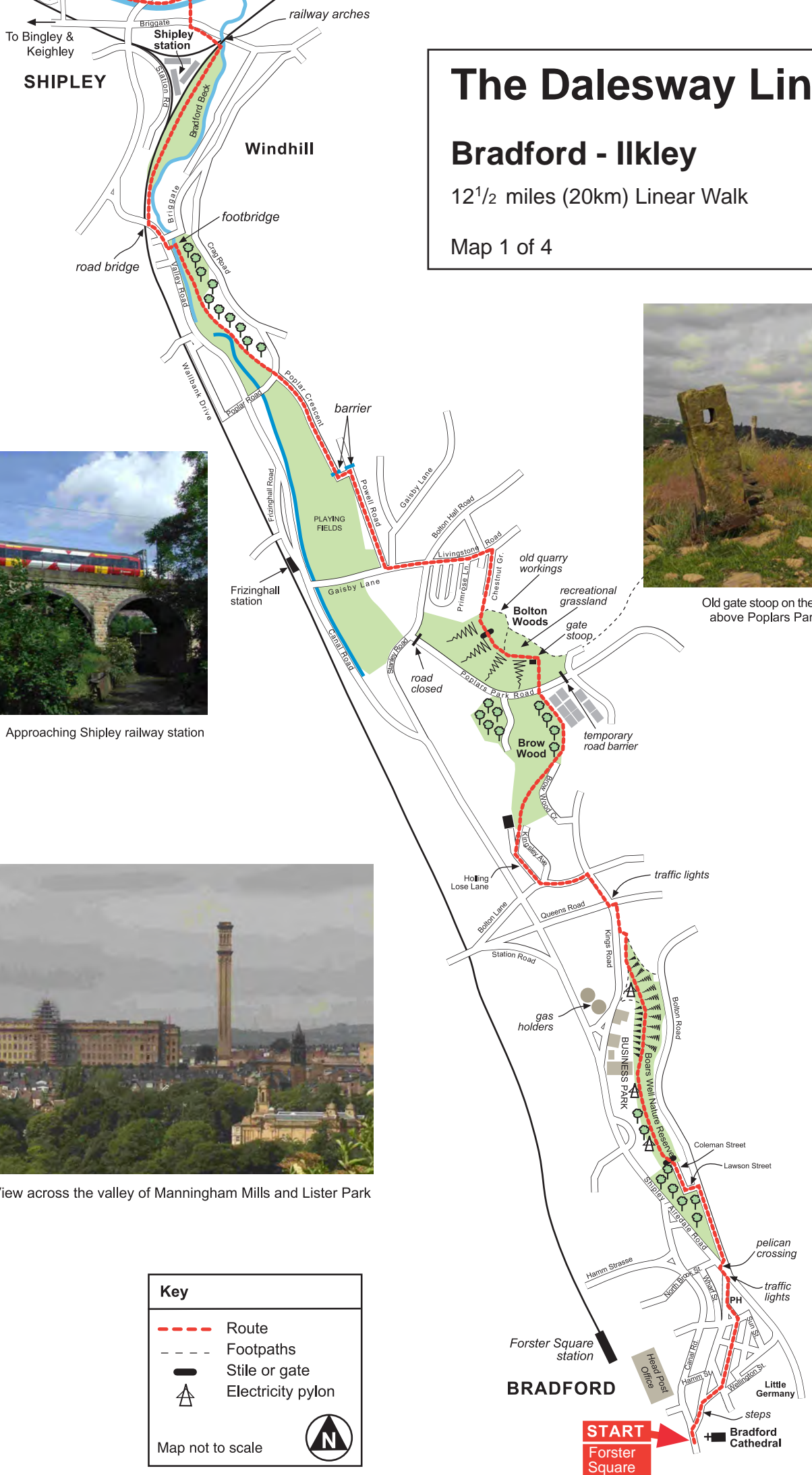
Approaching Shipley railway station



Old gate stoop on the hillside above Poplars Park Road

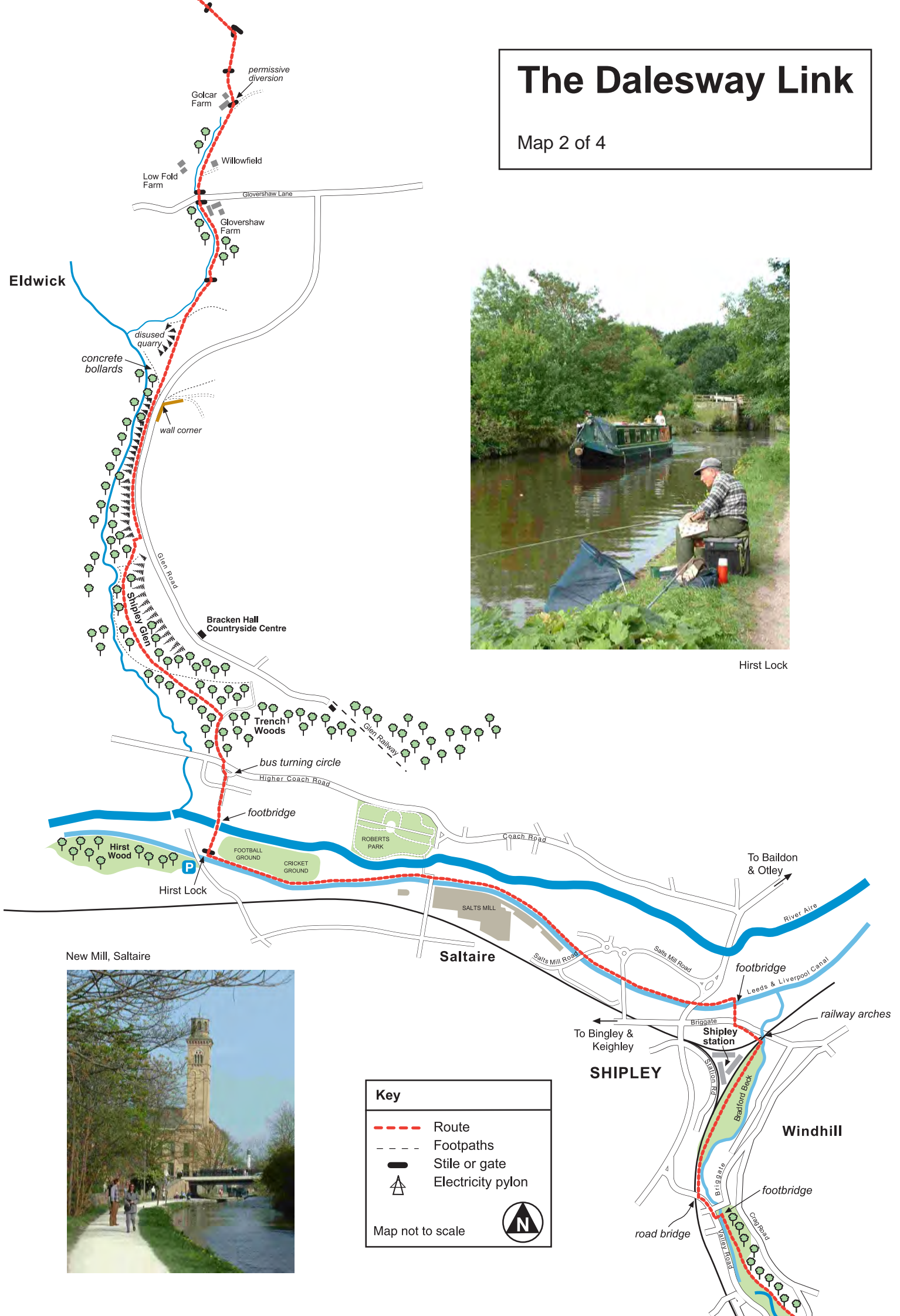


View across the valley of Manningham Mills and Lister Park



The Dalesway Link

Map 2 of 4



Hirst Lock

New Mill, Saltaire

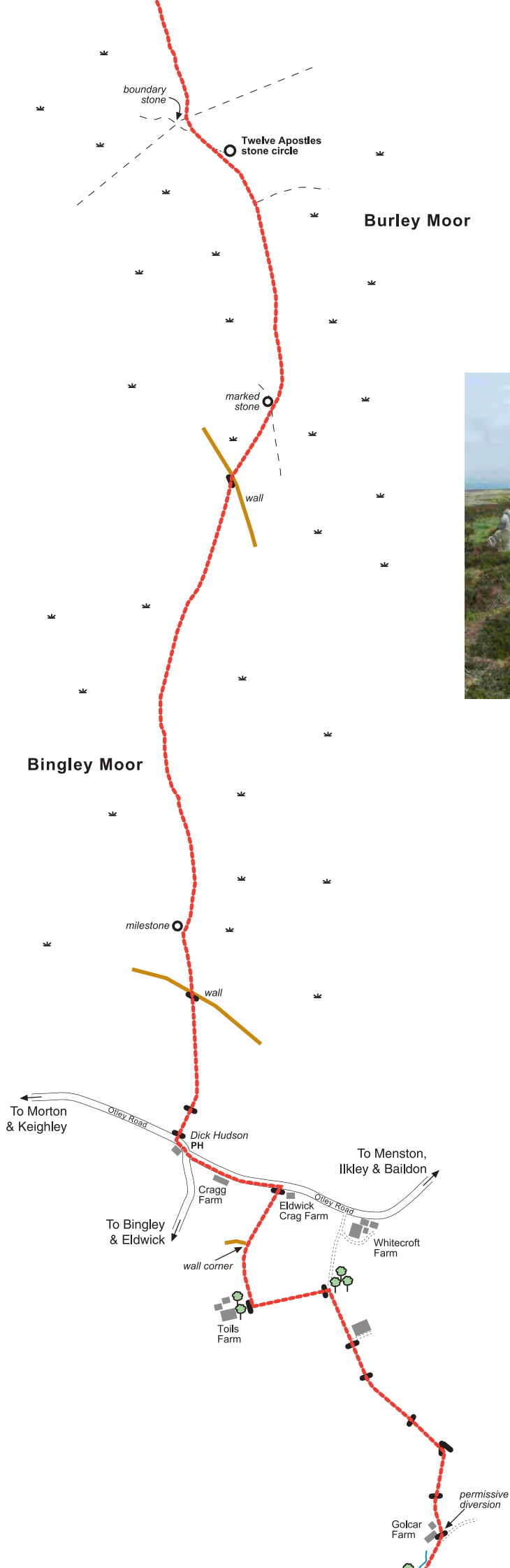


Key	
	Route
	Footpaths
	Stile or gate
	Electricity pylon

Map not to scale

The Dalesway Link

Map 3 of 4



The Twelve Apostles

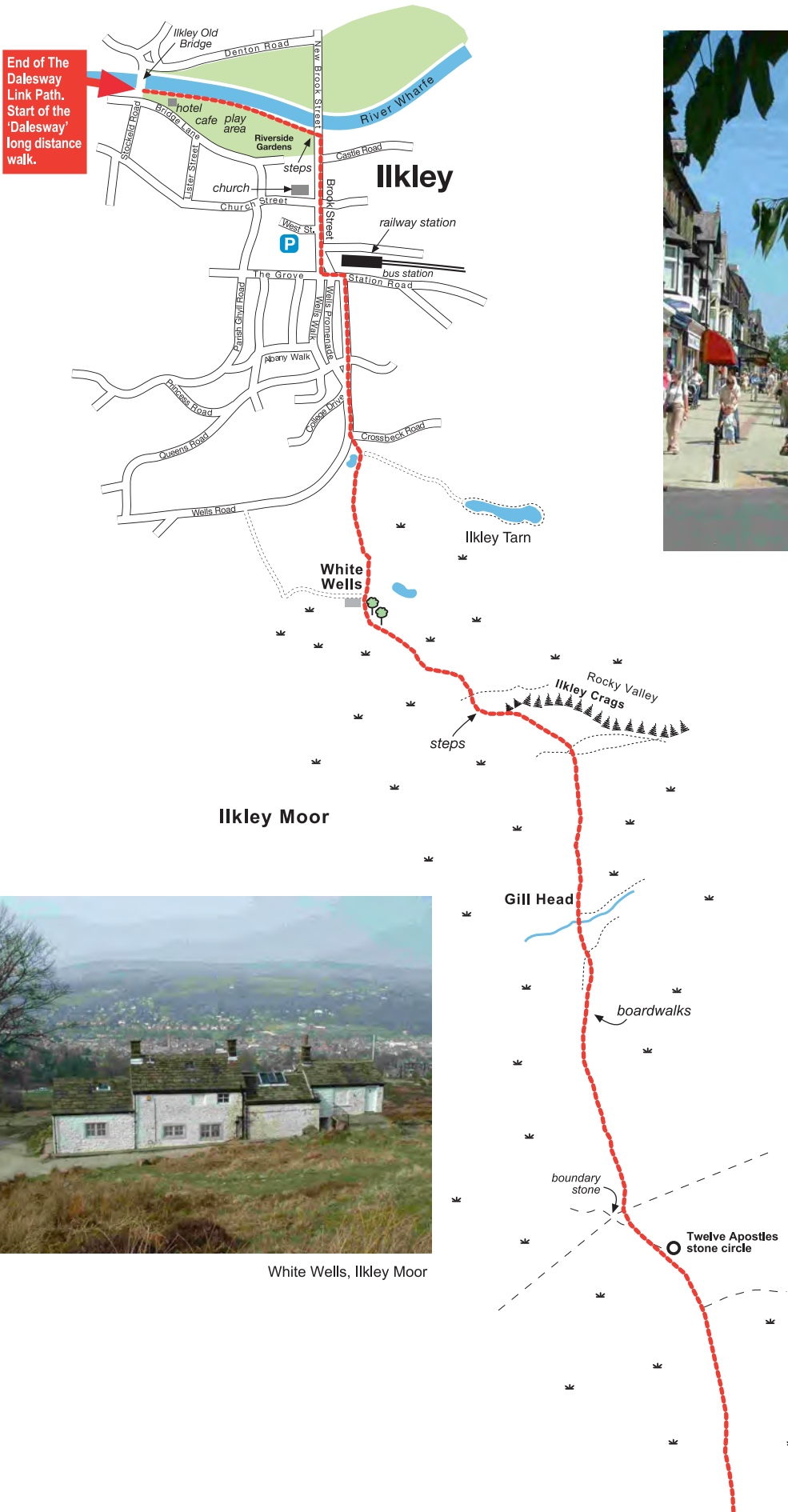


Milestone on Burley Moor

Key	
	Route
	Footpaths
	Stile or gate
	Electricity pylon
Map not to scale	

The Dalesway Link

Map 4 of 4



The Grove, Ilkley



White Wells, Ilkley Moor