

# Leeds Country Way

A 62 mile walking route around the city of Leeds passing through attractive countryside and villages. Described here in 4 full colour leaflets containing easy to follow maps and a detailed route description.



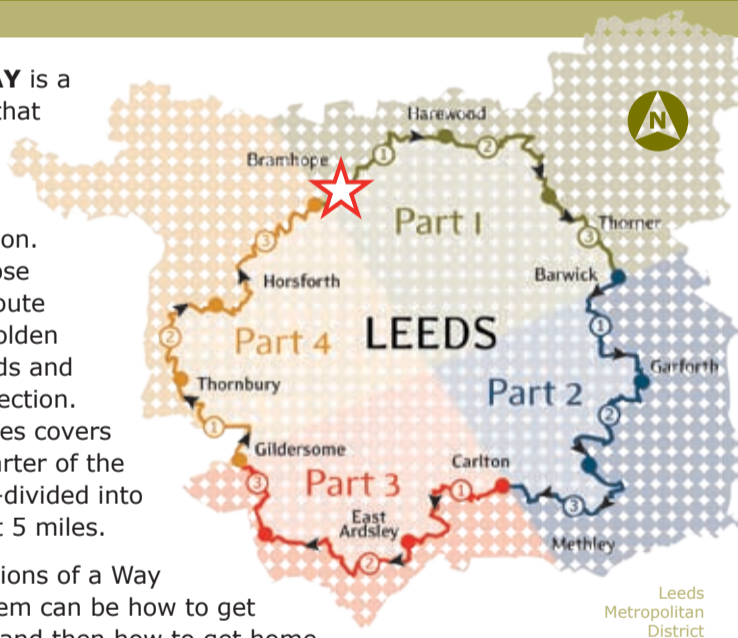
**Leeds**  
CITY COUNCIL

**LEEDS COUNTRY WAY** is a 62 mile circular route that can be started at any point along the way and could be walked in either direction. However, for the purpose of these leaflets, the route description starts at Golden Acre Park in north Leeds and goes in a clockwise direction. Each leaflet in this series covers approximately one quarter of the circle, and each is sub-divided into three sections of about 5 miles.






If you are walking sections of a Way like this, one big problem can be how to get to your starting point, and then how to get home again at the end. This problem is relatively easily solved on the Leeds Country Way by using public transport that is available at many points along the route.



**For bus and train information contact Metro on: 0113 245 7676, between 7 am and 10pm or [www.mymetro.com](http://www.mymetro.com)**



## The Countryside Code:

-  Be Safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
  -  Leave gates and property as you find them
-  Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
  -  Keep dogs under close control
-  Consider other people

If you follow the Countryside Code wherever you go, you'll get the best enjoyment possible and you'll help to protect the countryside now and for future generations.



**Leeds**  
CITY COUNCIL

Produced by:  
Learning and Leisure  
Parks and Countryside 2006



Leeds  
Country  
Way

## LEEDS COUNTRY WAY

### What is it?

A 60 mile recreational footpath around Leeds is the main element of the scheme, which has been devised to provide both a challenging mid to long distance route, as well as a series of introductory day walks through the countryside around Leeds.

### Who created it?

The Way was originally brought into being by the Countryside unit of West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council with financial support from the old Countryside Commission and a workforce provided by the MSC under the Community Enterprise Programme. In 1986, following Local Government re-organisation, West Yorkshire County Council was abolished and Leeds City Council took on responsibility for most of the route.

### How was it done?

The first proposed route was devised by Fred Andrews of the Ramblers Association and he then passed it over to West Yorkshire. The route mostly uses existing rights-of-way but it was found necessary to make some alterations and diversions to evolve the best possible links. Work then started to upgrade the paths, clearing obstructions, repairing stiles, improving drainage and path surfaces etc. The leaflets were written and designed, and the route was signposted and waymarked in the early 1980's.

The route continued to be used on its original alignment throughout the 1980's and 1990's, even though several miles now fell outside of the Leeds Metropolitan District. As the need for a replacement set of leaflets became apparent, it was realised that in order for Leeds City Council to effectively manage the Way it needed, as far as possible, to be brought back within Leeds.

Local walking enthusiast, Mr. Bob Brewster, therefore devised an alternative route between Swillington and Howden Clough via Methley, Carlton, Thorpe-on-the-Hill, East Ardsley, Haigh Moor, Woodkirk and Howley Hill. Leeds City Council adopted this route, with a few minor changes for the new Leeds Country Way Leaflets in 2006 and the new route has been waymarked and signed on the ground. At the same time, other more minor changes were incorporated where appropriate along the rest of the Way.

### How do I use it?

However you like! Part of the original idea behind it is that anyone can get a bus or train out from the city to one point on the Way and walk along it to another bus route. The sections in the leaflets are each about 5 miles, which is an easy 2½ hour walk. Also, each complete leaflet is a full day's walk of about 15 miles. Do remember to follow the Country Code whilst you are out walking!

### How can I follow it?

The maps and route descriptions in the leaflets are designed to enable the walker to follow it easily. In addition, directional waymark arrows have been installed along the route at points where a little additional help might be needed. The owl motif of the Leeds Country Way also appears regularly as a confirmation that walkers are on the right path.

### What should I wear?

Remember that the route follows country paths and could be a bit wet and muddy. Walking boots or shoes are strongly recommended. It is also sensible to carry waterproofs just in case the weather changes for the worse whilst you are out.

*Some of the beautiful scenery you will see along the way...*



*Golden Acre Park*



*Rake Beck, Barwick*



*Barwick-in-Elmet*



*Barnbow Lane near Scholes*



*River Aire, Swillington Bridge*



*Moss Carr Wood, Hungate*



*Birkby Brow Wood, Howden Clough*



*Apperley Bridge*