

# Heritage Walks

## Across Crawshaw Moss & Neolithic Sites



explore and conserve

Original woodcut - Angie Rogers/ Fennine Prospects, 2010

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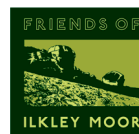
*This leaflet describes two walks, each of about 4 miles that can easily be combined into one walk of about 7 miles. The individual walks will take 2-2.5 hours; the combined walk 3-4 hours (depending on the fitness of the walkers and the number of stops for refreshments, etc). Both walks start and finish on Keighley Road (known locally as Keighley Old Road) at the point where the tarmac road ends and there is a track leading off, right to Silver Well Cottage (OS Grid Ref SE 107 466). There is parking here for about four cars. Alternatively the walks can start from Wells Road Car Park. This is about half a mile from the Silver Wells Car Park, so each walk will take about half an hour longer. From White Wells Car Park, head along Wells Road in a westerly direction until the road forks. Take the right hand fork up a steep but quiet country road, crossing a stream, Spicey Gill, by a small bridge and then continuing steeply uphill on the road until you reach the starting place where the tarmac ends.*

*Both walks use rough moorland tracks and cross boggy terrain. Walkers are recommended to use good waterproof walking boots. The weather on Ilkley Moor can change rapidly so carrying waterproofs is sensible. For the combined walk, take a flask of tea or coffee and a snack. Dogs are allowed everywhere on Ilkley Moor, but you will be crossing breeding areas for endangered ground nesting species; so in the breeding season (especially March, April and May), keep dogs on a lead. Free running dogs will inadvertently scare ground-nesting birds and they will abandon their nests and the young birds will die. At other times there may be sheep present. Each year about eight sheep die on Ilkley Moor as a result of being chased by dogs. Farmers are allowed to shoot any dog chasing sheep. Responsible dog owners will want their dogs to enjoy a walk on the Moor, but they must be kept under control.*

From the Badger Stone the path veers slightly to the right, gently downhill. It joins another, more major path and continues on into a steep gully where it crosses several small streams that converge into an old quarry on your right.

Scramble across the streams, up the steep slope opposite and carry on until the path meets the Keighley Road. There is a culvert under the road and on the stone entrance you can just see where someone carefully carved the inscription 'Abandon hope all ye who enter here' (**Waymark H, SE 106 462**).

Turn right and ten minutes walk, steeply downhill, brings you back to the starting point. There is a litterbin here for your rubbish. As you take off your boots you can remember with satisfaction that you have crossed the highest point on the Moor and (if the weather was favourable) you will have had wonderful views over most of urban West Yorkshire to the south and east, and over the Yorkshire Dales as far as the Three Peaks to the north and west.



Help conserve Ilkley Moor by becoming a member of the FoIM. To join, use the membership form on our website.

[www.ilkleymoor.org](http://www.ilkleymoor.org)



[www.watershedlandscape.co.uk](http://www.watershedlandscape.co.uk)

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Here, take a brief diversion; walk south for a short distance to the Twelve Apostles (**Waymark E**). The origin of this neolithic stone circle is uncertain. It may be the remains of a burial mound. In any event, most of the stones have fallen over and been repositioned several times over the last four millennia.

Retrace your steps to the Lanshaw Lad (its partner, the Lanshaw Lass on the Lanshaw Delves, a half a mile away, has fallen over and needs to be re-erected). Carry on north, down the Dick Hudson's path (now paved), in the direction of Ilkley, to a small stream, where the paved path ends (**Waymark F, SE123 459**). Just before the paved path ends a path forks left, over the stream and towards a small cairn on the skyline. Take this path to a second, even smaller cairn. Here turn left, going west-north-west.

A little further on you pass a marked depression on your right (an old quarry?). A path crosses the path you are on. Turn left on the crossing path and follow a faint but distinct moorland path. At first it seems to head directly for the radio masts on the skyline, then veers to the right and carries on across the Moor, crossing several very boggy patches.

Ultimately, about 30 minutes from the stream you will see an incongruously placed park bench and to its side a large rock (**Waymark G, SE 110 460**). This is the Badger Stone; one of the finest carved rocks on the moor. Its uphill side is covered with cups and rings. We do not now whether it was all carved at one time or whether succeeding generations added their marks, 4000 years ago. When it was carved, the whole area will have been covered by forest.

Pause for a while on the bench, enjoy the view, and wonder what led our ancestors to leave their marks on this rock. It is a scheduled ancient monument. Treat it with great respect. Defacing it in any way is a serious criminal matter.

## Walk 1 - Across Crawshaw Moss (3.9 miles)

**Waymark 1** From the junction with the track to Silver Well Cottage a rough, moorland path forks up at an angle from the cottage track, in a westerly direction to a gate in a wall that is clearly visible in front of you. Carry on along the path through the gate and in about 15 minutes from the start, at **Waymark 2 (SE 100 465)** you pass a stone, flat on the ground, with very distinct cup and ring carvings. This is one of the ancient neolithic carved stones on the Moor. In all there are about 400 such stones known, making Ilkley Moor the place, the most richly endowed with these 4000 year old carvings. No one knows why the stones were carved, or what they meant to our ancestors, but treat them with respect, so that they will still be present to cause awe and wonder in another 4000 years time. Do not mark them in any way.

Carry on along the path and cross a small stream, Black Beck, on a couple of old railway sleepers. Further downstream, where it runs through a very attractive wood, the stream was renamed Heber's Ghyll, in Victorian times. Black Beck was obviously not considered a pretty enough name.

Beyond Black Beck the path goes through a gate in the wall and carries along the edge of the Moor. All along this path there are magnificent views over Wharfedale. About 20 minutes beyond the carved rock you come to a boundary stone with a prominent 'N' carved on it (**Waymark 3, SE 092 467**). Nearby on the left of the path is a memorial to seven young Canadian aircrew who died here when their plane crashed in bad weather on 31 January, 1944. A few yards away to the east there are scraps of twisted metal. Do not disturb them. They are the only visible remains of the plane in which these young men died.

Walk on for another 10 minutes or 500 yards until you come to the junction with another path that comes up onto the Moor from Addingham Moorside (**Waymark 4, SE 087 466**).





Turn left here and in about 200 yards you come to another boundary marker. It is carved 'WM 1842' and 'ILB 1893'. WM refers to William Middleton the owner of the Moor who was in 1842 attempting to enclose the Moor, so it would have ceased to be common land. The other date is when the Ilkley Local Board bought Ilkley

Moor from Francis Marmaduke Middleton so that Ilkley residents and visitors might enjoy it in perpetuity.

About 10 minutes further on the path forks, about 50 yards before it meets the wall around Rivoock Edge Wood (**Waymark 5**). Take the left hand fork and in about 5 minutes the path becomes paved. The paved path crosses Crawshaw Moss more or less parallel to the wall along the edge of the wood. In this area there are rare bog plants. Crawshaw Moss should be a large area of sphagnum bog. Small areas remain, and the Friends of Ilkley Moor hope that it will be possible to allow the bog to regenerate. Sphagnum bogs are very valuable in capturing carbon dioxide and in reducing flood risk by slowing down the run-off of rainwater from Moors. The path goes uphill towards some crags, bearing left away from the wall, and carries on to the East Buck Stones (**Waymark 6**). This is a very convenient place to sit and admire the view.

From the East Buck Stones, the path carries on due east, on the flat, through an old quarry, to Cowper's Cross (**Waymark 7**). The significance of this large stone cross is unknown. Shortly beyond the path reaches Keighley Road. Turn left on the unmade road and in about 30 minutes you will reach the starting point. But if you wish to continue onto the second walk, turn right, up Keighley Road towards the radio masts you can see on the skyline.



## Walk 2 - Neolithic Sites (4.5 miles)

From the start point walk up Keighley Road. In about 20 minutes or 0.75 miles you will see a large stone cross, a little way off the road to the right (*see previous walk*). Keep on the road for another five minutes until you come to two radio masts and a gate across the road. Immediately before the gate take a well made path that leads east, parallel to the wall by the radio masts (**Waymark A, SE 101 453**). After a short while the path becomes paved. This path crosses a very boggy area and before the paving stones were laid it was extremely difficult, especially in wet weather, but beware, in frosty weather some of the stones may be icy and slippery.

About 15 minutes from the radio masts you come to the Thimble Stones. If you are doing the combined walk, this is a very convenient place to sit, rest and have a drink and a snack. A few minutes beyond the Thimble Stones (**Waymark B, SE 111 451**) are two stones set in the ground with a poem on them. These are 'stanza stones'. There are a series of stanza stones with poems by Simon Armitage along the Pennine watershed from Marsden to Ilkley connected by a long distance walk. A detailed guide is available from the Ilkley Literature Festival.

A little further on is an OS trig point (**Waymark C, SE 114 452**). Stop here and admire the magnificent views in all directions. The trig point is believed to stand on a neolithic burial mound. If it is a burial mound, then its location on the very highest point, with long distance views in all directions means that it will be the last resting place of a very important local chief or prince. You have now come 1.75 miles and although not half-way in distance it is at least half-way in effort, as from here it is downhill nearly all the way.

The paved path carries on until you come to a boundary stone, the Lanshaw Lad marking the division between Ilkley and Burley Moor (**Waymark D, SE 125 451**). The path joins a major north/south route, the Dick Hudson's path (named after a pub at the south end).

