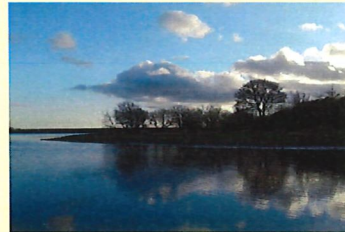


Morley Country Way

A circular walk around the outskirts of Morley



East Ardsley Reservoir



Howley Hall Ruins



Clark Springs Wood





Introduction

We are constantly being told we are becoming a sedentary nation and we should all be out in the fresh air taking exercise. The Morley Country Way (MCW) has been created to help you get out and about and enjoy your local environment. Using existing footpaths, bridle ways, and permissive paths surrounding Morley the route travels through some interesting local countryside. You may be amazed to find some hidden gems such as meadows, ponds, woodlands and open countryside, including stunning wide-open vistas of distant hills and valleys which surround our town. Unavoidably, in some places we had to use the local highways to link one footpath to another. We have used the shortest and safest routes possible but please take extra care on these sections especially if you have young children or a canine companion.

Walk options

The walk is approximately a 30Km (18.75 miles) circular recreational walk with Morley at its centre. You can choose to undertake it in one complete stretch or for a more relaxed approach walk one section at a time. The start and finish of each route is near to public transport and we give the bus route number for your convenience. Notably, walks start and end at a place supplying refreshments which you may wish to make use of. We certainly did whilst walking and researching the project.

How to follow the route

Detailed route descriptions are provided for all three sections of the walk which you should find easy to follow. Eventually, the routes will be marked with a distinctive way marker logo along with directional footpath signs for your convenience. Each section should take approximately 2 to 2 ½ hours to walk. Ordnance Survey Landranger 104 map has the footpaths for all 3 walks. You can check your route before you go on the footpaths map on Leeds City Council definitive maps its Website.

What should I wear?

The route follows footpaths which cross the countryside and therefore can be a bit muddy specially during the wintertime. Walking boots or sturdy shoes are recommended. It makes sense to carry waterproofs just in case the weather changes and a bottle of water to drink en route. Although we have taken care to choose the most suitable footpaths the very nature of our hilly terrain crosses some areas of rough ground, steep slopes and footpath stiles making it difficult for any type of wheeled access.

Mobile phone and First Aid kit are useful should a problem arise.

Reporting Problems

We hope that you will enjoy a trouble-free walk on the MCW but should you encounter any problems please report these in writing to Morley Town Council, Highways & Transportation Committee, Morley Town Hall, Queen Street. Morley LS27 9DY. Or email: town.clerk@morley.gov.uk

Morley Town Council would like to thank Morley Walking Club and Parks & Countryside, Leeds City Council for their assistance in bringing this project to life.



Section 1 Distance approx. 11.5Km (7.25 miles)

White Rose to Bay Horse (Churwell to East Ardsley)

1. From the bus station at the corner of Car Park 3 cross the road at the zebra crossing and enter another car park. Turn left at the bottom of the steps and follow the footpath. Keeping left follow the footpath alongside the railway until a kissing gate is reached. Go through the kissing gate and walk uphill following the hedge line.
 2. On reaching a metal gate turn right across the field heading towards an electricity pylon. At the pylon turn left uphill through a metal gate, then over a style towards the houses. Exit through kissing gate onto Rydal Drive. Continue to the end, turn right then first left. Look for a footpath on the right which goes behind a school building. At the end of this path cross the main road and go down the side of the Gardeners Arms onto Bantam Grove Lane.
 3. Follow the road downhill ignoring Bantam Grove View on the left. Continue uphill until a footpath is seen to the left of the last house. Following the footpath cross the footbridge and stay on the footpath which starts uphill again. Pass through two kissing gates turning right on a green track leading to a road. Turn left and walk toward the main road (A650). Turn left and cross at the traffic lights crossing. **(The Village Hotel is nearby for comfort break or refreshments if necessary)**. Continue along the A650 over the motorway and to the large roundabout, straight on with large roundabout on your left. **(Buses 202 & 203 are available to return to the White Rose Centre. Go to the right and the bus stop is at the top of the slope)**.
 4. Continue straight across (Dewsbury Road) carriageways using the traffic lights (stay vigilant as these are very busy roads). Continue in the same direction look for a footpath on the right going slightly uphill which brings you to a road. Follow the road past a small grassed roundabout with the memorial stone in the middle. Just past the memorial look for a footpath sign on the right that leads you down between houses and emerges on to Poppleton Rise. Follow this road to the end and cross Lowry Road.
 5. Turn left, immediately a gate on the right takes you down through a nice area of parkland. The footpath leads downhill until eventually bearing left. Just past a metal barrier turn right down Lonsdale Rise. At the end cross the main road and turn left. Walk along Westerton Road as far as the Post Office, then turn right along Haigh Moor Road. **(Bus 117 will return you to the White Rose Centre)**.
 6. Turn right, walking down till you reach East Ardsley Reservoir. Walk past the carpark to a gate. ****Turn right taking the path crossing the dam wall. (Fine extensive views can be had from here)**. Follow the track round the water in an anti-clockwise direction. After a stone bridge take the footpath on the right, away from the reservoir. **** (To avoid walking all the way round turn left at the gate, follow the path in a clockwise direction until you come to a footpath on the left, away from the reservoir)**.
 7. Taking the footpath turn right at the end of the woodland, keeping the hedgerow to your right across the field. Cross the dip by the bridge and continue across the next field. At a gap in a row of trees the path veers slightly left and leads to the main road.
 8. Cross at the refuge and turn left. Continue until you reach Country Baskets a large mill building. Turn right down the lane. Follow the lane and take the 2nd footpath on the right. Continue along the footpath (ignore the first estate road on the left) until it emerges onto Forsythia Avenue. Turn left then at the end turn right and cross the road. Your destination, the Bay Horse, is on your left at the end of the road.
- Well done you have reached your destination.**
(Buses 425 & 427 towards Bradford are available and link with the 202/3 buses at Tingley to the White Rose).



Section 2 Distance: approx. 10Km (6.0 miles)

Bay Horse to Needless Inn (East Ardsley to Upper Batley)

(Buses from White Rose to East Ardsley 117 & 425)

1. From the Bay Horse turn right on Bradford Road (A650) and cross at the crossing by the petrol station. Turning left walking downhill in direction of Wakefield. There will be a turning to your right called Stoney Lane, turn down and at the end, by the white house is a stile to a footpath, leading slightly left across the field to the next stile. Cross the narrow lane and with the fence on your right keep straight on to a gate. Turn right up a farm track for 100 metres to a marker post. Turn left here and cross the field to a wood. A track by the wood leads to a road, cross and turn left.
2. Take the first lane on the right (Blind Lane) and follow until the second footpath sign on the left by a large house at the end of the lane. Enter the field and follow the wall on the right then the Marker Post downhill to a bridge over a stream at the bottom. Cross the bridge following the path left. After a short steep section follow the hedge on the right until you leave the fields and join a tarmac lane. Keep straight on to the main road (Haigh Moor Road) and turn left.
3. At the T Junction at the bottom of Haigh Moor Road cross with care and take the stile onto the track that leads downhill. At the bottom of the hill turn right into the field and follow the boundary path along and up to the right. Find a **stile** by a **large tree** on your left, cross it and walk along the field with the stream down to your left until it drops steeply to a bridge over a stream. Do **not** cross the bridge but turn right up the hill until the track widens into Hay Beck Lane and joins the main road at a T junction. **(If a comfort break is needed turn right to the Hare & Hounds at the top of the hill).**
4. Turn left down the hill until you pass a Welcome to Batley sign. Look for a gap in the wall on the right. This is signposted. Cross over the stile to a gate/stile. Two footpaths are indicated on the signpost. Take the **right** hand path (Leeds Country Way) along the beck until it meets another footpath. Turn left and follow the path up and through the church yard to reach the dual carriageway of Dewsbury Road (A653). **(Buses return to White Rose Centre from here).**
This is a main road please take great care in crossing.
5. The footpath continues across the road through the church carpark the path opens up behind the derelict building turn left. The path joins another turn left here and continue along the side of the dismantled railway cutting until it exits onto a lane. The path continues across the lane and marked as Leeds Country Way. Follow this path until it drops down to a new metal kissing gate. Through the gate turn left onto a path that immediately veers right. Follow this path past Howley Hall ruins. **(Take time to look round the ruins then return to the path).** Interesting history available on Wikipedia.
6. Once past the ruins look for a path that branches off to the left and drops down through a thicket of gorse bushes. Join path going left downhill. At the first cross path turn right under the railway bridge and walk to the end of Howley Mill Lane. Here turn right and walk up the steep hill to finish at the Needless Inn which is on the left.
Well done you have reached your destination.

(Bus route 221 Leeds/Batley use this road if you wish to return to the White Rose).



Section 3 Distance approx. 9.Km (5.5 miles)

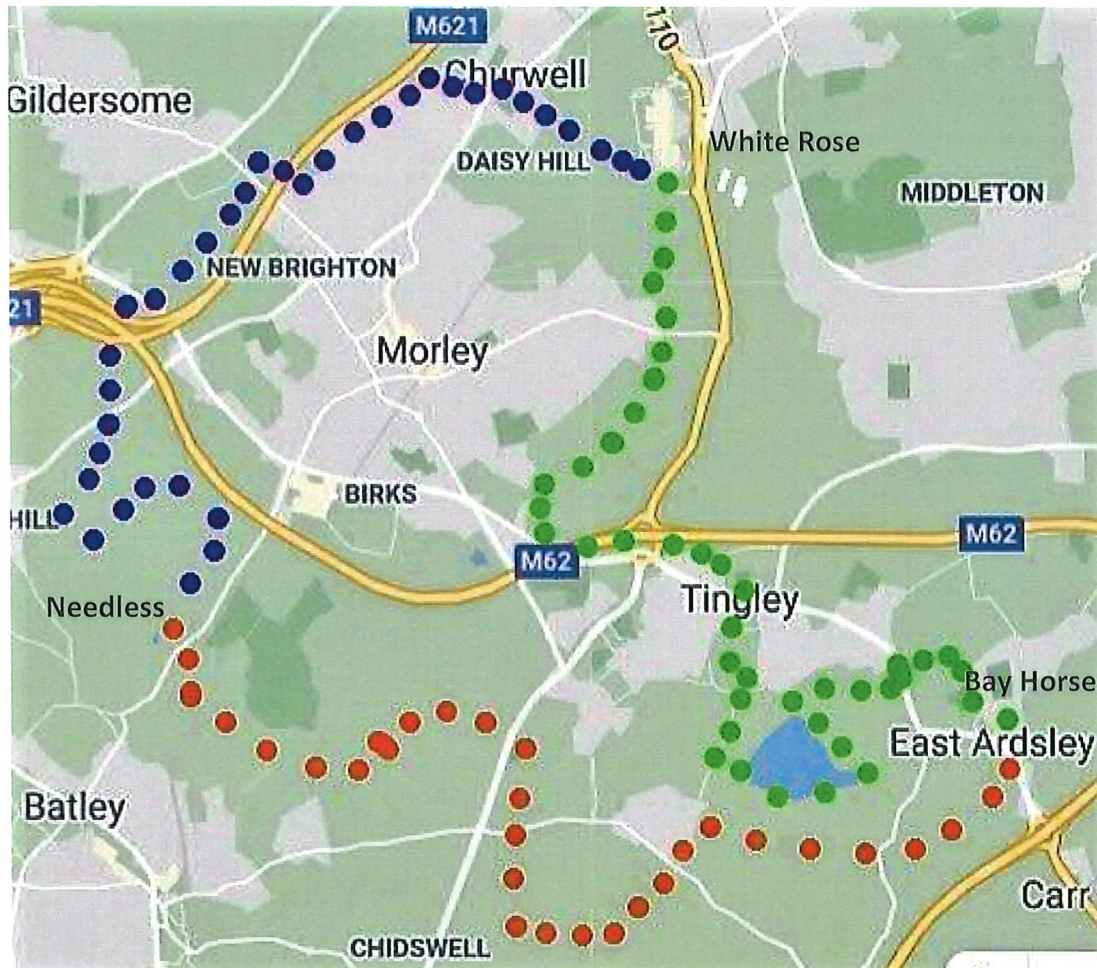
Needless Inn to White Rose Centre (Upper Batley to Churwell)

(buses 21 from White Rose to Batley via Scotchman Lane)

1. From the bus stop at the Needless Inn progress uphill until you reach a footpath sign opposite the Golf Lane bus stop. **(To avoid the hill, get off the bus here)**. Take the diagonal footpath right across the field to the top far corner. With the M62 on your right follow the path into the woodland. Shortly after entering the woodland the path forks, take the left path, continue until you exit the woodland turn left, to meet a track and turn right along the track. **(On a clear day there are fabulous views looking towards Kirklees)**. Follow the track to Howden Clough Road.
 2. Cross the road taking care as it is busy. Walk uphill to the traffic lights on the A650. Cross with care at the crossing and turn left down the A650. After the bridge crossing the M621 turn first right onto Nepshaw Lane South. Continue until you exit onto Asquith Avenue. Cross and turn right then take the first left onto Horsfall Street. Then first right onto Ingle Avenue and first left into Springfield Avenue. Take a tarred footpath on the left between black railings into Lister Walk. Turn right at the end of road, then first left to Hargreaves Close. 20 metres on your right will be the entrance into Springfield Park. Follow the path until it joins the path in front of the football area and follow it down through the woodland, turn right and exit onto Rooms Lane. Cross the lane and between Chestnut Gardens and Bradstock Gardens, is an electricity sub-station. The permissive footpath stile entrance is at the right side of the sub-station (slightly hidden).
 3. Follow this path as it takes you downhill through a steep sided narrow wooded valley, cross a tarmac path, entering Clark Springs semi-ancient woodland. Trees of oak, ash and sycamore make a dense canopy in summer. Masses of bluebells carpet the ground in spring.
- There is a 7 inch gauge railway open alternate Saturdays in summer months. Stop here for a rest, have a drink and a ride on the train.
4. Exit Clark Springs wood by crossing the road and enter Daffil Woods. The path splits at the Jubilee Oak. Turn right, uphill to the next T junction. Take the left path through the woodland. The path splits again, take the left path sloping downhill towards a small opening. Turn left and follow a well-marked path along the bottom of the old pit heap. Follow as it leads over the top of the pit heap **(stunning views over Leeds as far as the Airport)**.
 5. **To avoid footpath closures during the construction of the White Rose Station the following diversion takes you to the finish of the walk using alternative footpaths from here.**
 6. Exit the old pit heap via the path steps, turn right at the bottom of the steps onto the lane and follow to the exit on Hepworth Avenue. Turn right, then take first left onto William Street. Churwell park will be on your right. Continue to Elland Road. Cross and take the road below Tesco, keep right onto Back Lane. On your left will be a footpath sign take this path.
 7. This path takes you over the fields to a railway bridge. You have now returned to your first outward path from the White Rose Shopping Centre. Turn left and follow the footpath retracing your footsteps to the carpark or bus station.
- Congratulations you have completed your 30k walk around the outskirts of Morley.
- We hope you have enjoyed it.**

THE MORLEY COUNTRY WAY CIRCULAR WALK

- Section 1 White Rose to Bay Horse
- Section 2 Bay Horse to Needless
- Section 3 Needless to White Rose



Please take care and follow The Country Code:

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

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