

a big thank you

to Otley Walking Festival, Walkers are Welcome Otley, Otley Walkers, and Ilkley U3A for their fantastic commitment to walking in Otley and for helping to produce this leaflet. We greatly appreciate all your contributions and ongoing support. For more information on these groups take a look at their websites listed below.



Otley Walking Festival

<https://otleywalkingfestival.co.uk/>
otleywalkingfestival@mail.com



Walkers are Welcome Otley

<https://www.wawotley.org.uk/>
wawotley@mail.com

Otley Walkers

otleywalkers@gmail.com



Ilkley U3A

<https://ilkleyu3a.org/>
info@ilkleyu3a.org

The Otley Connect project has been made possible through funding from WYCA under the wider City Connect project. To find out more about the project and other funded activities take a look at -

<https://www.cyclecityconnect.co.uk>

CityConnect: Enabling more people to travel by bike or on foot.



Scan here to discover more about the exciting projects and activities happening in Otley



utility walks

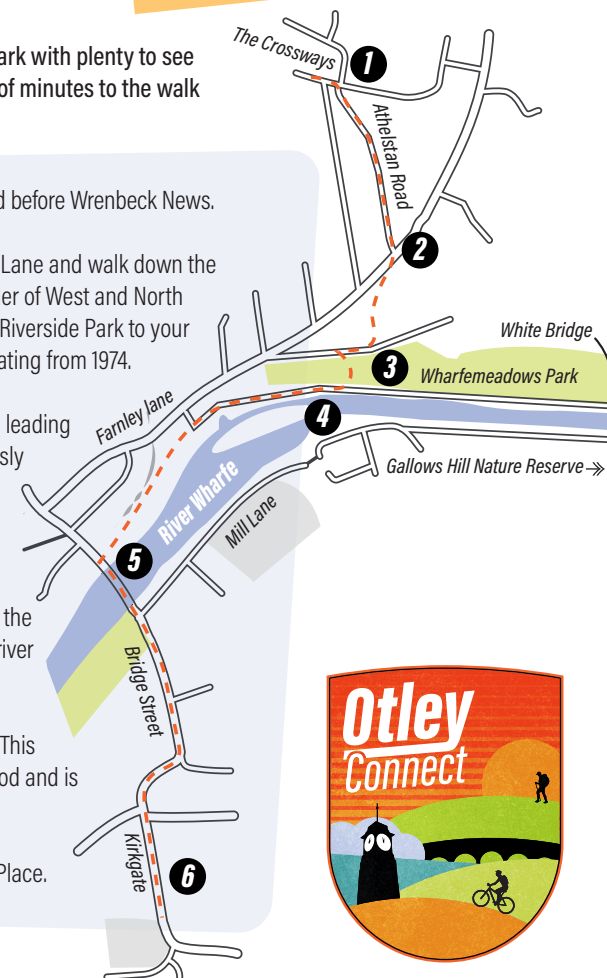
Ditch the car and enjoy the freedom of walking around Otley. Say goodbye to traffic jams, fuel costs and parking stress. Walking isn't just about getting from A to B; it's about enjoying the journey and discovering new things along the way. Whether you're going to work or exploring your neighbourhood, walking is great for your health and mood. So put on your shoes, leave the car keys at home, and let's walk towards a greener future together!

Walking into town from Newall | Road and park

Distance: 1 mile

This walk takes you through Wharfemeadows Park with plenty to see on the way, without adding more than a couple of minutes to the walk into town compared with a road only route.

- 1 From The Crossways, walk down Athelstan Road before Wrenbeck News.
- 2 At the bottom of Athelstan Road, cross Farnley Lane and walk down the narrow footpath opposite, which is on the border of West and North Yorkshire - the back gardens of the houses on Riverside Park to your left are in North Yorkshire, the county border dating from 1974.
- 3 The footpath emerges onto a private road, now leading to Wharfemeadows Playing Fields, but previously an entrance to Farnley Hall. Looking left you will see the old entrance lodges.
- 4 Cross the road and enter the main part of Wharfemeadows Park, turning right and down the hill to reach the path that takes you along the river and past the landing stage to the bridge.
- 5 Turn left to Otley Bridge, then cross the bridge. This bridge was originally built in the medieval period and is nearly 800 years old!
- 6 Follow Bridge Street all the way to the Market Place.

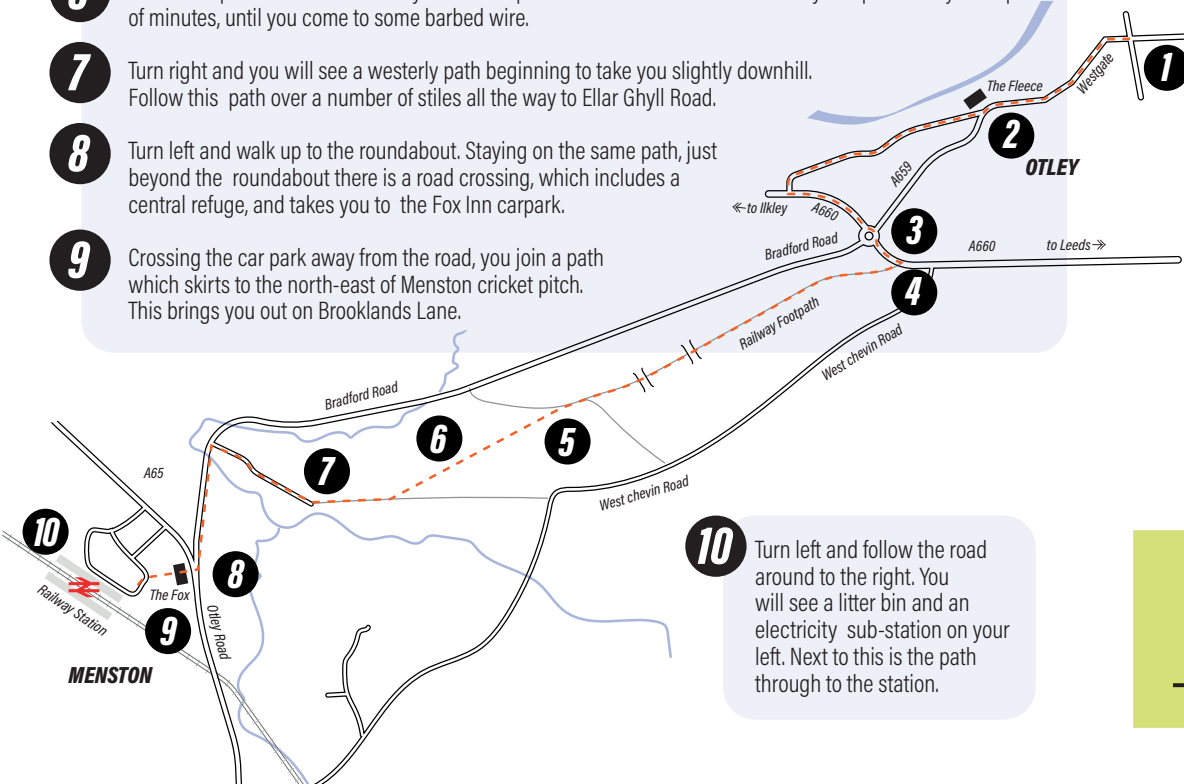


Otley to Menston Station | Road and footpath

Distance: 2.7 miles

Largely off-road; one moderately challenging climb. As an alternative to using the road route, take this pleasant summer walking route to Menston Station which adds only a few minutes to your journey and affords great views and glimpses of nature.

- 1** From the Market Square either walk west along Westgate until you get to the Ilkley Road roundabout at the start of the Otley bypass (Rotary Way) **or** Follow the old Ilkley Road (bearing right at the Fleece public house) to the Ilkley Road underpass opposite Otley Mills, from the far side of which you can walk up the footpath to the left to the roundabout. Bradford Road can be easier to cross away from the roundabout.
- 2**
- 3** At the south-west of the roundabout, there is a waymarked entrance to the old Otley railway track next to the Rotary Way sign. Take this path, walking between the bypass and a garden, to the few steps.
- 4** After the steps, walk west along the old track bed for about 20 minutes, (this can be wet in places) crossing a banking, then a road through walkers' gates, and going under the old railway bridge and on to where you can see the fence marking the end of this accessible length of the railway.
- 5** About 100 metres before the fence, there is a gap to the left (south) which leads to a choice of three paths. Ignore the left one which goes straight up the hill, walk slightly to the right and choose the left-hand path of the two others (the final path parallels the old railway and takes you to an old mill dam.)
- 6** Follow the path in a south-westerly direction up the hill – this section is moderately steep – for only a couple of minutes, until you come to some barbed wire.
- 7** Turn right and you will see a westerly path beginning to take you slightly downhill. Follow this path over a number of stiles all the way to Ellar Ghyll Road.
- 8** Turn left and walk up to the roundabout. Staying on the same path, just beyond the roundabout there is a road crossing, which includes a central refuge, and takes you to the Fox Inn carpark.
- 9** Crossing the car park away from the road, you join a path which skirts to the north-east of Menston cricket pitch. This brings you out on Brooklands Lane.



- 10** Turn left and follow the road around to the right. You will see a litter bin and an electricity sub-station on your left. Next to this is the path through to the station.

Walking into town from St. Richards and the Weston Estate | Road and park

Distance: 1 mile

This is a surprisingly enjoyable walk alongside the Kell Beck, via the ancient Green Lane and Otley's medieval bridge. In the reverse direction it is well signposted as the start of the Six Dales Trail which ends in Pateley Bridge.

- 1** From St Richards Road, walk down the path marked by a public footpath roundel pointing down 13 steps alongside the beck.
- 2** The path runs between the beck and the Chippendale open area – once the playing fields of the now demolished Chippendale Middle School. Bear left across the small bridge and walk a little further until you reach Weston Ridge.
- 3** Cross Weston Ridge at an angle to continue past Bennett Court, where Wildlife Friendly Otley have planted the first of a series of small community orchards.
- 4** Walk briefly alongside Weston Drive, before going east along Weston Lane for a few metres until you see the entrance to Green Lane. Past the old lodge for Ashfield Hall, walk a few hundred metres before bearing left away from the Hall Farm road. The lane narrows at this point to a footpath only. You now see to your left one of the best views in Otley – to the Chevin across fields of sheep and the lake formed from gravel workings 50 years ago.
- 5** Green Lane takes you to Otley Bridge, the intact medieval side of which you see well as you approach it across the 2022 flood defences. Once at the road, cross using the crossing to your left and then turn right to cross the bridge. Follow Bridge Street all the way to the Market Place.

