

Bradford 2025

UK CITY OF CULTURE

Welcome to Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture, a year-long celebration of culture, creativity and the arts. We're presenting more than 1,000 shows, exhibitions and events across Bradford District this year – by and for everyone, with much of it completely free. Bradford 2025 could only happen now – and it could only happen here.

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Bradford on Foot

DISCOVER OUR WONDERFUL DISTRICT



BRADFORD 2025
UK City of Culture

WALK NAME	Thornton Viaduct Circular
LOCATION	Thornton
DISTANCE	5 km / 3.2 miles
TIME	2 hrs
DIFFICULTY	Moderate
LANDSCAPE	Farmland, becks, trails
HIGHLIGHTS	Viaduct, countryside views, Brontë birthplace



Thornton Viaduct Circular:
This walk starts in the pretty village of Thornton, birthplace of the Brontës, then heads out over Thornton Viaduct on the Great Northern Railway Trail.

It then leaves the trail, dropping down to Hole Bottom Beck, back round and up again to Thornton. Great views, steep descents and a short muddy section capable of claiming a welly if you aren't careful!

This walk is in partnership with Equity Partnership, supporting LGBTQ+ people across the region.

Find out more at: equitypartnership.org.uk



Look out for

Brontë Birthplace: 74 Market Street is the birthplace of all the Brontë children, Emily, Ann, Charlotte and Branwell, and must surely claim the prize for the highest number of famous writers born in a single house. The family lived here from 1815 to 1820 before moving to Haworth. The house is currently being restored and will open in 2025.

Thornton Viaduct: Standing 30m high over Pinch Beck and boasting 20 arches, Thornton Viaduct is a striking feat of engineering that carried the railway from Queensbury to Keighley up until the 1960's.

Clayton Fireclay Works: The decorated chimney and unusual house that can be seen at Hole Bottom belonged to Julius Whitehead, founder of the Clayton Fireclay Works. The company made clay pipes, sanitary ware and chimney pots. The chimney shows off some of the glazed bricks made by the company.

Access notes

Muddy paths, tracks, tarmac, steep steps and stiles.

Parking: On street parking, Station Road.
Bus routes: 255, 363, X63.
OS Map: 288 Bradford & Huddersfield.



Map key

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Route | Road |
| Parking | Moorland |
| Train line | View point |
| Train station | Forest |
| Footpath | Cafe |
| Toilet | Canal/River |

Bradford on Foot

Bradford on Foot is a rich collection of walks around the 2025 UK City of Culture. Discover new places to visit and new groups to join. The walks have been selected by local people and partners from across the district. Access the maps online or pick up the free paper maps at different locations across the district, including your local library.

Look out for other routes nearby in Chellow Dene, Judy Woods and Wilsden.



Thornton Viaduct Circular

- 1 Start on Thornton Road by St James Church. Heading towards Thornton, turn right after the church on the path signed Brontë Way.
- 2 At the end of the snicket turn left on Brontë Old Road, continue through the housing estate and on past the terraces, the community centre and library, the road becoming Market St and then on past the Bronte Birthplace. Continue as the Market St becomes Kipping Lane and ends back at Thornton Road.
- 3 Turn right on Thornton Road, then cross using the pedestrian crossing and continue up the main road past the fish and chip shop.
- 4 Turn left immediately before Thornton Primary School, signed Great Northern Railway Trail. Follow the path round the back of the school and then left over the viaduct, signed Queensbury.
- 5 At the end of the viaduct continue straight on along the tarmac path, passing under the stone arched bridge. At the junction with the lane, continue straight over.
- Keep going as the path widens to become a lane, past High Birks house, and under the metal footbridge.
- 6 At the junction at the end of the lane, cross over and pick up the signed Great Northern Railway Trail again. Enjoy the views on your left over to Bradford and the Lister Mill chimney. Pass through a metal through point and after about 20m look out on your left for a gap in the hedge and an unusual wooden step through. Climb over and straight ahead is a gap in the wall. Pass through the gap and and head straight down the field, then at the bottom follow the path round to the right then winding its way steeply down into the valley bottom and the stream.
- Look out for the unusual painted chimney!
- 7 Cross the stream by the wall and head up to the metal gate squeezing through the gap next to it. Continue straight on heading up hill with the wall to your left.
- 8 At the corner of the wall climb over the stone stile and go straight on, with a low broken wall on your left.

Pass through the gap in the next wall and go straight ahead through the next wall before bearing slightly right towards corner of the field and the new houses. Enjoy the views across the valley back towards Thornton and the viaduct.

- 9 At the corner of the field, at the foot of the big mound, pass through the wall and head right up to the corner of the new-build houses. Pass through the wall and into the field following the path ahead.

- 10 Take the path to the left through the broken wall. The path heads steeply downhill, sandwiched between a wall and a fence.

Squeeze through the wall gap at the end of the path into the field and continue straight down, with the broken wall on your left.

- 11 Keep heading all the way down until you arrive at a very muddy track by a lone stone gate post with two holes in it and a footpath waymarker behind it.

Turn right on the track, navigating the mud as best you can, and head down to the road.

- 12 Turn left on the road, taking extreme care as the traffic is fast and the footpath here is barely functional. At the end of the road turn right - a grass verge on the right side of the road offers some protection as you cross. Heading downhill after about 20m cross over and turn left onto Corn Mill Lane, also signed Brontë Way.

- 13 After a very short distance, go straight ahead around the metal gate onto the track ahead. Follow the track down and over Pinch Beck then up and past the metal farm gate. Pass through the wall on your left just before the large metal barn.

Once in the field, head uphill towards the right side of the patch of trees on the skyline. The church spire can be seen behind the trees.

- 14 Leave the field through the kissing gate then turn left and immediately right by Thornton Hall, to bring you back to the Thornton Road, St James Church and the start of the walk.

