



The highest point on **Skipton Moor** is the trig pillar at 373m. Close by is this cairn, dedicated to 'those who are no longer with us' and there are other, older, cairns to the east of the summit. The whole of the ridge offers impressive views over Skipton into the Yorkshire Dales, and there are cryptic Neolithic cup and ring carvings on rock outcrops in the area.



**Low Bradley** is the main settlement in the parish of Bradleys Both. It is close to the Leeds & Liverpool Canal, which was opened in 1775 and is crossed by a mechanised swing-bridge. The finest building in the village is the Old Hall, built in 1678 and Grade II listed, but the largest is Cross Lane Mill, erected in the 1860s. It was a spinning mill later converted for weaving, and is now in residential use. An older watermill, built to grind corn, survives in Mill Lane.

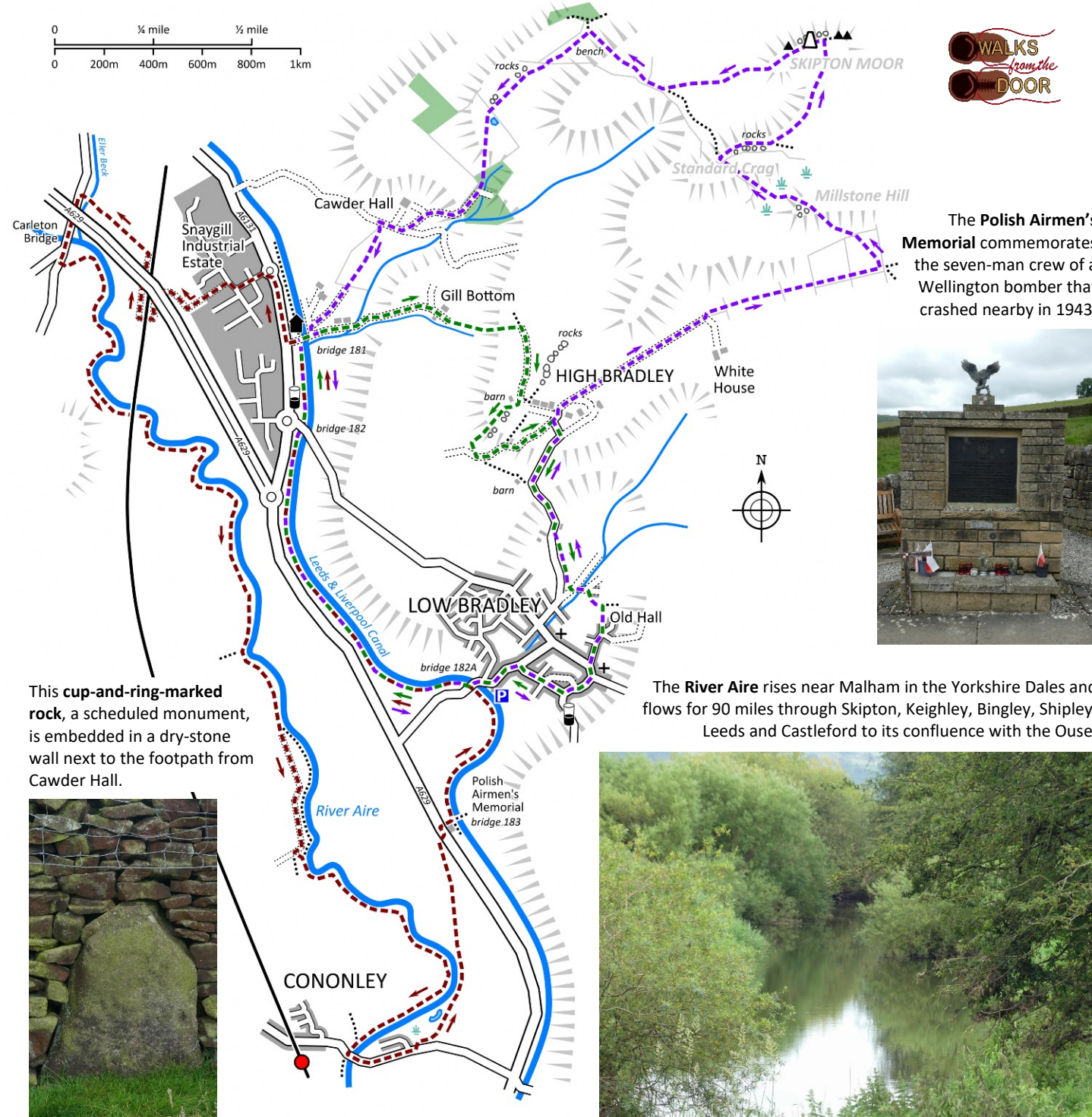
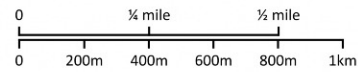
Village amenities include a pub, shop, two churches and a cricket club.

### THE SKIPTON HOTEL

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skiptonhotel



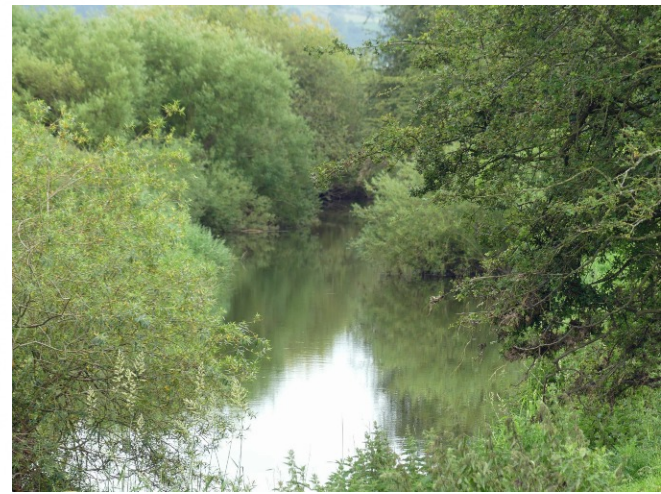
The **Polish Airmen's Memorial** commemorates the seven-man crew of a Wellington bomber that crashed nearby in 1943.



This **cup-and-ring-marked rock**, a scheduled monument, is embedded in a dry-stone wall next to the footpath from Cawder Hall.



The **River Aire** rises near Malham in the Yorkshire Dales and flows for 90 miles through Skipton, Keighley, Bingley, Shipley, Leeds and Castleford to its confluence with the Ouse.



## three circular walks from THE SKIPTON HOTEL



**Bradleys Both**  
3¾ miles: Moderate  
Explore the attractive twin settlements of High and Low Bradley.

**Airedale and the Leeds & Liverpool**  
6¾ miles: Fairly easy  
A flat walk alongside the River Aire, returning via the Polish Airmen's Memorial and canal towpath.

**Skipton Moor**  
6¼ miles: Fairly strenuous  
Along the canal to Low Bradley, returning via a rocky moorland summit with great views.



## Bradleys Both

3¾ miles: Moderate

Allow 2 hours. One gradual climb to start with; livestock likely.

**1** From the front of the hotel, turn left through the car park and exit onto the lane at the end. **2** Turn left and cross the swing-bridge over the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. **3** Ignoring a turning on the left, continue ahead past the houses. A boulder by a telegraph pole on the right is a cup-and-ring-marked rock, but the carvings are obscure and covered by moss. **4** Beyond the last house, continue along the concrete track. **5** At a gate and cattle grid, exit into fields and continue along the track, now gravelled. **6** Go through the gate and past Gill Bottom Farm, exiting via another gate into a tree-lined track. At the top, you emerge through a further gate into fields. **7** Follow a grassy track ahead uphill through three fields until you reach a track by a gate and wall-stile. **8** Turn right and follow the track below a rocky ridge on your left. **9** Opposite the end of the rocks, turn right through a squeeze-stile to the left of a stone barn. **10** Walk down the field below the wall-capped boulders on your left, and follow a farm track through a gap in a cross-wall. **11** The track bears right, but leave it here to follow the field edge down to a wall stile. **12** Bear left down to a squeeze-stile, and descend a set of stone steps into Old Lane, a walled green lane. **13** Ignoring the footpath opposite, turn left and follow the track gradually uphill, below the houses of High Bradley, to a tarmac road. **14** Turn right and follow the lane downhill, keeping right at a junction then swinging left and right as the lane descends towards Low Bradley. **15** Just after Langroods Farm (left), take a footpath through a gap in the wall next to a driveway on the left. This leads down to a hand-gate into a field. Walk down the right-hand side of the field to another hand-gate. **16** The fenced path beyond winds past a solar panel and exits into Mill Lane. **17** Take the lane opposite (to the right of the millstone at the entrance to Cornmill House). **18** By the next junction, turn right through a gate into a field. **19** Follow the wall to a gated squeeze-stile on the right. **20** Go through the stile and walk up the side of the second field to a hand-gate. A short path leads out to College Road by the Old Hall (left). **21** Follow the road round to the right and out to Main Street, Low Bradley. **22** Turn left, and keep right by the church at the bottom of Silsden Road. **23** Pass the end of West Lane (right) then, at the next junction, turn right into Matthew Lane. **24** Walk down past Meadow Close and the cricket pitch. **25** At the T-junction in front of Cross Lane Mill, turn left and walk down Ings Road to the car park and canal. **26** Cross the swing-bridge and turn right onto the canal towpath. **27** After 1 mile, pass under bridge 182 and pass the rear of the Bay Horse pub. **28** At bridge 181, after a further 300m, turn left back to the hotel.

## Airedale and the Leeds & Liverpool

6¾ miles: Fairly easy

Allow 3 hours. Built-up to start with. Low-lying paths may be muddy, and there are several stiles.

**1** From the front of the hotel, turn right along the road to a mini-roundabout. **2** Cross with care and follow the road into Snaygill Industrial Estate. **3** At the T-junction in front of Screwfix, turn right, then take a track between premises on the left. **4** Leave the industrial estate and follow the track round to the right, past a water-treatment works and under the main road. **5** At a junction of tracks, turn right under the railway. **6** Beyond a gate, swing right and follow the track under the bridge carrying the A629. **7** Go through a kissing gate to the right of a gate then, when you emerge into fields, turn left. Cross a dyke and carry on parallel to the embankment on your left. **8** Bear slightly right and cross a footbridge over Eller Beck. Continue over a stile to the road. **9** Turn left and pass under the A629 again, then cross the River Aire. **10** Take the left fork (signposted to Lothersdale) then immediately turn left over a stile into the riverside meadows. **11** The formal line of the public footpath runs straight across the field, but this is undefined and may be wet underfoot; most walkers follow the flood bank to the left, bearing right by the river. **12** Either way, you end up following the river below a hill on the right to reach a railway bridge. **13** Pass under the bridge and, beyond a wall stile, continue alongside the river. After a long riverside section, with occasional stiles and gates, the path meets a stony track. Either continue along the river or, for variety, follow the track, which runs between hedges. There is a permissive path on the right to the Dead Eye pond. **14** If you follow the track, when it bends right away from the river turn left at a junction, then left by a gate and climb steps back up to the riverside dyke. **15** Follow the river via further gates and stiles until steps lead up to a squeeze-stile onto the road on the outskirts of Cononley. **16** Cross the road and turn left over the Aire. **17** After the entrance to Airedale Ings, a residential road, turn left over a slab stile and descend to the field below. **18** The official line of the path continues to the river, but again a *de facto* path leads along the flood bank to the right, and then bears left above a pond to the riverside. **19** At a hedge, follow it right to a gated squeeze-stile next to a gate. In the next field, aim well to the right of a solitary tree to a through-stile in the wall. **20** Continue in the same direction, gradually approaching the main road; in the far corner you will find steps up through the retaining wall onto the pavement. **21** Turn left in front of a house, then cross and follow a short footpath to the left of the property up to the Leeds & Liverpool Canal at a swing-bridge (beyond which is the memorial to Polish airmen killed in a WW2 air crash). **22** Turn left along the towpath. **23** After ½ mile you reach the swing-bridge at Low Bradley. Continue along the canal. **24** After 1 mile, pass under bridge 182 and pass the rear of the Bay Horse pub. **25** At bridge 181 after a further 300m, turn left back to the hotel.

## Skipton Moor

6¼ miles: Fairly strenuous

Allow 3 hours. Crosses exposed moorland: avoid in bad weather. Livestock likely, and several stiles.

**1** From the front of the hotel, turn left through the car park and exit onto the lane at the end. **2** Turn left. At the swing-bridge, turn right along the towpath of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal. **3** After 300 metres, pass the Bay Horse pub and go under bridge 182. **4** Continue along the towpath for a further mile until you reach the swing-bridge at Low Bradley. **5** Cross the bridge and pass a car park on your right. Walk up the road, with a cricket pitch on your right. **6** Turn right opposite the mill into Matthew Lane and walk past the ends of Westview Close (left) and Meadow Close (right) to the junction with Main Street (the Slaters Arms is a short distance to the right, around the corner). **7** Turn left and walk up Main Street past the end of West Lane on the left. **8** At the church, keep left, then turn right into College Road. **9** Pass College Court on the left then, when the road bends right, take the left-hand turn. **10** Walk to the left of the Old Hall and take the narrow footpath between two gateways that leads out to a field. **11** Walk down the wall to a gated slab-stile and turn left along the field edge beyond. **12** When you reach Mill Lane, turn left down to the old corn mill. **13** Cross a private parking area opposite the junction and pick up a narrow fenced footpath that bends right and left past a solar panel to a gate into a field. **14** Walk up the left-hand side of the field to another gate and continue beyond out to High Bradley Lane. **15** Turn right and follow the road uphill, past a couple of dwellings. **16** After quarter of a mile, keep left as you approach the hamlet of High Bradley, ignoring a surfaced track straight ahead at a junction. **17** Stay on the road past a walled green lane on the left and the entrance to Aireview Farm on the right. Continue through and out of the hamlet, ignoring entrances to left and right. **18** The lane becomes a gravelly track before a farm on the left, then continues ahead through a metal gate. **19** When the track swings right through a gate towards a white-painted farm, leave it to continue ahead along a wall to a gateway. **20** Cross the next field to a further gateway, and the next to another by a sheepfold. **21** Follow the wall to a fourth gateway into another field and continue along the wall. **22** In the far corner, ignore both the gate and through-stile, instead turning left and slightly doubling back to a rather tumbledown stile with a waymark post at a dogleg in the wall at the top of the field – there is little or no sign of a path on the ground here. **23** Beyond the wall, the path is slightly more visible: aim diagonally left up the slope to a second waymark post on Millstone Hill, where there are some outcropping boulders. **24** Descend to a boggy ford and pick up the continuing path beyond, which climbs to meet a wall. **25** Follow the wall right to a through-stile in the corner. **26** Beyond this wall, ignore the obvious path ahead, instead turning right along a narrow path that picks its way below the boulders of Standard Crag. This path shortly leaves the wall and curves

gently left across the open moor. **27** The path splits as approaches the cairns on Skipton Moor; take any path up to the summit ridge. **28** Turn left past the trig point and follow the descending path beyond a cairn, with wide views over Skipton. **29** Climb a through-stile over a wall and follow the wall on your left for a short distance before bearing right, away from it. **30** Descend a rough path to a bench, then leave the obvious path heading for Skipton, instead picking up a narrower path on the left that winds through the gorse then crosses to a wooden step-stile next to a metal field-gate. **31** Follow the line of rock outcrops, passing under two sets of power lines, aiming towards a wood in the distance. **32** After another through-stile, to the right of a field-gate, swing left, crossing a boggy little valley below a pond. The right of way crosses the field diagonally but there is no obvious path on the ground. **33** Towards the far corner of the field, a stone through-stile, with its risers painted white, comes into view. **34** Climb this stile into a scrap of open woodland and follow the wall right to meet a more obvious, stony farm track. **35** Turn right, still with the wall on your right, to a wooden gate into a field. **36** Beyond a tree, descend the grassy track diagonally to meet a more obvious, stony track. **37** Turn left and walk down to the gate in the field corner. **38** Walk down the asphalt drive beyond then, before the houses, turn left by a parking bay and double back to a stile with an old SUDC footpath sign. **39** The path beyond descends indistinctly to a stile in the wall. To the left of this stile is a faint ring-marked rock, set into the foot of the dry-stone wall. **40** Follow the obvious path beyond the stile down past some old quarries to a driveway. **41** Turn left, then right over the swing-bridge back to the hotel.

**High Bradley** (below) is an ancient upland settlement of stone farmhouses and barns ('laihies' in local dialect) at the top of a winding no-through road from Low Bradley that continues as a track onto Skipton Moor. The walled green lane pictured, marked as 'Dales Lane' on the map, is known locally as **Old Lane**.



Route descriptions, mapping and photography  
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