

In Jane Eyre's Footsteps Walk

Submitted To Cowlingweb By: Nicky Bunting - North Yorkshire County Council Countryside Ranger

Difficulty rating: Medium. There are few waymarks, you will need OS map South Pennines OL 21

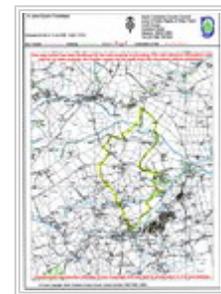
Distance: Approx. 5 miles

Description: A circular walk through undulating countryside, with long distance views- & a Bronte connection. A nice autumn walk.

Accessible by public transport: An hourly bus between Keighley & Colne, alighting at Cock Hall, Cowling (5 min walk to start of route).

Parking: Outside Holy Trinity Church, Gill Lane, Cowling. Grid Ref SD 967 430.

Walk map: [In Jane Eyre's Footsteps Walk Map](#)
(Res: 1000x1400 pixels, Filesize: 557kb)



[Walk Map](#)
(Res: 1000x1400)

Walk Description

- 1) Go through the hand gate at the side of the churchyard & follow the track to a farm building.
- 2) Turn left at a carved stone gatepost & follow the wall to a stone stile in the field corner.
- 3) Bear half right down to the beck, then right & follow the beck.
- 4) At a stone gatepost with a round hole in it, turn left, down a bank to a footbridge.
- 5) Cross the bridge, turn right, & follow the beck to a large footbridge.
- 6) Don't cross here, but turn left & follow the track, known as Donkey Lane, uphill. Follow the track, now tarmaced, until you meet a rd
- 7) Turn left & follow the rd uphill.
- 8) Just after the entrance to 'Dairy House', turn right down an unsigned track running between a wall & a hedge.
- 9) Follow the track downhill, over a lane, then a footbridge, then uphill to the first property on the left.
- 10) Turn left by the cattle grid, through the middle of the buildings, between a pair of short stone gate posts, & through a gap in a beech hedge, to a stile.
- 11) Turn right to the top of the field, then left & follow the wall, via a stile, to a narrow strip of woodland.
- 12) Turn right then immediately left, over 2 stiles, & walk along the top of the wood.
- 13) At the end of the wood, turn left at the stone gate posts, & follow the track between the field & the wood. See if you can spot the sweet chestnut trees.
- 14) At the second 'ditch', bear half-right, towards a white house a couple of fields away. Go downhill to a clump of holly, & across a footbridge.
- 15) Bear half-right to a stile on top of a bank. Then straight on & through another stile. Look back for a stunning view of Stone Gappe.

About: STONE GAPPE

Charlotte Bronte worked here as a governess. Stone Gappe may have been the inspiration for Gateshead Hall in her novel, 'Jane Eyre'. Its very likely she walked down here, maybe with her young charges.

- 16) Bear half-right to the field corner, & over 2 stiles to meet a track. Turn left & follow the track to the lane.
- 17) Turn right & follow the quiet lane all the way to the T-junction at Cowling Hill.
- 18) Turn right & almost immediately left, up a bank to a stile signposted 'Pennine Way'.
- 19) Go downhill, keeping to the edge of the field, & over a stile. Then straight on, & to the right-hand side of the old farm house.
- 20) Go through a stile next to a Pennine Way signpost, round to the front of the farmhouse, then straight on downhill towards a field gate.
- 21) Cross the stile next to the field gate, turn left, over a stile & turn right. Walk down the side of the field & over another stile.
- 22) Go straight on downhill, over 2 stiles until you get to a Pennine Way signpost. On your right are the ruins of Higher Gill Bottom Mill.
- 23) Go through the small gate next to the signpost, turn left & follow the track to the rd.
- 24) Turn right, over the arched stone bridge, up the hill to the T-junction. Turn left & follow the lane back to the church at the start of the route.