



Cullingworth, inc Hewenden viaduct

Getting there and parking

Start at Cullingworth Primary School, New School Lane, Cullingworth, Bradford BD13 5DA. Free street parking.

Other Information

Moderate ability - long moderate incline at the start and includes one short steep incline.

Distance 3.5 miles.

No facilities en route.

Muddy section - walking boots and poles advised.

Route Details and Reflections

Head down to the main road (Halifax Road) and turn right uphill (crossing South Road cul-de-sac and Haworth Road). Continue up Manywells Brow.

Turn left onto Manywells Crescent. At the end of the cul-de-sac take the gap in the wall.

Turn left at the end of Manywells Close. Follow the loop around to the right (passing the Castle Stead Drive sign on your right and The Brow to your left). Continue uphill on Castle Stead Drive.

At the brow of the hill and junction continue straight forward down the side of the house towards the wooden fence.

Go through the gap in the wooden fence and turn right. Note - Muddy after rain

Reflection 1 - First view of the viaduct



- This is our first view of Hewenden Viaduct. It is a magnificent grade II listed structure; built between 1881 and 1884; and it has 17 arches.
- Is this a good view of the viaduct?
- If I were to tell you, that you will see a lot more of this wonderful viaduct on our walk, with much better views, how does that make you feel?
- Did your attention to the current view change? If you were taking photos, did you stop in the hope of better photos later?
- But is the better view later guaranteed? The weather may change. The walk may be cut short.
- Let's just pause in the 'now' and enjoy this view.

JOURNEY ON

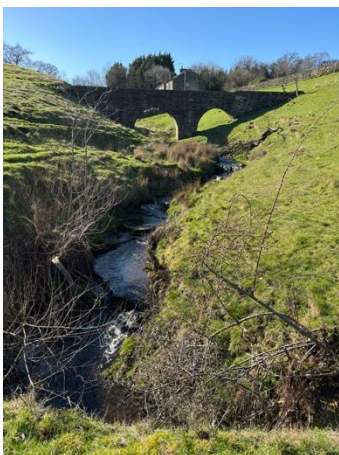
Continue up along the muddy path (view of the viaduct to your left).

Views of the wind farm and disused quarry in the field at the top of the path. Continue on the path.

The path exits onto the main road. Turn left uphill and as you reach the main road (A629) continue to bear left downhill towards Halifax. Note - cross the road by the bus stop for safety as the footpath ends and continue downhill.

As you enter Denholme (stone sign on left), cross back over the road, taking great care as it is busy. Before the first house, take the Public Footpath signposted 'Senior Way'. Small metal gate on the left hand side and walk down the hill towards the beck.

Reflection 2 - Bridge



- This bridge is a lot smaller than the 17 arches of the viaduct but it is also beautiful, particularly due to its setting.
- Listen for the sound of the water. What else can you hear?
- We are so close to the main road but it is tranquil down here.
- Let's just pause in the 'now' and enjoy this view.

JOURNEY ON

Continue down the valley, walking with the beck to your right.

Go through the gap in the wall (signposted 'Millennium Way Circular Walk') over the small stone stile.

As the woodland path opens up, take the bottom fork and continue to follow the signs for Millennium Way Circular through the wide gap in the wall. Bear right and drop down towards the stream.

In the bottom of the valley, cross the break in the water over the bridge with no sides. Climb the step short up hill section.

Turn left at the top of the hill and walk along the path. The mud path merges into a concrete path/road. (*Optional small detour on your right to see the view of the quarry. Head back onto the concrete tarmac path/road.*)

As the path/road bends to the right, take the left fork in front of the large stone, heading towards an L shaped wall. Pass the L shaped wall on your left and continue along the path through the woodland.

Path emerges onto a dirt track next to a disused railway arch. Turn left (with the arch behind you).

Continue ahead through the ornate open metal gate and take the path to the left of the main house gate.

Pass through the kissing gate with a view of the viaduct. Branch right up the hill towards the seat.

Reflection 3 – View of viaduct and Hewenden Reservoir



- Hewenden viaduct was built by the Great Northern Railway to link the industrial towns of Bradford, Halifax and Keighley. It remains one of the highest viaducts in Britain standing at 124 feet from floor to parapet wall. It required massive foundations of 62 feet due to shifting sands. To give you an idea, that is half the actual height of the viaduct itself. It is 376 yards long and consists of 17 arches, which have spans of 50 feet each. It is made from local stone quarried from Manywells at Cullingworth and only the underside of the arches is brickwork.
- Was the journey here, in the hope of a better view, worthwhile? I hope the weather is good and you can see this magnificent view of the viaduct.
- Did you enjoy the journey on the way?
- 'Life is a journey, not a destination'. This famous proverb serves as a gentle reminder to pay attention to the journey of life rather than the final destination.
- Is 'faith' about the journey or the destination?
- Do we see faith as an 'insurance policy' to ensure that we make it to the destination, to reach the magnificent view?
- Or is faith about the journey? Experiencing God's unconditional love now.
- We haven't yet reached our destination - the viaduct itself - but the views here are magnificent!
- Pause to reflect on how you look at faith, what looks true to you? Is faith about the journey or the destination?

JOURNEY ON

After the second seat, turn right between the two walks and head towards the metal kissing gate.

Pass through the kissing gate and take the immediate gate to your left on The Great Northern Railway Trail.

Reflection 4 - View from the viaduct



- We have made it, we have made it to the viaduct! The views on the journey have been getting better and better, as we have been getting closer. Take a look over the walls of both sides.
- Jesus said 'I am the way, the truth and the life'.
- Jesus' focus was on a way of life where we simply love God and one another. That was 'the way' - the way to journey through life.
- Yes, he talked about the destination but just as importantly (if not more!) it was how we are to live life now, how we act towards each other, that matters.

JOURNEY ON

Carry on across the viaduct. As you reach the metal gate and at the crossroads, continue straight ahead on the great northern trail.

Ignore the path that bears left and continue under the railway bridge.

Cross the small viaduct and the turn first right in front of the houses.

The path leads back to the school and start of the walk.