

# A WALK TO THE NUTCLOUGH VALLEY

**This circular walk takes you to a secluded valley with a fascinating wetland habitat.**

**Length:** 2½ km (1½ miles) - a bit over 3,000 steps. It should take a bit over 1 hour (plus lingering near the pond).

**Start and Finish:** St Pol Car park

**How Strenuous:** A steady then sharp uphill climb before an easy descent.

**How Uneven?** Mainly good tracks but the path through the woods can be muddy.

**Obstacles:** Parts are uneven so unsuitable for wheelchairs or buggies.

1. Leaving the car park turn left down the pedestrianised road called Bridgegate.
2. Pass the fustian knife in Saint Georges Square, head past the mill and the White Lion pub where you turn left up the main Keighley Road
3. Walk for about 300 metres to a set of traffic lights where you cross the road. Head up hill for 30 metres and turn right up a track before the former Nutclough Tavern.
4. At the gate keep straight on, and after a 50 metre gentle climb, turn left up a set of stone steps.
5. You will now see the Nutclough Mill pond on your right with some benches to stop and sit or you can wander round the paths. You may see some unusual birds and if you've got children, they will want to play in the water but do take care as there are some deep spots.

The pond in Nutclough used to be an old mill dam to supply water to a sawmill below.



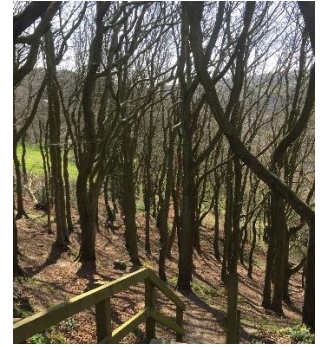
People at play near the pond



The path as it approaches Hurst Bridge

6. To continue the walk, take the stone steps up to a footpath (marked link path) which rises up on the left-hand side above the pond.
7. Where it levels out go on to the 18<sup>th</sup> century Hurst Bridge (see photo) for a great view down Nutclough valley

8. Retrace your steps from the bridge for 30 metres and take the wide stone path up to your right. The path narrows and you pass Hurst which is an old farm and then reach a terrace of early 20th century houses on a tarmac road. Great views of the valley bottom from here.
9. Continue ahead and just before the next set of houses there is a footpath going down to your left. This goes down a set of stone steps into some fine beech woods (take care as this woodland path can be a bit slippery).
10. The path bends to the right and drops down to the bottom of the wood where you take a narrow path down some stone steps. This ends up on the main Keighley Road (a little above the traffic lights you crossed earlier).



**To return to the centre, you have two choices:**

If you are short of time, you can walk down the main road which will take you about ten minutes.

Or, there is a more interesting route through the back of the town, described below.

11. Cross the main road and take Lees Road going down behind the bus stop.
12. Turn sharp right into Unity Street, then shortly after, on the left, watch out for a narrow set of steep stone steps going down between two houses.
13. At the bottom of the steps, cross the road, slightly to your left to another set of steps and then down through the estate car park on to a road called Victoria Road near a playground.
14. Turn left here and follow the road for 100 metres, over the river and past some industrial buildings.
15. Turn left just before the funeral directors and at the end turn right along the riverside path. The path emerges opposite the town hall. Turn left over the bridge and you will see the fustian needle in St Georges Square. Turn right on to Bridgegate back to St. Pol car park where you first started.

## *IMPROVEMENTS*

*Way marking at the beginning of Nutclough track is poor it needs another more prominent waymark*

*Three steps down to the pond have rotted and need replacing also need to cut back down the steps*

*Going up the main path couple of steps need replacing and also probably about three lengths of revetments of rotted off and two extra ones needed*

*Cycle barrier has rotted – needs a meeting*

*At top junction needs away mark on the post up to Hurst*

*Path off Hurst Road path needs clearing and cutting back*

*In beechwoods route not particularly clear needs a yellow top post where it bends*

*Needs a bit of cutting back and steps clearing and widening*