

6 Follow the riverside path to a pebbly beach.

landmark.microfilm.bordering



How many pebbles can you balance in a column? What force is pulling the pebbles down?



The water is reddish-brown. This is typical of Yorkshire Dales rivers. The colour comes from the peaty soils of the Dales.

4 As you come out of the tunnel, you cross a small stream that flows into the River Wharfe. This is the water from Mill Ghyll! From the fountain to here, it has been flowing underground in a huge culvert (tunnel) that is big enough to stand up in.

Why do you think this little stream needs such a big tunnel?



5 Follow the riverside path.

If you are very lucky you may see otters, kingfishers, herons or egrets along this part of the river.



Near the cemetery, look for a water-quality testing station (a long pipe) on the riverbank.

Despite a lot of local campaigning and engineering work, this stretch of river still isn't always clean enough for swimming.

3 From the back of the Manor House walk down past the information boards. Go down into the Riverside Gardens, and turn right towards New Brook Street Bridge.

remedy.thumps.yacht



Look for the steel arch that supports the bridge.

Walk through the tunnel next to the bridge.



FUN FACT!

New Brook Street Bridge is not new at all – it was built more than a hundred years ago.

7 Cross the suspension bridge, then turn left along the road and into the riverside field.

FUN FACT!

The gate on the bridge was added to stop rabbits from Middleton Woods reaching the allotments and eating the produce.

The bridge was built in 1934 to pipe sewage across the river. The walkway and pipe are 'suspended' (or hanging) from the two cables.

On the outside of the river bend, opposite the beach, the water is deep and fast-flowing.



Can you spot what has been done to stop the river from undercutting the road?

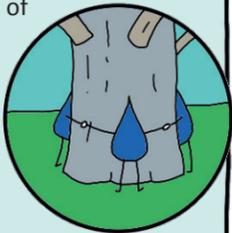
8 Walk by the river through East Holmes Field and West Holmes Field (cross New Brook St carefully via the ramps).

sonic.look.adopts

You are now walking on the river's flood plain, which is under water during floods. Here there are some trees with very wide trunks.

Try measuring the circumference of a trunk using your arms. Your armspan is about the same as your height. The age of the tree in years is half the circumference in centimetres.

In West Holmes Field work has been completed to protect the river banks and encourage plant diversity and regeneration.



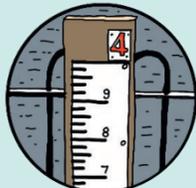
Does the river flow east or west? Which sea do you think it flows into?

9 Cross the old packhorse bridge.

paused.table.reverses

This stone bridge was built in 1675, long before the other two bridges you have visited. This bridge's arches need to be high because the river can get very deep here when there are floods.

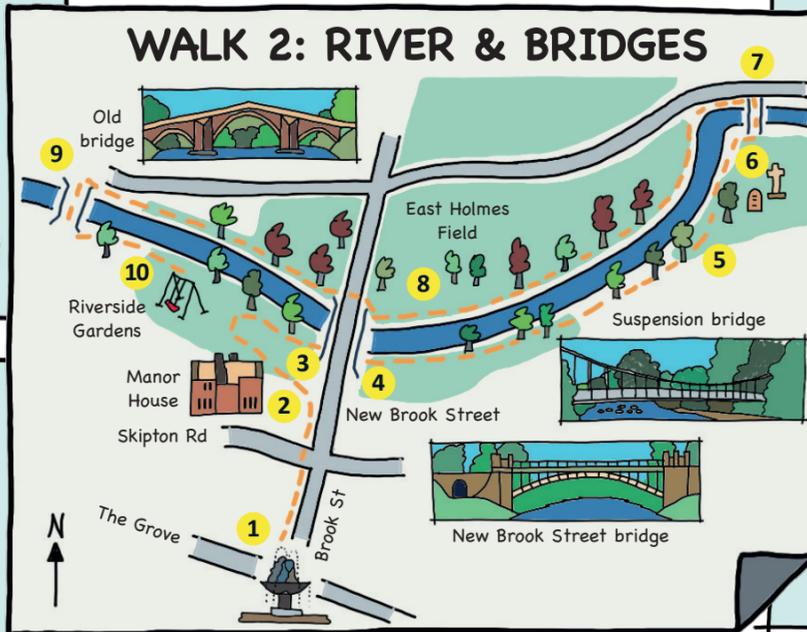
Just upstream the bridge is a water-level measuring station that records the height of the river water.



How are the three river bridges different from one another? Which is your favourite?

10 At the far side of the bridge turn left to walk beside the river to the Riverside Gardens. The walk ends here.

After crossing the bridge, look back carefully. Can you spot two dates carved into the bridge? These show how high the water rose during floods at those times.



### ILKLEY WATER TRAILS

Ilkley's past is closely linked to water. The Romans crossed the river here, water from Ilkley Moor powered mills, and people flocked here to 'take the waters' in Victorian times.

Here are two fun family walks that explore Ilkley's water in modern times.

Both walks start from the new fountain at the top of Brook Street in the centre of the town.

The what3words location for the fountain is:

identity.highbrow.crypt

#### Walk 1: Tarn and Moor

Discover water on the famous Ilkley Moor  
2 miles / 3 kilometres  
Includes steep steps and climbs

#### Walk 2: River and Bridges

A walk along the river and over historic bridges  
2 miles / 3 kilometres  
Wheelchair accessible

**! Disclaimer:** The walks are undertaken at walkers' own risk. Children should be supervised at all times. Beware of natural hazards.

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## Ilkley Water Trails

Two new family walks from Ilkley's fantastic fountain



Walk and discover ...

- becks, brooks and ghylls
- ponds and tarns
- spa houses and baths
- the River Wharfe and bridges



Things to do



Things to think about



Things to look for