

# THE BECK STONE

## BACKSTONE BECK ON ILKLEY MOOR

Three different routes which take in the best of the lower slopes of Ilkley Moor, with bracken, heather, a tarn (a small mountain lake) and rushing streams.

### DISTANCE

Route 1: 20 mins each way.  
700 metres/0.5 miles each way.  
Route 2: 25 mins each way.  
1.2 km/0.8 miles each way.  
Route 3: 15 mins each way.  
300 metres /0.3 miles each way.

**ACCESS** See details for each route. Children will need supervision by the stream.

### REFRESHMENTS AND TOILETS

Refreshments at the Cow and Calf car park kiosk, Cow and Calf Pub, Rombalds Hotel on Wells Road, White Wells House – the white house on the moor (when the flag's flying!), Craiglands Hotel and numerous tea shops in Ilkley including the famous Bettys Café Tea Rooms.

**Toilets:** Ilkley's main car park, the Cow and Calf car park kiosk and White Wells House.

### ROUTE 1: FROM THE COW AND CALF ROCKS CAR PARK

A relatively level, narrow footpath used by many local families, although not suitable for buggies or wheelchair users, with steep downhill and uphill sections.

### GETTING THERE AND PARKING

From the centre of Ilkley at the junction of Brook Street and The Grove (LS29 9HS) follow the signs to the Cow and Calf Rocks up Cowpasture Road.

Park in the Cow and Calf Rocks car park on the right at the top of Hangingstone Road.

### The Walk (Route 1 – Cow and Calf)

Go into the oblong 'extension' to the main car park. From the far end, take the right hand of two well-marked paths leading from it, so that you keep on the road side of the enormous 'Calf' Rock.

Stay on this path and after 5 mins where there is a Y shaped junction, take the less obvious right hand path which seems to lead downhill. Stay on this path for a further 5 mins until you come towards a belt of trees in front of you. The path meets **ROUTE 3** coming up from the right.

On reaching this T-junction, turn left and continue uphill for a few minutes to where steep shallow steps on your right lead down to a wooden bridge over the Beck.

Take these steps down but do NOT cross the bridge!

✳ **ALL ROUTES** Instead, take the steep footpath uphill to your left, which follows the line of the Beck, for about 30 metres.

Look out for a very large rock with a large gorse bush beside it on your right hand side.

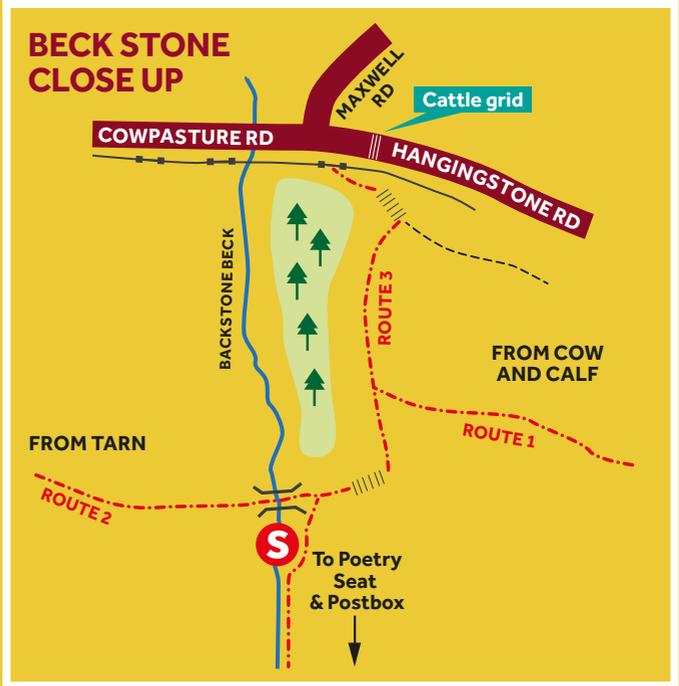
Stop here and squeeze between the rock and the gorse bush and you will see the **Beck Stone** in the stream to your left.

To visit the **Stanza Stones Poetry Seat** continue up the footpath, with the stream on your right, for a further 400 metres until you reach a level area where you can cross the stream.

Continue with the stream on your left for another 600 metres, until you reach the **Poetry Seat**. Do post a poem here!

# BECK STONE WALK

## ROUTE 1: 1.4KM/1 MILE IN TOTAL



### MAP KEY

- - - - - Stanza Stones Trail
- - - - - Footpath
- Road
- ||||| Steps
- Gate
- ▲ Woods
- ( ) Footbridge
- S Stanza Stone
- P Parking

# THE BECK STONE continued

## BACKSTONE BECK ON ILKLEY MOOR

### ROUTE 2: FROM THE TARN

A wide tarred uphill path to the Tarn (a small lake). Shallow steps to a narrow footpath with a short muddy descent and then uphill to the **Beck Stone**.

### GETTING THERE AND PARKING

From the centre of Ilkley drive up Wells Road. As the road curves round to the right, cross the cattle grid and park in the car park on the right hand side beside the Darwin Gardens.

Alternatively park in the main car park in the centre of town or arrive at Ilkley Station and walk up Wells Road.



Photo:  
Ilkley Moor  
where the  
path from the  
Beck Stone  
to the Poetry  
Seat crosses  
Beckstone  
Beck.

### The Walk (Route 2 – Via Tarn)

Cross the road from the Darwin Gardens car park. Turn to the left and walk back a few metres to the junction of Wells Road and Crossbeck Road.

At the Crossbeck Road sign, take the diagonal drive on your right which seems to go into a small tarmac parking area in front of houses.

Ignore the gate and footpath to your right (which goes to the paddling pool) and go straight ahead to a large metal gate.

Go through this gate and up the tarred road. Follow it all the way up to where it levels out round a Tarn.

Follow the path round the right side of the Tarn.

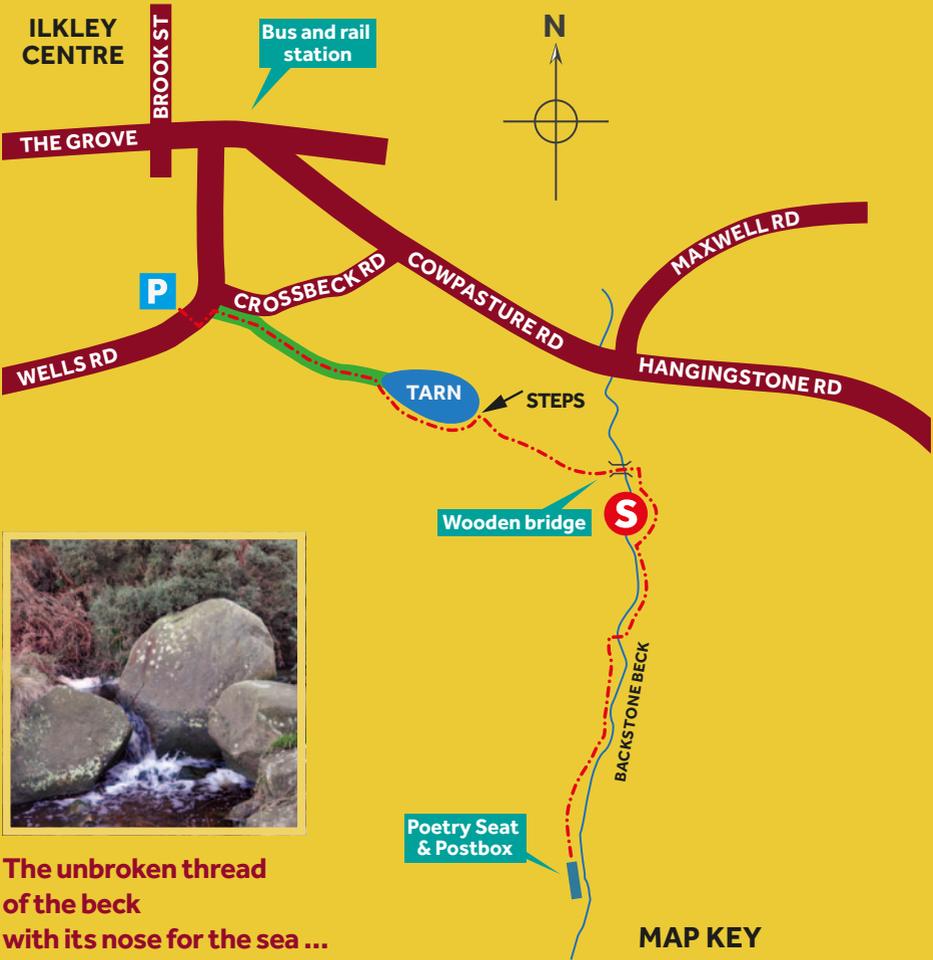
At the very far end, just before the bench, go up the short flight of steps on your right, to a footpath.

Follow this footpath for about five minutes until it goes up over a rise and then steeply downhill to the Beck below.

Cross the wooden bridge over the Beck and then follow from **ALL ROUTES** ✨ (see page 1).

# BECK STONE WALK

## ROUTE 2: 2.4 KM/1.6 MILES IN TOTAL



The unbroken thread of the beck with its nose for the sea ...

**MAP KEY**

- - - Stanza Stones Trail
- Road
- Track
- ( ) Footbridge
- S Stanza Stone
- P Parking

# THE BECK STONE continued

## BACKSTONE BECK ON ILKLEY MOOR

### ROUTE 3: FROM HANGINGSTONE ROAD

A short, sharp, uphill route with a steep downhill section.

#### GETTING THERE AND PARKING

From the centre of Ilkley at the junction of Brook Street and The Grove (LS29 9HS) follow the signs to the Cow and Calf Rocks up Cowpasture Road. Look out for Craiglands Hotel on the right. Park in the small tree lined car park, also on the right, just after the hotel.

Alternatively park in Maxwell Road, a broad one way street, further up on your left.



Photo:  
Rock outcrop  
on Ilkley Moor.

### The Walk

If you have parked in the tree lined car park, walk up the road until you reach the Hangingstone Road sign, just before the cattle grid. If you have parked in Maxwell Road simply cross the main road to reach the same point.

Make sure you go through the small metal gate here on your right, just before the grid (and not one of the two metal gates lower down).

Follow the footpath to your left up six shallow steps.

Before the seventh step, turn sharply right up what seems to be a very narrow path but immediately broadens out.

Follow this path uphill until you see the steep shallow steps on your right leading down to a wooden bridge over the beck.

Take these steps down but **DO NOT** cross the bridge! Then follow **ALL ROUTES** ✨ (see page 1).

### About the Beck Stones

"The last stone to be carved, this is the only poem I drew freehand as the very rough and curved surface of the boulder

made tracing impossible. It's also the only poem I carved while standing in a beck!"  
**Pip Hall**

# BECK STONE WALK

## ROUTE 3: 600 METRES/0.6 MILES IN TOTAL

