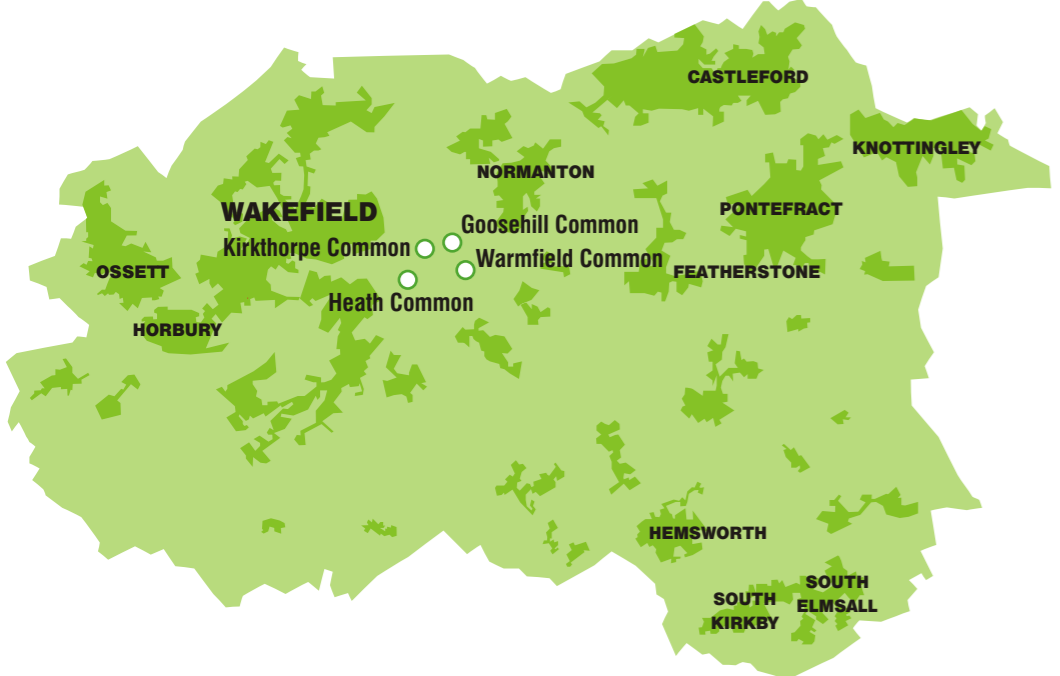


About this walk

This walk starts at the large common at Heath, then takes you along footpaths and bridleways to the smaller commons at Warmfield, Goosehill and Kirkthorpe where you can discover the hidden gems such as the pond at Goosehill or the village stocks, last used in the 1860's, at Kirkthorpe. The footpaths and bridleways are signposted and waymarked; and with the help of the map and directions, the routes are easy to follow. Remember, common land areas are designated access land where you are free to leave the beaten track and explore the sites for yourself.

Location map



How to get there

By Car: Heath village is 1.5 miles east of Wakefield and is signposted off the A655 Wakefield - Castleford Road. There is a large car park on the Common in Heath village, near to the Kings Arms.

By Bus: Services 184 & 185 from Wakefield, Castleford and Pontefract, Service 187 from Wakefield and Castleford, Service 188 from Wakefield, Castleford and Knottingley, Service 189 from Wakefield, Castleford and Leeds.

Check timetables at Metroline
Tel: 0113 245 7676
Web: www.wymetro.com

Access Land

In October 2005, areas of countryside across England mapped as access land became available for people to use on foot for activities such as walking, bird watching and picnicking. Open access land includes areas of mountain, moor, heath, down and registered common land. In England the public now have additional access to around 940,000 hectares of land, some 7% of the country. For up to date information on maps showing access land and restrictions, visit: www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk



The Open Access symbol is used to mark the boundaries of land available to area-wide access.

Wakefield Countryside and Conservation Service

The commons included on this walk are managed by Wakefield Countryside and Conservation. The service also manages country parks, nature reserves, woodlands and other wildlife areas for biodiversity through environmental conservation. It offers an opportunity for everyone to enjoy nature and holds a regular programme of events and activities.

Refreshments

There are four public houses in the area. The Kings Arms and Horse and Groom at Heath and the Pineapple Inn and Plough Inn at Warmfield.

The Countryside Code

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people



Responsible dog ownership

Please keep dogs on lead or under close control - even the best behaved pet can worry livestock or disturb wildlife. Please clean up after your dog.

Public Rights of Way

For more information about the District's network of public paths or to report a problem please ring **0845 8 506 506** or email proteam@wakefield.gov.uk

More information about countryside sites, walks leaflets and public rights of way can be found at www.wakefield.gov.uk



This leaflet is supported by Natural England.

Easy to follow walks from

Heath Common

Enjoy these walks taking in the common land at Heath, Warmfield, Goosehill & Kirkthorpe.



1 Walk from Heath to Goosehill, Kirkthorpe & back

(4 miles / 6km return a walk of 2 hours)

- From the car park, turn right, walking towards the 4 lane junction. Follow the wider lane, to the right and walk across the grass to the stile between the high and lower stone walls. Climb over the stile and follow the footpath between the hawthorn hedgerows.
- Pass through the gate, turning into a field. The path takes a diagonal route over the field leading to a second gate. Enter the next field where the path goes around the perimeter. At the top left hand corner, bear right. Look for the gap in the hedge, where a small bridge takes you into a third field. Walk diagonally over this field towards the road.
- On reaching the road, turn left, and soon after passing over the bridge over the disused railway, take the signed bridleway along the fields to the left.
- Continue along this track, until reaching, Warmfield Lane of the bottom of Marshall Hill. Cross over the road, turn right and then take the signed Trans Pennine Trail bridleway that continues on the left. Note the fine views over Wakefield to the left.
- The path runs out onto Goosehill Lane, turn left downhill. Before the gateway there is a path to the right that takes you on to Goosehill Common. Take this short detour, walking downhill towards the pond. To rejoin the main route retrace your steps to Goosehill Lane and continue through the gateway, walking past the cattery and over the railway bridges.

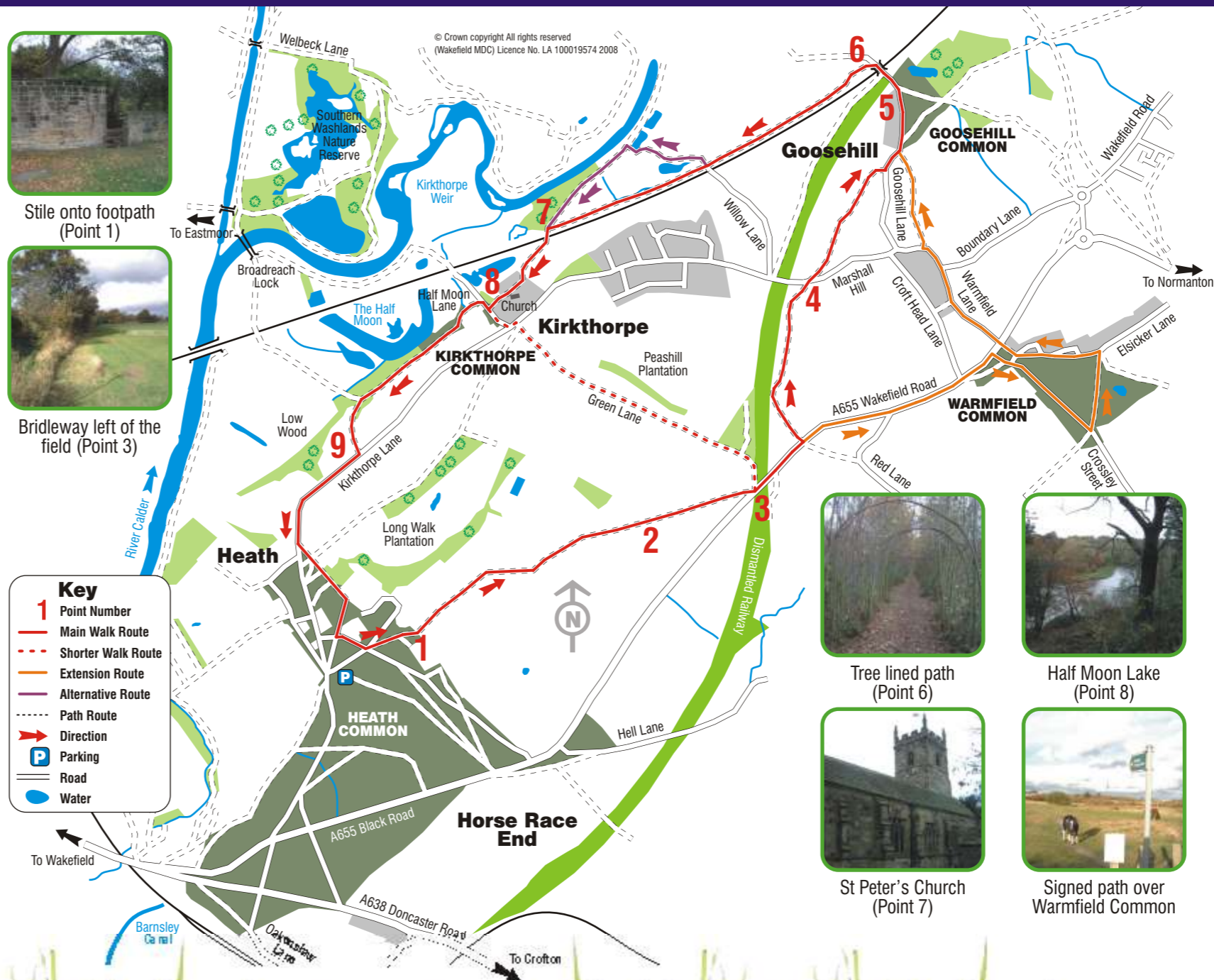
- After crossing over the 'live' railway, turn left, going uphill to the right of the fence, and then along the tree lined path.
- On reaching the barrier, turn left and then continue through the railway tunnel. Follow the path as it bears right and after passing the rear of the church, emerge on Half Moon Lane. (To see the village stocks, walk uphill turn left and at Kirkthorpe Lane they are just to your right. Now retrace your steps). Turn right down the lane.
- Take the signed path to the left. This path takes you through a wooded area, and after a while, Half Moon Lake comes into view below the path. At the brown Trans Pennine Trail sign bear left, walking uphill onto Kirkthorpe Lane.
- Turn right onto Kirkthorpe Lane and follow the road back to Heath Village. Turn left following the track past the Kings Arms to return to the car park.

2 Shorter Walk from Point 2

(2½ miles / 4km - 1¼ hours)

After crossing the final field, keep within it and take the path to the left (Green Lane).

Continue along the full length of this track which emerges on Kirkthorpe Lane, with the church in front of you and the village stocks to the left. Cross the road, continuing down hill past the Almshouses. Now follow directions 8&9.



Stile onto footpath (Point 1)



Bridleway left of the field (Point 3)



Tree lined path (Point 6)



Half Moon Lake (Point 8)



St Peter's Church (Point 7)



Signed path over Warmfield Common

3 Extension of Walk

(adds a further 1½ miles / 2½km - 40 mins)

At point 3..... Turn left and continue along the main road, walk past the bridleway on the left and up the steep Pineapple Hill. On reaching the Pineapple Inn, cross over the road and continue uphill to the junction with Crossley Street. Turn right here, and after about a quarter of a mile, cross over the road, and take the signed path over Warmfield Common. As the houses come into view, turn left to return to the main A655 road. Cross over the road and go straight ahead along Warmfield Lane.

Follow Warmfield Lane to the Plough Inn. Directly opposite the pub, cross over the road and take the signed path over 2 fields leading on to Goosehill Lane.

Continue the main walk from point 5, turning right down Goosehill Lane towards the gateway.

4 Alternative Route

At point 6, after walking down the 'avenue of trees', look out for the footpath crossing over the railway on the left. This path continues on the right, between the wire fence. Take this right hand path, which then bears left, with a lake on the left and the river to the right. The path continues in a circular route, until reaching the railway tunnel at point 7.