

## **START:**

Depart car park (Grid Ref: SE 029373) Take the lane directly uphill, crossing the minor road and following the path SW (and signs to 'Bronte Falls') beneath PENISTONE HILL. Bear RIGHT near the end of the park, at the sign for TOP WITHINS to cross the downhill road and pick up a level bridleway running east parallel to LOWER LAITHES RESERVOIR on your RIGHT. Continue to the BRONTE FALLS and cross the stone-flagged bridge over the beck. Climbing directly uphill to go through a gate & turn left to follow a clear path uphill through the walled fields & through gates until TOP WITHINS is seen under a tree on the hill above. Climb the hill, turning LEFT on to the stone pathway to reach:

### **CHECKPOINT 1**

**Top Withins** Grid Ref: SD 982354 Distance so far: 3.6 miles

Continue on stone flagged path, part of the Pennine Way, over the brow of the hill and down to reach WALSHAW DEAN MIDDLE RESERVOIR. The sign here is for 'Clough Foot'. Follow the path (signed 'Widdop Road'), along the embankment at the East side of the reservoir to cross via the dam wall of the MIDDLE reservoir, then keep left at The Lodge along the tarmac road to reach the open green triangle at ALCOMDEN. Veer LEFT to leave this area by the SE corner on a tarmac road. Follow this downhill until another lane with concrete tracks branches off, on the level, to the RIGHT at a sign saying 'Footpath Only'. Follow this down to the road bridge to reach:

### **CHECKPOINT 2**

**Blakedeane** Grid Ref: SD 958314 Distance so far: 8 miles

Checkpoint is at a corner in the road by a green metal gate. From here, turn LEFT through a gate in the wall immediately after the checkpoint and descend the steps. Follow the path with the stream on your right, cross a wooden footbridge and keep straight ahead up the hillside via stone steps, leaving the stream far below on the Right. The path follows the trackbed of the old dam construction railway around the corner to a stile. Cross this into an area of broken rocks [WARNING: THIS AREA HAS STEEP DROPS ON ONE SIDE. TO AVOID THIS, DO NOT CROSS STILE BUT TURN UPHILL] and enter the pinewoods. After ¼ mile, exit the woods to the LEFT on a path through a break in the low wall, to cross in front of an isolated house and join a forest roadway. This continues downhill to GIBSON MILL. There is an alternative route on your right after crossing a bridge, which reaches Gibson Mill by a riverside path crossing several footbridges. At Gibson Mill, there are toilet facilities & a cafe! Leave here on the main track with the river to your RIGHT [There is also a riverside path on this bank of the river] and follow the main estate road for 1 mile to reach:

### **CHECKPOINT 3**

**Horse Bridge** Grid Ref: SD988292 Distance so far: 11 miles

CP is in corner of the National Trust car park at the entrance to HARDCASTLE CRAGS ESTATE. Cross HORSE BRIDGE and take the first track to the LEFT immediately after the toilet block. Climb uphill a short way and go LEFT through the metal gate signed HAWORTH OLD ROAD. Continue uphill on a field-track across 3 fields & as you approach the woods, head for the junction of the wall & fence, entering the wood through a narrow gap between wall and fence. Continue to the LEFT along the top of the wall of a series of small ponds. With the river on your Left and the ponds on the Right, you reach an old iron fence across the path, go through the gap in it and climb up steeply through the trees and close to the stone wall, exiting the wood through the wall via a narrow wooden gate to open fields. Cross these 3 fields to a house in the centre of the valley, enter a gate, turning sharp left just before reaching the house, down narrow stone steps to cross a footbridge. Then climb steps uphill to your half-right and follow a path diagonally uphill away from the beck and through the woods to reach a stile into a field. Cross this diagonally uphill, cross a track and skirt the back of a house. Keep on this path which gradually ascends the valley crossing a stone stile at one point and finally reaching LUMB HOLE waterfall. Cross the bridge here and continue uphill via steep steps next to a wall to join the Old Road. Turn LEFT along the tarmac road for ¾ mile to reach:

### **CHECKPOINT 4**

**Grainwater Bridge** Grid Ref: SD996325 Distance so far: 13 miles

## **CHOP TIME 15:00**

CP is next to the stream. Continue steeply uphill for one mile over brow of hill where the road deteriorates into a rough track and begin descent, then turn RIGHT at a signpost for the Millennium Way along a water conduit going in an EASTERLY direction around the valley. This conduit has a green path beside it which you follow for the next 3 miles. This route crosses the main Haworth/Hebden Bridge road, after passing around a steep gully. At the far side of the road, a gate gives access to the second section of the water duct. Continue past a radio mast on your left, still following the line of the conduit. Just short of the road at NAB WATER LANE, follow the sign to the LEFT down to a stile on to the road, crossing it and up the slope on the other side to pass through a gate, then turning LEFT along the third section of the water conduit which you follow to its end. Exit through a field gate and find:

## **CHECKPOINT 5**

**Hambleton Lane** Grid Ref: SE046334 Distance so far: 16.5 miles

Head downhill from checkpoint toward Leeming Reservoir following the signs for the Bronte Way & Millennium Way (yellow arrows) towards Oxenhope. A muddy path downhill through trees as you approach the reservoir leads to a gap in the fence. Veer LEFT here, at a stone bridge to cross a small meadow to a narrow wooden footbridge. Cross this to follow a narrow-fenced path alongside the reservoir to reach the western corner of the dam wall. Cross the road and take the downhill path opposite, to cross a garden beside a house (it is a right-of-way!) and follow Jew Lane until it meets the main street through Oxenhope village. Turn left on to this and follow it across a roundabout until you see Oxenhope KWVR railway station. Turn Right here until you see a large sign for the Relief Carpark, turn Left into a rough parking area next to the engine sheds and follow a path at the far end of this area by the beck to reach & cross a footbridge over the stream. Then cross the railway with care. Climb the field at the far side of the tracks, turning LEFT through the gate at the top and then RIGHT along a walled lane to reach Marsh Lane. Turn LEFT for 100 yds, then RIGHT into Old Oxenhope Lane. At the next corner, enter the farmyard [Old Oxenhope Farm] keeping to the left side and climb the field keeping the wall to your left. Continue across fields and through gates following the signs for Haworth. At the end of a series of fields a narrow gateway leads into a downhill walled path which turns LEFT to reach your original starting point. Re-cross Haworth churchyard and the Parsonage Museum Car Park to reach:

**WEST LANE BAPTIST CHURCH** Grid Ref: SE 028374 **Total distance: 20.8 miles**

Check- in and **FINISH**

**WELL DONE**