

WONDERING HEIGHTS MAP

TO DENHOLME - 3.4km (2 miles)

A short descent to Denholme across Thornton Moor, with great views over Bradford and the Worth Valley. Regular buses to Bradford, Halifax and Keighley.

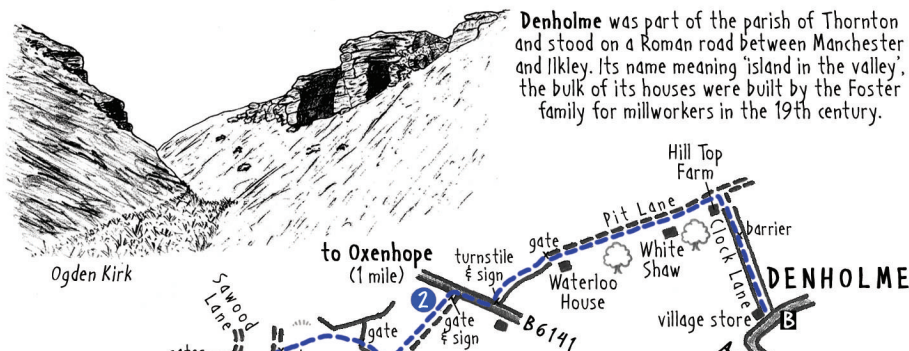
- 1 Continue along the path up and over Thornton Moor and descend the impressively-cut Hambleton Lane to cross the conduit. Turn right along the track and keep right past Reservoir House, before turning second left. On the bend, bear right through a gate and follow a path across the rough ground to reach another track leading left to the B6141 Long Causeway.
- 2 Follow the road briefly right, then turn left on a signed path along the edge of the field to join the end of Pit Lane. Turn right by Hill Top Farm and follow Clock Lane to the main road through Denholme by the village store.



plaque, Brontë Birthplace

Patrick and Maria Brontë moved to Thornton in 1815 with their two

young daughters, one year old Maria and three month old Elizabeth. Over the course of the next five years, Maria gave birth to Charlotte, Branwell, Emily and Anne. They lived at No 74 Market Street when Thornton was still a small village and Market Street was the main road to Bradford. The Brontë Birthplace was bought and restored by Yorkshire novelist Barbara Whitehead in 1997, and has the Charlotte Stone built into its wall, carved with a poem by Carol Ann Duffy.



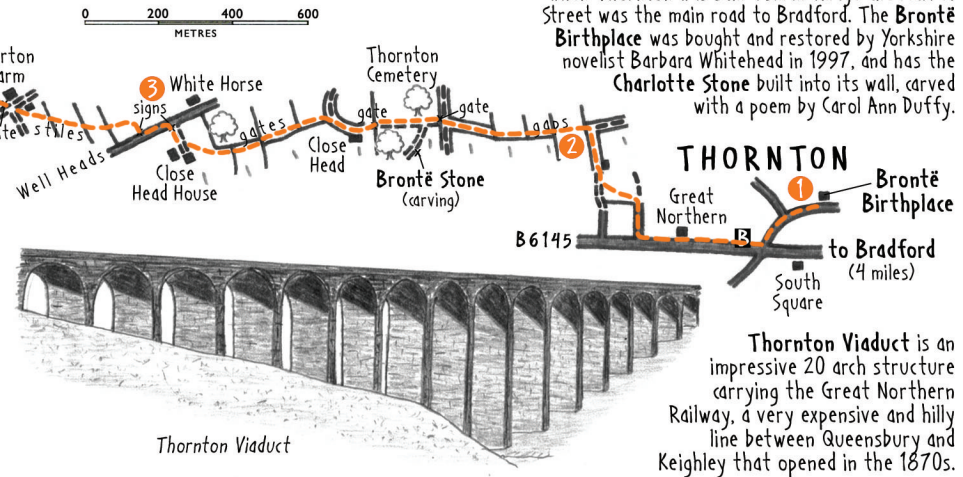
Thornton Moor was built in the 1880s by the Bradford Corporation as the city's high-level water supply, its conduits strung out across the northern slopes of Nab Hill. The whole hillside was cleared of its population to prevent contamination of the drinking water and the remains of many of the old farms are identifiable by the presence of the lone sycamore trees planted to shelter them. Thornton Moor Reservoir has been preserved as an important site for observing migratory birds.

Solomon's Temple was one of a number of temporary houses for waterworks employees during the reservoir's construction, although intriguingly its name predates this by at least 50 years.

The name Denholme Gate refers to one of the entrances to Doe Park, a 15th century deer park enclosed by the Tempest family as a hunting chase for red deer. It was surrounded by an earth bank and wooden palisade fence and covered most of the valley around the Denholme Beck between Denholme and Cullingworth. Eventually deer hunting fell out of fashion and the land was divided up when the Tempest family fortune was gambled away in the early 17th century.

The Brontë Stones are a series of carved stones placed along a walking route between Thornton and Haworth, three of them passed on the route from Thornton described here. Devised by writer Michael Stewart in 2018, they are inscribed with poems by Kate Bush, Carol Ann Duffy, Jackie Kay, and Jeanette Winterson.

A reservoir at Ogden was originally planned by a group of millowners along the Hebble Brook before it was taken on by the Halifax Corporation. Ogden Reservoir, once known as 'Little Switzerland', has been Halifax's primary country park for over a century, though it was later rebranded itself as Ogden Water, with the Victorian Promenade restored.



Thornton Viaduct is an impressive 20 arch structure carrying the Great Northern Railway, a very expensive and hilly line between Queensbury and Keighley that opened in the 1870s.

FROM THORNTON - 6.7km (4 miles)

A lovely walk along the route of the Brontë Stones Trail (unsigned) from the Brontë Birthplace in Thornton to Thornton Moor via Ogden Kirk. Regular buses from Bradford and Keighley.

- 1 From the Brontë Birthplace, follow Market Street west through Thornton, then join the main road heading right out of the village. Beyond the Great Northern (opposite the site of the former station), turn second right on Royd Street, then turn left at the top along a grassy bank below a playground to join a vehicle track heading up the hill.
- 2 At the top of the slope, turn left through a gap and follow the Brontë Way across the hillside to enter Thornton Cemetery. Follow the track down to the left to find the Brontë Stone, carved with a poem by Jeanette Winterson. Some steps lead beyond lead back up to the higher path to reach a gate out of the cemetery. Follow the path up past Close Head, then bear left through a gate and cross the fields to Close Head House, where a track leads up to the road near the White Horse.
- 3 Follow the road left for 100m, then turn right and follow a signed path diagonally across the fields to Morton Farm, where you keep straight on through a gate to the left of the buildings. Continue diagonally down to join a wall across the slope above Denholme Beck, with good views down the valley to Doe Park Reservoir. Follow the path round to the left to join the drive leading up to the A644.
- 4 Follow the A644 briefly left, then turn right up Cragg Lane and go immediately right up a path behind the houses to climb steeply to the A629 in Denholme Gate. Bear left across the road and follow Black Edge Lane for ½ mile, before turning left through a gate. Drop down to join Foreside Lane by the ruins of Ash Tree Farm and, where it bends left, continue straight on to reach the edge of the moor. Beyond a gate, fork right to reach Ogden Kirk and the Wandering Heights Dancefloor, where the Emily Stone can be seen down a faint path to the left.

FROM OGDEN WATER - 2.6km (1 ½ miles)

A short but pleasant stroll up onto Thornton Moor from Ogden Water car park via Ogden Kirk. Free parking. Regular buses to Causeway Foot from Halifax and Keighley.

- 1 From the lower car park, follow the main track through a gate and skirt alongside the plantation around Ogden Water. After ½ mile, fork right up onto the open heath and soon join the road along back lane. Follow an old wall left up to Ogden Kirk and the Wandering Heights Dancefloor, where the Emily Stone can be seen down a faint path to the left.

