



4 kilometres plus return journey / A
little over 1 hour

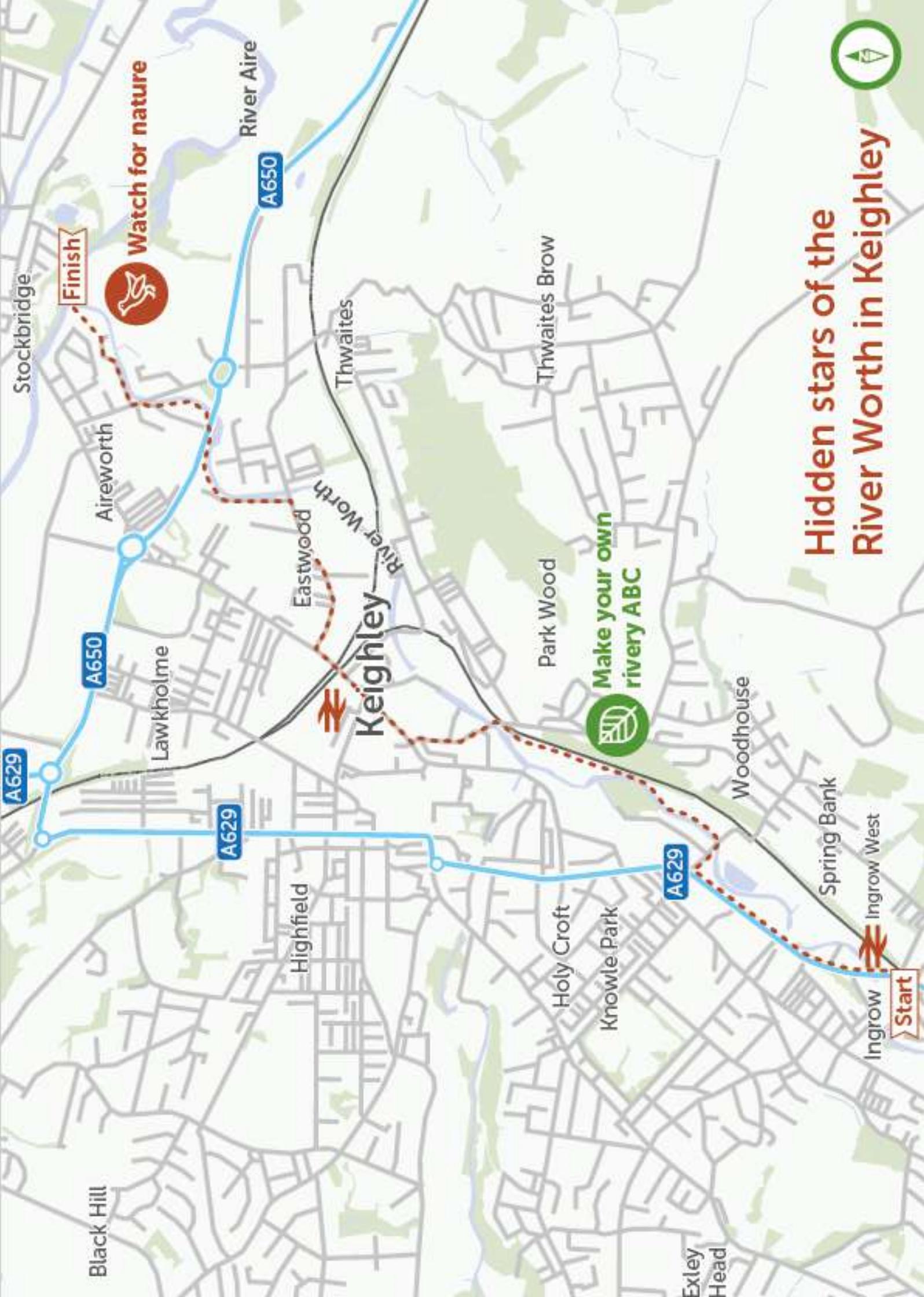
Accessibility – May be
unsuitable for wheelchairs,
pushchairs, etc. See notes at
the end of the walk

Hidden stars of the River Worth in Keighley

We start our walk at Ingrow West railway station on South Street, the A629. This is situated on the banks of the River Worth and is home to both Ingrow Museum of Rail Travel and Ingrow Loco Museum. Turn right out of the station and head downhill.

The River Worth is hidden through much of Keighley. This walk takes you along the route of it taking in a series of viewpoints and riverside paths. Dragonflies and damselflies may be seen hunting over the water. Kingfishers can be glimpsed waiting in overhanging trees watching for fish. So every so often pause, listen and look.





Watch for nature



Make your own rivery ABC



Hidden stars of the River Worth in Keighley



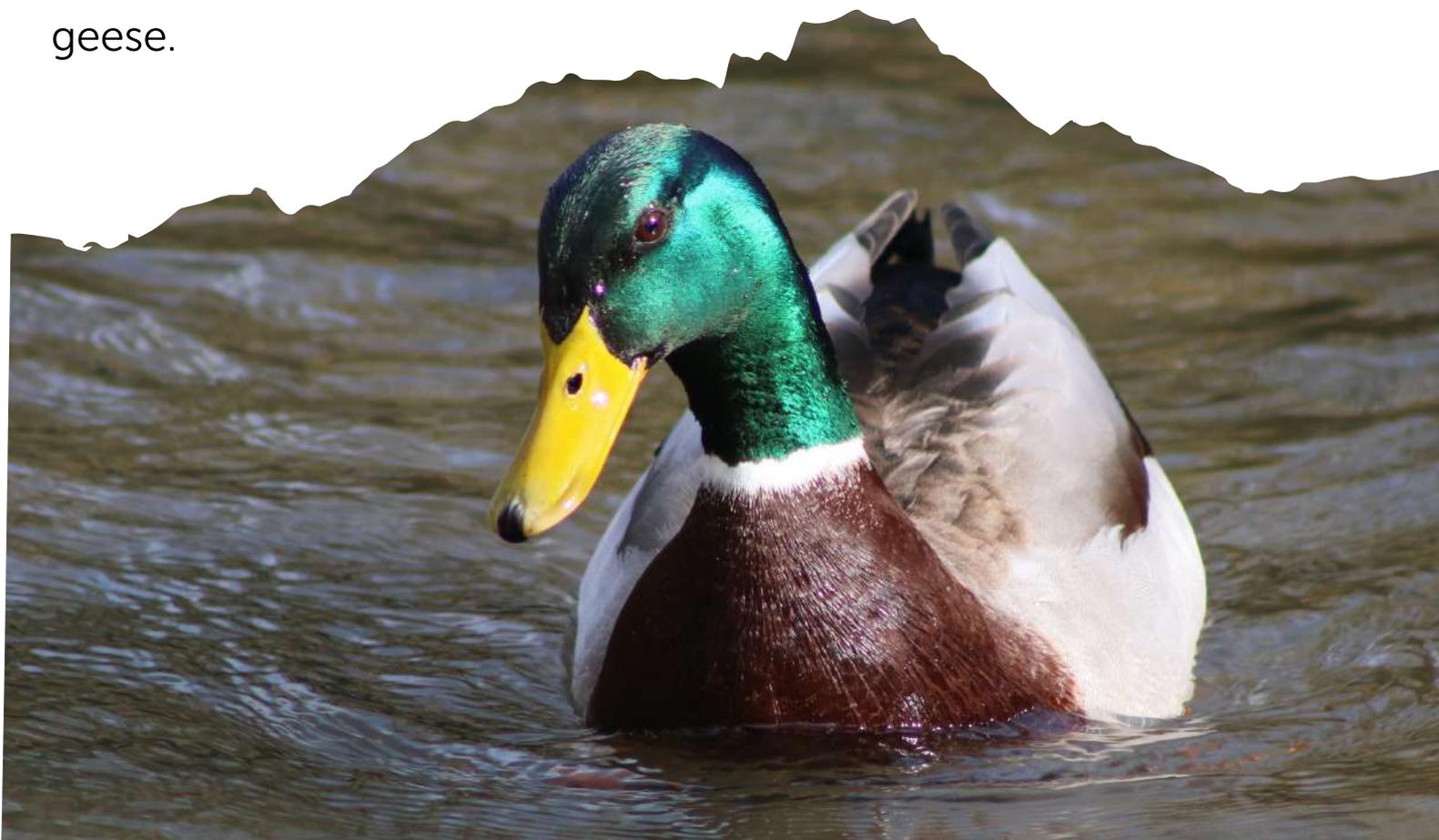
This walk was kindly written by John Dallas of John Dallas's Outdoor Environmental Education during 2020. John is one of many local people with a warm affection for his local river.

Head along South Street towards Keighley, keeping the church on your left and along to the Colin Appleyard Suzuki dealership on your right.

Just before this, there is a short road down, without a name, to the banks of the Worth. You can travel down here to see the river, however, take care as it is a busy entrance.

Return to South Street and continue along it. You will find another view of the Worth before passing the disability/mobility shop. There is a small bridge here that is now inaccessible to us.

Continue along South Street glancing right over the edges of small and large company roofs for another glimpse of the Worth where it widens to form a large ponded area. Here might see ducks and geese.



Carry on down South Street until you reach a junction with Woodhouse Road. Turn right, down a hill and across the River Worth on a road bridge.

Walking over the bridge, to your left and at eye level you may see your first elm flowers of the year - a beautiful crimson pink.

Turn left after the bridge and down a flight of stone stairs/steps following the signposted 'Worth Way' and follow the Worth on its right-hand bank.

You'll have a great view of the rear of Knowle Mills and a young ash woodland growing adjacent to it. Tree stumps are colonised by Wild Garlic and Lesser Celandine and on your right, a cobbled track leads under the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway train tracks.

At this point along the walk, you may see bright, yellow flowers of Coltsfoot. The flowers and roots were used to make lozenges and cold remedies.



Continue on our path, passing a lightning damaged ash tree on your right (photo below) to a point where the river continues and the path bears to the right. Carry on down this walled track, around an old mill on your left, alongside one of its water towers. From here, you get a good view of the upper floors and winches. Continue down this walled track to a road, The Walk.

On your left, you will see Walk Mill. Walk mills are linked to rope or metal hauser making as this industrial process is made using a long, walkable floor to create ropes, called a ropewalk.

At the end of this road turn left onto Park Lane and cross the river Worth. Soon Park Lane becomes Coney Lane.

Coney is an early Medieval word derived from the french word "conis" or rabbit. Its use here may suggest a connection to traders in rabbit skins or furriers.



At the end of Coney Lane turn right onto the main road, Bradford Road.

As you walk along this you will pass the Keighley railway station., The Keighley and Worth Valley Railway runs steam trains from here along the Worth Valley to Ingrow and on to Haworth. This station has been used as a film set for films from 'Yanks' and 'The Great Train Robbery.'

Keep walking till just after Keighley College and turn right down Dalton Lane.

You'll find Dalton Mills on your right by the River Worth. Dalton Mills was once the largest textile mill in Yorkshire, employing over 2000 workers. It was built by Joseph Craven in 1869, replacing the original mill from the 1780's. These imposing buildings with their distinctive clock tower and large courtyard have proved a popular filming location. Everything from Peaky Blinders to Downtown Abbey has been filmed there.

A railbus providing a Saturday morning service in 1974, seven years after the line reopened as a heritage line

Photo © Dr Neil Clifton (cc-by-sa/2.0)



Opposite Dalton Mills, turn left down Worth Bridge Road. You will see the River Worth to your right.

Follow the footpath marked 'Aire Valley Way' to keep on the riverbank.

If you look closely, you might catch a glimpse of Brown Trout swimming to the surface to catch food. This mainly consists of May and Stoneflies. You can see that one of the weirs has been modified to allow fish to pass when it was repaired with wire gabions filled with rocks.

This footpath takes you through an underpass and out onto Aireworth Road, via Aireworth Grove.

We're close to the confluence, where the River Worth joins the River Aire, now.

Aire Rivers Trust staff and volunteers surveying fish life in the River Worth. A wealth of life lurks below the water including brown trout (pictured on page one) and brook lamprey, an ancient and rarely seen fish that most of its life as a larva buried in the silty stream bed before turning into an adult and swimming upstream to spawn - its last act before it dies.



To find this, walk along Kinara Close. At the very end, there is a path that leads behind the last house and into a grassy area. Go through the gate and into another small field. To your right is an idyllic view of where the two rivers meet.

You can now return to Keighley town centre by retracing your steps.

Accessibility: This walk includes riverside footpaths, many of which are unmade and muddy. It has XXXX flights of steps.

Keighley town centre can be easily reached by train and bus.



The Aire Rivers Trust supports lots of local groups to care for their stretches of the river. River Worth Friends organise volunteer clean-ups and care for their local river in and around Keighley. Find them on Facebook to join them



With support from



We have produced a number of family activity postcards to accompany our walks

Why not try one the next time you take in some fresh River Aire?



Find these and lots, lots more about our project at www.dnaire.org.uk

This walk is part of the Developing the Natural Aire programme.

This partnership between the Environment Agency and the Aire Rivers Trust is reconnecting sixty kilometres of your river with fish passes to enable wildlife to thrive and Atlantic salmon to return.

Some day soon Atlantic salmon could be found breeding in shallow, gravelly bed of the River Worth.

Atlantic salmon caught and returned by Environment Agency in the River Aire below Leeds in 2010

