

4. Bygone Brighouse

Duration: 1 Hour

Brighouse is famous for its canals, bridges and churches – but also for its ‘old and new’ cricketing heritage. This walk introduces you to the rich history of the town.

Start at the Waterfront car park by the canal close to Mill Royd Street.



Head towards the main road, Huddersfield Road – on your left if you’re looking at the canal. Turn right onto Huddersfield Road and cross over. Brighouse Bridge is 30 yards away and there are three lights on top of the bridge. Underneath the left-hand light, learn about the widening of the bridge in 1905.

Below the middle light, read the plaque which tells the passer-by of the significance of 1824. Look left and right and see the **River Calder** in all its rugged glory. A second bridge you see to the left, a few hundred yards away, will be where the walk will eventually finish.



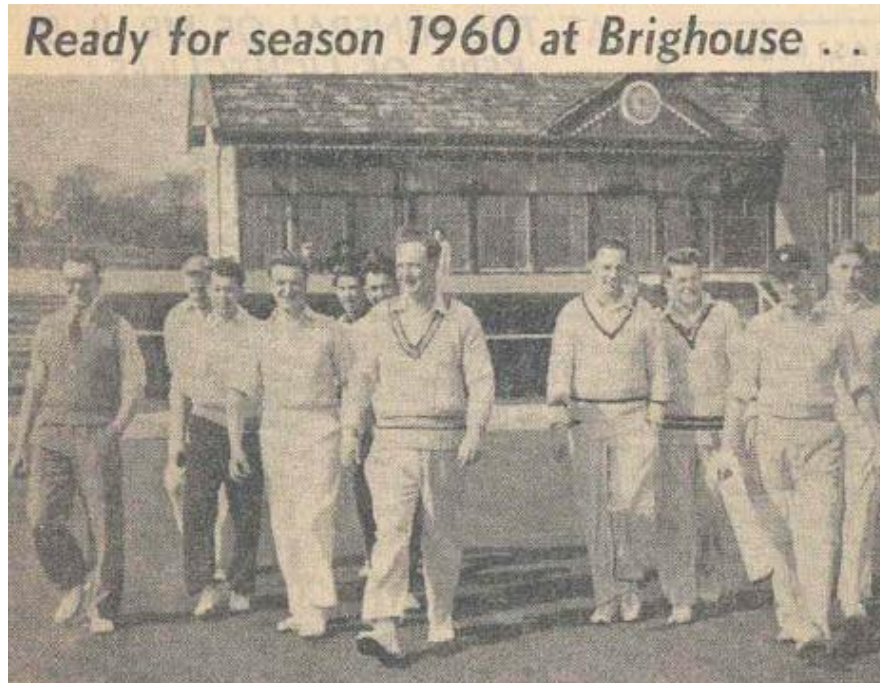
Brighouse Bridge

Walk down the hill into Brighouse town centre. You soon cross yet another bridge – this time a **canal bridge**. Look left and right and see two more bridges!

Keep right, passing Sainsbury’s and seeing Tesco in mid-distance, again on the right. Tesco is where we’re aiming for next.

As you navigate the ring road, look out for The Barge public house on your right – another sign of the town’s canal heritage. On the left you will see another pub, The Round Tavern, and the premises of the **Salvation Army**.

As you approach Tesco, look left to see Brighouse Parish Church on the horizon. Tesco is a significant landmark in the history of Brighouse cricket because in 2002 the supermarket giant made Brighouse Cricket Club an offer it couldn’t refuse. **Tesco now stands on land that used to be home base for Brighouse CC, one of Yorkshire’s most famous cricket clubs.**



The glory days...

Tesco contains a café if you’re already a little peckish as well as toilets – and aisles and aisles of food!

Leaving Tesco, keep right on the ring road, following it round past the Tesco garage. You see the **Ritz** ballroom on the other side of the road and a signpost saying Bradford is 7 miles away.

On your right you eventually come to **Wellholme Park**. On the other side of what is now Bradford Road you spot Brighouse Evangelical Church, which is housed in a building of 1888 vintage (once the premises of the local **Industrial Society**).

To your right, you also encounter a business park and the local police station; to your left the New Inn (a real-ale hotspot). Back on the right, look out for the premises of the **Federation of Licensed Victuallers Association**, 126 Bradford Road. Another pub appears to your left: Martins Nest (which specialises in karaoke, TV soccer and cash machines).

On your right, you should now see the new premises of Brighouse CC coming into view - Russell Way – complete with rugby pitch and state-of-the-art clubhouse facilities.



The new Brighouse CC ground

Heading back into Brighouse, follow the main road but after 50 yards take a turn up Rayner Road, and then left up Lee Street. Keep looking left and in between the houses you will see a wonderful vista: a rugby pitch, a viaduct and wooded **Calderdale Way** country high above Clifton Beck.

Turn right at the end of Lee Street – the block opposite (Crooked Riding Terrace) was evidently built in **1892**. You then come to Springfield Place – of **1864** vintage. Keep on Thornhill Bridge and Waterloo Road. To your left look out for the M62 in the far distance and a lovely set of allotments close by.

Then, just before you come to the school up on your left, turn left down the footpath in the direction of **Brighouse Parish Church**.

Follow the footpath to the right, passing by the back of the church. Leave the footpath via the exit on the left, veer right, and you come out in the grounds of **Brighouse Library**, whose history goes back to 1841.

Drop down onto the road and turn left, heading back into Brighouse. Cross over the ring road (**Ludenscheid Link**) and walk down the steps. Here you find Brighouse Central Methodist Church, one of the best attended Methodist churches in Yorkshire.

Follow your nose into the town centre, passing Wilkinsons on your right. Keep straight on, passing **Brighouse Market** on your left and then **The Bridge** pub on your right and **Brighouse Baths** on your left. You're now back where you started the walk from!