

Guiseley Gap Circular Walk



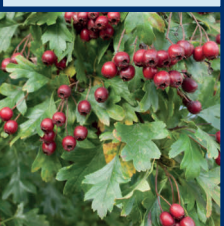
Red Kite



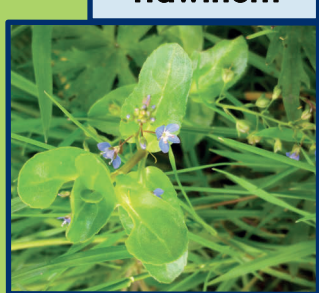
Foxglove



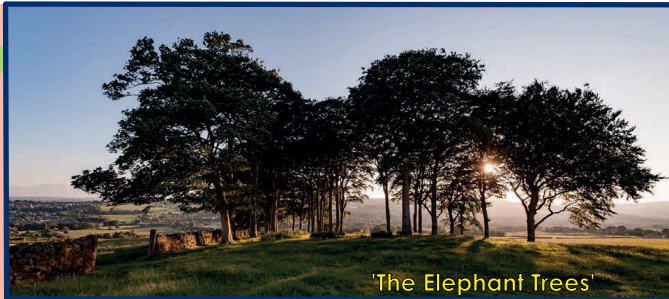
Peacock



Hawthorn



Brooklime



The Elephant Trees

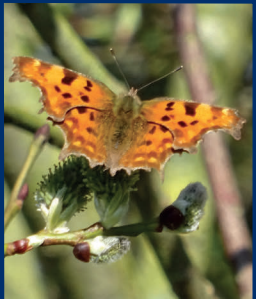
© Darren Sanderson Photography



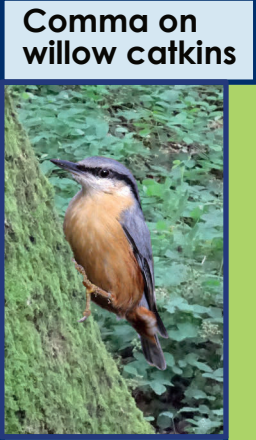
View across the Wharfe valley from Jenny's Cottage



High Royds seen from Moor Top to Bradford Road brideway



Comma on willow catkins



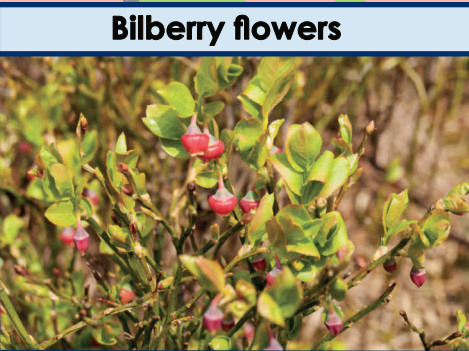
Nuthatch



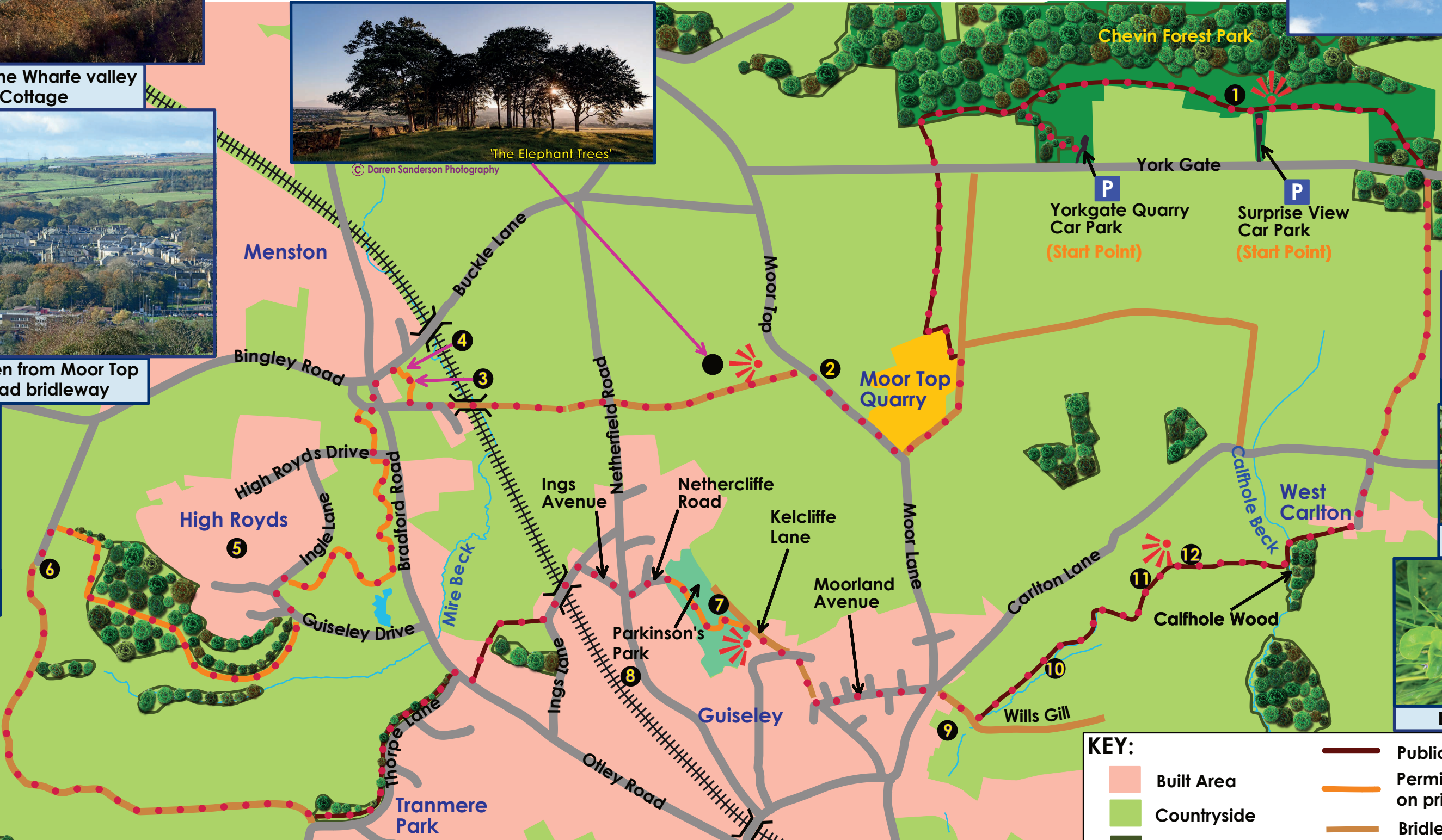
View west on footpath from Wills Gill to Calf Hole Wood



Opposite Leaved Golden Saxifrage



Bilberry flowers



KEY:	
	Built Area
	Countryside
	Wooded Area
	Quarry
	Private park with public access
	Public Park
	Becks
	Public Footpath
	Permissive path on private land
	Bridleway
	Circular Walk
	Railway
	Road
	View point
	Bridge
	Lake



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Parkinson's Park lies on the east of the Guiseley Gap with views of Wharfedale and Airedale and across to Reva Hill, the highest point. The Park, which has traces of early medieval lynchets and an 18th century tannery was purchased by F & A Parkinson Ltd in 1937 to create a company park behind Crompton Parkinson's VWorks. After the factory closed in 2004, the park fell into neglect but was resurrected in 2011 by the Friends of Parkinson's Park.

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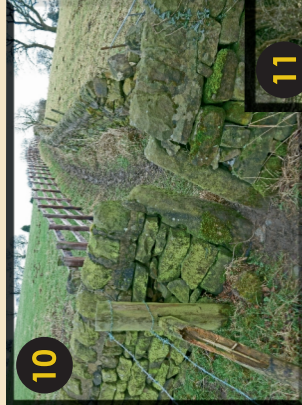
The clock tower in Netherfield Road car park is all that is left of the Crompton Parkinson Factory, which was demolished in 2006. The factory, which was started by Frank Parkinson in a small local garage in 1908, grew during the 1920's and 30's into an international enterprise making industrial electric motors and light bulbs. In the late 1930's Frank gave the University of Leeds the money for the iconic Parkinson Building.



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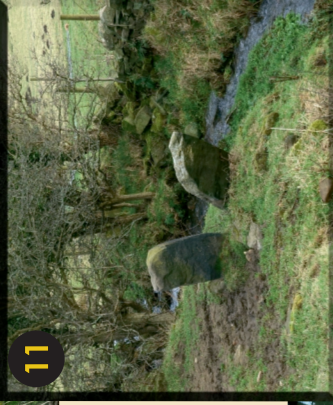
Looking towards St. Oswald's Church from Wills Gill, there is evidence of medieval crofts and tofts (cottages) in the form of low dry- stone walls with Wills Gill beck running behind. This is part of the planned township of Guiseley, probably dating to the early 12th century, whose 13 or so families likely worked on the Manor's cattle farm (vaccary) laid out in the wooded fields to the east.

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The section of footpath that climbs from Wills Gill along the beck to Calthole Wood contains a number of functional

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and obsolete features to do with cattle farming and woodland management. Squeeze stiles for example, are

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an effective way of allowing people to pass through easily but not the cattle or horses.



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High Royds 'village' utilises the former hospital buildings. Opened on 8th October 1888 in a 'healthy and desirable spot', the West Riding Pauper Lunatic Asylum functioned as a psychiatric hospital until its closure in 2003. The gothic self-sustaining complex, including gardens, farm and reservoir was designed by architect J. Vickers Edward to avoid cheerless and depressing surroundings. The landmark clock tower building (above) is Grade II; inside is a ballroom and an Italian mosaic floor decorated with the Yorkshire Rose and black daisies.



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visible is the arch of the road bridge, a track memorial and tree lined 'avenue'.



Wharfedale line with High Royds Pauper Lunatic Asylum: built in 1883 to bring in building materials, it later carried supplies such as flour and coal. The line was shut in 1951

At the end of an ancient track crossing Mire Beck is the evidence of a 0.5 mile spur line which linked the Midland Railway's



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Near Surprise View lies the remains of Jenny's Cottage. In the 18th century it was home to the keeper of the beacon on nearby Beacon Hill, which was part of a nationwide early warning system for a French invasion. Then in the 1820's tenants Joseph and Jane Myers (Jenny) used it to offer refreshments to tourists. The business ran successfully for 150 years until trade declined in the 1950's and the cottage demolished in 1967.

2



Turning south after leaving Chevin Forest Park, the route follows Odd Stoop Gate, a prehistoric track. Crossing York Gate into the next field the trail crosses the east-west line of Roman Road 72b. On Whale Jaws Hill sits the castellated Moor Top Water Tower, a 1920's pumping station for Rombalds Water Board. Nearby is a landmark copse known as 'the Elephant Trees', planted around 1800 besides an Old Quarry called Fairy Dell.



The trail has many interesting historical features from the medieval to the industrial, in an area once on the northern edge of the British Kingdom of Elmet. These have been highlighted along with flora and fauna likely to be spotted.



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