

# The Lines Way (spring)

The Lines Way provides an attractive and accessible wildlife corridor for about three and a half miles along the disused Garforth-Castleford railway line.

The main trail is bordered by a variety of habitats from hedgerows to wet woodland. In springtime, listen for cuckoos calling from the trees and glimpse smooth and great-crested newts in the ditches. Wildflowers flourish on the embankments, with common spotted-orchids and clustered bellflowers, and you may even spot glow-worms at dusk.

The main path goes from Park Lane in Allerton Bywater to Ninelands Lane in Garforth and is accessible for wheelchair users and pushchairs, as well as horses and cyclists. Cyclists can join the National Route 67 heading east from Allerton Bywater or continue out of Garforth on Route 66.

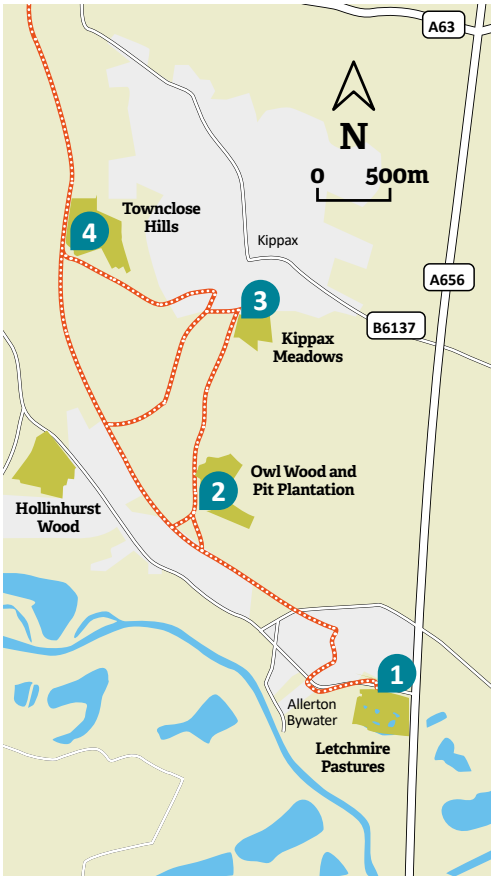
Walkers can easily meander on and off the main trail to visit one or more of our nearby reserves. With lots of opportunities for extension, pick and choose the route that suits you best!

**1** Why not begin with a stroll around Letchmire Pastures? As spring turns to summer, flowers including marsh orchids, meadow vetchling and cranes-bill bring bursts of colour to the grasslands here. From the reserve, take a left along Station Road and then a right onto Park Lane where you'll spot the black metal sign for Lines Way on your left.

**2** For another adventure, Owl Wood and Pit Plantation lie half a mile further north-east – turn right onto Doctors Lane and the reserve will be about five minutes' walk. The mixture of sycamore, oak, silver birch and beech in the two connected woodlands make this reserve a fantastic home for bats: common and soprano pipistrelle, noctule and myotis can all be spotted by the patient visitor. In the daytime spring brings a fabulously scented carpet of bluebells.

**3** A little further up Doctors Lane, a bridleway intersects the road. A left turn here will take you back to the Lines Way, or if you head right along the bridleway for a little over half a mile you'll find Kippax Meadows, where you can hear bullfinches, yellowhammers and linnets calling. Exiting onto Cromwell Rise and then walking straight down Brigshaw Lane will take you back to the Lines Way.

**4** For an evening spectacle, head for Townclose Hills (known locally as Billy Wood) by crossing the road from Kippax Meadows and heading down Station Road. The entrance lies just behind Kippax Leisure Centre. A steep-sided grassland plateau gives a beautiful view of the surrounding countryside and comes alive with clustered bellflower, field scabious and orchids in the summer. Even more excitingly, once night falls the reserve is also a fantastic place to see glow-worms, which are active for only a few



**Suggested start point** – Station Road Allerton Bywater

**Parking** – On-road Station Road in Allerton Bywater; car park Station Road Kippax (midway)

**Length** – 9 miles/14.5 km (Letchmire Pastures to Garforth route) allow 4 hours or longer if you want to explore the reserves; 5.8 miles/9.4 km (Letchmire Pastures to Townclose Hills route) allow around 2.5 hours or more if you'd like time to explore the reserves.



**Other useful info:** You can find the occasional bench along The Lines Way where you can stop for a picnic; there's also a pub called The Boat next to Letchmire Pastures and Samuel Valentine Urban Food Hall in Allerton Bywater.

■ Letchmire Pastures to Garforth route (14.5km approx)

■ Letchmire Pastures to Townclose Hills route (9.4km approx)

weeks in the summer and a wildlife wonder not to be missed! From here, you can rejoin the main path directly and continue to Garforth or Allerton Bywater.

Hollinhurst Wood sits about half a mile to the west of the path. It's named for the holly that grows there alongside oak, wych elm and hazel. Although it's small, walking through the reserve gives a lovely feeling of enclosure, while a sea of bluebells in spring followed by summer wildflowers in the meadow make this a treat for the senses.

