



12 Top Withins & the Brontë Waterfall

over the border onto Haworth Moor

Make the short hop over the border for the walk Brontë lovers travel the world to do. From Penistone Hill above Haworth, follow the moor down to the Brontë Waterfall, a string of little gritstone cascades beside a stone footbridge, then climb steeply to Top Withins. Its lonely ruin, long linked with Wuthering Heights, sits on the Pennine Way with nothing but moor in every direction. Come in late summer for the heather, or in an autumn mist for the full Emily experience.

 DISTANCE 10.9 km (6.8 miles)	 TIME About 3½ hours	 ASCENT About 308 m	 DIFFICULTY Moderate: rough, boggy and exposed; steep climb
 DOGS Open access: short lead 1 Mar–31 Jul and near sheep	 START & PARKING Penistone Hill Country Park car park, Haworth, BD22 8QR (free)	 PUB STOP None on the moor · plenty in Haworth	

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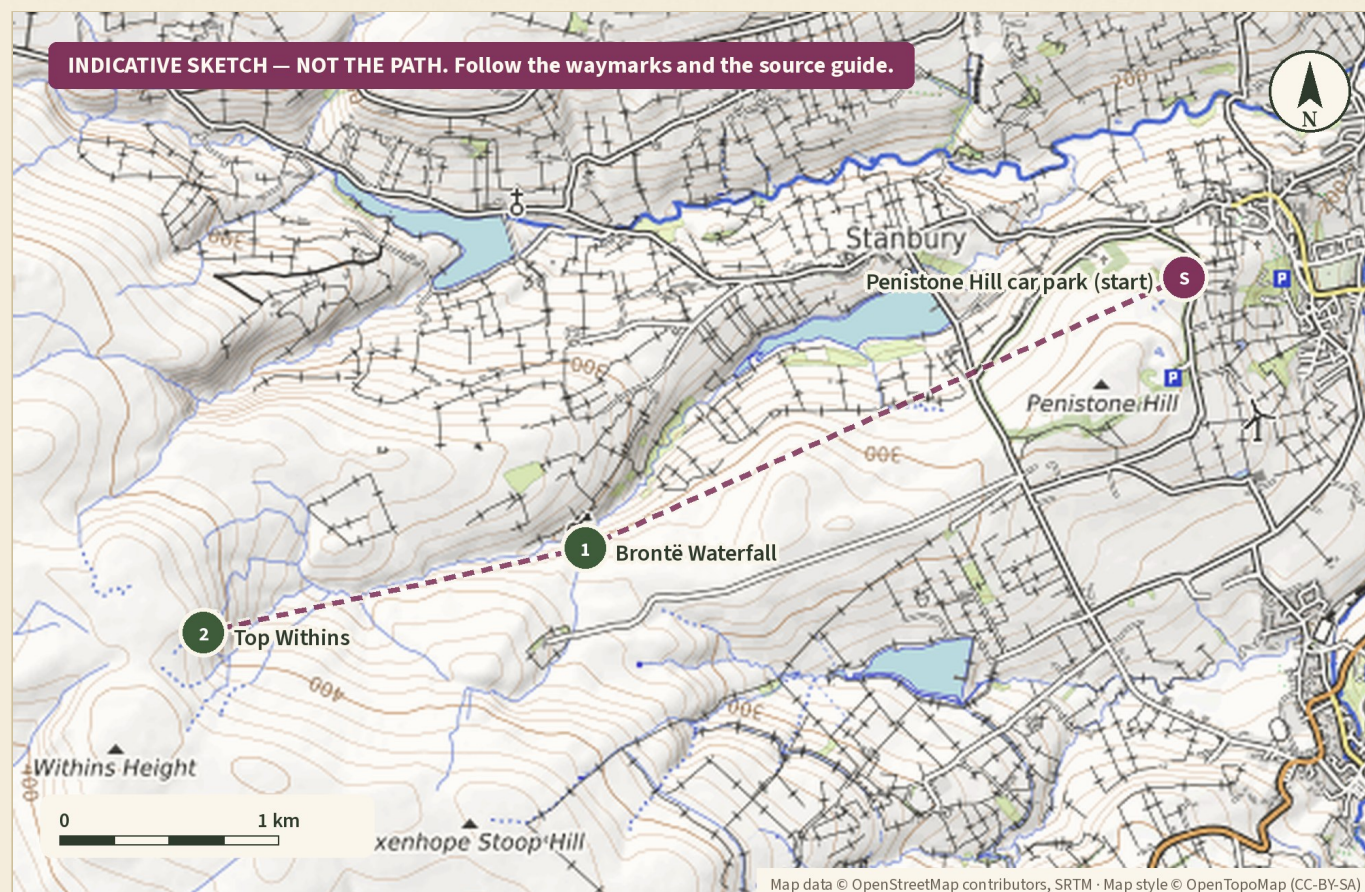
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The map

INDICATIVE SKETCH



Indicative only: this is not the path. The pins show where the main places named in the route sit (positions from OpenStreetMap), and the dotted line shows the order you reach them. Follow the waymarks, OS Explorer OL21 and the source guide. Base map: OpenTopoMap · © OpenStreetMap contributors.

Getting there

About 10 miles by road over the moor (around 25 minutes), into West Yorkshire.

Map & kit

OS Explorer OL21 South Pennines. Waterproof boots and layers, water, snacks and a charged phone. The source gives a route outline only, so the map and waymarks matter here.

The route

ROUTE OUTLINE

The source describes the circuit rather than every turn, so these notes stay at outline level. Haworth Moor is well signed (Top Withins is on the Pennine Way); still, carry OS Explorer OL21 and be ready for mist.

- 1 Start at the free Penistone Hill Country Park car park above Haworth.
- 2 Cross Enfield Side onto Haworth Moor.
- 3 Drop down to the Brontë Waterfall, a series of small stepped falls over gritstone beside a rebuilt stone footbridge.

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*Look out for...**Water for the dog*

The beck at the waterfall is the place for a drink and a paddle. There's no shade on the tops, so carry water in summer.

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Climb steeply out of the valley to Top Withins, the ruined farmhouse on the Pennine Way.

*Look out for...**Wuthering Heights?*

Top Withins has long been linked with Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*. The sisters grew up in the parsonage at Haworth, writing as Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell; their home is now the Brontë Parsonage Museum.

*Look out for...**Bold sheep*

The flocks are especially bold around Top Withins. The heather is at its best in mid to late summer.

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Loop back over the quiet moor around Harbour Hill and Wether Hill to the start.

**Fuel stop**

- None on the moor. Haworth has plenty of cafés, pubs and toilets.
- The Hawthorn, 103 Main Street, Haworth: seasonal food and cask ales halfway up the cobbled Main Street, with a big Sunday roast reputation.

**Countryside Code & safety**

- Leave gates as you find them and keep to marked paths unless you are on open access land.
- Don't block gateways or lanes when you park.
- Take your litter home, and bag and bin your dog's poo.
- Dogs: keep them under control and in sight, and on a lead around livestock. On open access land (most of the moorland here) dogs must be on a lead from 1 March to 31 July, and near livestock at any time. If cattle threaten you, let your dog off the lead so you can both get to safety.
- Moorland fires are devastating. No fires or BBQs.

These are real Pennine walks across working farmland and open moor, and the weather can change fast on the tops. Wear waterproof boots, carry a waterproof layer, water and a map (OS Explorer OL21 South Pennines covers Trawden, Wycoller and Boulsworth; OL41 covers Pendle Hill), and tell someone your route. Phone signal can be patchy.

Sources. These directions follow the guides below; check them before you go, as paths, stiles and opening times change.

The Wildpack Collective, Haworth Moor, Brontë Waterfall and Top Withins: <https://wildpackcollective.com/walk/haworth-moor-bront-waterfall-and-top-withins/>

Brontë Parsonage Museum: <https://www.bronte.org.uk/>

Countryside Code: GOV.UK. Facts checked October 2026.

