4 *At the end of your circuit of the tarn, take the steps on your left beside the lamp. The path winds up through rocks, heather and bracken to a little tarn.*

/// ***menswear.fine.perch***

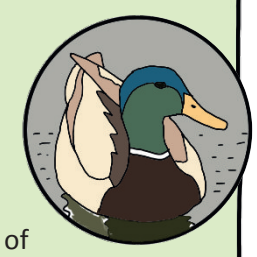
There is a clear path all the way round the little tarn. Water from the moors above flows into this tarn and from here into the paddling pool.

Can you find where the water flows in and out of this tarn?

3 *Return to the car park gate and walk up the wide tarmac track. In about 5 minutes you will arrive at Ilkley Tarn. Walk clockwise around the tarn.*

This used to be a marshy area of moorland called 'Craig Dam'. The tarn was constructed in the 1870s, with paths to make access easier for walkers.

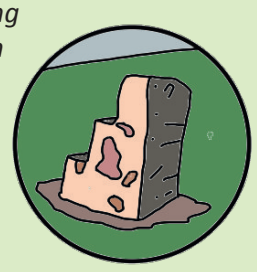
FUN FACT! In Victorian times there was another gravity-fed fountain on the little island.



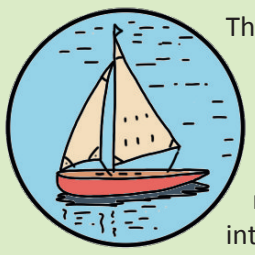
How many different types of bird can you see or hear on and around the tarn?

Look for places where the water flows into the tarn. Where does the water flow out?

2 *At the the top of the ghyll look for a set of stone steps (once used for mounting horses) on a grass triangle. From here walk up Wells Road and cross it just before the cattle grid. Go through the small car park off Crossbeck Road and up a few steps to the paddling pool.*



/// ***kennels.lifeguard.stressed***



The Victorian paddling pool is a haven on sunny days. You can refresh tired feet or enjoy sailing toy boats. It is fed by streams coming down from the moors, and the water then flows into Mill Ghyll.

Look for where the water flows into and out of the pool.

FUN FACT! As much water must flow out of the pool as into it. Otherwise it would overflow or dry up!

1 *The walk starts at the fountain. Walk up the path beside Mill Ghyll.*

A ghyll is a stream with high sides. Mill Ghyll got its name from the stream and from the mill that was further up the ghyll, beside Wells Road. The mill was powered by a water wheel, so – like the fountain today – it just used the power of the flowing water.

Look in the stream for the black pipe that feeds water from the stream to the fountain.

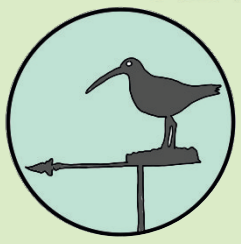
How many bridges can you spot on your way up the ghyll?

5 *Continue up the path to White Wells.*

/// ***dissolves.slate.tower***

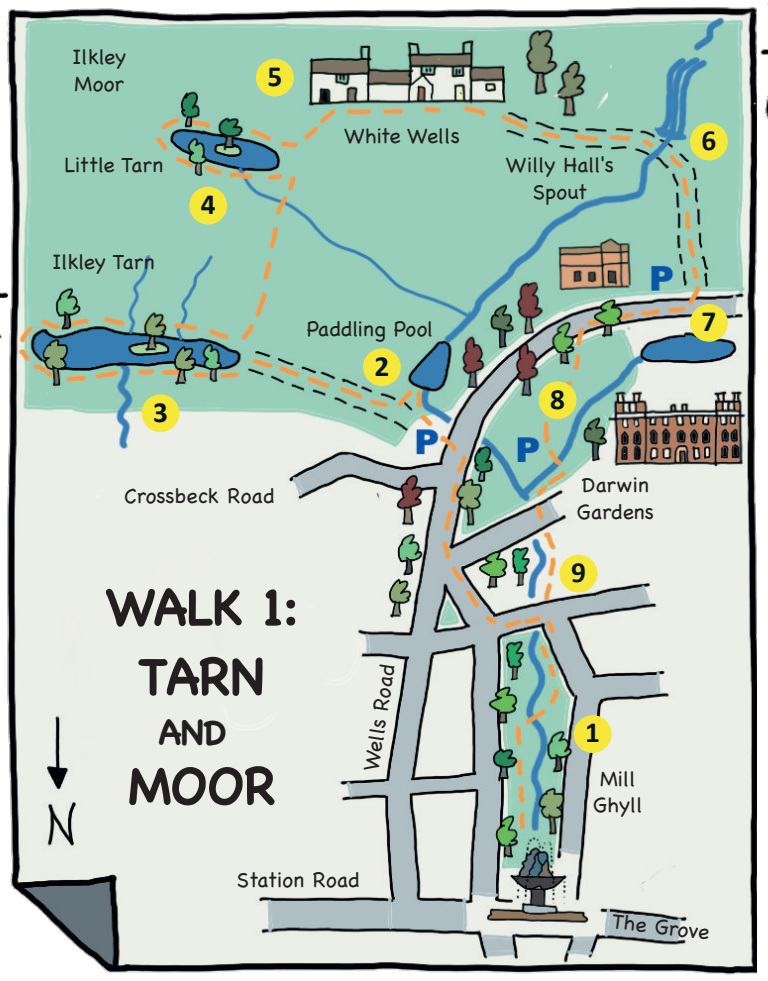
White Wells is the last remaining bath house in Ilkley. Victorian visitors could take a dip in the cold, clear water in the bath to improve their health. The spring that feeds the bath is just behind the building: go through the little tunnel to find it. The water is beautifully clean and drinkable, and a tap has been fitted to make it easy to fill your water bottle!

Why do you think the water is so clean?



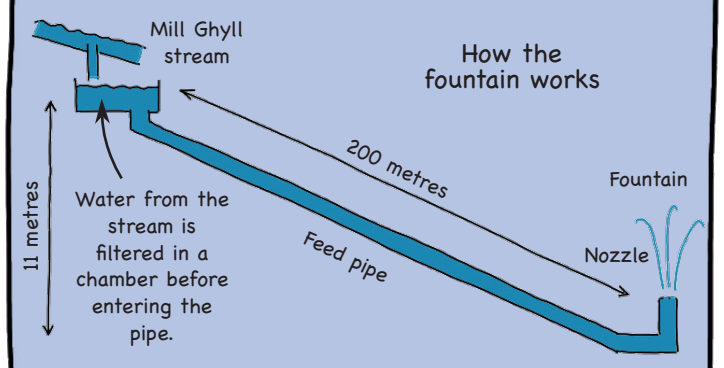
Can you see a metal curlew near the building? What do you think it is for?

Is a flag flying? If so, White Wells is open and you can visit the bath house. You could even take a plunge yourself!

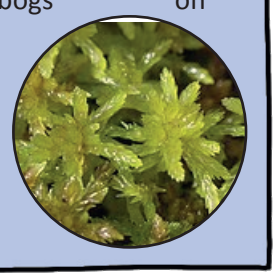


THE FOUNTAIN

The fountain is gravity fed, which means the force of gravity makes the water spray from its nozzles. The water flows down a pipe that starts 200 metres up the stream in Mill Ghyll.



The fountain sculpture was designed by local artists Juliet and Jamie Gutch. Its shape was inspired by sphagnum moss that grows in the bogs on top of Ilkley Moor.



The spongey sphagnum moss is a very important part of our moorland. By trapping water on the moor-top it helps reduce flooding in the valley.

6 *Walk down the steps at the far end of the building and follow the stony track to a sharp bend. The waterfall on the left is called Willy Hall's Spout.*

/// ***strutted.sliders.merge***

The water in the spout starts as rain or snow falling on the moor. After wet weather the water is held in the sphagnum moss and peat bogs, which are like a huge wet sponge. The water is released slowly, forming streams and waterfalls like Willy Hall's Spout.

What force makes the water flow down the spout?

Make yourself into a bridge between two stepping stones. How many different ways can you find to do this? Can you make a bridge using two people?

Many of the streams on Ilkley Moor start as springs, where water oozes out of the ground.

7 *Continue to the bottom of the stony track then turn right along the road.*

The grand building through the trees on the left is Wells House. It was originally built to provide water treatments for Victorian visitors, who flocked to Ilkley to improve their health by 'taking the waters'. The famous scientist Charles Darwin was one of these.

FUN FACT! The only special thing about Ilkley's spring water is that it is very clean. It has no special minerals or other ingredients that can cure illnesses.

The building on the right-hand side of the road was once a water-pumping station. It pumped water to the town's homes and spa hotels.

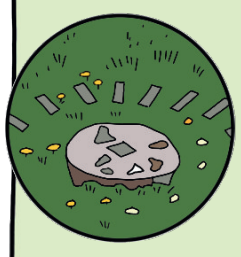
Can you find a blue plaque that mentions Charles Darwin?

FUN FACT! The visitors were pushed in wheelchairs from here to Ilkley Tarn or carried up to White Wells by donkeys.

8 *Take one of the footpaths on the left to explore Darwin Gardens.*

Darwin Gardens are named after Charles Darwin.

Can you find the way to get from one end of the maze to the other?



Find the sundial near the car park. If the sun is out, can you work out the time using the sundial?

The streams from Willy Hall's Spout and the Paddling Pool both flow through the Gardens. Can you find their 'confluence' (where they join together)?

9 *From the confluence, follow the water back down Mill Ghyll to the fountain to complete the walk.*

Take care crossing the roads.