

Noel's Walks In The Yorkshire Dales



First Edition

July 2020

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Introduction

NOEL'S WALKS IN THE YORKSHIRE DALES

All these walks have been completed by me along with many young people living with us at Pear Tree over the years.

They are all walks that will take between three to five hours to complete. I have incorporated a description of each route as well as information about points of interest. I have added pictures as well as a map with the route highlighted on it. I have graded the walks 1-5

1 easy, 5 a bit more than just a stroll.

Make sure that you are all properly equipped for changeable weather conditions. The Dales have a habit of becoming wild wet and windy in a very short space of time.

Good weather forecasts can be found at www.bbc.co.uk/weather or for a more detailed forecast www.mwis.co.uk

I have included post codes for the start locations. They are approximate but entered into your Satnav will give you directions by road to the main locations.

Six figure grid references have been included on the walking information sheet which is included for each walk along with a map.

Please photocopy this and complete the remainder of the sheet as a safety precaution

Remember, some of the more remote areas of the Dales do not have good Mobile Phone coverage. Do not rely on your phone for navigation whilst out walking.

Please remember the countryside code.

I hope you find these easy to follow and have an enjoyable time.

Countryside Code

Respect other people and the countryside

- **Slow down or stop for horses**, walkers and farm animals and give them plenty of room. By law, cyclists must give way to walkers and horse-riders on bridleways.
- **Keep out of the way** when farm animals are being gathered or moved and follow directions from the farmer.
- **Don't block gateways**, driveways or paths with your vehicle.
- **Leave gates and property** as you find them.
- **Follow pathways** unless wider access is available.
- **Leave machinery and farm animals alone**. If you're worried about something, try to alert the farmer.
- **Leave no trace – take your litter home**. Litter and leftover food doesn't just spoil the beauty of the countryside, it can be dangerous to wildlife and farm animals.
- **Put it out**. Fires can be as devastating to wildlife and habitats as they are to people and property. Be careful with naked flames and cigarettes, and make sure they're extinguished properly. Don't have barbeques or fires.
- **Keep your dog on a lead around livestock**. Ensure your dog does not disturb wildlife, farm animals, horses or other people by keeping it under control and on a lead. A farmer may shoot a dog which is attacking or chasing farm animals without being liable to compensate the dog's owner.
- **Bag it, Bin it**. Dog mess isn't just unpleasant, it can also cause infections and be harmful to wildlife and farm animals. Be a responsible dog owner and be sure to pick up after your dog and put the bag in a bin. Any rubbish bin will do.
- **Don't dump your garden waste**. Grass cuttings and clippings from shrubs and hedges should never be thrown over the hedge into fields where cattle and sheep graze. These clippings – including yew, rhododendrons, aconite, boxwood, lupins, laurel, laburnum – can be poisonous if consumed by livestock. If in any doubt, it is a safe rule to regard all garden trimmings as unsafe for farm animals - instead make use of the recycling bins or local disposal sites.

Some of the walking routes enclosed you may have already completed on Outdoor Education and will therefore be familiar to you when you revisit them.

Route description, visual prompts and a route map will aid you for the routes you have yet to try.

If you are concerned what action to take if you begin to struggle to navigate half way through the route, simply turn around and retrace your steps to the start, the day has not been lost and many positive walks are out and back.

Below are some basic features that most maps will include and will help to build your understanding of map reading.

- Roads tend to be marked in different colours depending on the type of road depicted. Roads on a map range from thick blue lines, showing motorways, orange lines, secondary roads (B roads), and yellow lines quieter minor country lanes.
- Footpaths and Bridleways - public rights of way are marked in green dashes or dots.
- Woods are shown in green with a coniferous or non-coniferous tree shape printed over the top.
- Buildings are marked by small brown squares outlined in black. However, some particular buildings have their own special symbols, such as churches and pubs. Any of these buildings can be useful landmarks, helping you to check your position on the map.
- Boundaries around fields such as fences, hedges and walls are marked with a black line, depicting the exact shape of the field. The majority of fields in the Dales have Dry Stone Walls around them.

- Rivers and streams are shown as blue lines.
- Contours - the height and shape of the land is shown on a map using 'contour lines'. These lines appear as thin orange or brown lines with numbers on them. The number tells you the height above sea level of that line. A contour line is drawn between points of equal height, so any single contour line will be at the same height all the way along its length. The height difference between separate contour lines is 10 metres.

If you are concerned what action to take if you begin to struggle to navigate half way through the route, simply turn around and retrace your steps to the start, the day has not been wasted.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (Rights of way are not shown on maps of Scotland)

- Footpath
- Bridleway
- + + + + + Byway open to all traffic
- + + + + + Restricted byway
(not for use by mechanically propelled vehicles)

Public rights of way shown on this map have been taken from local authority definitive maps and later amendments.
Rights of way are liable to change and may not be clearly defined on the ground.
Please check with the relevant local authority for the latest information
















































The representation on this map of any other road, track or path is no evidence of the existence of a right of way

OTHER PUBLIC ACCESS

- • • Other route with public access (not normally shown in urban areas)
The exact nature of the rights on these routes and the existence of any restrictions may be checked with the local highway authority. Alignments are based on the best information available
- ◀ ▶ National Trail / ▶ ◀ Scotland's Great Trails ▶ ◀ Recreational Route
- ◊ ◊ Alternative Route (England Coast Path only)
- • • Traffic-free cycle route
- 1 National cycle network route number - traffic free
- 1 National cycle network route number - on road
- Permissive footpath
- Permissive bridleway

Footpaths and bridleways along which landowners have permitted public use but which are not rights of way. The agreement may be withdrawn

OS Map Symbols

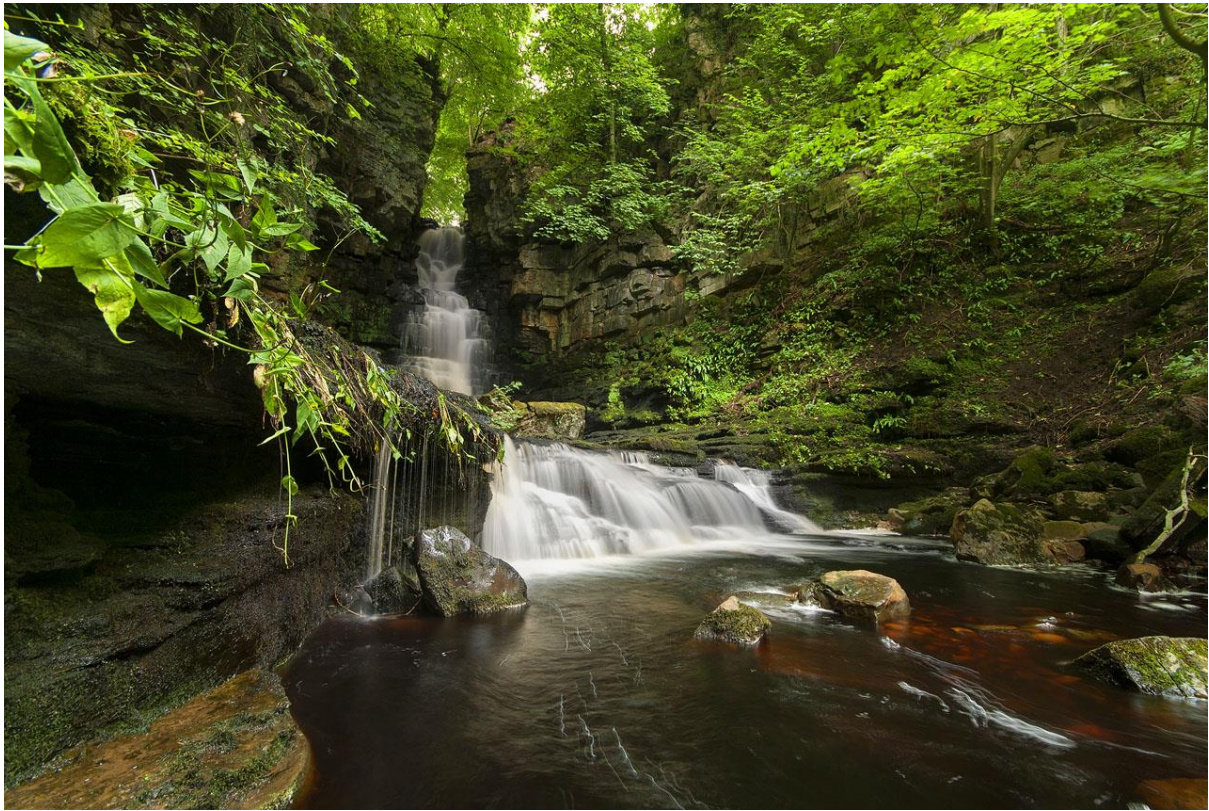
						
Railway Station	Level Crossing	Motorway	Trunk or main road	Footpath	Bridleway	National Trail/Long Distance Route; Recreational Route
						
Camp site/caravan site	Viewpoint	Picnic site	Access information point	Building of historic interest	Recreation/leisure/sports centre	Museum
						
Site of battle	Castle/fort	Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments	Historic Scotland	English Heritage	National Park boundary	Nature reserve
						
Access land in woodland area	Access land boundary and tint	Cycle trail	Information centre	Telephone	Parking	Garden/arboretum
				Sch	PO	PC
Place of worship with spire, minaret or dome	Place of worship with tower	Place of worship	Youth hostel	School	Post office	Public convenience
					FB	W Spr
Bus or coach station	Cliff	Wind pump; wind generator	Electricity transmission line	Quarry	Footbridge	Well; spring
						
Non-coniferous trees	Coniferous trees	Marsh, reeds or saltings	Orchard	Bracken, heath or rough grassland	Scrub	Contours
						
		Scree	Sand; sand & shingle	Mud		

1:25 000 scale Explorer™

OS Map Symbols Poster - 100000
 Ordnance Survey
 Widgeoos

Route 1

MILL GILL CIRCUIT FROM ASKRIGG



Mill Gill Force

Start. Askrigg Village Car Park. Postcode DL8 3HQ

Distance 6 Km Approx.

Grid Reference 950012

Ordnance Survey Sheet OL30

Yorkshire Dales North and Central

Grade 1

The Route

Park in the small car park on the right hand side as you enter the village. If this is full try and find a space further down in the market square near the church.

From the car park walk down through the village to the market place and take the road that bears right down the side of the church. This is Mill Lane.

Water power was a main source of power for local towns and villages before the advent of the Industrial Revolution steam power and electricity. Mill Gill provided the power to three mills, a Flax Mill, a corn mill and a Saw Mill. Flax Mill and the Corn Mill are now private residencies. Upstream of the Cornmill there are the remains of a building which once housed a water turbine which generated electricity for lighting in a couple of properties in the village. Once mains electricity was provided by the National Grid, the turbine fell into disuse and was partially dismantled. There were many such electricity generation schemes in the Dales, the value of these are now being recognised as a source of renewable energy, with the subsequent reintroduction and investment in such schemes. Wensleydale will always have water.

The saw mill or Low Mill is now a Residential Outdoor Education Centre run by the Askrigg Foundation Charity opened in 1976. The Centre has capacity for 40 people on a full board basis and providing a variety of outdoor experiences.



LOW MILL OUTDOOR CENTRE

Follow Mill lane down until it becomes a rough track. On the left is a large building with a twin chimney. This is Flax Mill. The chimney would have had a bell hung between it to call the workforce to the Mill at the start of the working day. Flax was a crop that was grown locally. The fibres from the plant were dried and woven into a fine cloth called Linen. When cotton became available Flax was considered too costly to use so the Mill became redundant.



There is a gate across the road at this point as the track then becomes a private drive to the Upper Mill. On the right is a gated stile leading to a stone flagged footpath across a field. At the other side of the field is another stile, pass through this and pass under a metal "Mill Race". This is where water from a mill pond, 50 metres further on, would have been channelled to the top of a water wheel inside the mill. This mill produced flour for human consumption and also a variety of milled cereal products for animal feed.

Continue along the path with Mill Gill on your left and over a narrow bridge, through a stile into a field then through the next stile into the Gill.



Follow this path keeping parallel to the wall on your left. Looking down the steep bank to the right you may catch a glimpse of the mill pond that powered the mill.

As you drop down some steps the path splits soon after. One path goes through a stile to your left, one path continues uphill and the other bears right. Take the right hand fork down to the waterfall. This is the appropriately named Mill Gill Force. Be careful here as the rock can be slippery.

Retracing your steps after having taken in the spectacular view of the waterfall, return to the junction and bear sharp right up the hill to a corner of two walls. Take the route through the stile directly into a field, follow the path parallel to the wall and through another stone stile. Continue on this path to another stile. Through this stile and turn sharp left along the edge of a bank to another stile. Through this and down a slight bank to another stile.

Mill Gill stream is on your right, although it has now been renamed Whitfield Gill. Follow the path up slightly, over a small stream, uphill to a stile and onto a level path with a fence on your left. Follow this until the path splits. Take the right hand path down to Whitfield Gill at a bridge over the stream



Upstream from here is Whitfield Gill Force, another waterfall of a similar size to Mill Gill Force. Unfortunately to gain access to the waterfall requires wellies and knowledge of the route which is somewhat difficult.

Cross the bridge and follow the path up a steep bank. As you get near the top you may catch a glimpse and hear the crashing waterfall below to your left.

Exit through a stile onto Low Straits lane. This lane is one of the early drover's roads that ran from the head of Wensleydale down to the market at Leyburn.

Turn right out of the stile and pass through a gate. Follow this lane right to its end where you will meet a road. Turn right on the road and downhill back to the village. You will enter the village by the Crown Inn, right to the market place or left to the car park.



LOW STRAITS LANE

Outdoor Activity Information

Date:

House:

Office informed:

Duty Manager informed:

Young people:

Staff :

Vehicle in use:

Area of operation: Mill Gill Askrigg

Time of departure:

Estimated time of return:

Panic time:

Details of route, including six-figure grid references and way points:

950912 Askrigg car park

948911 Market Place

945911 Footpath by Flax Mill

942913 Footbridge

939914 Path Junction (right down to Mill Gill Waterfall)

939915 Mill Gill Force

938 917 Path Junction

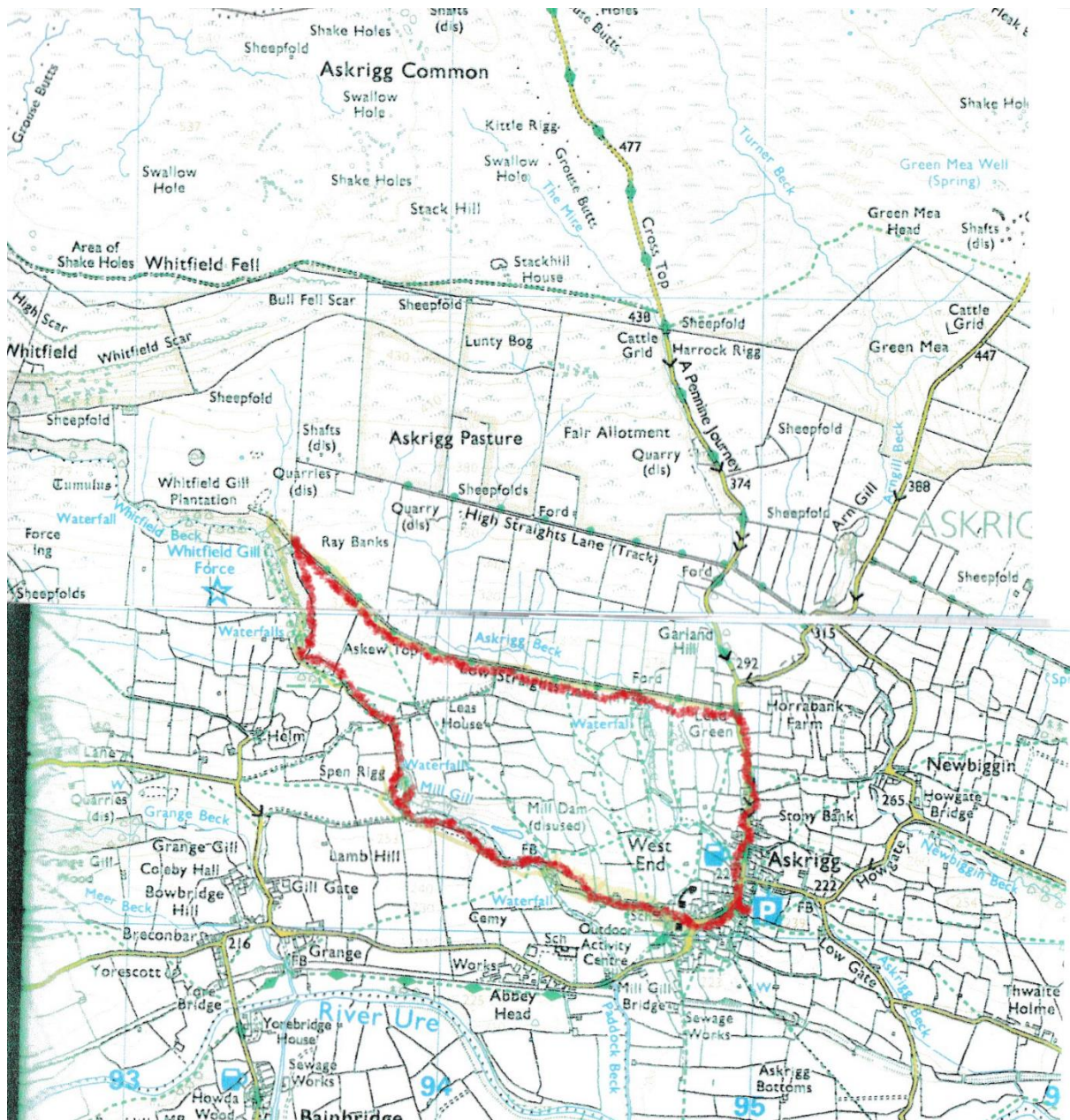
935919 Footbridge

934922 Low Straits Lane

918949 Road

949912 Crown Inn

950912 Car Park



ROUTE 2

ADDLEBROUGH SIDE FROM BAINBRIDGE

START. Bainbridge village green DL8 3EE

DISTANCE. 7Km Approx

GRID REFERENCE START AND FINISH

934901 Village Green

Ordnance Survey sheet OL30

Yorkshire Dales Northern and Central Areas

Grade 2



THE ROUTE AND PLACES OF INTEREST

Park somewhere around the village green. Be aware of the local residents, many of whom also have to park in this area.

Located near where England's shortest river, the Bain, meets the River Ure, the village of Bainbridge is one of the longest established settlements in the Yorkshire Dales.

Originally called Virosidum, it was an important centre during Roman times with roads branching off to the south and south-west. The one to the south can be traced for around eight miles, past the slopes of Stake Fell and to the ridges which separates Wharfedale and Wensleydale.



Roman Fort, Virosidum

The remains of a Roman Fort can be seen at Brough Hill, just across the river from the village. The foundations of the fort cover more than two acres, and while the stones that once stood on the site have long since been removed, the outline of the fort is very visible.

Take the main road (A684) out of the village towards Aysgarth. You will pass over a bridge over the River Bain. The shortest "River" in England. It flows from the glacial lake Semerwater to the River Ure, approximately 4 Kilometres. As you cross the bridge you will see a waterfall. This looks like a natural feature but in fact is man-made. Stone was quarried here by the residents of the Poor House in the 1700s for use as roofing for buildings.

Just above the falls a water operated electricity generator has been installed. THIS WORKS ON THE Archimedes Screw principle. The water is drawn down a channel (mill race) from further upstream. There is no mill pond in reserve so it relies on a constant flow in the river. The river does get very low during summer so is not always a reliable source of power



Bainbridge waterfalls



Archimedes Screw electricity generator

Continue up past the filling station and take the road leading off to the right this will be signposted Stalling Busk and Carpley Green. Continue along this road until you come to a junction, bear left on the road leading to Carpley Green. Follow this road for approximately 600 metres where you will find a bridleway turning off to the left. Before turning off here, look over to your right and you should be able to see Lake Semerwater in the distance. Semerwater was formed at the end of the last ice age and is the largest natural lake in North Yorkshire.



Semerwater

From here go through the gate and follow the bridleway as it runs parallel to the wall on your left. Looking to your left you should see a good view of Bainbridge and the earthworks of Virosidum Roman fort on Brough Hill.



Cubeck

Keep following the track through a few gates and you will come to the small hamlet of Cubeck. Do not continue to the tarmac road. Cut left back along in between the houses to follow a public footpath to the top of Brough Scar. This is a natural Limestone outcrop, mirrored on the other side of the Valley, outcropping at Mill Gill Waterfall.

Continue along Brough Scar for just over a kilometre until you come to a track off to the left. There is a footpath that bears to the right here that crosses three small fields and emerges on the road just above Bainbridge.

A simple walk back down the hill to the village green.

Outdoor Activity Information

Date:

House:

Office informed:

Duty Manager informed:

Young people:

Staff :

Vehicle in use:

Area of operation:

Time of departure:

Estimated time of return:

Panic time:

Details of route, including six-figure grid references and way points:

934 903 Bainbridge village Green

934 904 Bridge over River Bain

936 896 Road Junction (turn right)

934 893 Fork in the road (bear left)

936 884 Bridleway (Bear left)

939 889 Sheepfold

949 891 Quarries (disused)

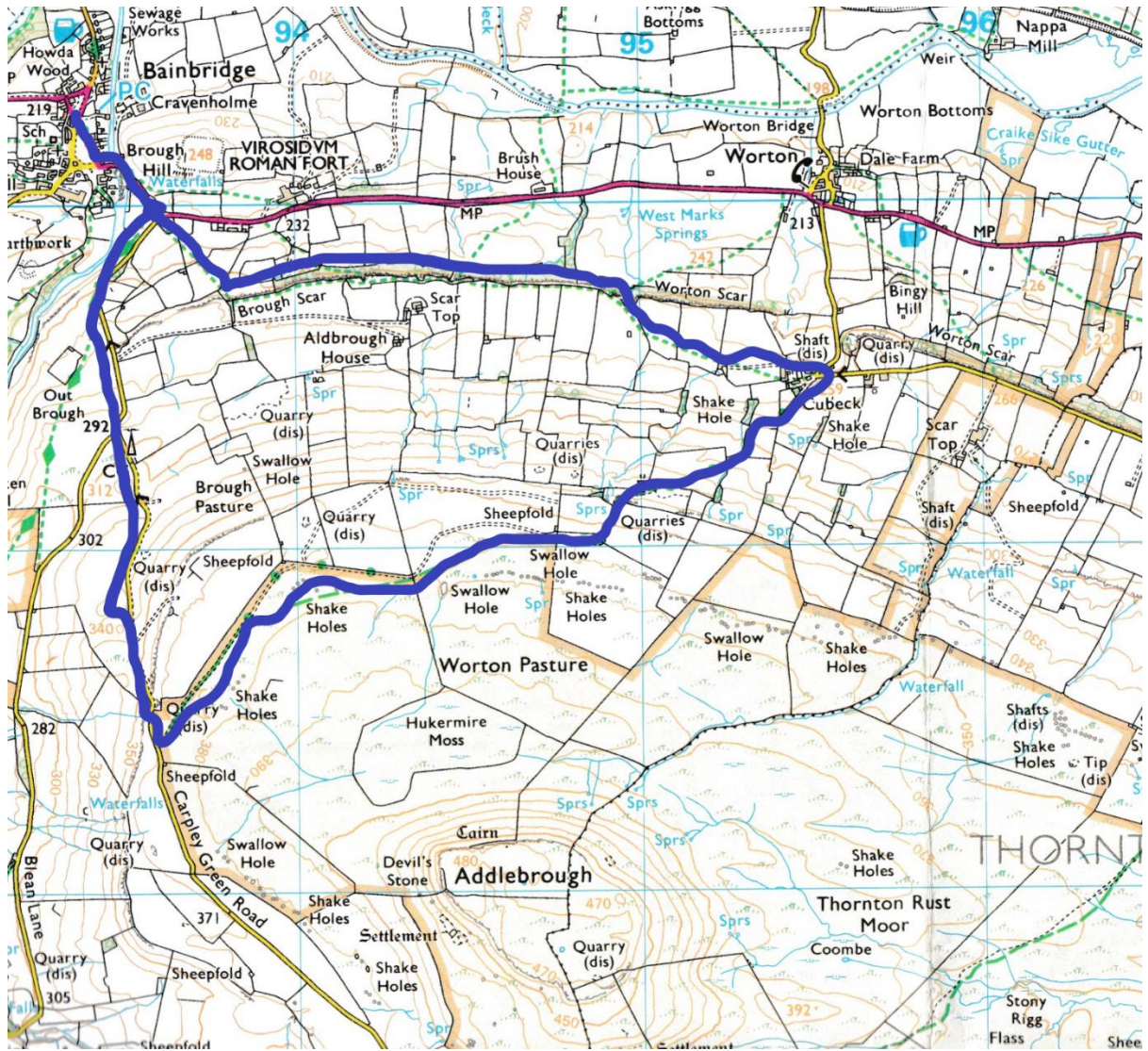
956 895 Cubeck

949 897 Worton Scar

938 897 Brough Scar

937899 Road

934 903 Bainbridge village Green



ROUTE 3

CARPERBY TO CASTLE BOLTON

Start. Carperby Village Hall Post code DL8 4DB

Distance. 7.5 Km Approx

Grid reference start and finish. 008 898

Ordnance Survey Explorer sheet OL30

Yorkshire Dales Northern and Central Areas

Grade 2



Park outside the village hall if there is space. There is an honesty box for parking fees. They ask for £1 ,the money goes towards the upkeep of the village.



Village Hall Carperby

From the village hall walk along the road back towards Leyburn (the way you will have driven in).

After about a hundred metres you will come to a side road on the left,. Take this road and follow it up out of the village. The road gradually turns into a rough track as you make your way uphill. About 500 metres along, the track bears right and goes up steep sharp bend, take a right here following the wall. You will crest the rise and come out onto an open field. Follow the bridleway to the gate in the wall, through the gate following a farm track for about another kilometre to another gate.

Over to the right on the other side of the wall can be seen Strip Lynchets. These are some of the most extensive and best-preserved medieval farming landscapes lies around Castle Bolton in Wensleydale. The fields belonged to the Townships of Little Bolton and East Bolton. The earthworks now lie under grass and include strip Lynchets. Their purpose was to divide the land for crop growing and were usually a furlong in length. This being the length that could be ploughed by oxen. Each Lynchet was an Acre in area. This being the area that could be ploughed in a day by Oxen.

Through the gate and follow a permissive right of way along a track to Intake plantation and a cluster of farm buildings. Continue along the track for another Kilometre towards the village of Castle Bolton and the aptly named Bolton Castle.

The castle is a 14th century building. The church nearby is older than the castle and still serves the parish today. The castle was built between 1378 and 1399 by Richard the first Baron Scrope of Bolton.

Mary Queen of Scots was held here for six months from July 1568 until January 1569 when she was moved to Tutbury in Staffordshire where she stayed until her execution in 1587.

The Castle was partially destroyed in 1536 when John 8th Baron Scrope supported the Pilgrimage of Grace rebellion against the religious reforms of King Henry Viii and gave Adam Sedbar Abbot of Jervaulx sanctuary in the castle. In retribution the king ordered Bolton castle to be torched, causing extensive damage. Within a few years, some of the damage had been repaired and Sir John had regained his seat in Parliament.

The castle is still owned by a descendant of the early medieval owners.



Bolton Castle

After taking in the views across the valley to the bulk of Penhill, return past the car park and through the gate and along the path across the fields, crossing Beldon Beck and heading towards West Bolton. The footpath is clearly signposted between the house and farm buildings. Continue to follow the path gradually down hill and onto the road back to Carperby.



Penhill from Castle Bolton

Outdoor Activity Information

Date:

House:

Office informed:

Duty Manager informed:

Young people:

Staff :

Vehicle in use:

Area of operation:

Time of departure:

Estimated time of return:

Panic time:

Details of route, including six-figure grid references and way points:

008 899 Carperby Village Hall

009 899 Road Junction (bear left)

006 905 Track bears left you keep right

008 909 Gate

009 918 Gate

009 919 Footbridge

019 919 Intake Plantation

034919 Castle Bolton

Footpath through gate just past car park entrance to

024 912 Beldon Beck

021 910 West Bolton

011 901 East end farm

008 899 Carperby Village Hall



ROUTE 4

MARSKE IN SWALEDALE

Start. Marske Bridge Postcode DL11 7NB

Distance. 7 Km Approx

Grid reference.102004

Ordnance Survey Explorer sheet OL 30

Yorkshire Dales Northern and Central Areas

Grade 2



Marske is a small village about 8 kilometres out of Richmond on the way to Reeth in Swaledale. It is signposted off the A6108. As you enter the village you will come to a junction, bear left here and park in a small car park on the right.



Marske Beck

From the car park walk up the hill for 30 metres to a road off to the right. Take this road and follow it past Skelton Farm. Follow the road for about 400metres and you will come to a track off to your left. Take this track which climbs up hill, through a gate and follow alongside the wall to another gate. Through this gate, the track rises a little and then begins to fall. There is a spectacular view across Marske Beck from here and the village can be seen down along the valley.

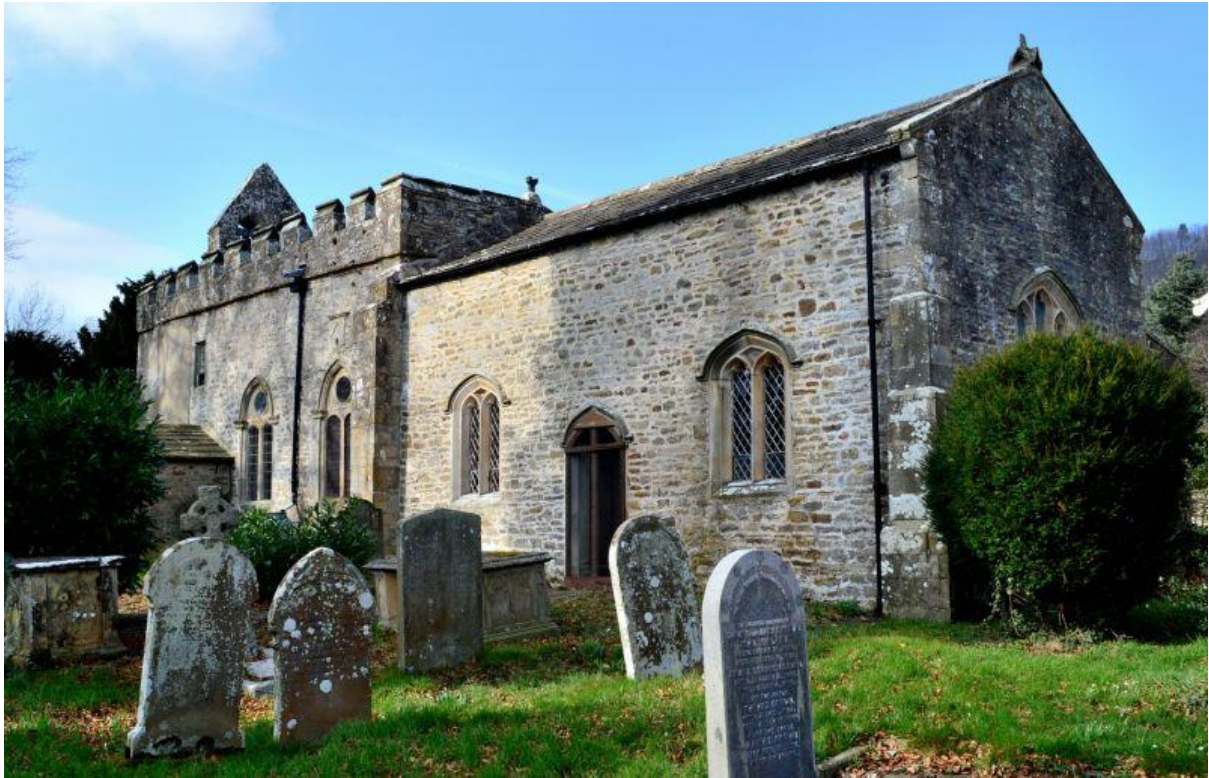
On the far side of the valley are Ministry of Defence training areas. The sound of gunfire can be heard when training is taking place. On arrival at a third gate, there is a track crossing. Go through the gate and turn right down the track. This track weaves its way down past Telfit Farm, follow this until it turns sharp left. There is a road on the right. Keep walking straight on and down to a footbridge over Marske Beck.



Telfit Farm. Now a Georgian wedding venue.

Follow the track uphill to a bridleway at Orgate Farm and turn right. Follow this bridleway, through some woodland and past a couple of houses and out into Marske village

View over Telfit Farm looking down Marske Beck to Marske. Turn right at the junction and down the bank. The Church is on your right, back to the car park.



Marske Church

Outdoor Activity Information

Date:

House:

Office informed:

Duty Manager informed:

Young people:

Staff :

Vehicle in use:

Area of operation:

Time of departure:

Estimated time of return:

Panic time:

Details of route, including six-figure grid references and way points.

104 004 Marske Bridge car park

103 004 Right turn here

095 005 Skelton Farm

094 012 Track to the left, take this.

090 014 Gate

084 016 Gate. Through and follow track to the right

081 027 Munn End Gate, Turn right downhill

Follow to 087025 Telfit farm

091 018 Orgate bridge (footbridge over the river) Up the bank the other side to

092 019 Orgate Farm

Follow the bridleway to

098 015 Clints Wood

101 009 Clints

105 006 Marske (turn right here)

104 004 Marske Bridge car park.



Route 5

Fremington Edge

Start. Low Fremington Post code DL11 6AW

Distance. 7 Km Approx

Grid Reference.045989

Ordnance Survey Map OL30 Yorkshire Dales North and Central

Grade 3

A walk up onto Fremington edge will give fantastic views across Swaledale. This walk does need a settled day without mist or fog. At the walks highest point you will be around 400 metres above sea level (1300 feet in old money). Not to worry though as you are never more than a Kilometre from a road.

Drive from Richmond on the A6108 signposted for Reeth. This road continues to Leyburn. You need to turn off onto the B6270 to Reeth. Follow to Grinton, over the bridge and past the Dales Cycle Hire shop and café on your left. 100 meters further the road bears sharp left into Low Fremington. There is a layby on the right to park.



Layby in Low Fremington

Walk back along the road for 20 metres to a small road going off to the left, take this road and follow it round a corner to another junction. Turn left here onto another narrow tarmac lane. Follow this lane as it climbs steeply up towards Fremington Edge. As you rise, an aptly named White House will come into view. Continue on past the White House on your left. The road ceases to be tarmacked from here and becomes a rough track.



As you rise onto level ground, stop and turn round to take in the view of Reeth and Swaledale. Just as you have climbed the crest, if you look to the right there are the remains of a Chert quarry. Chert is a hard, flint-like stone, which was quarried in both black and white forms. It was ground to a fine powder and used in the making of fine china pottery. Chert was mined here from 1905 to 1950

Swaledale is named after its River. The river Swale is one of the fastest flowing rivers in the country. It rises 25 miles up the valley beyond Keld and flows down through Richmond to join the River Ure near Boroughbridge, then on into the River Ouse near York.

You will soon reach a gate which opens out onto Marrick Moor. This area was extensively mined for its mineral bearing rocks. Lead ore, Galena, was the main reason for mining here. There are many spoil heaps and remains of Bell Pits and mine shafts. It is therefore advisable to remain on the clearly defined footpath. This is also prime Grouse Shooting Moor and a place for many species of ground nesting birds. During the nesting season, April to July you must stay on the footpath



Mining activity has taken place here from 1600 to around 1880. The spoil heaps have been subsequently used by local landowners to help maintain the many farm tracks in the area.

To continue, pass through the gate and turn right and through another gate. The path follows parallel to the wall for the full length of the edge before emerging onto a road.



Turn right here and follow the road back down to Low Fremington.

A visit to the Local History Museum in Reeth is worthwhile if you have time. Check it out swaledalemuseum.org at the time of writing it was £4.00 for adults and free for children under 12.



Reeth from Fremington Edge



Outdoor Activity Information

Date:

House:

Office informed:

Duty Manager informed:

Young people:

Staff:

Vehicle in use:

Area of operation:

Time of departure:

Estimated time of return:

Panic time:

Details of route, including six-figure grid references and way points:

044 901 Layby Low Fremington

046 992 Road Junction (turn left here)

044 003 Fremington Chert Quarry

044 007 Fremington Edge gate

048 003 Gate

Follow wall to

068991 Road

Turn Right to

060 988 The Hagg

047 989 Road Junction (turn right)

044 901 Layby Low Fremington

Route 6

THE SHAWL FROM LEYBURN.

START. Leyburn Market Place Post Code DL8 4YP

DISTANCE. 10 KM APPROX.

GRID REFERENCE. 111905

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP OL30

YORKSHIRE DALES NORTH AND CENTRAL

Grade 2

Set off from the car park in Leyburn Market Place cross the main square and then smaller square and follow signs for 'The Shawl' along the aptly named Shawl Terrace. Within a few minutes of leaving the town centre you will see views up Wensleydale. This area is called The Shawl after Mary Queen of Scots allegedly attempted to escape from Bolton Castle and ran along the escarpment towards Leyburn. Legend has it she dropped her Shawl and this is how the soldiers from the castle found her.



View up Wensleydale from The Shawl

This first open section of The Shawl proves to be short lived and soon the path follows the outside of the woods which blocked the view over the escarpment. About halfway along there is a short open section which is easily the highlight of the first half of the walk.



The limestone scar is substantial and the view across Wensleydale stretched as far as Addlebrough. Although the view was restricted for the remainder of the length of The Shawl it is still pleasant walking on a nice woodland path.

Eventually a signpost signalled the end of the escarpment and you will emerge out of the woods for a nice descent across gentle grassy pastures towards the farm at Tullis Cote. Gaining a track at the farm you will pass the remains of the Keld Heads Smelt Mill, with its impressively preserved chimney, to reach the minor road to Preston-under-Scar.



Keld Heads Smelt Mill

Crossing over the road you cross another field and then the Wensleydale Railway to reach the Wensley to Redmire road. The Railway is now leased from Railtrack by the Wensleydale Railway Company.

The railway was closed for a while and mothballed when the mineral traffic from the quarry at Redmire transferred its goods to road transport. The Ministry of Defence prevented full closure by investing in the line for military use.

The Wensleydale Railway then leased the line and began running trains from Leeming Bar. Their ultimate aim is to reinstate track through to Hawes and Garsdale on the Settle and Carlisle line. This will effectively link the East Coast Main Line with the Settle to Carlisle line, forming an east to west link across the Pennines.

The railway runs a regular service during the summer season and a reduced service at specific weekends during winter, so don't assume there will be no trains when you cross the line!



Turning briefly left on the Leyburn to Wensley road then right into a wooded area and out onto open fields in Wensley Park.

The highlight of this part of the walk is the giant oak in the centre of the park. Following the concrete drive out of the park and into the village of Wensley.

Currently, Wensley is little more than a few homes and holiday cottages around a small church, but once it was home to the only market in the valley and remained the main local trade hub until it was hit by the plague in 1563. That caused the focus to shift to Leyburn and then Hawes, but while Wensley's population has

reduced its fame has never diminished. The original name of the valley was Yoredale after the river Ure. It was renamed Wensleydale as a memorial to those people of Wensley that died during the plague outbreak.



The church in Wensley is featured in the BBC series All Creatures Great and Small as the church James Herriot was married in.

Turn left out of Bolton Hall drive and follow the main road signposted A684 Leyburn. This is quite a busy road so take care whilst walking along it. There is a pavement all the way but it is narrow in places.



Wensley Church

You will pass the Wensleydale Rugby Club grounds on the right side of the road and The Shawl where you started is up to your left.

There is a cemetery on the right just before you enter the town. Cemeteries were quite often created outside of settlements in the middle ages to bury the victims of Plague. Some people thought the deceased had evil in

them which is why they succumbed to the disease. Therefore burying them in Holy ground around the church was considered improper. Plague pits, or mass graves were regularly found in many remote settlements as a result of disease.

Continue uphill into Leyburn Market Place and the conclusion of your walk.

Outdoor Activity Information

Date:

House:

Office informed:

Duty Manager informed:

Young people:

Staff:

Vehicle in use:

Area of operation:

Time of departure:

Estimated time of return:

Panic time:

Details of route, including six-figure grid references and way points:

112 905 Leyburn Market Place

108 907 Start of The Shawl

096 908 The Shawl Plantation

092 911 Path Fork (take the left down the hill)

078 910 T Junction Tullis Cote (turn left here)

079 907 Road (straight across)

078 905 Road Turn left (you will have crossed the railway line before arriving here)

078 904 Footpath (turn Right)

Follow through wooded area and along past a house. The footpath has been diverted around the left side of the property into a large open field.

Follow the path diagonally across the field to

089 897 Bolton Hall Drive (Turn left)

091 897 Wensley Village

Turn left along the main road A684 towards Leyburn

105 904 Wensley Bridge (over railway)

112 905 Leyburn Market Place



ROUTE 7.

BAINBRIDGE TO SEMERWATER via CAM HIGH ROAD

START. BAINBRIDGE VILLAGE. Postcode DL8 3EE

DISTANCE. 8 Km APPROX

GRID REFERENCE. 934901

OS MAP OL30 YORKSHIRE DALES NORTHERN AND CENTRAL

Grade 3

Park in the village somewhere around the village green. Do be aware that local people who live in the village may also need to park near their homes.



Start the walk by travelling in the opposite direction from the Rose and Crown Inn. Stay on the road on the right hand side of the Green with the village Stocks to your left. Follow the road as it bears right and then left and uphill. As you leave the buildings behind you, look back. On the left you will see a newly built building on the left. This is the Yorkshire Dales National Park Headquarters. Built in local stone in an architecturally sympathetic way so that it blends in with the other local buildings. This is a “green” building, using renewable sources of energy for lighting and heating. Half the building is lit naturally through a “Lantern” in the roof that collects sunlight and distributes it around the building.

Continue up the road for 700 metres and you will come to a track bearing off to the right (almost straight on). This is Cam High Road a route built by the Romans to link Virosidum Roman Fort with the main garrison town of Lancaster.



Continue along this route for two Kilometres. Imagine yourself as a roman soldier marching along here. You’ve come from Italy and are now stationed in the wilds of Northern Britain. It must have been a harsh life.

When you come to a cross roads, four lane ends, continue straight on along Cam High Road for another Kilometre until you come to a footpath that crosses the road. Take the left turn here and follow the path uphill to the ridge. Here you should find a bridleway crossing the path. Take the bridleway to the left and follow it gently down for half a Kilometre whereupon it becomes steeper before emerging onto a road. Views of Semerwater can be seen as you descend. Turn right onto the road until you come to the hamlet of Countersett.

There is a crossroads here. Go straight across and down a steep hill to the shore of Semerwater.



Before you get to Semerwater you will cross a bridge over the river Bain. On the left is a stile. This is your route back to Bainbridge.



Semerwater



Carlow Stone

The Carlow stone is a remnant of the last ice age. As the glacier receded it left behind piles of boulders and clay from further up the valley. The Carlow stone is limestone and has been dragged by the glacier some 12 miles down off Fleet Moss at the head of the valley.

The popular story as to how the Carlow Stone came to be there is now part of legend. The story goes that a Giant stood on Addlebrough and had a fight with the Devil who was stood on the shore of Semerwater. The Devil threw a stone at the Giant and the Giant retaliated and threw one at the devil splashing him with water and putting his fire out.

Spend a while in the tranquillity. Count the ducks, have a picnic or just skim some stones. Semerwater is an ever changing landscape.

Retrace your steps to the bridge and turn right through the stile before the bridge.

The first kilometre of the path follows parallel with the River Bain, it then rises quite steeply away from the river as it drops into a gorge. Climb over the hill and you should have a view of Bainbridge below. Continue on the path until it comes out on the road. Bear left and back down into the village.



Bridge over the River Bain at Semerwater

Outdoor Activity Information

Date:

House:

Office informed:

Duty Manager informed:

Young people:

Staff:

Vehicle in use:

Area of operation: Bainbridge in Wensleydale

Time of departure:

Estimated time of return:

Panic time:

Details of route, including six-figure grid references and way points:

933 901 Bainbridge Village Green

932 900 High Hall

924 895 Road Junction (bear right onto Roman Road)

905 884 Four Lane Ends (Straight across here)

886 873 Footpath (turn left)

Follow bridleway gradually downhill to

912 879 Road (turn right)

919 878 Countersett crossroads (straight across)

921 878 Semerwater Bridge

Walk to the foreshore. Retrace to

921 878 Semerwater Bridge (turn right through stile)

928 883 Wall

932 891 Bracken Hill

936 900 Road (turn left)

933 901 Bainbridge village green

