

Afoot in Two Dales

Route: Afoot in Two Dales Distance: 50 miles / 80 km

County: North Yorkshire

Map: Explorer OL30 - Yorkshire Dales, Northern & Central areas

Start: Harmby near Leyburn. Public Car Park adjacent to the Village Hall

GR. 128896 or at any point on the circular route.

Finish: as above

Way marks: none

Time Limit: Suggested 2 or 3 days

Route sheet available from: Mrs Jill King, 112 Harlsey Road, Hartburn,
Stockton on Tees, TS18 5DA

Badge and Certificate: available free on completion of a short report to Jill King at the above address, together with a **self addressed stamped envelope**, or a small donation that will be forwarded to St. Gemma's Hospice in Leeds.

Other Relevant details:

The walk is circular and may be started from any point en route. You may prefer to start at Leyburn leaving the car in the car park near the Police Station. A 2-day walk could use Hawes as the overnight stay or a 3-day could use Muker or Thwaite, then West Burton, Bainbridge, Askrigg (off route) or Thoraby as staging points.

This is a varied route using footpaths, bridleways and quiet roads through the attractive dales of Wensleydale and Swaledale including an ascent of Great Shunner Fell.

About the Walk:

Afoot in Two Dales was devised in 2003 by Cleveland LDWA. It was run successfully as a challenge event in July 2004, 2006 and 2008. It now continues as an open anytime challenge event with advice and a badge and certificate from the Recorder.

Disclaimer:

Persons using this route and route description must understand the following:

- The publishers and organisers of this route accept no liability for any injury, damage or loss sustained by any person following this route or using the route description.
- They participate at their own risk.
- Persons using this route must observe the Country Code at all times and should be of good health and have no medical conditions that may cause undue concern or inconvenience to others.

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Route Description

It is suggested that you use this in conjunction with Map Explorer **OL30** Yorkshire Dales.

Harmby to Redmire - 7 miles

Leave Harmby by walking south along Middleham Lane. At the stile, turn diagonally right across fields to the Sewage Works; across the A6108 (Take care) onto Low Lane. Turn right onto Low Wood Lane and climb to meet the A684. Cross with care to a stile and climb up onto Leyburn Shawl. Continue on a f/path along the Shawl until the end of the woods at GR 086913 and drop down across fields, through a wood to Preston under scar. Walk through the village and turn left on a footpath at GR 667912, across a field onto the road. Turn right for 300 yards, then left on f/path, across the disused railway line, through Elm House chalet accommodation out onto the road. Look for a LH f/path hidden down a few steps and follow across fields into Redmire.

Redmire to Castle Bolton - 1 mile Total - 8 miles

Go across to the large tree and seating and take the footpath down the lane with Ivy Cottage on your right. Pass some new development then left onto the road that goes over into Swaledale. Turn right up the road, under the railway bridge, then left across Apedale Beck and head up the fields to Castle Bolton. (Toilets in Car park at far end of village and a Tearoom open at busy times)

Castle Bolton to Gunnerside - 8 miles Total - 16 miles

Take the b/way between the houses at GR 035919 and walk up and over the moor to Dent's Houses. Turn left on Apedale Road on a well-defined track to a gate at the top at GR 999954. Descend into Swaledale on a rough shooters track and meet the road at GR 983964. Follow the f/path between the farm buildings and descend fields to footbridge and waterfalls at GR 976969. If impassable here use other f/path and road to get to Haverdale House junction. Turn left along Dubbing Garth Lane. This is a bridleway - sometimes wet - and not shown clearly on the map. This will take you to the B6270 and the river Swale at Gunnerside New Bridge. (Gunnerside village has public toilets, accommodation, pub and a bistro that serves until 1700)

Gunnerside to past Thwaite - 5 miles Total 21 miles

After crossing the river, turn left on a f/path to Ivelet, and then follow the river crossing at Rampsholme Bridge and along the flagged stone path into Muker. (Toilets, pub and Tearoom) Turn right in the village onto a footpath that crosses the Usha Gap camp site to the B6270 briefly and at the Bridge take the f/path into Thwaite. (Excellent Tearoom and accommodation) Initially take the road that goes to Keld and turn left onto the Pennine Way at GR 889983.

Thwaite to Hardraw - 8 miles Total 29 miles

Follow the Pennine Way up and over Great Shunner Fell using the flagged stone path and track all the way down to Hardraw.(Bunkhouse, tea room and pub)

Hardraw to Bainbridge - 5 miles Total - 34 miles

Turn left past the Tearoom, over the bridge and past the Pub looking for a footpath on the left through a gate in the back yard of a house. Go over the stiles and diagonally across the field to the gap stile in the wall, through the wood and out onto the road. Take the road opposite along Sedbusk Lane and continue along lane eastwards, then take a f/path down through fields to the 'B' road at GR 904907. cross road and follow a track (ignore the first track on left) curving round and across a field to the farm lane below Cams House. Continue on lane and pick up the f/path along the old railway to the road and Yore Bridge below Bainbridge. (If staying in Askrigg, continue on line of railway and into the village) Turn right crossing the river Ure and walk through the village. (Toilets on left near the Play area and a Tearoom at the other end of the village)

Bainbridge to Thoraby - 4.5 miles Total 38.5 miles

Cross the river Bain and climb out past the garage, looking for the footpath at the junction of the minor road to Semerwater and the A684. Climb up and along Brough Scar to the hamlet of Cubeck. Now continue on the very minor road to Thornton Rust. Opposite the village hall, turn right up the track and look for a footpath on the left to St Mary's Well at GR 974886. Follow the map carefully from here to Thoraby by taking a compass bearing on 130 degrees, then 135, using yellow topped posts, crossing Gill Beck and climbing up alongside the wall (shown on map on opposite side) to Flout Moor Lane. Go across through a stile and diagonally across the long field looking for a gated stile; keep the same line to find the complicated hidden step stile at Haw Beck. If in doubt, always aim for a clump of trees on the skyline. Go over the beck, looking for a stile in the cross fence above. (not shown on OS maps) After this aim diagonally to the same trees and a gap in the wall to the right. Go through, looking for a finger post directing you down steeply on a concreted b/w to Thoraby. (Pub in village and accommodation)

Thoraby to Harmby - 11.5 miles Total - 50 miles

Walk past the Post Office looking for a track on the right just at the end of the houses at GR 602868. Walk down past the Sewage Works and out onto the road at GR 008867, turning left and follow the B6160 (take care - no pavement) to Burton Bridge. Turn right across Walden Beck and follow initially a road, then a track along Morpeth Gate, High Lane to Witton Steeps. Continue on the road past Penhill Farm. Walk above Capplebank Plantation (43.5 miles here) and along Common Lane and cross onto the b/way over Middleham Low Moor into the village of Middleham. Walk through taking care of vehicles and horses, turning left onto the A6108. Cross the castellated bridge crossing the river Ure and immediately turn right on a f/path. Follow this to a 4-way finger post then retrace your route across the field and up Middleham Lane back to Harmby.