

# ***Walden Round***

*N/DDRDALE LDWA*

A 26 mile circular open challenge walk with 4,200 foot of ascent from Kettlewell in Wharfedale, (GR 969723). The walk passes through the head of Nidderdale, crosses Coverdale Beck, over into Waldendale, climbing Buckden Pike before descending into Wharfedale. The Walk should be completed within 12 hours to qualify for a badge and certificate.

The Walden Round was devised originally by founder members of the Group, Derek Jennings, David Taylor, David Megginson and Tony Lickard. It was held as a challenge event on the 2nd Sunday in August from 1989-1998 with a time limit of 10 hours. The event attracted an average of 180 runners and walkers from all over Great Britain, many completing all 10 events.

The walk is not recommended as a winter walk. If supported, vehicles could park at Horsehouse, at the cattle grid in Waldendale and at Starbotton. Parking in Kettlewell is limited to the National Park Authority's car park just next to the river. All day tickets cost £3.00 (2003).

Wharfedale is considered to be a delight in summer. A very different story in winter, particularly in late January 1942. The route of the Walden passes a 7' high memorial cross just south of Buckden Pike Trig. Point. This was erected by the only surviving member of a Polish crew flying a Wellington bomber for the RAF. He managed to crawl away from the crashed aircraft and came upon tracks in the snow that he recognised as those of a fox. Realising that the fox would be heading out of the adverse weather down to human habitation for food, he followed the tracks eventually to safety. In 1972, the same Polish airman erected the memorial in thanksgiving for his own escape, setting a bronze head of a fox into the base of the cross alongside fragments of the fuselage. The Nidderdale Group decided to commemorate this poignant story into the badge.

Having successfully completed the Walden Round, you should send a brief report, a 9" x 6" stamped addressed envelope and £3:50 for your badge and certificate to:

*Mr. S A Char/ton, 21 Stonecrop Drive' HARROGATE. North Yorkshire' HG32SQ*

Cheques should be made payable to the **LDWA Nidderdale Group**.

**Route Description using OS Outdoor leisure 30**

Kettlewell to Park Rash road at 986757 - 3.5 miles

From Kettlewell Car Park, take the road towards Park Rash. At the sharp RH bend in the road, 972725, go straight ahead up the stone track, Top Mere Road, to the fingerpost at Cam Head, 971754. Bear right and follow the path, Starbotton Road, past Tor Dike to cross the metalled road at 986757.

Park Rash Road to Horsehouse - 7.5 miles

Take the faint path traversing the hillside of Hem Gill Shaw to reach the wall at 009765. Go through the gate and follow the indistinct path across Angram Pasture keeping fairly high, through gates in 4 walls and descend to the sheepfold at 047774. Turn left and ascend the rutted track to the boundary gate at 043783. Go through the gate and continue descending on the track to join the metalled road at Arkleside 042804. Follow the road, crossing the river at Arkleside Bridge and turn right towards Horsehouse. (Pub and village shop).

Horsehouse to the Cattle Grid at 017838 - 3.5 miles

Pass the pub on your right and turn left immediately up a short metalled side road, following the bridleway up High Gill. Ascend to the gate at 038818. (Pause here to admire the extensive views). Go through the gate and turn with wall on your left to follow faint path to gate at 027815. Go through this gate, bear right and descend on stone track across Fleensop Moor. Continue on track and descend to the Cattle Grid at 017838.

Cattle Grid to the Memorial Cross - 6 miles

Turn left on metalled road as far as Nell Bank, 0118824, continuing on stone track to Ashes, 008821. (This section not a right of way - check with the farmer if a large party). Pass the farm and turn right to find access gate above cottage. Follow the path crossing fields, passing to the right of the stone barn to the metalled road at 998816. Follow the road passing Grange Farm and then Kentucky House at 987807. At the end of the metalled road go through the gate onto the farm track. This curves to the right, follow and cross Walden Beck. Turn left at the gap in the wall keeping the beck on your left, (contrary to the O.S. Map). Go through a gap in the wall at the end of the plantation onto bracken and open moorland. Cross the stream and follow a few marker posts across Walden Moor. (This path is very indistinct in places and hard to find in poor visibility). Continue skirting the hillside until you reach the ridge wall at 965777. Turn right up the very boggy path to the memorial Cross at 962778.

Memorial Cross to Starbotton - 2.5 miles

Retrace your steps back to 965777 and turn right through the gate and follow the rough track, Walden Road, to Starbotton.

Starbotton to Kettlewell - 3 miles

Go through the village and cross the B6160 at 954747 to a gate and signpost. Follow the enclosed stone track to the River Wharfe, cross the footbridge and take the path opposite, following a line of trees between broken walls. Continue diagonally up the hillside through trees, through a gate to reach a second gate at 951737. Go through and cross diagonally left through fields towards the buildings of Moor End 954731. Before you reach this former Outdoor Centre, the path has been diverted using finger post signs, taking you up to the intake wall and gate at 953732. Go through the gate and follow the wall on your left to Moor End. Follow the finger posts between the buildings and out onto open moorland, again keeping the wall on you left. Follow this stone track as it zigzags down to the bridge at Kettlewell. Turn left crossing the river to the Car Park.

**THE FINISH - WELL DONE FOR COMPLETING THE WALDEN ROUND**