

The YORKSHIRE RIDINGS 200 FURLONGS

A 25 mile circular walk around Almscliff Crag, Beckwithshaw, Beaver Dyke Reservoir, Dobpark Bridge and Farnley.
Start and finish in the centre of Otley.

All footpaths and bridleways are on O.S. Landranger 104 1:50,000 (Leeds and Bradford) & OS Explorer 297 Lower Wharfedale & Washburn

The written instructions should be used in conjunction with these maps. The terrain covered by the walk not difficult but a compass may be found useful in bad weather and at dusk.

Parts of the route can be rather wet underfoot and this combined with some stretches of stony track make good, sensible footwear essential. Public Houses at Pool, Beckwithshaw and the Sun Inn, Harwood There is NO public transport on the route.

BADGES £2.00 each and route sheets available from: D. W. Haller, 21 Sunnydale Crescent, Otley, West Yorkshire, LS21 3LU
tel 01943 462801

Stamped, addressed envelope with all, communications please.

Linear measure: - 10 chains = 1 furlong,
8 furlongs = 1 mile

DWH June 87 Sept 90

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O.S. Reference points.

2040 4545 Start at Car Park near the Post Office in Otley

2200 4510 Disused railway embankment

2310 4490 Caley Hall Farm

2425 4465 Old Pool Bank Road/Path junction

2435 4550 Pool Bridge

2400 4680 Join track

2420 4670 Turn left at gate

2555 4720 Riffa Wood top

2540 4750 Turn right to Bogridge Farm

2650 4825 Huby/Stainburn road

2680 4900 Almscliff Crag

2780 4970 North Rigton road/Footpath junction

2800 5030 Spring House Farm

2810 5130 Field Head Farm

2850 5190 Foot bridge

2795 5210 Valley Farm

2770 5290 Entrance to Howe House Farm

2745 5305 Bluecoat Farm

2680 5310 Smiths Arms, Beckwithshaw

2680 5350 Access to Haverah Park

2515 5375 Springhill Farm

2310 5480 Long Liberty Farm

2115 5420 Near Bank End Farm

2070 5380 Sun Inn, Otley/Blubberhouses road

2010 5365 Swinsty Reservoir

1980 5270 Swinsty Cottage

1900 5180 Gated bridge

1965 5085 Dobb Park Bridge

1955 5020 Middle Farm

2095 4930 Rose Tree Farm

2060 4870 Near Cragg Farm

2070 4815 Access to Hadockstones Farm

2135 4805 Farnley Church

2130 4745 Farnley Lane

2040 4545 End.

Otley(2040 4545) to Pool Bridge(2435 4550) 3¾ miles

From the centre of Otley go south to Gay Lane leading to Leeds Road (A660). Turn left into Cambridge Street (opposite Gay Lane Fish & Chip Shop.) Walk ahead into Cambridge Way (newer housing estate). Right & immediate left at T junction into Cambridge Drive. Ahead then left into Peterhouse Drive.

Look for narrow ginnel between houses at the end of the cul-de-sac, through gate into fields. Keep to the same heading across fields to a kissing gate into a stony lane (East Busk Lane).

Turn right and walk between high hedges, DO NOT climb up old railway embankment ahead, but bear left with the hedge to a stile in wall ahead. Go right under the tunnel then over the stile on the left hand side. Turn left and with field boundary on your left continue forward to the next stile. Go ahead and look for the next stile in the far right hand corner of this field (this stile may be hidden if there are fully grown crops in the field). There are some waymarks on this section. Continue straight ahead through 4 fields to a farm access road to Caley Hall Farm (2310 4490).

DO NOT turn right on road but cross and go over stile into field opposite. Keep field boundary on your right, turn right and over stile in the wall ahead into farmyard. Take the track ahead between farm buildings, keeping a pond on your left, go forward through a gate then with field boundaries on your left go ahead for 1200 yards to a wall stile into Old Pool Bank. Turn left down the road (take care no footpaths, walk facing the on-coming traffic) to Pool Village, cross main (dangerous) road by way of the pedestrian crossing in the centre of the village to Pool Bridge.

Pool Bridge(2435 4550) to Almscliffe Crag(2680 4900) 4½ miles

Cross bridge and find gap stile on the left with public footpath sign, walk diagonally to the right across field to road (B6161). Left on road, for 15yds, to stile into field on right. Walk ahead across a plank bridge, over stile then keeping fence on your left go over the brow of the hill to a gate and stile ahead. (DO NOT go over stile) Turn right with the fence on your left go ahead to a green lane. Turn right on lane then after 250 yds. Look for a stile on your left, DO NOT go through gate ahead) over stile and follow waymarks left up a small rise ahead between trees then walk 1000yds. to a gate into a field leading to Riffa Wood. (This track is referred to as Leafield on the

Explorer 1:25000 map)

Through gate then half left, (bearing 27 degrees mag.) to stepping stones across the beck at the entrance to Riffa Wood. Walk through the wood on obvious track then over stile and turn left. Keep the wood boundary on your left to the next stile then uphill across field (bearing 315 degrees mag.) to a stile at the top of the rise. Keep hedge on your right until next gate is reached on your right. Go through (or over) gate to the right (DO NOT bear left. at this point) then ahead keeping the wall and Bogridge Farm on your right to head downhill to a farm gate next to a pole. Turn left through the gate along farm access track. DO NOT follow track when it bears right but go onto grass straight ahead with the wall on your left to Baileys Whins Wood.

At the corner of the wood turn left with the wall to go up a short steep slope to a gate at the top. (Look for Beware of the Bull sign). Through gate then keeping the field boundaries on your left walk close to the wall all the way around this field (DO NOT cut diagonally across) to a ginnel to the left of house next to Lower Bank Farm and out onto road. Turn left along road then left again at 'T' junction to the footpath sign to Almscliffe Crag.

Excellent views of Wharfedale from here.

Almscliffe Crag 2680 4900) to Beckwithshaw (2680 5310) 4½ miles

Walk downhill on the track bearing 109 m east, ignore the field gate ahead and go over the stile to the right. Keeping field boundaries to your left cross three fields and then look for stile in hedge on right onto road. Left on road for 50yds turn left into lane between hedges (Burn Bridge sign).

Keep to lane to stile into field and then stile in wall to the cottages ahead and out onto road. Left on road, downhill and look for gate with footpath sign on the right where the road swings to the left. Keeping field boundary on the right go ahead to bridge over stream. Cross farm track and walk uphill with fence on the right to a gate $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way up the field on the right. Through the gate, half left to stile (hidden) in the fence at the top of the field (look for a large flat stone). Turn right over stile, walk ahead to stile next to gate ahead, over stile, boundary now on left, ahead to end of field.

Over stile and half' left (head for the post with the power transformer next to farm buildings) across field. Over stile to the left of the indoor arena. There will be horses in this, field as this is the Harrogate Equestrian Centre. Walk ahead around the arena keeping fence on right, through gate into large open space and cross into the access road. Walk along metalled road at the junction keep left to Alder Carr House Farm ahead, pass farm on the right and then straight ahead to road at Field Head Farm.

Right on road for 25yds, then left at footpath sign over a stile in the wall. Keeping fence on your right go ahead and turn sharp right with the hedge (look for waymarks). Over stile ahead and turn ½ left down the field (bearing 045 mag.) to footbridge in the bottom right hand corner of the field. Take great care here, NO WAYMARKS, walk ahead to hedge-corner, then with the hedge on your right go ahead (Not as far as the stile at the top of the hill) for about 50 yards then turn 90 degrees left to go through a gap and broken stile across the field on your left.

(This gap/stile bears 343 degrees m from the footbridge) Go ahead through three fields and over a footbridge leading to farm' buildings. Go through a metal gate half right onto the road between buildings. Walk up-the road, then 60 yards past a bungalow on the right named 'Foxgloves', turn left down a grassy walled lane for 50yds. Go over a stile at the bottom right hand corner of the lane behind a hawthorn tree.

Then keeping hedge then wall on your left go ahead to pass the entrance gate to Howe House Farm on your left. Cross the waymarked stile next to a tree ahead then over a stile in front of a bungalow on your left to go across a road then over another stile into the field ahead. Walk towards the standing stone and fingerpost straight ahead. At the stone go half left and go over a wall) stile with a fence around it. (This section is now well waymarked.)

Keeping the fence and Bluecoat Farm on your right cross the stile ahead then with field boundary now on your left go over a wall stile in the bottom left hand corner of the field. From here head across field towards the house ahead and slightly to your right. The footpath goes through the end of the garden here (look for waymarks).Over a wall stile out of the garden, cross road then over a wall stile opposite then directly across the field towards the church tower ahead and the Smiths Arms at Beckwithshaw.

Beckwithshaw (2680 5310) to Sun Inn (2070 5380) 5 miles

From the pub car park go left on road passed houses and then left at the end of a high wall into Haverah Park (Waterworks property) opposite the cricket field. Signed public footpath. Follow well defined farm track to Springhill Farm (2515 5375). Left through gate in front of farm, look for waymarks. Ahead for 70 yds, ignore gate on left and through gate on right. Keep to well defined track with field boundary on your left. At the building at 2400 5400 the track peters out. Keep walking in the same direction and look for waymark at the 3rd gate. Turn half right bearing 318 mag. and follow the line of electric power poles downhill to a gate in the bottom right hand corner of the field.

Through gate and turn right along road. At the entrance to Beaver Dyke Reservoir ignore entrance on left (signed no entry) and go through small gate on right uphill to Long Liberty Farm (2310 5480). At farm turn left then through metal gate along the top of a wood. Follow this track down to the end of the reservoir and when you reach a derelict barn pass it on the reservoir side and follow a feint grassy path down a small hill over a stream to the gate into a lane with a footpath sign. Turn left (signed Norwood) into lane, through gate and then, bear right along way-signed sunken path.

At Bank End Farm (2115 5420) ignore track swinging right and go left downhill to stile in field corner. The Sun Inn can be seen from here. Head towards the buildings across marshy ground (this bit is waymarked but the path is not obvious so take care). Come out onto the Otley/Blubberhouses road from between the buildings.

Sun Inn (2070 5380) to Dob Park Bridge (1965 5085) 3 miles

Cross the road and take footpath to the right signed Fewston Cross field and over stile into wood follow track through wood downhill to Swinsty Reservoir. Turn left along side of reservoir to road. Cross road and take Permissive path to the darn. DO NOT cross dam but go through gate to the right of the house (waymarked) and go downhill to the river Washburn. Walk ahead to a bridge with gates at each end (1900 5180).

- a) Keep on the same side of the river and follow well defined track to Dob Park Packhorse Bridge.
- b) Alternative path, more interesting but not as well defined. Cross over bridge, turn immediately left and over fence. Follow track along

river bank and look for Walkers Bridge to the right over Timble Gill. Cross over DO NOT bear right here but keep left along the side of the river. At the end of the small wood the crossing point for Snowden Beck is slightly upstream to the right. Continue along the side of the river to come out on the south side of Dob Park Bridge.

Dob Park Bridge (2070 5380) to Otley (2040 4545) 4½ miles

If route a) used then cross bridge, if route b) turn right up lane. Walk ahead to the gate opposite the entrance to Middle Farm(1955 5020). There is no footpath sign here and the gate is often fastened but it is shown as a public right of way on the map. Left through gate with wall on your left, look for waymark at gap in wall pointing half left across field. Head for the barn which can be seen two fields away downhill. Pass the barn on the right, cross stream, and over fence. Head forward over brow of rise in front of you and pick-up the track against the wall on the left. Just before the next building look for waymark and over the gate on your left, around the back of the building and over waymarked stile in wall ahead onto well defined farm track,

Left along the track to Rose Tree Farm at the road (beware of dogs here). 50 yds on the road in the same direction then turn right up a metalled farm road with footpath sign. Up this road to where it turns right into Crag Farm (2060 4870). Go through the gate on the left and keeping field boundary on your right walk ahead to next gate. Through gate and still keeping boundary on your right walk uphill, turn left with the wall ahead and at the top of the rise look for gate on your right (signed preferred path). Through gate walk ahead and over ladder stile in the Wall opposite (Haddock-stones Farm is on your left). Walk ahead to cattle grid, turn left with the wall and walk along this track to the road at Farnley Church. (Views of Wharfedale from this track). Turn right on road then right again to the church at the cottage ahead where the road goes left. Look for small gate into field just to the right of the cottage, Through gate and head for tree in the middle of the field, then forward downhill to the stile in the right hand corner of the field. Over stile and keeping hedges on your right walk ahead to a stile which brings you out into Farnley Lane. (2130 4745). Right across road and walk back into Otley.

Please abide by the Country Code.

Keep to footpaths.

Do not leave litter.

Shut gates.

Do not damage walls and fences.

ALTERNATIVE START.

This start will add on about ~ mile to the distance.
It is the start of the Otley Nine Leagues route and gives views over Wharfedale, but involves a steep climb at the start.

Otlev (2040 4545) to Pool Bridge 2435 455 0

Walk up Station Road look for the Parish Church at the bottom) and over the footbridge across the bypass. Continue south up the narrow lane opposite to the White House Visitor Centre on Otley Chevin. Walk 15 yds. past the cafe and take the wide track half right uphill. Keep to this track for 100 yds, then take path to the left opposite the sign for 'Cafe & White House'. Follow this track past Pelstone Quarry to the car park on East Chevin Road. Turn left downhill for 50 yds. then right into wood through a gate next to an old millstone.

Follow wide track, past foresters huts, to Caley Crag (229 445) on the right. Go uphill at track junction to where overhead power lines cross the path. Look for narrow track keeping the fence on your right hand side to a tip entrance then metalled road to the A660 Leeds road. Take care here, blind corner. Cross road and go right to the shop on the Bar House Corner. Take the narrow road east at the back of the shop past a row of houses. Look for path into trees on the right Where the road swings to the left. Shortly you will see a row of houses in the middle of the wood. Look for path on the right into the trees. This path descends steeply at times into an old quarry at leads to a stile at the edge of the wood. Over the stile and head for an avenue of horse chestnut trees ahead and the down a stony road which leads to Pool Bank (248 447). Turn left down road (be very careful here, blind corner and walk through the village to Pool Bridge.