

The Blubberhouses Moor

Route Description (updated March 2025)

START Bland Hill (GR 207 531) [HG3 1TB or /// passes.haystack.inched]

Turn R out of the Community Hall, R at road junction and after 400m turn L on Smithson's Lane, down the hill to reach lane on L. Follow this lane to Reservoir Dam, cross Dam turn right.

CHECKPOINT 1 Swinsty Embankment (GR 194 528)

Continue on track for 1.2km to road (toilets on left). Cross over road taking Permissive Path. Follow permissive path along the south-west edge of Fewston Reservoir for nearly 3km to car park. Climb steps on right and cross the A59 aiming for right-hand side of far barrier. **FAST TRAFFIC - CARE NEEDED.** Down steps and through conifers to follow River Washburn for 2km. Cross second footbridge over river and follow track leading to left-hand side of Thruscross Dam wall ahead. Climb steps to checkpoint in car park.

CHECKPOINT 2 Thruscross Reservoir (GR 155 574)

Leave car park by main entrance and turn L on road, R at T junction, take next road on L (North Moor). At 2nd Footpath Sign on R next to metal gate with Moor Access notice follow track to Spittle Ings House. Then over ladder stile on R, continue on moorland track for 3km aiming for Rocking Hall CP. on horizon ahead. Keep R at fork in track after about 400m.

CHECKPOINT 3 Rocking Hall (GR 111 579) Note: No Water available at CP

Leave checkpoint through gate in south enclosure wall then following track for 2.5km descending to junction (**GR 093 567**). Take right-hand track down to Bolton Park Farm (please shut gates). Continue downhill on access road to reach Wooden Bridge (do not cross). Turn L on riverside path to gate/stile, turn L to cross Footbridge or Ford. Climb up the road for 25m then turn R on good path. Ignore path descending to R, continue to reach a small gate. After gate follow the main path keeping L at path junction (do not drop down to river) to Bridleway Signpost to L and **Self-clip CHECKPOINT 4 (GR 076 542)** at gate. Follow enclosed path to Storiths, through farm to checkpoint at field gateway.

CHECKPOINT 5 Storiths (GR 080 541)

Enter field, bear R to stile, follow wall on L through gap, continue with wall on L to reach stile. Cross corner of next field to ladder stile, over and slight left towards wall corner, over next ladder stile. Now follow wall on R, crossing stiles to reach A59. Cross with care using traffic island on L taking road to Deerstones. At road end, bear R for 25m to last house then L down to footbridge

(public access not marked on some O/S Maps). Cross and climb zigzag path up to gate with Ling Chapel Farm ahead, forward to next gate (F.P. sign), in a few metres reach farm access road. Turn R to checkpoint.

CHECKPOINT 6 & REFRESHMENT STOP Ling Chapel Farm (GR 091 527)

Continue along farm access road for 50m, take path on L just after finger post across moor to road (it is possible to continue along farm access road then turn L up road). Turn L at finger post marked Beamsley Beacon, climb with wall on right to join path turning L and climbing up to Trig Point, continue on clear permissive path for 2.6km to reach wall at Round Hill (Little Gate). Turn R, with wall on L to cross stile, follow wall/fence on L in easterly direction for about 0.7km to a reedy area. A faint path swings R towards low ridge then onward to a Ladder Stile and gate just past old stone marker (Ripon – Ilkley). Through gate and in 1km in dip, cross small stream (**GR 142 527**) path heads R to cairn on hilltop (ignore rights of way shown on map), at hilltop pass boundary stone on right dated 1767. Continue eastwards and after 0.4km at stone marked with a D ignore path to L and continue ahead. In 1km reach Ellarcarr Pike (metal gate and stile) and checkpoint.

CHECKPOINT 7 Ellarcarr Pike. (GR 159 523)

Down track to T junction, R to continue along track to road, cross and follow road signs to Timble. On entering village turn R at grass triangle to follow the 'No Through' road. After reaching Highfield Farm on L continue for 100m to turn L at sign on footpath along High Lane. Follow lane to metal gate/stile, cross field, through gate, bear L to line of trees and follow to stile. Keep fence on L to next stile. Now aim for blue notice at edge of wood, go through gates into wood, follow wide track to reach and go through small gate. Follow path on R between wooden fences. Turn R at small new gate continue to waymark post, through gap in wall to stile and in 20 m turn L down steps to Swinsty Dam wall. Retrace steps back to finish at Community Hall.

If using the field paths from the finger post at GR 200 532 (Bland Hill ¼ml) cross stile and up enclosed path towards trees. Over stile to right of metal gate and up field with wall on right to pass tumble down barn. Where wall swings away to the right keep straight ahead towards marker post and stile in wall (do not take gate on right). Over stile bear left towards highest point of field, continue ahead to stile in wall. Over stile and up field with wall on right to stile leading to road. Cross road with care, turn right to Community Hall.

FINISH Bland Hill (GR 207 531)