

LDWA Northumbria Group

Durham Dales Challenge Walk – 30 Mile Route 2023

This is our fourth time at Wolsingham Masonic Hall (GR NZ073373) which is located on Church Lane, a narrow street. Following registration we are asking all walkers to assemble in St. Anne's Recreation Ground (RG) behind the bowling green for a start at 9.00am. This is behind (south) the building immediately in front of you as you enter the RG and where you have been asked to park your cars. The walk will begin from here. To reach St. Annes RG from the WMH head down Church Lane, across Front Street, and proceed 80 yds to your right.

START From St. Annes RG follow the footpath on the eastern side of the field heading towards the river and continue to the bridge. Go under the bridge and turn L to ascend to the road. Cross the bridge and bear R uphill. After 200 yds take the Weardale Way (WW) at GR NZ 074367 and follow this to Towdy Potts Farm. Pass though the farmyard. Keeping on the WW after 800 yards go through a gate with a telegraph pole on the right. Turn immediately left to follow the WW to the ridge at GR NZ 063349. Turn R and proceed to:

GR NZ 053348 SUNNYSIDE EDGE 2.9 miles

This is where the 14 mile route departs. The 30 mile route turns L at once. A marshal will be here to guide walkers. Turn L at once on broad vehicle track across moorland to reach another stony track at on old railway hut GR NZ 050335. (Look out for flagged section here.) Turn L and then R to pick up narrow footpath through the heather to reach prominent stone cairn. Continue through heather with valley and stream on R. At NZ 047322 take care crossing North Grains Beck. After 50 yards cross another stream on the left. Bear L passing trees, through broken stone wall, over stile in wire fence continuing to a lone tree. Continue with broken wall and trees on L. Now on initially a grassy track which becomes a stony track and descend to metal gate. Through gate and bear L. Cross stream and turn at once R uphill - do not continue on good path, to join broad green track and turn R to ascend to gate on entry to forest. (No smoking in forest) Continue on path through forest for 250 yards to cross forest road very slightly to R, after a further 800 yards of forest path cross a further forest road to head downhill to Euden Beck. Cross with care (no bridge) and continue to junction with forest road turning L and onwards to forest road junction reaching:

CP 1 GR NZ 030295 EUDEN BECK 7.5 miles

Leaving checkpoint head uphill on forest track, continue for a mile, and where forest road descends to L go R ahead on Bridleway. Ascend on rutted path for 800 yards to forest road junction. At junction straight ahead on forest track. After 250 yards as the forest track bends left, leave the forest track and continue straight ahead on rough bridleway quickly reaching a waymarked wicket gate with pond on R (GR NZ022276). Ahead onto stony track continuing across moor. At path junction turn R and continue. On reaching junction with stoned track turn R and continue passing through 4 gates to reach public road. Cross the road extreme care please, and ahead on minor road (Middleton 4 miles) to another junction with main road (B6282), across this extreme care please, down track (fingerpost Teesdale Way). Through waymarked gate to where after 200yds concrete track bears L continue on higher path to R with another TW fingerpost. Continue to riverbank. After passing

through two wicket gates path rises uphill on steps and passes a wooden seat (leaving Teesdale W). Continue straight ahead for 100yds and turn sharp L (to the west), continue over two wall stiles and reach a third stile at red metal bar gate. Down street past houses to main road (B6282). Continue on the main road through Middleton-in-Teesdale which bears right after about 350 metres, then crosses stone bridge in a further 300 metres. Just after crossing the bridge is:

CP 2 GR NY 946256 MIDDLETON-IN-TEESDALE Sports and Social Club 15.9 miles

Leaving checkpoint turn left and at road junction turn left uphill. After 100 yards at footpath fingerpost turn right. Ascend steps and continue on footpath to enter woodland. Ignoring footpath off to the left continue on woodland track. Ignoring wooden bridge on the right continue on woodland track. Cross green metal bridge over Hudeshope Beck and join metalled road. Continue with river on L for 900 yards until junction below old kilns, turn R up here, ab through metal gate entering wood and turn R at path junction to ascend steps and exit wood over ladder stile. Continue with wall on L, stone stile, past broken wall and second stone stile. Now bear slightly R on path, to wall corner (wall on L) to waymarked gate. Onwards through old mine workings, sheep pens, and wooden gate. Go to the R of tree (bad erosion on river bank), uphill past old barn and through gate. Continue through gate, over stream bed and up to kissing gate in wall. Turn R uphill to public road careful, across cattle grid and up to bend in the road to arrive at:

CP 3 GR NY 954292 Above Hudeshope Beck, 18 miles

From checkpoint pass through road barrier and continue on track as it winds uphill. At track junction turn R and continue to pass through wooden gate. Continue on track passing large shooting lodge, the track eventually becomes grassy and starts to descend. Continue on track as it swings L keeping to high ground; do not drop down into the mine workings in the gully. Keeping to the faint path on high ground continue ahead with the gully to your R to eventually descend to a stony track with a locked double metal gate with a stile to its right hand side. Cross stile and continue ahead on stony track. Follow the track as it descends into the valley. At valley bottom bear R and cross stile by gate. Continue ahead on track with river on L to ford (please note that the ford crossing has been washed away but you may still be able to cross - if not see below). Cross river, turn R and continue ahead with river now on R. (Note - If the river is high and fast flowing and crossing is difficult, follow narrow path alongside the river on the L for approx 450 yds (also not easy at times) to cross a good bridge at the old mine workings). On reaching old mine workings turn L and follow rough path up the valley, with small stream on R, ignoring the large new shooters track which is further to the left. Go through gate and continue uphill on grassy path, as it swings R around near the head of the valley it becomes a narrow path through heather. (NB this is not the right of way as shown on the OS Map, this path is further south) Follow this path as it climbs slightly to pass reservoir on R and eventually swings L to descend gully into valley bottom. Continue ahead uphill on track to main road (B6278) Cross B6278 with care. Turn L and proceed for half a mile on road, passing a cinder track on R, for to a finger post for a footpath on right at GR989326. This next section is largely pathless but will be flagged. Take this path heading northeast towards the right-hand side of a low hill ahead. On reaching this hill, a stone wall appears on the right and the path becomes more distinct, gradually becoming a track which leads onto a road. Turn Right to:

CP 4 GR NZ 006349 BOLLIHOPE 24 miles

Leave the Checkpoint following the path alongside the river, passing between old mine workings on L and quarry on R and then passing lime-kilns on R. Cross stile beside metal gate in fence. Turn left on narrow waymarked path to cross footbridge. Path continues through gorse bushes and then trees (river now on R). Past rock buttress and across second footbridge (river now on L) to emerge through gate to road. Turn R to White Kirkley. Cross the bridge and go through signposted gate on left into field. Follow the Weardale Way markers over several more stiles and gates, ignoring any other footpath signs, eventually climbing a short hill to a kissing gate. Onwards with fence on L. After end of fence, bear right uphill to a stile in corner of field, emerging on to a farm track. Turn L onto farm track. (NB the gates across this road are all electronically controlled and cannot be opened. Use the kissing gates on the left) On reaching a tarmac road, turn L, downhill to Harehope Quarry. Where the tarmac road turns L over bridge, continue ahead on farm road. Take the footpath to your L at the farm buildings after 100 yards. Pass through two gates, fork left downhill and arrive at kissing gate and railway track. There are trains running on this line today - **STOP - LOOK - LISTEN**, Cross and turn R on the riverbank path alongside Caravan Park to a picnic area on L, then bear R into caravan park on a gravel path to a tarmac road. Turn R to pass between the caravan park reception on your R and the water feature on your L before turning L onto tarmac road at GR NZ 049368. (Please respect the quiet enjoyment of the caravanners on this stretch.) Continue along the tarmac road, passing a road on the right. Where road turns left over bridge go straight ahead alongside railway on new footpath. Ignore waymark pointing L, keep on the new permissive path. On emerging from this path cross over footbridge, continue ahead through several fields with railway on your R, crossing a footbridge into a final field. Keep R onto more defined path that gradually rises alongside railway to gate. Climb steps to road and turn L to the road bridge. Immediately after crossing the river, turn right and go back under the bridge to follow the path you came out on through St. Anne's Recreation Ground, **Crossing Front Street with care**, and return to HQ

30 miles FINISHED!

May 2023

