

Rievaulx Abbey

Start	Rievaulx Abbey
Distance	2½ miles (4km)
Height gain	215 feet (65m)
Approximate time	1 hour
Parking	Parking is very limited. Leave the car in Helmsley and take the Moors Bus to Rievaulx
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 100 (Malton & Pickering), Explorer OL26 (North York Moors – Western area)

GPS waypoints

- SE 574 850
- A SE 568 855
- B SE 571 844
- C SE 574 842

The glorious and mellow ruins of Rievaulx Abbey form the focal point of this delightful ramble. Across meadows, through woods and along quiet lanes, this short walk encourages a leisurely pace and offers the opportunity to explore the splendid remains of the old abbey or the garden 'temples' of Rievaulx Terrace looking down from above the valley.

By any standards Rievaulx is one of the most magnificent monastic houses in the country – perhaps even the finest, combining the architectural splendour and completeness of Fountains with the picturesque setting of Bolton, its two great Yorkshire rivals. Founded in 1131 by Walter l'Espece, lord of nearby Helmsley, it was the first Cistercian monastery to be built in northern

England. Rievaulx soon became one of the largest and most prosperous, a fact reflected in the richness of its surviving buildings. The abbey's wealth derived from vast endowments of land and the profits of commercial activities that included sheep farming and iron mining. The enterprising monks even diverted the River Rye, which originally ran close to the abbey below the steep bank of Rievaulx Terrace, to its present course along the western side, thus

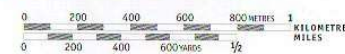
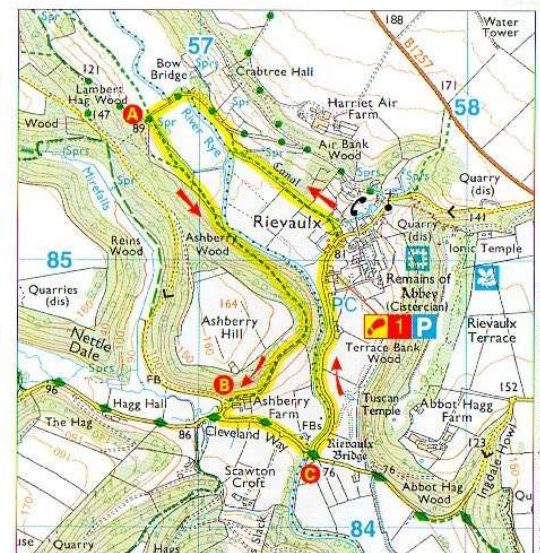
gaining extra grazing land. At its height, Rievaulx housed more than 600 monks and lay brothers, but like most monasteries it declined in later centuries and by the Dissolution in 1539 the community numbered only about 22.

The abbey was built in the second half of the 12th century but most of the existing remains, the

transepts and east end of the church, refectory, large infirmary hall and dormitory, date from an extensive rebuilding programme in the early 13th century and are superb examples of Early English architecture. The east end of the church is almost complete and looks most majestic as you walk between the aisles, with the sun glinting on the pale stonework and casting shadows across its now grassy floor.

Turn right out of the car park, leaving the lane a short distance along through a gate on the left by a footpath sign to Bow Bridge. Walk past stables to a small paddock and go ahead to cross a stream. Continue along a grass trod through the fields beyond, the way following the course of a shallow canal that once supplied water to the abbey. After briefly joining the River Rye, bear right at a waymark to a gate out of the meadow. Turn left along a gravel track that soon swings over Bow Bridge, an attractive old packhorse bridge.

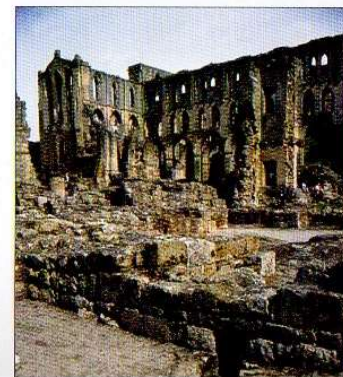
Carry on to a right-hand bend, there leaving through a gate on the left by a sign to Ashberry A. Head out across the meadow at the base of a wooded bank and continue across a second field before entering the trees at the far end. Climbing along the flank of Ashberry Hill above the River Rye, there are glimpses across to Rievaulx Abbey and, over the crest of the shoulder, a fine view along Rye Dale. Across the valley at the top of Rievaulx Bank, breaks in the trees reveal the Ionic and Tuscan 'temples' of the National Trust Rievaulx Terrace. Thomas Duncombe of nearby Duncombe Park erected them in the



18th century as summerhouses and retreats from which to gaze upon the romantic ruins of the abbey below.

The descending path finally meets a lane at Ashberry Farm B. Go left, over a bridge and then turn left again, the way signposted to Helmsley and Rievaulx. After crossing Rievaulx Bridge C turn off beside the River Rye, following it back past the abbey to the car park. ●

The impressive ruins of Rievaulx Abbey



Falling Foss and Littlebeck

Start Forestry Commission's Sneaton Forest car park at Falling Foss, signed from the B1416 (Newton House and Falling Foss)

Distance 3½ miles (5.6km)

Height gain 395 feet (120m)

Approximate time 2 hours

Parking Falling Foss

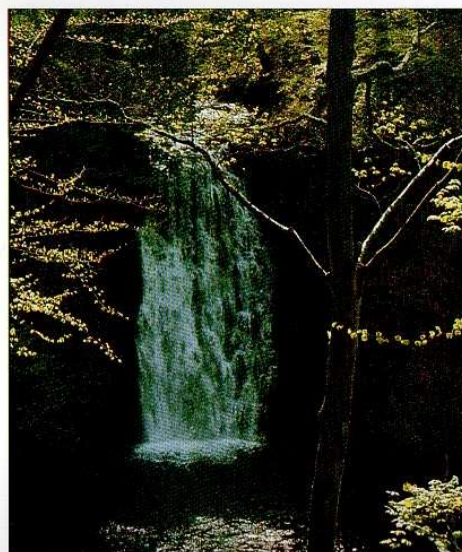
Ordnance Survey maps Landranger 94 (Whitby & Esk Dale), Explorer OL27 (North York Moors – Eastern area)

GPS waypoints

- 📍 NZ 888 036
- 📍 NZ 888 034
- 📍 NZ 882 031
- 📍 NZ 879 049

The Falling Foss waterfall, passed at the start, is one of several highlights encountered in this short but attractive ramble. Rolling fields to the west offer easy walking and fine views across the valley before the route drops to the lonely hamlet of Littlebeck. The return is along a narrow, wooded gorge whose banks were once quarried for shale, which was used in the production of alum. The woodland is now a nature reserve, where at any time of the year there is something of interest to look out for.

Falling Foss

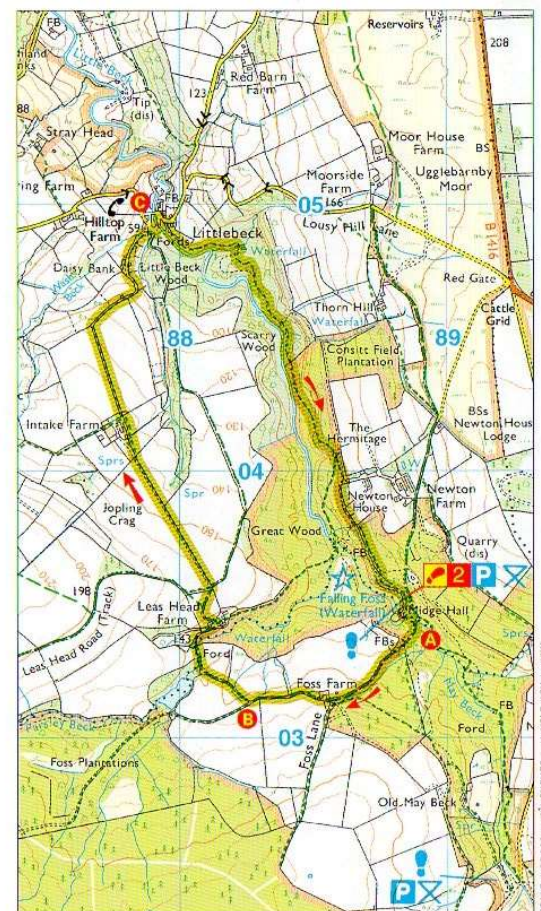


📍 Turn left from the car park, following red-topped markers down a broad wooded track. The falls themselves, a particularly impressive sight after heavy rain, lie to the right at a fork, just a short way along. Beyond them, pass in front of Midge Hall to cross a footbridge over the beck and rejoin the main track beside a stone bridge **A**. To the right, the way soon rises from the trees, bending right past a junction higher up to a group of barns. Keep going through gates along the main track for another 200 yds to a

bridleway, signed off through a gate on the right **B**. A grassy track leads away beside the boundary, later descending right by an outgrown hedge and stream to a gate. Over a bridge, walk on through trees, but then turn left to mount a stile just before Leas Head Farm.

Join the track in front and follow it uphill from the farm, passing through a gate at the top to continue ahead at the edge of open fields. As the way gently descends towards Intake Farm, the view in front is to the distant Esk valley while to the right lies the deep wooded gorge of Littlebeck. Approaching the farmyard, leave the track through a small wooden gate on the right, and follow the field edge around the farm. Through a field gate beyond its barns turn right, leaving along a tarmac farm road that winds down into Littlebeck, ¾ mile (1.2km) away.

Approaching the hamlet, just as the lane bends right at the foot of the brow, bear left along a narrow path and over a footbridge behind Littlebeck Methodist Chapel. Regaining the lane **C**, cross to a track opposite, turning right at its end over another footbridge. Back on the lane again, follow it uphill to a bend, where a footpath is signed to Falling Foss near a bench on the right. Through a gate, a narrow but clear path undulates above Little Beck along a delightful, steep-sided and thickly wooded ravine. Shortly approaching a



cave, a relic of the former alum industry, bear right up a flight of steps. The up and down path continues beyond, eventually climbing a stepped path to reach The Hermitage, a curious shelter cut from the rock at the end of the 18th century. Ignore the descending path to the right just past there, but bear right at another fork a little farther on, signed 'Coast to Coast'. Later, where the path again splits, go left off the 'Coast to Coast' route and climb straight uphill back to the car park.

Farndale

Start	Low Mill	GPS waypoints
Distance	3½ miles (5.6km)	SE 672 952
Height gain	245 feet (75m)	A SE 672 953
Approximate time	2 hours	B SE 669 974
Parking	Low Mill	C SE 674 972
Ordnance Survey maps	Landrangers 94 (Whitby & Esk Dale) and 100 (Malton & Pickering), Explorer OL26 (North York Moors – Western area)	

The first part of this enchanting ramble follows the upstream course of the River Dove through meadows and woodland between Low Mill and Church Houses. The path is known as the 'Daffodil Walk', for early in the year, before the trees have had time to don their leafy coats, the ground is carpeted in a glorious riot of colour as countless wild daffodils open their bright yellow trumpets to the sun. The return is along field paths above the eastern side of the valley, from where there is a superb panorama to the heights of Rudland Rigg, whose flanks in late summer are tinged purple by flowering heather.

From the car park, take a path by the post box, signed to High Mill, down to a footbridge A. Cross and turn through a gate on the left to walk upstream by the River Dove. The

obvious path is never far from the river and, through successive gates, alternates between open pastures and

April in Farndale – the 'Daffodil Walk'



small copses of woodland. It is here that the profusion of daffodils greets you in spring, and it is difficult to conceive of a finer stretch of countryside walking.

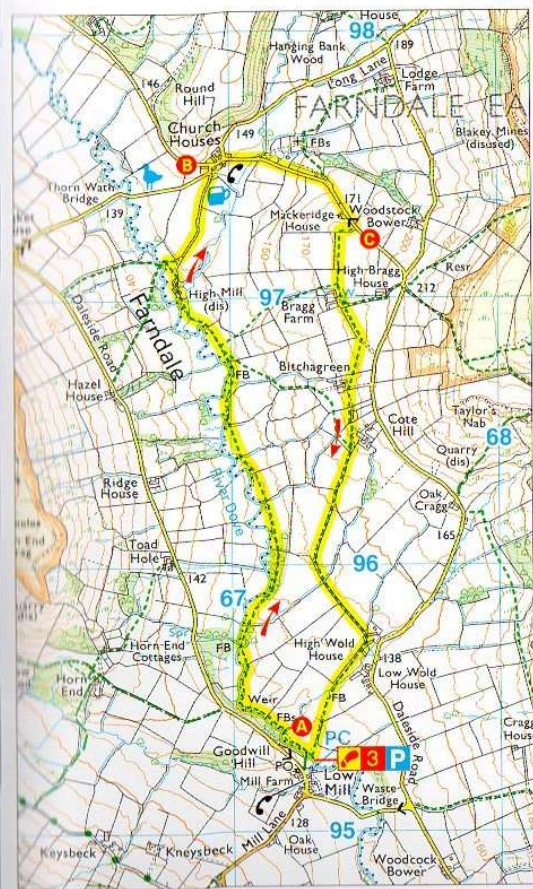
After 1½ miles (2.4km), pass between the buildings of the former High Mill and continue along the track beyond for a further ¼ mile (400m) to the tiny settlement of Church Houses B. Keep right to pass the Feversham Arms, and bear right again just beyond, signed to Hutton-le-Hole and Gillamoor. Follow the curving lane uphill, passing the

small, simple church on the left. After ½ mile (800m), and not far beyond a house on the right, turn right through a gate at a public footpath sign C. Keep along the field edge to cross a ladder stile, about 100 yds ahead and then stride away by the hedge, enjoying the superb views over Farndale that accompany you for the remainder of the walk.

Passing through a couple of gates, continue to Bragg Farm. Keep ahead past the farm buildings, signed 'Low Mill', and, through another gate, carry on along a broad track. After 200 yds, leave by a stone stile at the end of the

wall on the right and strike diagonally across the field towards the next farm. Over a stile, walk down past the farmhouse to go through a gate just beyond. Cross the next two fields, climb a ladder stile and then bear half-right, passing below barns to a gate in the bottom field corner.

Through that, carry on down two fields by the left-hand hedge before turning through a gate at the bottom. Walk away at the lower edge of the field, emerging to continue along a track to a farm. Keep ahead in the farmyard to leave by a gate on the right, just beyond a barn. At the far end of a narrowing field, pass through gates and over a footbridge, and carry on downhill along a partially paved path to the bridge below Low Mill, just above which is the car park.



Cloughton and Hayburn Wyke

Start	Cloughton	GPS waypoints
Distance	4½ miles (7.2km)	TA 009 947
Height gain	605 feet (185m)	A TA 013 948
Approximate time	2½ hours	B TA 019 951
Parking	Roadside parking in the village, or for a limited number of cars, in Newlands Lane opposite Court Green Farm or at the coast	C TA 009 970
Ordinance Survey maps	Landranger 101 (Scarborough), Explorer OL27 (North York Moors – Eastern area)	D TA 007 967

This walk follows an attractive stretch of coast between two 'wykes', a local word describing the many small, sheltered bays below the crumbling cliffs. Hayburn Wyke is particularly interesting, for it is surrounded by native woodland and distinguished by a lively waterfall that cascades into a pool at the head of its rocky beach. Despite the occasional undulations of the cliff-top path, the walk is not overly strenuous, the way back following an easy route along the former Whitby – Scarborough railway.

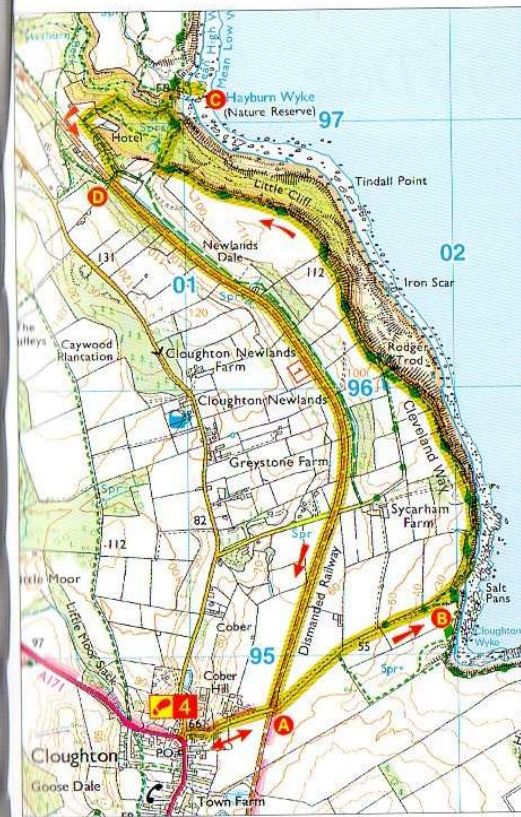
From the cross-roads at the northern end of Cloughton, turn off the main Whitby – Scarborough road down Newlands Lane towards the coast.

From the cliffs to Hayburn Wyke



Beyond Court Green Farm, keep going over a bridge across a disused railway for a further ½ mile (800m) to reach the lane's end at a small parking area above Cloughton Wyke.

Drop left to join the coastal path, part



of the Cleveland Way, which initially hugs the top of the cliffs. Superb views compensate for the ups and downs along the way. Behind, you can see Scarborough, Filey Brigg and even Flamborough Head, while through the trees and gorse bushes that occasionally all but enclose the narrow path, there are glimpses of rocky, inaccessible beaches below. Eventually, the path levels to give a grand view of Hayburn Wyke before dropping into Hayburn Wyke Woods.

At a junction of paths, turn right, signed 'Cleveland Way', keeping right again at another fork a little farther on. Continue down the main path through

the luxuriant woodland, later dropping beyond a minor junction more steeply towards the coast. Go right by another 'Cleveland Way' sign lower down and follow Hayburn Beck to the top of a small waterfall. If the tide permits, scramble onto the stony beach below for a better view, where you may also find fossils, eroded from the low grit-stone cliffs that enclose the back of the bay.

Retrace your steps to the last junction, but now keep ahead on this bank to climb along the valley, initially above the beck. Ignore crossing paths higher up, finally reaching a stile to the right of a gate leading out of the wood. Bear left on a grass track rising across an open meadow and

turn left around an internal corner towards the Hayburn Wyke Inn, which then appears ahead. Continue past its entrance and car park to leave along the access road.

Where it bends to the right, 100 yds along, turn off through a gate on the left to join the course of the disused Yorkshire Coast Railway. It was originally completed in 1885, this stretch linking Scarborough with Whitby. Follow it for 1½ miles (2.4km), at first pleasantly shaded by trees, but later crossing more open farmland, where again there are views along the coast towards Scarborough. When you eventually approach a bridge above the track, climb steps just before it on the right to reach the lane above. Turn right back to Cloughton.

Kirk Dale

Start St Gregory's Minster, Kirk Dale

Distance 3½ miles (5.6km)

Height gain 280 feet (85m)

Approximate time 2 hours

Parking Park in the overflow car park (not in front of the church)

Ordnance Survey maps Landrangers 94 (Whitby & Esk Dale) and 100 (Malton & Pickering), Explorer OL26 (North York Moors – Western area)

GPS waypoints

- SE 676 856
- A SE 669 869
- B SE 676 871
- C SE 679 876
- D SE 681 856

This is an undemanding walk amid the gentle landscape of Kirk Dale, which forms the lower part of Bransdale, and wanders through two wooded valleys and across farmland, with a fine old church as the focal point. From these southern fringes of the moors, there are extensive views across the Vale of Pickering to the Howardian Hills and the Yorkshire Wolds to the south.

Walk down the lane to St Gregory's Minster, which occupies a beautiful, isolated position in the peaceful, wooded valley of Hodge Beck. The origins of this lovely church date from the 7th century, when King Ethelwald invited St Cedd from Lindisfarne to establish a monastic community and bring Christianity to the area. Both this church and the one at nearby Lastingham claim foundation by St Cedd, although it is at Lastingham where the saint's body was buried and an early monastery grew up. St Gregory's became a centre from which missionary monks went into the neighbouring communities to preach the Celtic gospel and therefore has the distinction of being a minster. The church suffered destruction at the hands of Danish raiders, but was rebuilt during the 11th century prior to the Norman Conquest by Orm, a local landowner, whose name ironically suggests that he was of Viking descent.

It still contains several Saxon features including the west door, some grave-stones and a remarkable inscribed sundial above the south door. Now protected by the porch, the wording is in Old English and commemorates the rebuilding of the church by Orm, son of Gamel in the days of King Edward and Earl Tostig, around the year 1060.

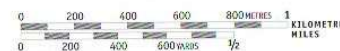
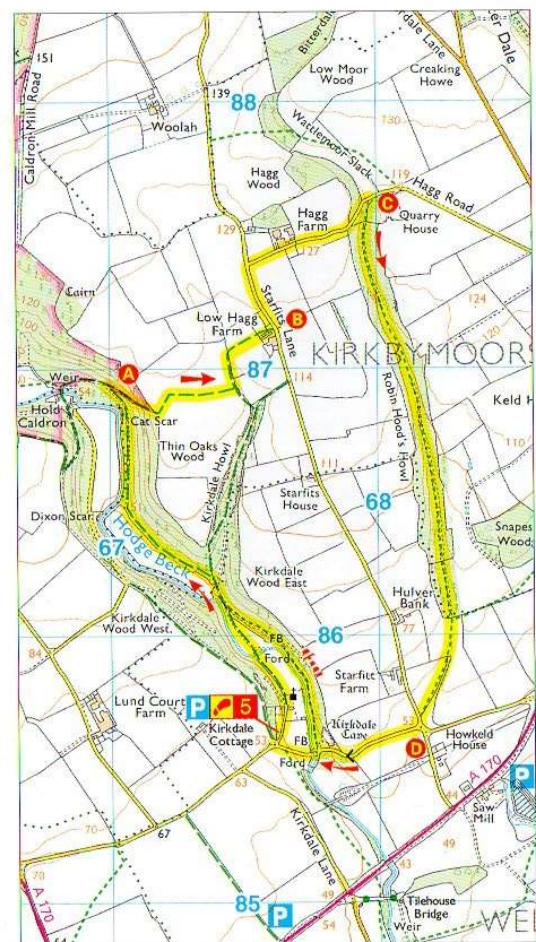
Through a gate at the end of the lane, continue at the edge of a meadow to Hodge Beck. Until the bridge, destroyed by flood, can be replaced, cross at the ford just downstream. (When this is under water, return past the church and go left at the end of the lane to a footbridge beside the ford there. Leave immediately beyond on a path heading upstream through the woods to rejoin the main route at GR 674 861.

However, take care for the path is narrow with a steep drop to the beck.) Carry on to the far corner of the next field, where a track leads into Thin Oaks Wood. Keep ahead past a junction and

where the way subsequently forks, branch left to follow an undulating path in the trees above open grazing. Rejoining the river as a track, the way soon climbs along the flank of Cat Scar, shortly reaching a junction A.

Double back right to climb steeply up the hill, ignoring a branch off halfway up. Where the gradient levels at the top turn left through the trees to a gate and strike ahead across an open field from which there is a fine view across the Vale of Pickering. At the far side, go left along its edge, soon leaving on a track through a gate. After only a few yards, swing off right and walk up a rising field towards Low Hagg Farm. Bear left to bypass its perimeter fence and emerge through a gate onto a lane B.

Go left and then take the first turning on the right, Hagg Road. Beyond Hagg Farm, the lane falls gently into trees where, just beyond the foot of the dip, you will find a stile on the right C. From it a path gradually descends for almost a mile (1.6km) along the base of Robin Hood's Howl. For most of the way, the deepening valley is narrow and thickly wooded, but enough light penetrates the foliage to encourage a profusion of spring flowers. Breaking out at the far end through a kissing-gate into open fields, keep going along a shallow fold. Leave through a gate at the bottom onto a junction of lanes D.



Take the lane opposite, signed to Kirkdale and Helmsley which drops past Kirkdale Cave, an old quarry, on the right. In 1821, workmen discovered a cave here in which they found hundreds of bones and teeth, the remains of bears, elephants, tigers and other animals that roamed the valley some 70,000 years ago. Cross Hodge Beck over a bridge beside the ford and climb back to the junction by St Gregory's Minster.

The Bride Stones

Start Low Staindale car park (along Dalby Forest Drive – toll payable includes access to visitor centre café)

Distance 4½ miles (7.2km)

Height gain 360 feet (110m)

Approximate time 2½ hours

Parking Low Staindale

Ordnance Survey maps Landrangers 94 (Whitby & Esk Dale) and 101 (Scarborough), Explorer OL27 (North York Moors – Eastern area)

GPS waypoints

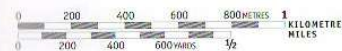
- SE 877 904
- A SE 874 913
- B SE 873 924
- C SE 867 912
- D SE 861 908

The Bride Stones are two groups of rocks, outcropping quite spectacularly on an otherwise largely featureless moor above a small, secluded valley that is a wonderful place for all manner of wildlife. The rocks, weathered into weird and wonderful shapes by wind, rain and frost, are of fine sandstone, whose colour adds another dimension to their intriguing beauty. Beginning from the middle of the Dalby Forest, the walk rises first through natural woodland before crossing the open moor beyond, where forest plantations form a distant backdrop. The return winds through grazing land, claimed from the moor, its open aspect providing a scenic end to this fine ramble.

A path across grass behind the north side of the car park leads past a National Trust marker to a gate and kissing-gate. Ignore them and go right, but then take the left fork just beyond, climbing the oak-clad hillside of Low Wood. At the top, bear right through birch trees onto open moorland, making for the Low Bride Stones. Their name is derived from a Norse word meaning 'brink' or 'edge' stones, and of the two groups, the Low Bride Stones are probably the most impressive. However, the High Bride Stones are equally worth a visit, and lie across the valley, reached by a short detour, a little farther on during the walk. Both are formed from

sandstone outcrops, their fantastic shapes resulting from the differential erosion of rock layers of varying hardness.

Continue beyond the last of the craggy outcrops to a point where the path bends left A. The onward route now leaves the main path, climbing steeply to the right along a narrow track through the heather. However, if you want to detour to the High Bride Stones, carry on across Bridestone Griff, but return here after to resume the walk. At the top of the bank, go left along a well-trodden moorland trail above the head of Bridestone Griff to meet a grass track. Follow that left beside an area of regenerating forest for ½ mile (800m)



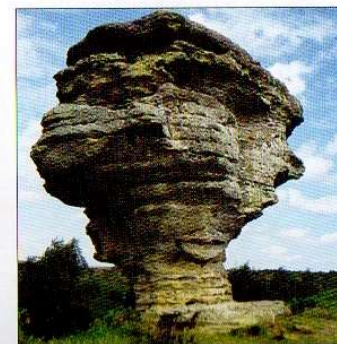
until you reach the edge of the moor B. Turn left immediately before it along an uneven path, keeping a fence on your right. After passing a pond, negotiate a patch of rough, marshy grass and then climb a stile to turn left along a farm track across Grime Moor, where shortly, the Bride Stones come back into view.

Eventually, pass through a gate to a junction approaching High Pastures Farm C. Turn through another gate on the right and walk out to follow a fence on the left. Where the ground then begins to fall, swing through a gap on the left and walk along the top edge of a narrowing enclosure. Towards the far end veer away, dropping to a stile in the bottom far corner. Climb diagonally across the middle of the next field, turning left along its top edge to emerge through a gate onto a lane D.

Follow it left into a dip, but then leave along a waymarked track on the left just

beyond. Keep ahead through a yard at Low Pastures Farm, leaving along a track, signed to the Bridestones, which descends through fields and into woodland. Over a stile, carry on down and then around a bend by a cottage. Go left past its front, rising to walk away along a grassy path, which later drops to cross a stream. Continue by a fence along the bottom edge of Low Wood to a kissing-gate and on back to the car park.

The Pepper Pot



Whitby and Saltwick Bay

Start	Whitby	GPS waypoints
Distance	4½ miles (7.2km)	 NZ 899 110
Height gain	360 feet (110m)	 NZ 901 108
Approximate time	2½ hours	 NZ 910 104
Parking	Whitby	 NZ 914 101
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 94 (Whitby & Esk Dale), Explorer OL27 (North York Moors – Eastern area)	 NZ 928 101
		 NZ 904 112

This is a short walk, but one that includes some spectacular coastal scenery, haunting views of Whitby Abbey and the opportunity to explore a fascinating old town. It ends with a descent of the famous 199 steps that link the harbour with the church and abbey ruins on the cliff above, and described as 'the endless steps to the abbey' in Bram Stoker's Dracula.

Whitby has a long and varied history, beginning in the dark ages when Christianity came to the area. Since then, it has been a centre for fishing, whaling and shipbuilding, and for the production of alum, once vital to the

dyeing and tanning industries. These have all long since gone, but Queen Victoria's passion for jewellery, made from jet found on its beaches, helped make the place the popular tourist resort it remains today. The town will be

forever associated with James Cook, who made his first voyage from its harbour and later used Whitby-built ships on his momentous voyages of discovery around the world.

The splendid ruins of the abbey dominate the town, and are of a medieval Benedictine foundation dating from the 11th century. The remains are mainly of the great abbey church, the best preserved parts being the east end and the striking north transept, which survives largely intact, standing to its full height. The original abbey was a mixed community of monks and nuns, founded in 657 by St Hilda. It hosted the famous Whitby Synod of 664, when the English Church, torn between the different practices of Roman and Celtic Christianity, decided to follow the Roman Church. Unfortunately, its importance and vulnerable position attracted the unwelcome attentions of Viking raiders and it was abandoned during the 9th century. The nearby St Mary's Church, which dates from the 12th century, has been restored several times and has an unusual interior with

rare 18th-century panelling and pews.

 The walk starts by the harbour at the eastern end of the River Esk Bridge. Turn right beside **The Dolphin** into Grape Lane, and then bear right at its end along the main road above the river. Just beyond the 17th-century Merchant Seamen's Hospital **A**, go left up Boulby Bank, a stepped, cobbled path winding between houses to a road at the top. Head right, passing the town's former general hospital to reach a junction at its end. A drive opposite continues as a contained path behind a housing estate, shortly joining a lane. To the right, it leads to a farm, where you should keep ahead through the yard to a kissing-gate at the far end. Carry on at the field edge, finally reaching a lane **B**.

Follow it to the right for ½ mile (0.5km), there turning left onto a track signed to Hornblower Lodge, Haggitt House and several other cottages **C**. There is a fine view of the abbey to the left as you approach Brook House Farm where the track bends right and continues for a further ½ mile (800m) to Ling Hill Farm. Go left there, shortly curving right at the entrance to Hornblower Lodge to carry on to the lighthouse. Just outside its gate, climb a stone stile on the left to join the Cleveland Way **D**.

Follow the undulating clifftop path to Saltwick Bay, where you must deviate onto a waymarked drive through a holiday caravan and campsite before regaining the coast beyond. Keep going high above a rocky shore until, approaching the coastguard station, you are forced inland. Cross a field beside Abbey Farm to a lane **E** and go right, passing the abbey ruins and St Mary's Church to reach the top of the 199 steps. Head down to the harbour, turning left at the bottom through the old town's narrow streets back to the starting point.



SCALE 1:25,000 or 2½ INCHES TO 1 MILE 4CM TO 1KM

Egton Bridge and the River Esk

Start	Egton Bridge
Distance	4 miles (6.4km)
Height gain	590 feet (180m)
Approximate time	2½ hours
Parking	By station in Egton Bridge
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 94 (Whitby & Esk Dale), Explorer OL27 (North York Moors – Eastern area)

GPS waypoints

-  NZ 804 053
-  A NZ 796 048
-  B NZ 793 046
-  C NZ 783 054
-  D NZ 786 055
-  E NZ 795 053

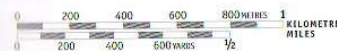
The River Esk is the only major river of the North York Moors and also the only significant watercourse that empties directly into the North Sea. All the others drain in a southerly direction before eventually joining forces with the Humber. This walk explores a particularly beautiful stretch of the Esk valley between Egton Bridge and Glaisdale, its gentle and well-wooded scenery forming a striking contrast with much of the surrounding high, open moorland. Although a modest walk, there are three separate climbs, the last one being quite steep but not unduly long.

 Take the road away from the Postgate Inn and railway bridge, past Broom House Lane and on over the River Esk. At a junction a little farther on, keep ahead along the lane signposted to Rosedale, later crossing a footbridge beside a ford to continue by a stream on the left. Where the lane bends right at the foot of the hill  A, turn off left over the stream onto a bridleway, signed to Grange Head Farm.

Follow it up as it curves below a wood, ignoring a couple of stiles on the right before reaching one that is waymarked, towards the top. Over that, head downhill by the right-hand boundary, crossing a beck at the bottom. Keep ahead at the edge of rough pasture to a gate in the corner and then bear left, descending in the

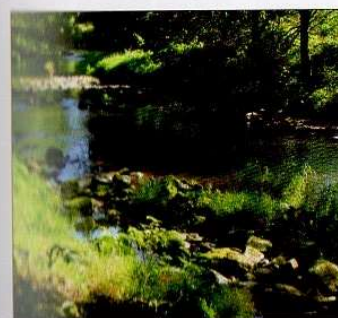
next field to cross a footbridge. Climb away beside the hedge to a wall stile, carrying on beyond it up to a gate. Through that, cross a track to a stile opposite, from which a vague path is signed to Delves Farm. After climbing between trees to another stile, the way continues upwards, swinging right after 50 yds through a clump of bushes to emerge at a gate onto a lane.

Go steeply downhill, bending first right and then left before leaving along a bridleway on the left into Arnecliff Woods, signed as the Coast to Coast to Glaisdale  B. Once part of a packhorse trail, the winding track, initially high above the Esk, gently undulates through the trees. After later passing an overgrown quarry, it continues as a paved causeway, now descending more steeply



to the river, where it resumes its undulating way along a very pretty section of the valley. When you eventually reach a stepped path on the right, turn down to a footbridge at the bottom, crossing a side stream beside a ford onto a lane  C. Follow it ahead beneath a railway bridge to the River Esk, where the graceful 17th-century high-arched span of Beggar's Bridge stands downstream of its modern utilitarian counterpart. The story goes that Tom Ferris built it, to fulfil a promise he made after he nearly drowned whilst fording the swollen river to meet his lover. Born to a poor family, he made

Beside the River Esk



his fortune fighting against the Spanish and returned to claim his bride, later becoming the mayor of Hull.

Immediately over the old bridge, take the path in front, which makes an almost direct assault on the steep wooded hillside. Mounting a stile at the top, keep ahead across a field to regain the road and follow it on to the top of Limber Hill. At a sharp left-hand bend  D, go through a waymarked gate on the right. Approaching a second gate, bear left, passing through more gates and past a barn to enter a field. Walk on by the right-hand hedge to meet a gravel track, which to the right, leads across the field. Ignore the gate in front at the far side, instead climb a stile to its left and continue beside a hedge, enjoying lovely views into the Esk valley. Over another stile in the corner, follow a winding path through a small pine and larch plantation, shortly dropping steeply to emerge from the trees at the bottom. Descend along an open field, bearing left towards the bottom to cross a stream running beneath trees. Climbing away, bear right, very soon losing height again at the field edge beside a wood.

Joining a lane through a gate  E, follow it downhill back to Egton Bridge, ¾ mile (1.2km) away. Turn left at the end to return to the car park. ●

Ampleforth

Start	Ampleforth	GPS waypoints
Distance	4 miles (6.4km)	SE 581 787
Height gain	575 feet (175m)	SE 583 799
Approximate time	2½ hours	SE 573 808
Parking	Village street in Ampleforth	SE 568 798
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 100 (Malton & Pickering), Explorer OL26 (North York Moors – Western area)	SE 576 787

From the pleasant old village of Ampleforth, nestling on the southern edge of the moors, there is a steady climb across breezy open countryside to an impressive prehistoric earthwork on the hill above. A stroll along a quiet lane leads to a descent through the forest plantations of College Moor, returning to Ampleforth with glorious views across the Vale of York and the Howardian Hills to the south.

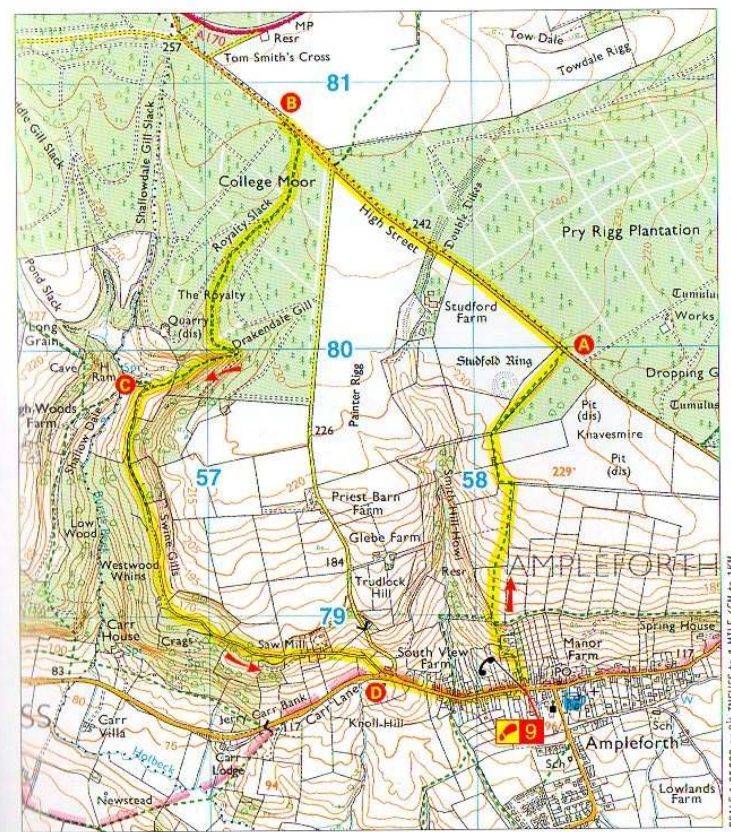
Ampleforth is particularly noted for its abbey and college, which lie about ½ mile (800m) to the east. Benedictine monks fleeing from the violence of the French Revolution founded them towards the end of the 18th century. The village itself is most attractive, with a fine church and a main street lined with inns and stone cottages.

Leave the main street opposite a telephone box between the **White Horse Inn** and post office, along a drive dividing the terrace of cottages. Follow it up through entrance gates, but where it then twists sharply right to a house, pass left through a gate onto a second drive. Turn right to a junction and go over a stile ahead, climbing a gorse-

covered bank. Reaching a track at the top, follow it left, passing through gates to carry on at the edge of a paddock. Entering the next field, bear right to the far corner and keep going by a fence and broken wall on your right.

Encountering a track at the top, walk left and then right before continuing ahead by the perimeter of a long field. Over to the left, bristling

Wooded Swine Gills



0 200 400 600 800 METRES 1 KILOMETRE
0 200 400 600 YARDS ½ 1 MILES

with bushes is the impressive earthwork of Studfold Ring, a banked enclosure dating from the Bronze Age. Roughly square in shape, its high outer rampart backed by a ditch encircles a level paddock that was used to contain stock. Carry on to the far end of the field, then crossing a stile onto a lane, High Street **A**. Follow it left for just over ¾ mile (1.2km), passing the entrance to Studfold Farm and then a lane that leads back to Ampleforth. Leave about 200 yds farther on, dropping left at a footpath marker onto a forest track below **B**.

It leads downhill into the plantations of College Moor. Where the track splits, take the left branch, which contours the hillside above a deepening valley. Abandon the track lower down at a sharp right-hand bend, doubling back right on an unmarked narrow path that falls steeply into the trees. Over a stile at the bottom, go briefly left and then right, following a fence line to a gate at the bottom out onto a metalled track **C**.

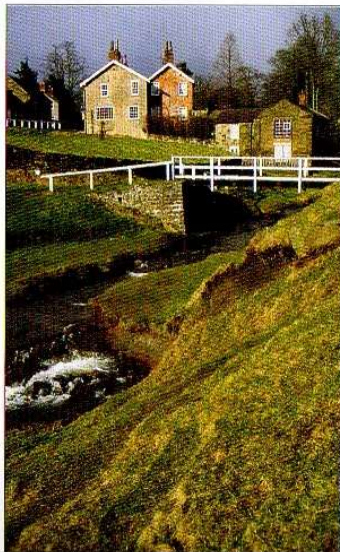
To the left, it undulates gently for a mile (1.6km) along the valley side, where there are fine views through breaks in the trees across the Vale of York and to the Howardian Hills. Reaching the main lane at the bottom **D**, follow it left back into Ampleforth.

Hutton-le-Hole and Lasingham

Start	Hutton-le-Hole	GPS waypoints
Distance	6 miles (9.7km)	SE 705 902
Height gain	590 feet (180m)	SE 713 903
Approximate time	3 hours	SE 721 903
Parking	Hutton-le-Hole	SE 729 908
Ordnance Survey maps	Landrangers 94 (Whitby & Esk Dale) and 100 (Malton & Pickering), Explorer OL26 (North York Moors – Western area)	SE 728 899
		SE 723 898
		SE 723 885
		SE 717 883

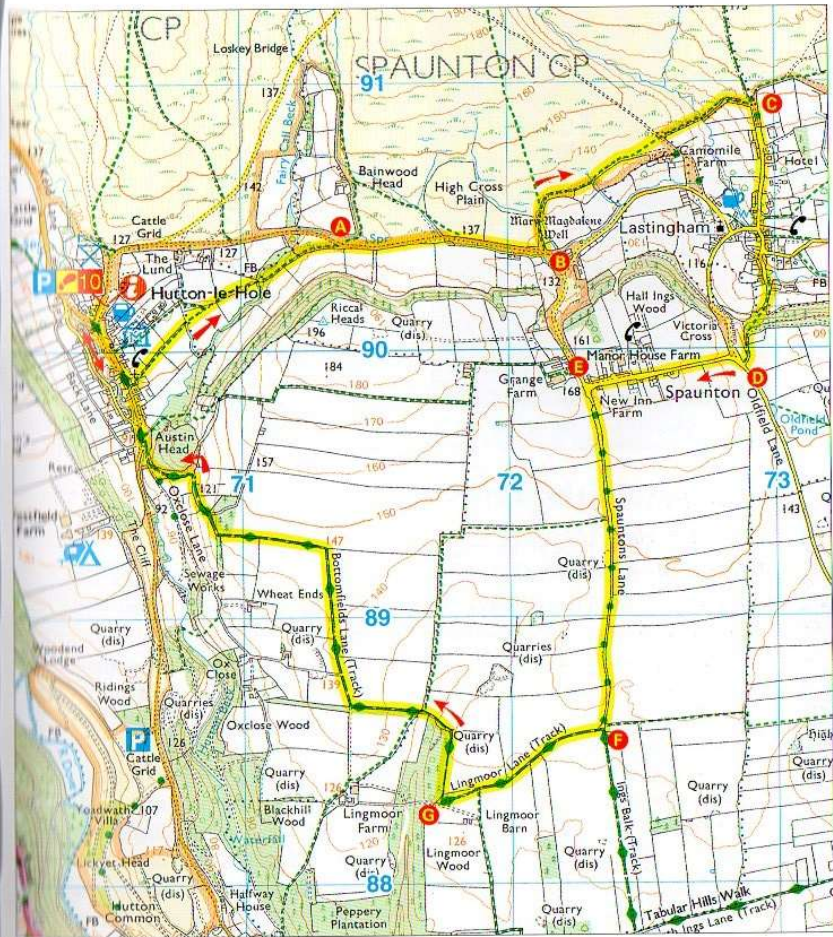
Two picturesque villages and a church with a unique crypt are some of the interesting features on this relatively easy walk. Much of it lies along field paths and tracks on the southern edge of the moors amid the Tabular Hills. Yet, it is also a walk of great scenic variety, with the bleak and open moorland to the north contrasting with the flatter and lush landscape of the Vale of Pickering to the south.

Hutton-le-Hole



With old stone houses and cottages scattered around a long, wide green that slopes to a brook and is grazed by sheep, Hutton-le-Hole is deservedly regarded as one of the most attractive villages in North Yorkshire. It is also one of the most popular, people coming, not just because of its beauty and fine location, but also to visit the imaginative Ryedale Folk Museum. Here, traditional buildings, brought from the surrounding area, have been rebuilt and restored to their original condition and now house various exhibits illustrating different aspects of local life and crafts.

From the car park at the top end of the village, walk down the main street. Past the tiny modern church and opposite the village hall, turn left onto a waymarked path between cottages. Behind, go left to a gate and then right beside a bowling green, to continue



over stiles at the edge of fields, following a fence on the left. Keep ahead across the third field to its corner, rejoining the boundary in the field beyond and finally leaving by a kissing-gate in the corner. Over a footbridge, pass through a small larch wood and on along an open green path, looking ahead to Spaunton Moor. Reaching a lane at the end , its wide verges cropped short by grazing sheep, follow it to the right for

$\frac{1}{2}$ mile (800m). Just before a bridge, leave along a waymarked track on the left . Over a stile, the grassy way curves right beside a fence, bordering the edge of bare moorland towards Camomile Farm. Approaching the farm, bear left at a fork, passing a waymark as you walk towards the walled corner of a wood. Carry on beside it, descending to cross a stream, then climb straight ahead up the hill on the other side to meet a junction by a wooden seat . Turn right down an intake track and leave the moor through



Enjoying a drink outside The Blacksmith's Arms

a gate, beyond which a lane drops into Lastingham.

The main claim to fame of this small and peaceful village is its fascinating church, built on the site of an early Saxon monastery that was founded in the 7th century by St Cedd. Subsequently, the monastery suffered from Danish raids, but after the Norman Conquest, Abbot Stephen of Whitby began its reconstruction. The work was never completed, however, and the grand plans were abandoned in the 13th century, with the monastery being converted into the modest parish church, which occupies the east end of the abbey. Fortunately, much of Abbot Stephen's work remains, notably the superb apse at the east end, which is rare in English churches, and the unique aisled crypt, virtually unchanged since the 11th century and a magnificent example of Norman architecture.

At a junction towards the bottom of the hill, you can add a short detour to visit the church and the **Blacksmith's Arms** by turning right. Otherwise keep ahead a little farther, signed 'Cropton, Pickering and Rosedale', to a bend, there bearing right over a bridge and continue along a lane in front of a row

of cottages. Where it degrades to a rough track at the end, bear right again along a waymarked grassy uphill path. Through a gate, keep climbing quite steeply amongst the trees beyond, where there is an occasional glimpse over Lastingham and its church to the moors behind. Leave through a gate at the top and carry on to emerge at a junction of lanes **D**. Cross to the lane diagonally opposite, which climbs into Spaunton, and follow it to a bend at the far end of the hamlet **E**.

Swing left, following a farm track for $\frac{3}{4}$ mile (1.2km) to a junction **F**, there turning right. Eventually, after a gate, the way leads past a line of trees. Just beyond where they finish **G**, go through a gate on the right into a wood, where a path to the right initially follows the edge of the trees before curving downhill. Emerging at the bottom, keep ahead on a gently ascending hedged track, to a T-junction and turn right. After nearly $\frac{1}{3}$ mile (0.5km), the track bends sharply left and later winds right, then descending as a wooded sunken way. Carry on through a gate, finally reaching a narrow lane. There, turn right and then go right again to climb back through the village to the car park passing **The Crown**.

In the woods above Hutton-le-Hole



Byland Abbey and Cockerdale

Start	Byland Abbey	GPS waypoints
Distance	6 miles (9.7km)	SE 548 789
Height gain	655 feet (200m)	SE 550 790
Approximate time	3 hours	SE 552 794
Parking	Roadside parking just to the south of Byland Abbey or alternatively in nearby Wass	SE 538 815
Ordinance Survey maps	Landranger 100 (Malton & Pickering), Explorer OL26 (North York Moors – Western area)	SE 530 804
		SE 534 798

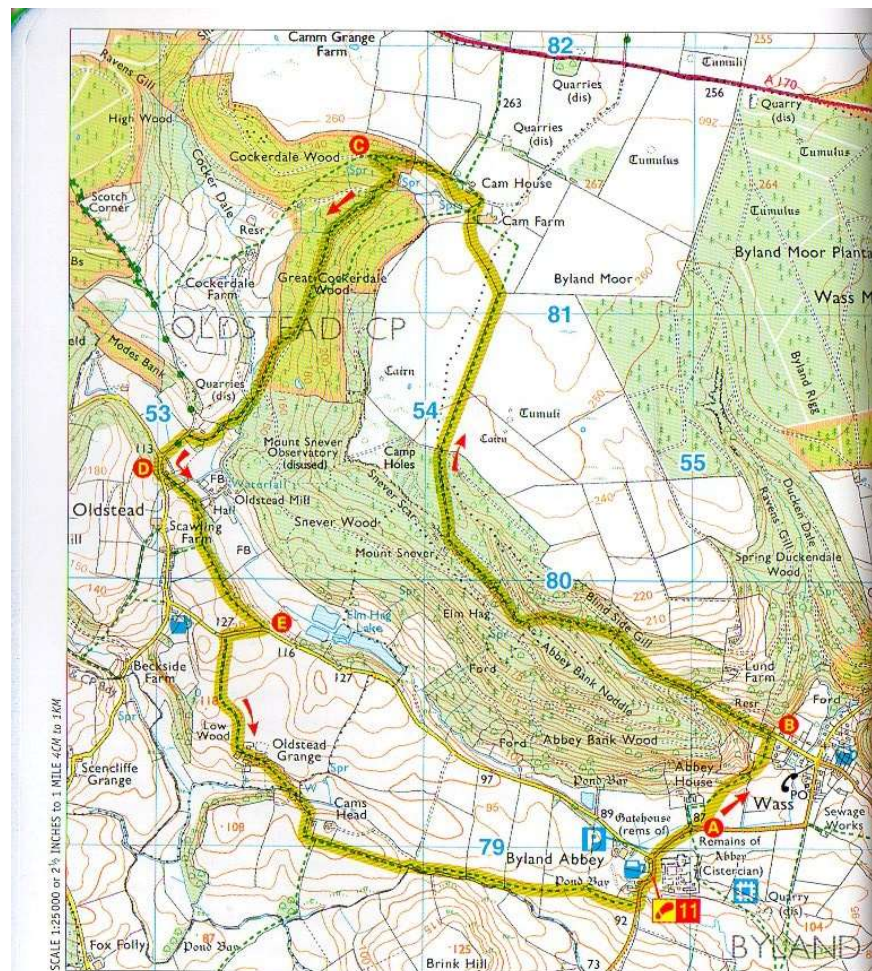
Byland Abbey lies in a sheltered position amid attractive and well-wooded country on the southern fringes of the moors. This varied and undemanding walk begins across the fields towards the hamlet of Wass, then climbs steadily through conifer plantations and forest to the open expanses of Byland Moor behind. From there, it descends through more woodland to Oldstead before returning across open fields, where there is a fine view of the splendid west front of the abbey towards the end of the walk.

Although lacking the completeness of those at Rievaulx, the ruins of Byland Abbey are nevertheless equally interesting. The largest Cistercian monastery in England, its great church was 330ft (100m) long and by the 13th century had grown to a community of 36 monks with more than 100 lay brethren to help on the farms. Founded by a small band of monks, originally from Furness Abbey in Lancashire, the group settled here in 1177, having moved from an earlier site at Old Byland because it was too close to Rievaulx; each monastery could hear the other's bells calling the monks to prayer. The most spectacular part of the abbey church still standing is the ornate 13th-century west front and, in two chapels occupying the south transept,

you can see the beautiful glazed green and yellow geometrically patterned tiles that once covered most of the floor.

Start by the west front of the abbey, opposite the **Abbey Inn**, and walk along the road towards Wass. After 200 yds turn left along a drive towards Abbey House, but then leave over a stile on the right, just a short way along. Cross a small paddock to a second stile and then bear slightly left across the meadow beyond, climbing to a kissing-gate in its far corner below a wooded bank. Carry on below the wood to another gate and keep ahead over a final field to emerge on a narrow lane above Wass .

Follow it left uphill into Abbey Bank Wood, where it degrades to a gravel track. Higher up at a fork in the track,



go through a kissing-gate directly ahead between the two branches, from which a sign directs you on beside the left-hand edge of rough grazing towards Cam Farm. Partway along, at the crest of the rise, bear off to the right and continue climbing through sparse trees to emerge over a stile at the top onto the sharp bend of another track. Follow it left, initially dropping and then rising to a junction. There, keep going along the trail ahead, the route

continuing upwards, and shortly joined by a track from the left. Eventually, the way finally ends at a junction at the head of another forest trackway. To the right, a grassy path leads to a stile at the edge of the trees.

Now in open fields, walk on beside the left-hand fence, passing through successive gates to reach the crest of the hill ahead. Over a stile there, bear left, still following a fence but now descending to a gate near the bottom corner by Cam Farm. Through that, walk past the end of a barn and down to another gate at the far side. Keep going

by a wall and beneath the trees beyond to yet another gate, from which a grassy track falls into Cockerdale Wood. Carry on down to a junction **C**, turning sharp left to continue winding downhill on the main track through the trees for almost $\frac{3}{4}$ mile (1.2km). Eventually, tarmac replaces gravel underfoot and the way leaves the wood. Keep going around a left-hand bend to a junction with a lane at its end **D**.

Go left past a house, but then turn off left beside a lodge along a tree-lined avenue towards Oldstead Hall. Where the line of trees ends beside a waymark, zigzag up the steep bank on the right to a stile and over it, turn left. Follow the field edge away above the house and up beside a wood beyond. Through gates keep ahead along the perimeter on an intermittently contained path that finally ends at a lane **E**. Follow it right for 150 yds to a bend, there leaving along a waymarked farm road to Oldstead Grange. Approaching the farmhouse, turn off left onto a track towards the barns, winding right and then left to pass between them before

reaching the top corner of a rough, sloping field. Head diagonally down across it to leave over a stile by a gate at the far bottom corner, just through which, on the left, you will find a narrow path that climbs between trees to emerge at the edge of a field.

Now following signs to Byland Abbey, go left and then left again around the corner to reach a stile. Carry on gently downhill along the boundary of the next field, passing left and then right through a gap at the bottom to continue walking in the same direction, but now with the hedge on your right. Over a stile at the next corner, Byland Abbey comes tantalisingly into view above the trees, the crescent ruin of its magnificent west rose window looking like some gigantic new moon hanging above the horizon. Keep going along the edge of the field, but in the one beyond, bear slightly left, crossing to a stile by a solitary ash tree. Climb it and walk ahead, aiming to join the boundary on the left about halfway along. Follow it to the corner of the field and leave onto a lane, the abbey then lying only a short distance to the left.

The west front of Byland Abbey



Bransdale and Rudland Rigg

Start	Cockayne
Distance	6 miles (9.7km)
Height gain	690 feet (210m)
Approximate time	3 hours
Parking	On road from Byland, below Cockayne church
Ordnance Survey maps	Landrangers 94 (Whitby & Esk Dale) and 100 (Malton & Pickering), Explorer OL26 (North York Moors – Western area)

GPS waypoints

- SE 620 983
- A SE 625 982
- B SE 634 986
- C SE 640 974
- D SE 634 975
- E SE 633 960
- F SE 625 969

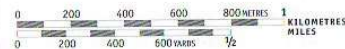
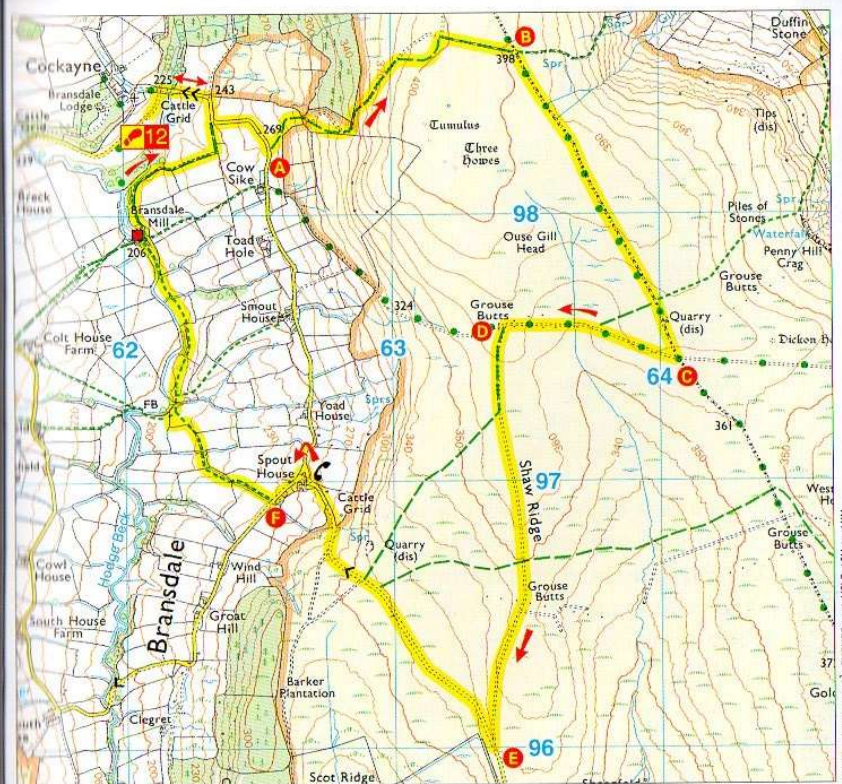
Solitude and wild beauty are the main features of this walk in an area that could scarcely be more remote, linked to the 'outside world' by just one narrow lane. From the head of Bransdale, you climb to an old coach road that follows the moorland ridge to the east, where there are glorious and expansive views in all directions. The return takes you back into the heart of the dale and beside its winding brook past an old mill.

St Nicholas's Church and the scattering of houses at the top end of Bransdale make up the isolated hamlet of Cockayne. The tiny, plain church blends perfectly with its surroundings and, sheltered by high, wooded ridges that rise steeply on three sides, has a wonderful outlook from the foot of Bransdale Moor along the dale, which nestles between Rudland Rigg to the east and Bilsdale Moor to the west.

■ Start along the narrow, winding lane, which dips across a stream before climbing along the valley towards Kirbymoorside. After nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ mile (800m), leave over a waymarked stile on the left A and follow a sunken path uphill to a gate in the wall above. Continue climbing, at first parallel to a wall on the right, but then turning left a little higher up to meet the corner of a

plantation, where a pause is justified to enjoy the superb view across Bransdale. Briefly keep ahead by the trees then bear right to resume your climb onto the heather moor. Later levelling, the path curves gently right and shortly meets a broad, sandy track B, which once served as a high-level coach road between Stokesley and Kirbymoorside.

Follow it to the right across a wild, heather moorland ridge that separates Bransdale from Farndale on the left. Keep going for a little over $\frac{3}{4}$ mile (1.2km) to a junction C, and turn sharp right. After dipping to cross a stream, the way continues onto Shaw Ridge ahead. Approaching the top of the rise D, bear left onto a barriered track that keeps to the shallow crest of the gently descending ridge, ultimately ending after a mile (1.6km) at a lane E.



Turn sharp right, walking downhill for $\frac{3}{4}$ mile (1.2km), a superb view opening to the head of the dale, where Bransdale Lodge and Cockayne church later become visible. At a junction, go left by Spout House and wind down past the farm buildings. Just after the barns cross a stile by the first of two adjacent gates F on the right and continue down at the field edge. Through a gate at the bottom, keep on, now with the wall on your right at the edge of the next two fields. Then, over a stream and through a gate, bear slightly left, crossing to yet another gate. Beyond that, follow the left-hand wall around the dog-legged perimeter, dropping at the far end into a wooded

gully to cross a stream. Through a small gate opposite, the onward route now lies to the left, undulating across successive meadows above Hodge Beck and ultimately ending as a wooded path to Bransdale Mill.

There has been a mill here since the Middle Ages, but the present buildings date only from the 19th century, when the mill was expanded by William Strickland. It is now owned by the National Trust, who have restored it together with its outlying buildings.

At a four-way sign there, walk ahead on a bridleway that rises past the buildings to continue upstream. Keep with the gated track when it later turns away from the water, curving around the field edge to end finally at a lane. Cockayne then lies just a short distance to the left.

Hole of Horcum

Start	Hole of Horcum	GPS waypoints
Distance	7 miles (11.3km)	SE 852 936
Height gain	640 feet (195m)	A SE 849 940
Approximate time	3½ hours	B SE 828 918
Parking	Car park on A169 above Hole of Horcum, ½ mile (800m) south of Saltergate Inn	C SE 833 903
Ordnance Survey maps	Landrangers 94 (Whitby & Esk Dale) and 100 (Malton & Pickering), Explorer OL27 (North York Moors – Eastern area)	D SE 838 917
		E SE 848 938

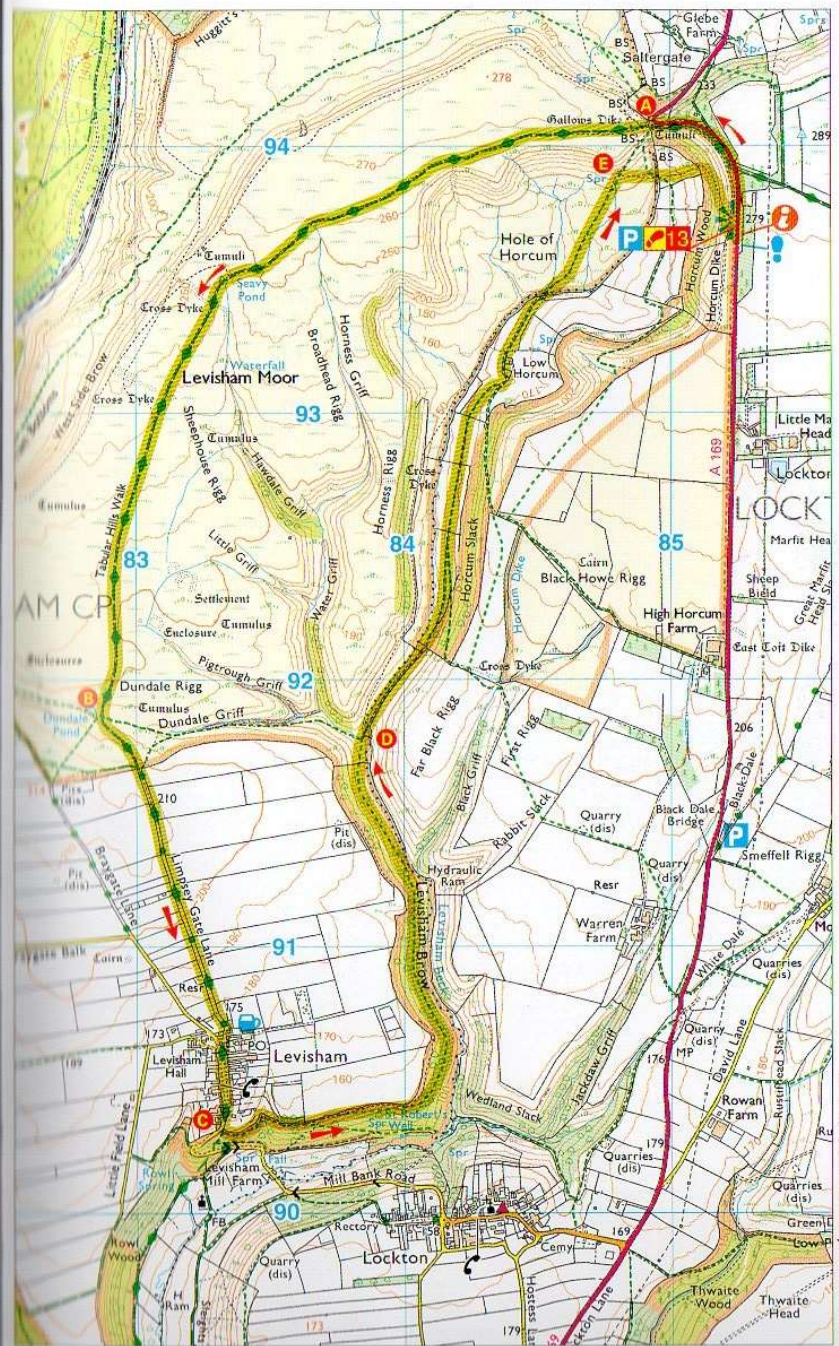
The walk begins from a fine vantage point above the great natural amphitheatre of the Hole of Horcum and follows moorland tracks around its rim to the village of Levisham. From there it descends through woodland and returns along the valley of Levisham Beck. The views are spectacular all the way, and the only significant climb comes right at the end in order to get back to the top edge of the 'Hole'.

From the car park there is an outstanding view over the Hole of Horcum, the first of many during the walk. Although ancient local folk tales attribute its creation to a giant, one story describing how he scooped out the 'Hole' to make his home in it, the dramatic, steep and smooth-sided ravine was formed as a result of erosion by escaping debris-laden torrents of meltwater from a great ice-blocked lake that filled Esk Dale towards the end of the Ice Age.

☑ Cross the main road to a path contouring the rim of the 'Hole' and walk right, meeting the road again above a hairpin bend A. Keep ahead to a stile beside a gate and continue along a broad track across the moor. To the right there are fine views over Lockton High Moor to Fylingdales whilst on the other hand there is a panorama across the deep depression of the Hole of Horcum. Gently swinging left, the way later moves back

from the rim of the 'Hole' and eventually passes Seavy Pond, an unusual feature on the top of this well-drained landscape. Just beyond is Cross Dyke, a low but still discernible earthwork, thought to be an Iron Age territorial boundary. Carry on for almost another mile (1.6km), dropping to a second pool, Dundale Pond. The small valley below, Dundale Griff, was gifted to the monks of Malton Priory in the early 13th century, and it is thought that the monks dammed the stream to create a watering hole for the sheep and cattle that they grazed here.

Cross the outflow to a five-way junction B and take the second left path, rising in the Levisham direction. Through a gate at the top, continue along a wide drove between the fields, Limpsey Gate Lane. Later metalled, it



gently descends into Levisham, meeting the head of the main street beside **The Horseshoe Inn**. Carry on between the wide verges that apron pretty stone cottages to the bottom of the village, where the lane swings right to begin a steep descent of the hill **C**.

There, by a footpath sign above a bench, turn off sharp left, crossing the head of a spring to continue along an undulating wooded path above the lip of the valley. Shortly breaking into more open ground, there are spectacular views along the dale. When you reach a fork, stick with the higher route, signed to Horcum, the path later curving with the hillside into the valley harbouring Levisham Beck. Gently heaving and falling along the steep slope, the way passes through more woodland before eventually dropping through a gate to a junction at the foot of Dundale Griff **D**.

Following a sign to the Hole of Horcum, cross Dundale Beck and then a footbridge spanning Levisham Beck a

few yards farther on. The path swings to follow the beck upstream, gradually gaining height above the flow. Through gates keep going up the valley, eventually passing into open sloping meadows. The way continues ahead, later leading to the abandoned farmstead of Low Horcum. Pass the buildings to the left, joining a fence that soon drops past a gate and stile to another gate and stile at the base of the valley. The path in front gently rises across bracken and heather to the head of the Hole of Horcum **A**. But for a more challenging finish, just after the path steepens **E**, turn off right, losing height to a stile in a fence. Ignore a crossing footpath and climb to a second stile above, from which a path bends around to rise across the face of the scarp through Horcum Wood, reaching the main road opposite the car park. **F**

Approaching the great natural amphitheatre of the 'Hole of Horcum'



Rosedale Abbey and the Ironstone railway

Start	Rosedale Abbey	GPS waypoints
Distance	6 miles (9.7km)	A SE 724 959
Height gain	855 feet (260m)	B SE 710 967
Approximate time	3½ hours	C SE 708 975
Parking	Rosedale Abbey	D SE 692 971
Ordnance Survey maps	Landrangers 94 (Whitby & Esk Dale) and 100 (Malton & Pickering), Explorer OL26 (North York Moors – Western area)	

Walking through Rosedale today, it is difficult to imagine that this lovely, peaceful valley surrounded by empty moorland was once a busy iron-mining area that helped fuel the industries of Teesside. The extraction of the iron ore was begun in the Middle Ages by the nuns of the priory at Rosedale, the industry reaching its climax in the 19th century, when the population of the dale soared to nearly 3,000. Such a dramatic expansion was only made possible by the construction of a railway, which carried the ore across the bleak moors to Bloworth Crossing. Beyond there, it was lowered down the Greenhow Bank incline onto the plain below to continue its journey to the furnaces of Middlesbrough. Vestiges of this industry still remain; old mine workings, ruinous pithead buildings, ironworkers' cottages and, above all, the route of the ironstone railway itself, which forms nearly half of this walk. It is an outstandingly attractive ramble, full of visual and historic interest. The gentle rural scenery of the dale dramatically offsets the rugged terrain of the encircling moors, where the trackbed of the old railway takes you past isolated moorland ruins and the spoil heaps of former mine workings, poignant reminders of the area's once intensively industrial past.

(Please note that the part of the Rosedale Ironstone Railway used on this walk is not a public right of way, but the owners permit walkers to use it provided that the Country Code is adhered to and all dogs are kept on leads.)

Since the closure of the iron mines

and railway, the village of Rosedale Abbey has lapsed again into a sparsely populated backwater, whose principal 'industry' is tourism, the village serving as a popular centre for walking. Of the 12th-century abbey, which, strictly speaking was in fact a priory run by

Cistercian nuns, virtually nothing remains except for a small turret near the western end of the village church.

Start by walking away from the crossroads in the centre of the village, with the green on your left. Turn right immediately beyond the school, skirting around it to then pass a small green just west of the church. Tucked away at the side is the meagre ruin that is the only surviving fragment of the priory buildings. Just past there, immediately after a cottage on the left, the Old Police House, climb a wall stile beside it and walk behind to reach a tarmac drive. Follow that to the right through a caravan site, leaving after about 300 yds through a gate to the right, which takes the right of way into the corner of a field. Carry on beside the left-hand hedge, keeping the same direction beyond its eventual end. Through a gate continue along the wooded banks of the River Seven.

Ignoring a footbridge, keep ahead to a junction immediately beyond, there bearing left to remain by the river. After negotiating another gate, walk ahead across successive fields, ultimately exiting through a gate onto a rough track. Follow it down left to cross a side stream and continue beside a fence to a stile. Cross and carry on through a gate beside the river once more, walking upstream as far as a footbridge **A**. Again do not cross, instead turn right along a paved way to a stile and ditch bridge in the top hedge. Continue climbing up the centre of the next two fields to a kissing-gate at the top.

Through that, a track takes the way on at the field edge, finally emerging past a house onto a lane at Hill Cottages **B**.

Follow it left past the Ebenezer Methodist Church and Field Centre, but after a cottage just beyond, turn left down a drive to Craven Garth Cottages. Keep going through the farmyard to a

gate and continue downhill at the perimeter of the fields beyond. Past the bottom of the second field, drop left down a banking to find a footbridge over a stream, the River Seven. On the far bank, climb left beside a fence, crossing stiles either side of a farm track to carry on up the hillside ahead. Passing through the left-hand of two gates at the upper corner, keep ahead up the next field to find a tall ladder stile in the top-right corner. Over that, walk ahead for 50 yds to a waymarker post above a farm and there swing left up a rising trod. Keep going over a small, grassy

plateau, gently falling across a culverted stream before climbing once more. Approaching the steepness of the escarpment, the trod swings briefly right before curving left for a final steep climb across the face of the hill to meet the course of the former ironstone railway **C**.

The way lies to the left, a superb, high-level walk of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles (4.4km) that passes some of the abandoned mine workings and offers an outstanding panorama across the Rosedale valley. There is a particularly impressive view where the track curves left above a steep, wooded bank high above the village and, on a clear day, you



can see the curious pyramid-shaped buildings of the Fylingdale early warning station on the distant horizon.

Not far beyond there, after passing through a barrier, the way divides at a fork **D**. Bear left below the main track, but 100 yards along, where the trail then bends right towards a house, turn off left again and follow a vague grass track straight down the hillside. Approaching a fence at the bottom, go left once more, dropping beside it to a stile. Keep going downhill by a wire fence and broken wall, the path becoming steeper as it approaches a ladder stile. Carry on to a second ladder stile lower down on the right, which



leads onto a golf course. Now, follow waymarks ahead and then left around the small clubhouse, continuing past it to leave by a stile below some trees. Cross a lane to another stile opposite and follow the descending field edge towards the village. Just before the bottom corner, cross a stile behind a cottage and drop beside it to emerge through its front gate onto the corner of a lane. Walk ahead to a junction, diagonally opposite **The Coach House Inn**, and then go left back into Rosedale Abbey.

SCALE 1:26316 or about 2 1/2 INCHES TO 1 MILE 3.8CM TO 1KM

Ainthorpe Rigg and Little Fryup Dale

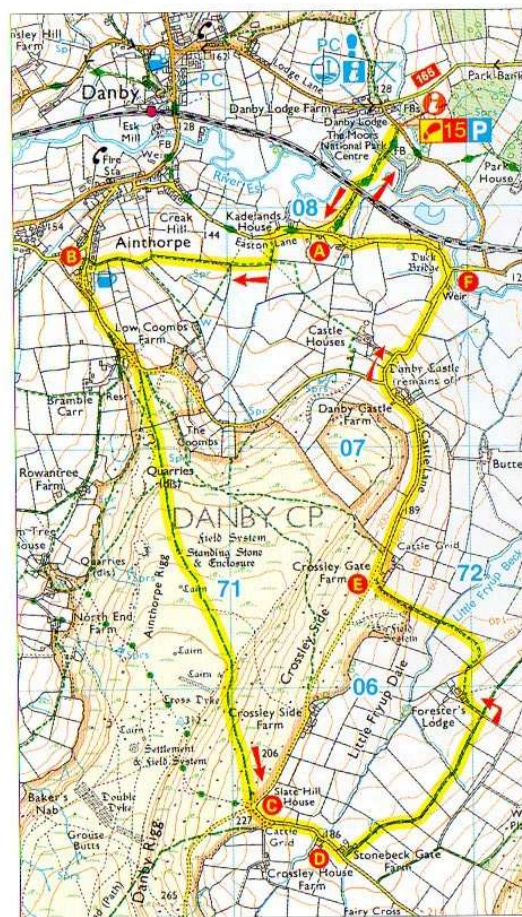
Start	National Park Information Centre at Danby Lodge	GPS waypoints
Distance	5½ miles (8.9km)	A NZ 717 083
Height gain	820 feet (250m)	B NZ 714 078
Approximate time	3 hours	C NZ 704 077
Parking	Car park, Danby Lodge	D NZ 710 055
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 94 (Whitby & Esk Dale), Explorer OL27 (North York Moors – Eastern area)	E NZ 714 053
		F NZ 716 064
		G NZ 719 077

Lush green pastures by the River Esk followed by a steady climb across heathery moorland to Ainthorpe Rigg and a descent into the beautiful, thinly populated Little Fryup Dale, make this a particularly attractive and absorbing walk. Outstanding views, castle ruins and a picturesque packhorse bridge are some of the highlights encountered along the way, while the displays in the National Park Information Centre at Danby Lodge tell something of the evolution of the surrounding landscape.

The walk begins opposite the car park, through a gate to the left of the entrance of Danby Lodge. Head away at the field edge to a bridge spanning the River Esk and carry on beside a fence and replanted hedge to reach a railway line. Carefully cross and continue beside the field beyond, making for a gate in the far left corner **A**.

Follow Easton Lane to the right, soon dipping past Kadellands Farm. Leave just beyond over a stile on the left and follow a path away at the edge of the field. Remain in the field swinging right at the top and making for a stile partway along the boundary. Over that keep ahead by a wall, passing out through a gate and walking up to the end of a walled track. Winding on between the fields, it finishes in Ainthorpe **B**.

Follow the lane up the hill past the **Fox and Hounds Inn** and then the entrance to Rowantrees Farm and Danby Tennis Club. Just beyond as the lane bends left, bear off ahead onto a path marked as a bridleway (not the public footpath waymarked a few paces farther on). Climbing through gorse it leads to a gate from which a clear track continues straight ahead onto the open heather and bilberry moor, a striking contrast to the lush meadows beside the river. Yet the moors were not always as bleak as they are today, a standing stone and small enclosure, passed a little farther on, being relics of prehistoric farming and settlement. Maintain your direction, gradually gaining height until, quite suddenly, the ground drops away before you revealing a spectacular



0 200 400 600 800 METRES
0 200 400 600 YARDS 1/2
KILOMETRES
MILES

view across Little Fryup Dale. The distinctive Round Hill is aptly named and overlooks a passage into the neighbouring Great Fryup Dale. The ongoing path falls steeply down the slope to the right, meeting a junction of lanes at the bottom **C**.

Take the one opposite, signed to Fryup and Leaholm, following it for ¼ mile (400m) up to Stonebeck Gate Farm **D**. Turn in through a gate, past barns and the front of the farmhouse, carrying on

beyond along a walled stone track, which eventually swings downhill to another farm, Forester's Lodge. Go right through a gate in front of the buildings and bear left, dropping to a gate from which a short grass track leads to the next field. Walk ahead and then swing left around the corner, following a wall down to a gate and stream at the bottom. A wide drove climbs to a gate, continuing as a rough grass path up to the lane above **E**.

To the right the lane contours the valley side, eventually curving above the impressive ruins

of Danby Castle. Now more a domestic building than a fortress, this 14th-century structure was once the administrative centre of the region. Bear right where the lane forks just beyond, dropping to another junction beside Duck Bridge **F**, one of several packhorse bridges spanning the River Esk. However, remain on this bank of the river and continue along the lane for another ½ mile (0.5km) to the point at which you first joined it. Retrace your steps, re-crossing the railway and river to return to the start point by Danby Lodge.

Newton Dale and Levisham

Start	Newton-on-Rawcliffe	GPS waypoints
Distance	5½ miles (8.9km)	SE 812 905
Height gain	740 feet (225m)	A SE 815 905
Approximate time	3 hours	B SE 818 911
Parking	Along village streets in Newton-on-Rawcliffe	C SE 833 906
Ordnance Survey maps	Landrangers 94 (Whitby & Esk Dale) and 100 (Malton & Pickering), Explorer OL27 (North York Moors – Eastern area)	D SE 833 902
		E SE 829 883
		F SE 818 905

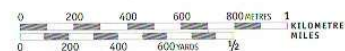
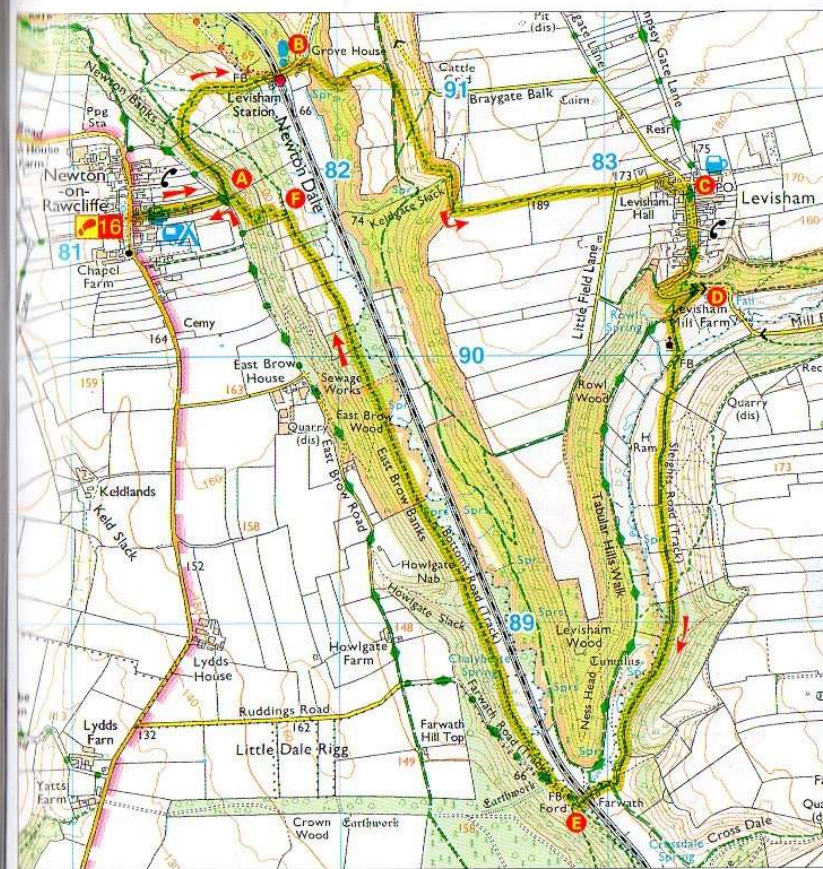
The narrow, steep-sided and thickly wooded Newton Dale was carved out of the surrounding hills by meltwater released by retreating glaciers at the end of the last Ice Age. Rather more recently, Victorian railway engineers saw it as a feasible corridor through the high ground of the moors and constructed a cross-country route linking Pickering with Grosmont and Whitby. Although it was axed in the 1960s, walkers can still see and hear steam engines chugging along the valley, since volunteers of the North Yorkshire Moors Railway have restored the line and now operate regular services. Although involving a couple of modest climbs, in compensation the walk links two attractive moors villages and passes through some fine areas of woodland.

Newton-on-Rawcliffe is a quiet and remote moorland village blessed with a pond and pub, and like Levisham, encountered later during the walk, has cottages set well back behind wide greens overlooking a single street.

Begin along a track leaving the road beside the **White Swan**, which leads to a small campsite behind. Over a stile beside the camping field gate, continue along a contained path, which at the far side, emerges onto a hedged track. Go right to a junction **A**, just a short way along, and there turn sharp left to follow a bridleway down through the woodland of Newton Banks.

Over a stile at the end, bear right

down the middle of a field, heading for a gap in the clumps of gorse bushes that mark its lower edge. Through them, a clear path then develops, descending more steeply into trees, which, after crossing a footbridge at the bottom, leads to a level-crossing by Levisham Station, a popular halt for walkers using the North Yorkshire Moors Railway. The line between Pickering and Whitby was constructed by the 'father of the railways', George Stephenson, and opened in 1836. He encountered a major problem on this section of the route because of the dale's boggy terrain, which he overcame by floating the track on a foundation of heather



and sheep hides. Since its restoration and re-opening in 1969 as a mainly steam-operated railway, it has become a major tourist attraction.

Walk up beyond the railway for 100 yds to a waymarked path leaving on the right across a stream and through a gate **B**, which rises through attractive woodland to a gate at the top. Continue up the left-hand side of a field, curving around its upper boundary to a stile. Turn right along a track, but then fork left after a few steps, resuming the climb along a grassy path bounded by gorse and signed 'Village'. Higher up, from a

well-placed wooden seat, the views across the dale are superb, but although steam trains can frequently be heard, they are only occasionally glimpsed through the dense woodland lining the base of the valley. Beyond the bench, the way winds left and then right above Keldgate Slack before resuming its upward trend to reach a stile. Over that, carry on beside the left-hand edge of a couple of fields, where the panorama on the right extends across the Tabular Hills to the Wolds beyond the Vale of Pickering. Emerging onto the corner of a lane, continue ahead into Levisham **C**. At the lane junction the **Horseshoe Inn** is to the left, but the route turns right to pass through the village.

SCALE 1:25,000 or 2½ INCHES TO 1 MILE 4CM TO 1KM

Guisborough and Highcliff Nab

Start Guisborough

Distance 7¼ miles (11.7km)

Height gain 920 feet (280m)

Approximate time 4 hours

Parking Guisborough

Ordnance Survey maps Landranger 94 (Whitby & Esk Dale), Explorer OL26 (North York Moors – Western area)

GPS waypoints

- NZ 615 161
- NZ 623 160
- NZ 632 159
- NZ 639 154
- NZ 610 138
- NZ 621 148
- NZ 627 149

Leaving the centre of Guisborough by the ruins of its ancient priory, the walk immediately gains the countryside, meandering between fields to the foot of the forested scarp overlooking the town. A modest climb onto the ridge is rewarded by a gentle ramble to the superb vantage of Highcliff Nab. The return winds back through the mixed woodland of the lower slopes, emerging to cross the fields and the course of a disused railway back to the town.

Nestling below the northern-most outcrop of the Cleveland Hills, Guisborough is an historic town with origins in Roman and Saxon settlements. It evolved as the ancient capital of Cleveland and, during the 17th century, became an important centre for alum mining, a chemical then vital to the textile dyeing trade. During the Middle Ages, Guisborough was dominated by an Augustinian priory, endowed in 1119 by Robert de Brus, ancestor of the famous Scottish king. The influence and prosperity of the community quickly grew and, during the next century, the church was rebuilt on a grand scale. Although now largely in ruins, the eastern end of the priory still stands almost complete, a masterpiece of Decorated architecture. The town remains an attractive and lively place, continuing the colourful tradition of a

street market along Westgate.

Begin in front of St Nicholas's Parish Church by the priory, skirting a small car park to continue along a path beside the churchyard. Through a kissing-gate at the end, a tarmac path signed as Cleveland Street strikes across the fields, from where the magnificent façade of the priory is seen to advantage. Carry on through a belt of trees at the far side to emerge onto Whitby Road. A short distance to the left, almost opposite the entrance of Gisborough Hall, a track leaves over a cattle-grid towards Foxdale Farm .

As the track shortly swings right, leave it at a redundant waymarked stile, walking ahead beside a sunken grass way that rises to a fence stile. Keep going across more stiles and then along a hedged path, from which there are views across rolling fields dotted with

Beyond Levisham's cottages, the lane falls steeply downhill. Keep going for some 150 yds below an acute left-hand bend, before turning off sharp right along a broad track below Rowl Wood, signed Tabular Hills Walk . Bear left at a fork and continue along a grassy path past Levisham's medieval church, built here at the centre of an earlier village that was abandoned at the time of the plague. St Mary's is beautifully situated in the bowl of a wooded valley, and although now roofless and not used for regular services since the 1950s, retains a wonderful sense of spirituality that is enhanced by the tranquility of the surrounding countryside.

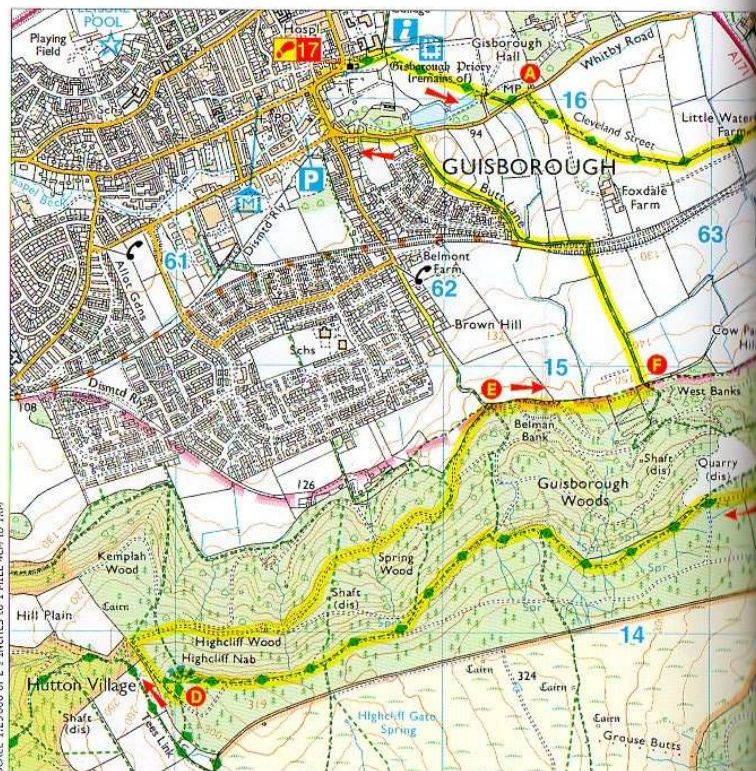
Over a footbridge, carry on downstream to a gate, from which a rising path leads to a wide track, an old highway known as Sleights Road. Turn right, following it through another gate for the next mile (1.6km), at first across fields and later through woodland above a sparkling stream. Leaving the far end of the woods through a gate, curve right to pass through a second gate and continue to a level-crossing by the isolated former railwaymen's cottages at Farwath .

Carry on over a bridge by a ford and follow a broad track for a short distance past an obvious fork to take a second, narrower signed path off to the right just a little farther on. Follow this for the next 1½ miles (2.4km) along the base of the valley, passing alternately through woodland or marshy scrub, roughly parallel to the railway line, which can sometimes be glimpsed through the trees to the right. Keep going after emerging from East Brow Wood into more open fields, shortly crossing a stile beside a gate. Continue in the same direction across a succession of smaller fields opposite Keldgate Slack until you reach a large ash at the end of a fenced-off line of trees. Walk on a few yards to a second ash and then turn left to climb away on a vague path that heads straight uphill towards the woods above. Approaching the scrub below the trees, bear right to find a gate in the fence across the top of the field. A stone track winds its way on up the steep, wooded hillside, ultimately ending through a gate at the top. Now back at point , retrace your outward route back to Newton-on-Rawcliffe. ●

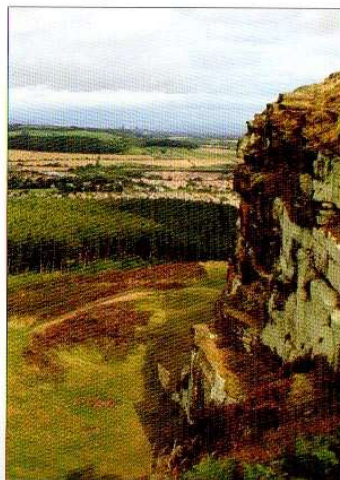
Steam trains still run through the wooded Newton Dale



SCALE 1:25,000 or 2½ INCHES TO 1 MILE 40M TO 2KM

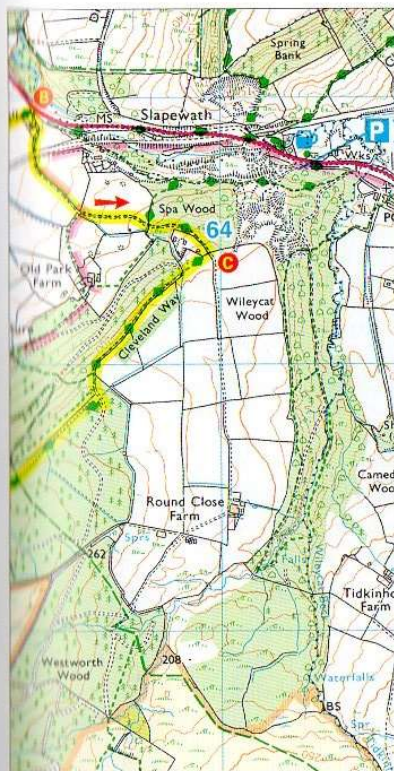


On Highcliff Nab



farmhouses to a backdrop of wooded hills. Continue beyond at the field edge, passing through a gap at the bottom corner. Maintain your forward direction with the hedge now on your left, crossing the final fields to emerge at the end of a track by the main A171 road **B**.

Follow the track past Little Waterfall Farm, later crossing the course of a disused railway. Reaching a fork off to the left, keep on ahead over a cattle-grid and climb towards Spa Wood where the Cleveland Way joins from the left. Breaking from the trees higher up, leave the track over a stile on the right **C**. Walk away, initially above a heath, crossing a stile at the end into Guisborough Woods. To the left the Cleveland Way follows a path at the edge of the trees, later curving left to enter



the forest proper. Stay on the Cleveland Way. Reaching a junction some 50 yds farther on, turn right, curving around to loosely follow a broken wall over to the right. Ignoring crossing paths, keep with the main track, in a while joining a track from the right at the edge of a small clearing.

The Cleveland Way continues ahead, later reaching a major junction. Keep ahead past there with the main forest road. Farther on, at a fork, take the left branch, which rises once more towards the top of the ridge. Carry on until the broad track eventually bends obviously left, at which point, leave over a stile on the right. A narrow path follows the

edge of the escarpment onto the top of Highcliff Nab **D**. Occasional breaks in the trees have so far offered only tantalising glimpses across the surrounding landscape, but the panorama from this eyrie is truly spectacular. A wide sweep from the North Sea, some seven miles (11.2km) to the east, takes in the industrialisation of Teesside. This picture sharply contrasts with that of the fertile plains below the steeply rising moors of the Cleveland Hills as your gaze swings to the south, where the isolated monolith breaking the distant skyline is the Cook Monument, visited in another of these walks.

The ongoing path drops steeply beside the stark face of the cliff, twisting left at the bottom and falling more easily to meet a broad track, signed as the Tees Link. Double back right along it to carry on down the hill, turning right again at a T-junction. Gently losing height, follow a wide forest road below the steep face of the ridge. Keep left when you later reach a fork, soon descending more steeply through the trees to another junction near a stream. Stay with the track ahead, which winds upwards for a short distance before levelling and reaching a fork. There bear left, dropping once more to a junction of paths on the edge of the forest at Belman Gate **E**.

Walk forward to continue along the lowest of the paths ahead that traces the bottom boundary of the forest. Keep by the fence where the main track later swings away right, shortly meeting a track that leaves through a barrier on the left **F**. It leads away between the fields, crossing a bridge over the old railway to then swing beside it. At a junction, bear right and keep on going until you reach the main road. Go left towards the town, turning right and right again at successive traffic light junctions to return to the priory and parish church.

Black Hambleton

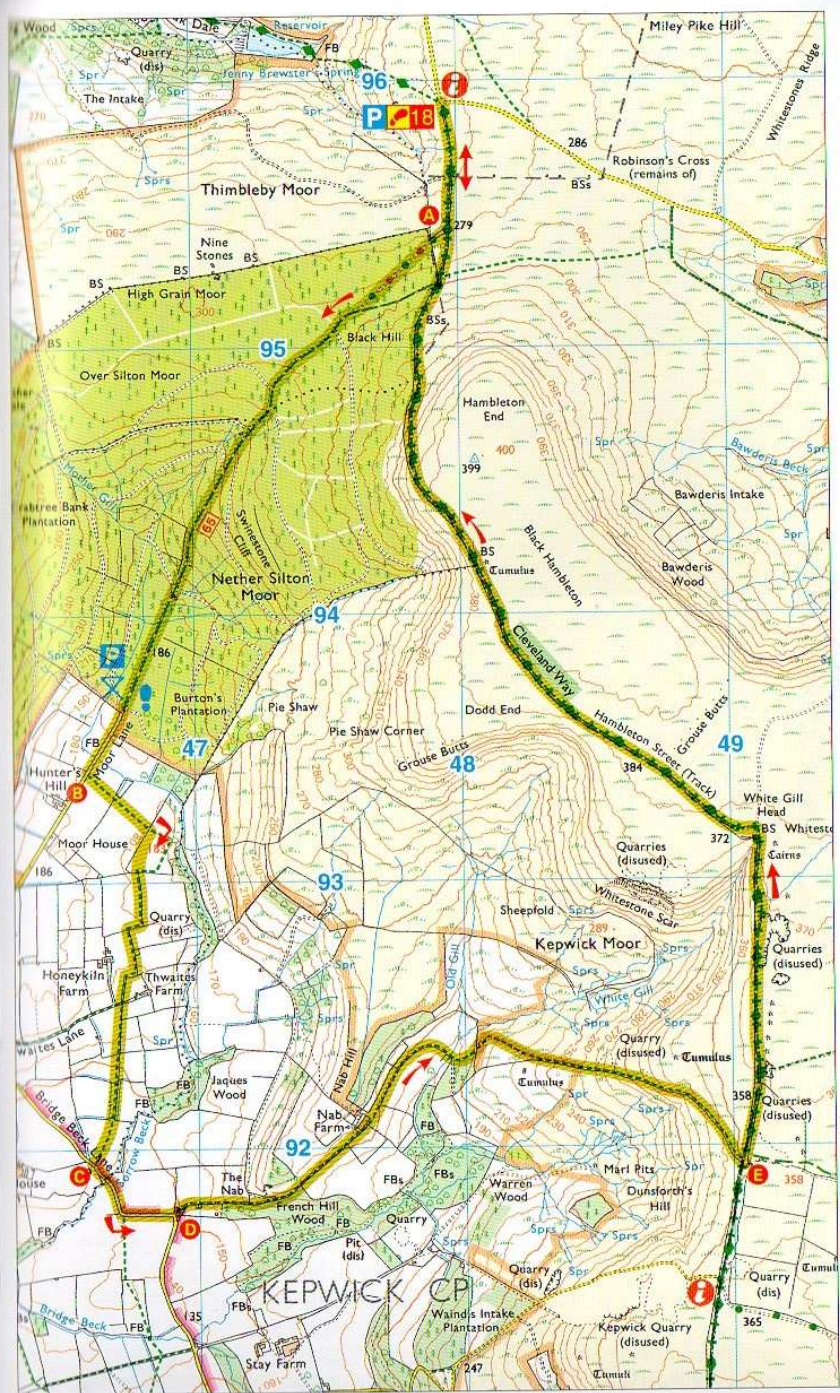
Start	Right-angled bend on minor road from Osmotherley to Hawaby, about 2½ miles (4km) south east of Osmotherley	GPS waypoints
Distance	7½ miles (12.1km)	SE 479 958
Height gain	920 feet (280m)	A SE 479 954
Approximate time	4 hours	B SE 465 934
Parking	Large parking area at bend in the road	C SE 465 919
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 100 (Malton & Pickering), Explorer OL26 (North York Moors – Western area)	D SE 468 917
		E SE 490 919

Dominating the skyline from the Vale of Mowbray to the west, Black Hambleton is the brooding, whale-backed rise that defines the end of the Hambleton Hills. The walk starts from just below its northern extremity, descending through the conifer plantations of Silton Forest to continue across open farmland below the long, steep escarpment. The route then turns to climb along a side ridge extending from its flank for a glorious finale, a three-mile (4.8-km) ramble along Hambleton Street over the shoulder of Black Hambleton itself, from which there are some magnificent views.

Start by walking south along a wide track, part of Hambleton Street, an old drove road, towards Black Hambleton, the prominent hill rising directly ahead. Carry on past a junction and through a gate to a second fork **A**. A little farther on, there turning over a stile beside a gate onto a track, part of the National Cycle Network, which leads into Silton Forest. Keep ahead on the main trail for almost 1½ miles (2.4km), winding steadily downhill through the trees. Beyond a car park and picnic area, the way emerges from the forest and develops as a tarmac lane between hedged fields.

The lane shortly dips to cross a stream before rising past a gate on the left **B**. Through that, walk straight across the field, maintaining the same

direction over the next field to a stile by a gate. In the field beyond, turn three-quarters right to another stile, climb it and carry on by the left-hand hedge, enjoying superb views of the Hambleton Hills and the Vale of York. At the corner, go right along the end boundary to a stile, turning left over that to continue at the field edge, passing a farm over on the right. Keep going around the bottom perimeter to a gate by the far corner and, through that, cross a small paddock to leave by a stile in the left corner onto a track. Over another stile almost opposite, follow the left hedge onwards for three more fields, then, after crossing a footbridge,





Heather moor of Black Hambleton

head straight across a final field to emerge over a stile beside a gate onto a narrow lane ①.

Follow it left for about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile (800m) to a sharp right-hand bend ②. Turn off onto a long, uphill track that leads to Nab Farm, which nestles below the steep scarp at the edge of the Hambleton Hills. Approaching the farm, go through a gate and continue right of the barns. At the far end, carry on through another gate up a broad valley on a track which, after a while, veers right, dropping to cross a stream. Immediately over the bridge, leave the track, going left up a grass path to a gate in the wall above by an old lime kiln. Beyond, the way continues steadily uphill onto the moor, following a wall on the right to a gate at the top of the escarpment ③.

Go through and turn left along a wide, grassy track. This is the Hambleton drove road, a particularly impressive example of several such routes that cross the country, along which cattle and sheep were once

driven from pastures in Scotland, Wales and elsewhere to supply the growing markets of the Midlands and southern England. They remained in use until the early days of the Industrial Revolution, when the developing railways made them obsolete. The splendid views, however, are still there to enjoy. At first, the panorama is across the broad vales of York and Mowbray and, on a clear day, you can see to the distant Pennines. Farther along, as you round the shoulder of Black Hambleton, Osmotherley comes into sight ahead, with the Cleveland plain stretching beyond to the county of Durham in the background, the view framed on the right by the Cleveland Hills. Navigation is now easy, just follow the track ahead for the next three miles (4.8km), but remember to bear left at a fork after $\frac{3}{4}$ mile (1.2km), the route clearly marked as the Cleveland Way. Eventually, the track descends above Silton Forest and the car park then appears ahead.

Runswick Bay and Staithes

WALK
19

Runswick Bay and Staithes

Start	Runswick Bay	GPS waypoints
Distance	7½ miles (12.1km)	📍 NZ 809 159
Height gain	475 feet (145m)	📍 A NZ 802 162
Approximate time	4 hours	📍 B NZ 797 158
Parking	Runswick Bay	📍 C NZ 785 156
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 94 (Whitby & Esk Dale), Explorer OL27 (North York Moors – Eastern area)	📍 D NZ 776 179
		📍 E NZ 779 181
		📍 F NZ 783 188

In different ways, both Runswick Bay and Staithes are highly individual coastal villages: the former a picturesque jumble of cottages above a fine sandy beach, the latter an old harbour beside a steep-sided inlet, still with a strong Victorian atmosphere. The first half of the walk from Runswick Bay to Staithes goes inland, following an attractive route across fields, by farms and through woodlands. The return journey is along a memorable stretch of the North Sea coast where, as on most coastal paths, there are a number of ascents and descents.

Runswick Bay is one of the most attractive villages on the North Yorkshire coast and a paradise for artists and photographers. Its cottages perch randomly and almost precariously on a series of hillside terraces above the beach and the streets are little more than narrow passageways and flights of steps, which continually open up new vistas as they twist and turn between the close-packed buildings.

📍 Begin at the bottom car park just above the beach and climb the steep road through the village to Runswick Bank Top, where another small parking area could be used as an alternative start point. Bear half-left along Hinderwell Lane, walking just over $\frac{1}{4}$ mile (400m) before leaving over a waymarked stile on the left ①. Accompany the hedge away and, over a stile, continue at the edge of the next field to emerge onto the

main road at the far side. Go right but then take the first turning on the left ②, to follow a narrow lane for $\frac{3}{4}$ mile (1.2km) into Newton Mulgrave. Keep going beyond the hamlet for another 300 yds until you reach the second waymarked stile on the right ③.

Join a track that winds away through a gate to cross open fields. Later approaching a gate, bypass it to the left and carry on ahead with a fence and then a hedge on your right. At the far end of that field, pass through two successive gates and continue above a wood. Passing a stile and gate, the way bears left into the trees, initially hanging below the upper boundary before dropping along the side of the wooded valley. When you arrive at a junction, keep ahead, shortly emerging by a gate to continue between saplings across ground that is more open. The

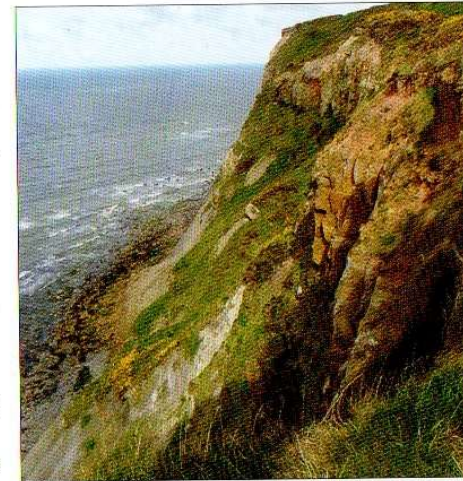
chimneys glimpsed ahead are of the Boulby Potash Mine, which is one of the deepest in Europe. As the track broadens, the way falls sharply to a gate; go through and turn left past a small caravan field and then swing right over a bridge. Keep on, the way signed 'Dalehouse', to walk along a track above the river that ends past cottages at a lane **D**. Turn right, passing the **Fox and Hounds** and

climbing to the main road.

Go right and then first left **E**, walking through the upper, modern part of Staithes before dropping into the old fishing village. The almost precipitous sides of the deep, narrow valley that lies behind this tiny inlet affords little space for houses, and tall, cramped buildings crowd the street that leads down to the small but atmospheric harbour. In his youth, Captain Cook, the great explorer,

was apprenticed to a draper here, but the shop, like many of Staithes' old buildings throughout the centuries, has been swept away by North Sea storms. Even the pub has been rebuilt several times, the last occasion being in 1953.

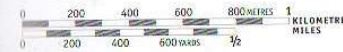
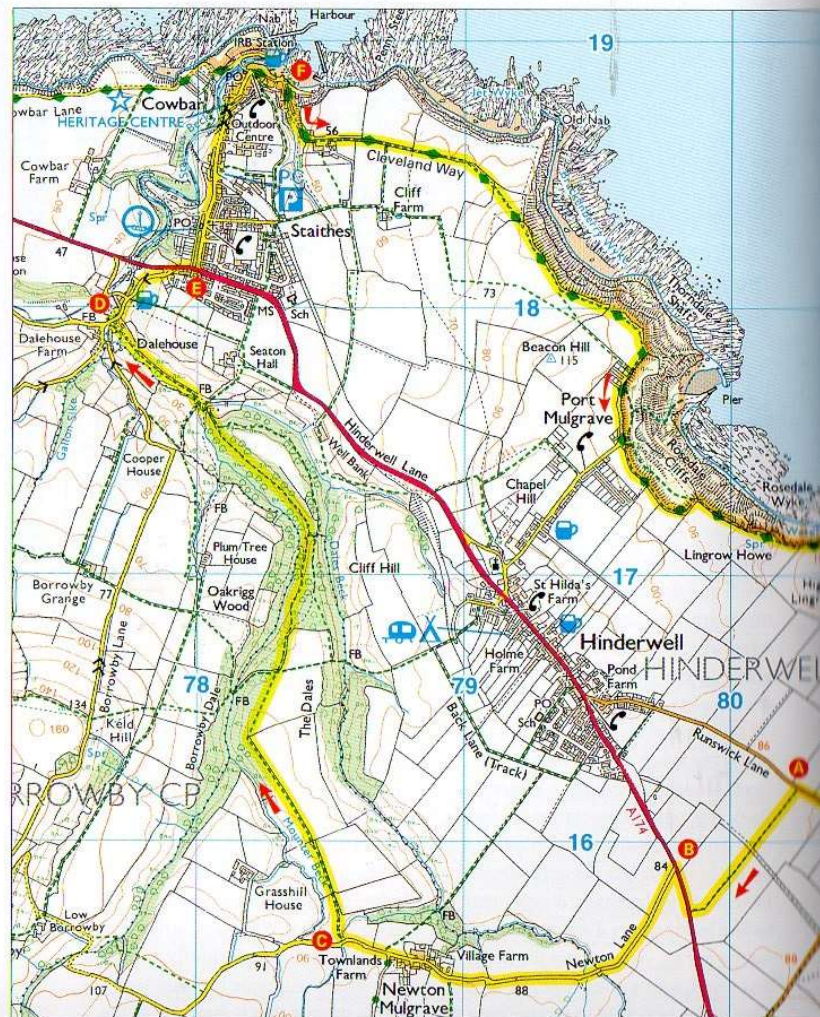
At the harbour, just after the **Cod and Lobster** **F**, turn right up Church Street, climbing past the small mission that gives it its name. Where it ends, carry on up a stepped path to a junction where the Cleveland Way is signed left. Another short pull takes you to a farm, where you should keep ahead past the buildings before leaving along a contained path between the fields.



Cliffs between Staithes and Runswick Bay

Beyond its end, continue at the field edge to a stile and then climb a steep, grassy slope to a gate at the top of the fence guarding the cliff edge. A wide path skirts the cliff top affording fine views in both directions; Staithes lies behind and ahead, beyond Runswick Bay, is the headland of Kettleness. Emerging onto a narrow lane at Port Mulgrave, walk past its few cottages with the ruins of the old harbour below. It was constructed in the 19th century for the export of iron ore, a speculative Victorian venture that never really succeeded in making money.

Where the lane then bends away from the coast, turn off by a 'Cleveland Way' sign. Through a kissing-gate the way passes above a vast area of landslip before eventually rejoining the cliff edge. Carry on, later dipping to negotiate a gully where a stream cascades over the precipice to the sea below. At last, the route turns inland to follow a gravel path at the field edge that ultimately ends beside the **Runswick Bay Hotel** at Runswick Bank Top. Walk downhill back into the village.



Osmotherley, Mount Grace Priory and Scarth Wood Moor

Start	Osmotherley	GPS waypoints
Distance	7½ miles (12.1km). Shorter version omitting Mount Grace Priory 6 miles (9.7km)	SE 456 972 A SE 456 976 B SE 452 980 C NZ 472 000 D SE 471 994 E SE 473 974 F SE 464 970
Height gain	1,215 feet (370m). Shorter version 870 feet (265m)	
Approximate time	4 hours (3 hours for the shorter version)	
Parking	Village street in Osmotherley	
Ordnance Survey maps	Landrangers 93 (Middlesbrough), 99 (Northallerton & Ripon) and 100 (Malton & Pickering), Explorer OL26 (North York Moors – Western area)	

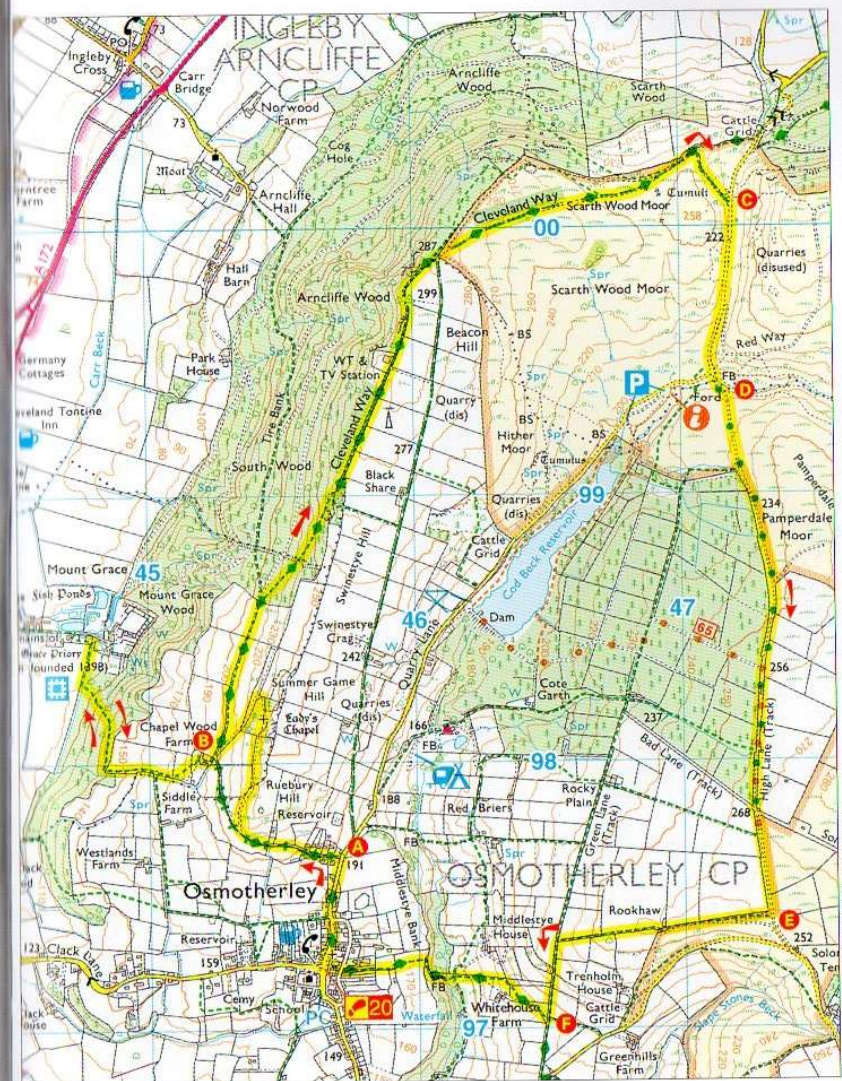
This is a walk with a decidedly ecclesiastical flavour, starting in a village that possesses both a medieval church and an 18th-century Methodist chapel as well as a restored Tudor chapel nearby, beside a small hilltop wood. There is a much recommended detour to visit the superb remains of a Carthusian monastery. It is a grand, scenic walk, which hugs the edge of the Cleveland escarpment to continue across Scarth Wood Moor, where there are fine views to the surrounding Cleveland Hills.

The return follows a section of the Hambleton drove road before swinging off the moor and crossing a delightful wooded valley on its way back into Osmotherley. NB – no dogs allowed in Mount Grace Priory.

The village of Osmotherley, a harmonious mixture of old and new, stands high on the edge of the moors overlooking the Vale of Mowbray. It has an attractive, if heavily restored, medieval church with an unusual Viking hogback tomb. The village also claims one of the oldest Methodist chapels in the country, built in 1754 shortly after a visit by John Wesley. In the village centre is a market cross and ancient stone table that once

served as a vegetable stall, but was used as a pulpit by Wesley when he came here to preach.

From the centre of Osmotherley by the old cross, take the road rising through the village in the direction of Swainby. Turn off left at the top of the hill onto a track, Ruebury Lane, signed as the Cleveland Way A. It continues the climb past several houses, where gaps in the hedge provide views over the



village to the distinctive brooding mass of Black Hambleton. Beside a fork a little farther on is a topograph and, although perversely hidden by bushes, it overlooks the Vale of Mowbray to the distant Pennines and Yorkshire Dales. Take the right branch, soon passing into trees, where steps on the left rise to a lawn surrounding the ancient Lady's



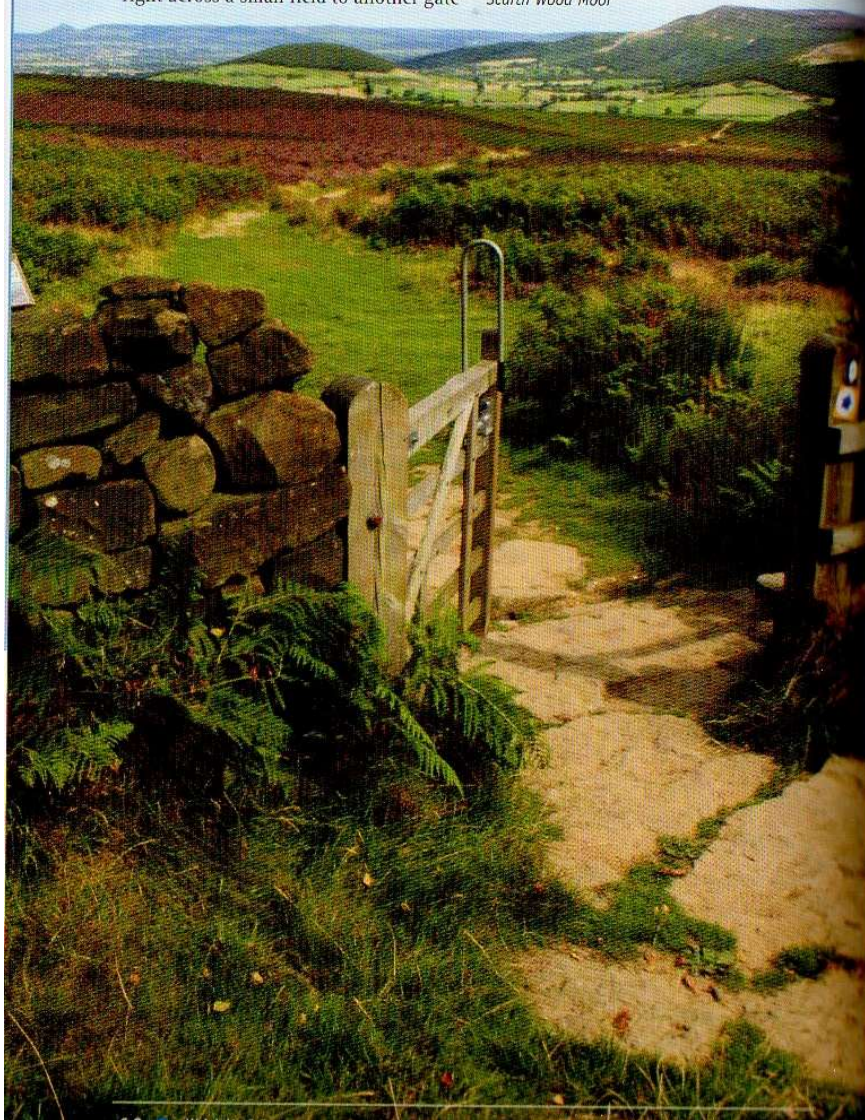
Chapel. It was founded in the early 16th century and belonged to nearby Mount Grace Priory. Despite being considerably damaged at the time of the Dissolution, Mass has been celebrated here for 600 years and it remains a place of

pilgrimage for Catholics. Walk past the chapel to a path beyond, which winds ahead through the trees to a stile. To the left, a grass track leads down to a pair of adjacent gates by Chapel Wood Farm **B**.

It is from this point that you can make the detour to Mount Grace Priory. Beyond the gates, walk ahead past the entrance to a farmyard to a gate. Bear right across a small field to another gate

and then strike a left diagonal down the hill. Passing into the next field, continue descending by the boundary hedge, entering Mount Grace Wood over a stile at the bottom corner. A path slopes away through the trees, later becoming steeper before swinging right beside a stream at the foot of the hill.

Scarth Wood Moor



Follow it to a bridge and emerge into the adjacent field where, to the right, a stile gives access to the priory car park.

Mount Grace was founded at the end of the 14th century and is a rare example in this country of a Carthusian monastery. There were only nine in the whole of England, and this is by far the most complete and best preserved of them. Unlike other monastic orders, the Carthusians emphasised individual rather than communal prayers and activities, a practice that distinctively influenced the layout of their monasteries. The church is relatively small and stands beside a series of individual cells, which replace the more usual shared domestic buildings. The monks lived a largely solitary life, each praying and working within their own cell. Their food was delivered through a hatch set at an angle so that there could be no communication with whoever tended their daily needs.

Retrace your steps to Chapel Wood Farm and go back through the gate, following a track, marked as the Cleveland Way, along the bottom edge of the field. Beyond the next field, the track enters Arncliffe Wood and immediately splits. Take the right branch to climb steadily through the trees, breaking into more open ground at the top by old quarry workings. The way curves left to run beside the upper boundary wall, later crossing a track at the entrance to a BT telecommunications relay station. The path continues at the edge of the wood, where breaks in the wall and, later, the trees on the left allow views across the Cleveland Hills to Roseberry Topping and over the vale below. Shortly losing height the path drops out of the wood, passing through two gates in quick succession onto the open heather moor. The obvious path continues ahead, striking an angle away from the wall. Farther on, however, the

wall curves back, just before the path forks at a junction. Leave the Cleveland Way and bear right along a bridleway, which winds down the hillside to meet a lane **C**.

Follow it right for almost $\frac{1}{2}$ mile (800m) towards the Cod Beck Reservoir. Where the lane turns in a sharp right-hand bend **D**, leave to cross a bridge spanning the beck that feeds the lake and continue ahead up a track onto Pamperdale Moor. The way, part of the Hambleton drove road, rises to the edge of a forest plantation and runs beside it for a good $\frac{3}{4}$ mile (1.2km). Keep going beyond the forest, the track steadily falling and eventually approaching a lane, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile (400m) farther on. However, just before reaching the lane, turn off onto a waymarked grass track, leaving through a chain barrier on the right **E**.

Follow it across gorse heath above the lane, continuing ahead where the track later swings right through a gate. Over a stile in the wall corner, keep ahead at the edge of a couple of fields, emerging through a sheep pen onto a crossing track. To the left, it narrows to a pretty, hedged path, dropping to meet a farm track **F**.

Double back right towards Whitehouse Farm, but leave the track before you get to the buildings, bearing off right at a 'Cleveland Way' marker. The path swings around the farm and descends through gates to meet a gravel track. Cross it and drop to a bridge spanning a stream hidden in the trees in front. Climb steeply away up the far bank, breaking out at the top onto the edge of fields. A contained path strikes across, ending between cottages onto a back street in Osmotherley. Continue along a narrow passageway opposite that twists between more cottages before emerging past the Methodist chapel in the centre of the village.

Broxa Forest, the River Derwent and Whisper Dales

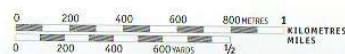
Start	Reasty Bank at north-eastern corner of Broxa Forest	GPS waypoints
Distance	8½ miles (13.7km)	SE 964 943
Height gain	820 feet (250m)	A SE 939 944
Approximate time	4½ hours	B SE 935 950
Parking	Forestry Commission car park at Reasty Bank	C SE 942 910
		D SE 945 915
		E SE 955 911
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 94 (Whitby & Esk Dale) and 101 (Scarborough), Explorer OL27 (North York Moors – Eastern area)	

Broxa Forest proves that conifer plantations, when sensibly planned and interspersed with older deciduous woodland, are not always gloomy and uninteresting places, but can provide interesting and pleasant walking. Reasty Bank, from where the walk begins, is a fine viewpoint, looking northwards over Harwood Dale and eastwards across to the coast just north of Scarborough. After wandering along forest tracks at the edge of the ridge, the route descends through the trees to the River Derwent. There follows a most beautiful walk above the riverbank through a mixture of broad-leaved and conifer woodland and meadows. Crossing into Low Dales, the return winds up this pretty, secluded valley, climbing into Whisper Dales and back through forest again to Reasty Bank.

Leave the western end of the car park along a broad forest track, initially parallel to the road on the right and signed 'Reasty to Allerston Walk'. Keep ahead on the main track along the top of the ridge, where gaps in the trees reveal a succession of superb glimpses over Harwood Dale. After almost a mile (1.6km) at a prominent fork, bear right past a barrier to remain above the edge. Carry on for another ¾ mile (1.2km) until the track turns left. About 150 yds beyond the bend, by a waymark A, go sharp right, almost doubling back on a

descending path into the dense conifers. Keep ahead where paths cross in a partial clearing, the way soon dropping more steeply. Lower down, by another waymark, go left, the descent continuing on a twisting path that eventually leads to the River Derwent, just above a footbridge B.

Instead of crossing, carry on downstream beside the river, bearing right where the path shortly forks to remain



SCALE 1:25 000 or 2½ INCHES to 1 MILE 4CM to 1KM





River Derwent along Lang Dale

close to the bank. There follows a delightful walk for the next two miles (3.2km), through mixed woodland and occasional small clearings. Eventually crossing a stile, continue ahead at the foot of sloping meadows, at the far side of which another stile takes you back into woodland. Emerging again from the trees, the path leads to a stile and gate onto a lane at Langdale Bridge **C**. However, do not go through but turn left to climb a steep bracken-covered slope. Keep ahead up the meadow above to a belt of trees at the top of Broxa Banks, from where there is a particularly striking view over the rolling wooded hills enclosing the Derwent valley, in which the distinctive, conical-shaped Howden Hill is a prominent feature. A crossing path running through the trees maintains the ascent, eventually ending

through a gate onto a lane.

Follow the lane left through Broxa to a junction **D**, and turn right on a track beside Broxa Farm. Past barns, where it splits go over a stile in front and bear left across a field to another stile in the opposite corner. Carry on along the field edge above woodland, continuing over one more stile. Just before reaching the far side of that field, look for a stile on the left, from which a path drops steeply to the right along the wooded bank. At the foot, bear right along the perimeter of an open field, curving left around its far end to leave over a stile at the bottom corner **E**.

Turn left along a narrow farm road, shortly crossing a footbridge beside a ford. Climb the stile immediately beyond and walk ahead in the field parallel to the lane. Continue through a gate at the far end and over a stile to rejoin the lane at a junction by Lowdales Farm. Go right past the cottage, cross a bridge and keep on past the end of converted stables over a second bridge. Ahead lies a bridlepath that rises gently into Whisper Dales, a lovely, tranquil wooded valley that is a superb finale to the walk. Ignore tracks and paths off right, as you pass through successive meadows, at first with the stream on the left, but later subtly crossing to find it on your right. Leaving the fields through a gate beside the entrance to Whisperdales Farm, join a track that winds around its tree-hedged perimeter. Climbing beyond, it soon enters the forest, later levelling to return you to the car park.

The Cook Monument and Roseberry Topping

Start	Gribdale Gate – 2½ miles (4km) east of Great Ayton	GPS waypoints
Distance	6½ miles (10.5km)	NZ 591 110
Height gain	1,315 feet (400m)	A NZ 589 101
Approximate time	3½ hours	B NZ 577 109
Parking	Car park at Gribdale Gate	C NZ 563 107
Ordinance Survey maps	Landranger 93 (Middlesbrough), Explorer OL26 (North York Moors – Western area)	D NZ 578 126

To the east of Great Ayton lie two of the most prominent landmarks of the Cleveland Hills: the monument to Captain Cook on Easby Moor and the dramatic, 1051ft (320m) Roseberry Topping, which is the most distinctive outline in the whole of the North York Moors and visible from many vantage points over a wide section of the moors and from the plain below. This walk incorporates both these features as well as the village of Great Ayton. The climb to the Cook Monument is easy and gradual; in contrast the ascent of Roseberry Topping is much steeper and more strenuous.

From the car park go through a gate into the Cleveland Forest and follow a broad track, the Cleveland Way, signed towards Kildale. The way climbs easily for ½ mile (800m), eventually emerging on to Easby Moor. Keep straight ahead to the Cook Monument **A**. It was erected in 1827 to commemorate the life and extraordinary achievements of Captain James Cook. Born into a farming family, he attended the local school in Great Ayton and must have spent many hours during his childhood among these hills. Rising above the edge of the escarpment the obelisk commands a panoramic view over the surrounding countryside, the wide sweep of the Cleveland plain below bounded by the distant

conurbations of Teesside to the north. Yet it is the sharp profile of Roseberry Topping in the middle distance that grabs the attention, drawing you on to the next leg of the route.

At the monument, turn sharp right along a narrower path across the heather to pass through an ungated gap in a stone wall. Carry on beside a broken boundary, bearing left where it ends at a waymarked fork. Keep right where the path again splits a few paces farther on, slanting from the open heath into Ayton Banks Wood. The clear path falls quite steeply through the trees to meet a broader track near the bottom. Cross and continue downhill a little farther to leave the forest through a gap in the bottom wall. Head down a grassy



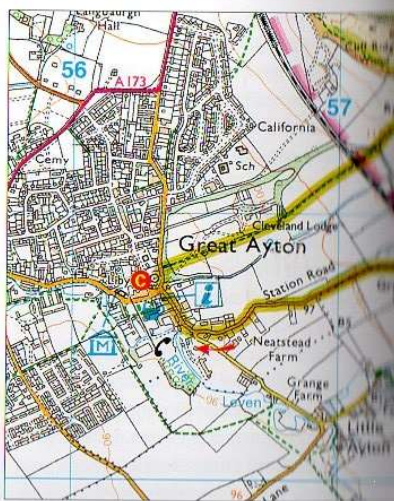
Distinctive profile of Roseberry Topping

slope to a track below and go right. Beyond a couple of gates, the way continues as a pleasant sunken path, later broadening to a track and then a metalled lane. Keep going to reach a crossroads with Dikes Lane **B**.

Turn left down the hill, passing the railway station and eventually reaching a roundabout junction. Go right to another junction at the edge of Great Ayton **C**. The heart of the village lies to the left, where you will find a museum in the old schoolhouse as well as a number of inviting opportunities for refreshment. The onward route, however, follows Newton Road to the right, leaving about 100 yds along through a kissing-gate breaking the high wall on the right. Pass through a belt of trees and on at the edge of a meadow to a thicket at the far side. A gated path continues across the fields below Cleveland Lodge, largely hidden by its woodland garden, before reaching the railway line.

Exercise care as you cross to reach a track beyond. Ignore a drive and carry on over a stile opposite to follow the field edge away, ascending towards a tree-lined hillside. At the crest of the rise, go over a stile beside a gate into

Cliff Ridge Wood and climb to a broad path above. Diagonally opposite, a path rises to the right across a wooded slope, which is carpeted with bluebells in spring, and emerges into a field at the top. Go left to a stile in the corner and then turn right past a clump of larch. Over another stile, keep ahead towards a cottage, and then swing left, following the boundary a short distance to a stile beside the second of two gates. The ongoing path now makes straight

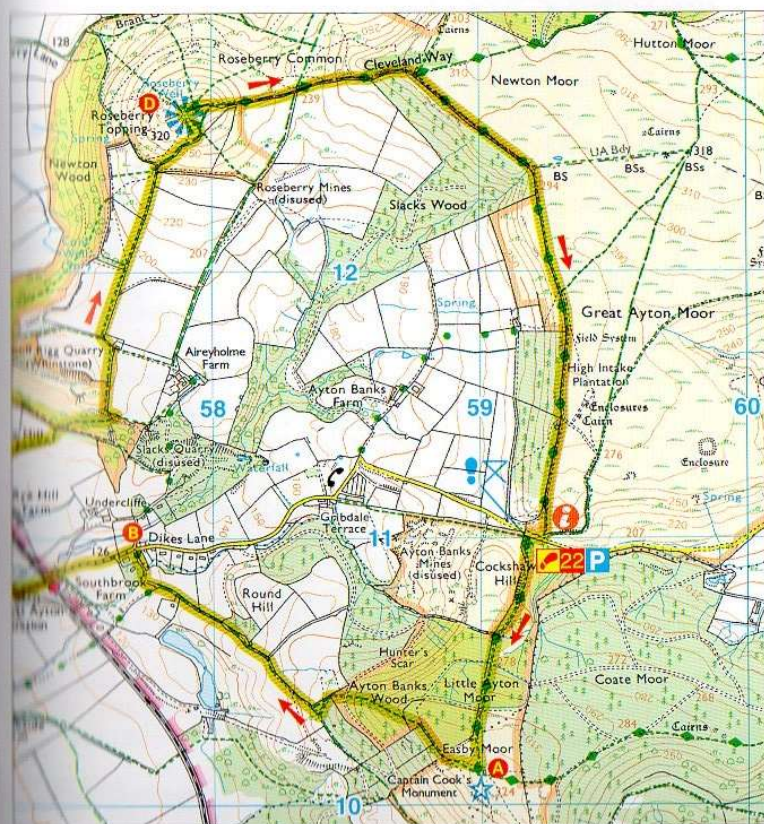


for Roseberry Topping, the gradient becoming steeper as you get nearer. Reaching the upper flanks, avoid a direct assault on the summit by curving right to find a zigzag path that leads more easily onto the top **D**.

Early prints show that Roseberry Topping once had a perfect conical shape, but subsidence, caused by tunnelling into the side of the hill for iron ore led to the collapse of the western face, creating the abrupt scar by which it is distinguished today. As might be anticipated, the views from the summit are impressive, a superb panorama that extends to the North Sea coast beyond Guisborough and Teesside. Behind, the Cleveland plain rises abruptly

to the moorland hills, the Cook Monument standing as a prominent landmark on the edge above Great Ayton.

From the triangulation marker, walk back along the crest of the ridge, dropping steeply at the far end to the saddle of Roseberry Common below. Keep ahead, climbing once more beside a wall onto the high ground beyond, where a gate at the top opens onto Newton Moor. As the way then immediately forks, take the right branch, marked with a National Trail symbol. A broad path curves above the hillside plantation for almost 1 1/4 miles (2km), eventually descending to the lane and parking area at Gribdale Gate.



SCALE 1:25,000 or 2 1/2 INCHES TO 1 MILE 4CM TO 2KM

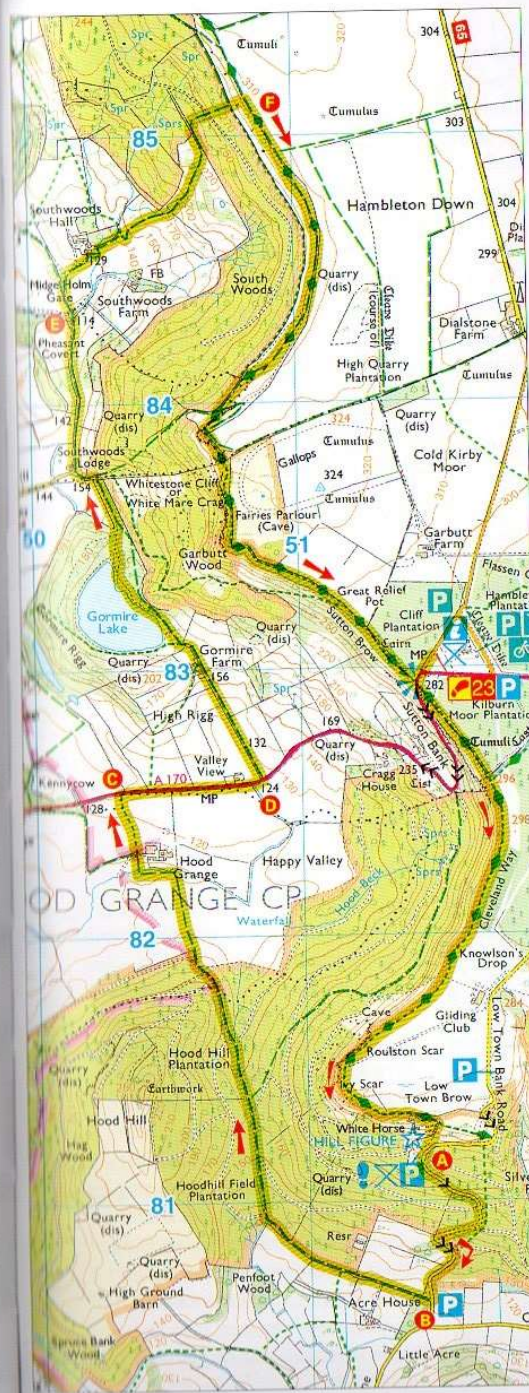
Sutton Bank, White Horse of Kilburn and Gormire Lake

Start	National Park Information Centre at Sutton Bank	GPS waypoints
Distance	8 miles (12.9km)	SE 516 830
Height gain	1,130 feet (345m)	A SE 514 811
Approximate time	4 hours	B SE 514 806
Parking	Car park at Sutton Bank	C SE 503 825
Ordinance Survey maps	Landranger 100 (Malton & Pickering), Explorer OL26 (North York Moors – Western area)	D SE 508 825
		E SE 501 843
		F SE 508 851

Much of this route is visible from the viewpoint by the start of the walk, at the top of Sutton Bank. To the left, the way runs above the almost vertical cliffs of Roulston Scar, beyond which, but as yet hidden, lies the White Horse of Kilburn. Spread below are the Hood Hill plantations and open fields surrounding Hood Grange Farm, just north of which are the silent, tree-fringed waters of Gormire Lake. The return is along the Cleveland Way, winding at the edge of a precipice above Whitestone Cliff and Sutton Brow, which form a dramatic boundary to the rolling Hambleton Hills that stretch away behind. Go quietly through the woodland beneath the cliffs and by the lake and you may well see squirrels and perhaps even deer, while the views from the escarpment are outstanding, and amply reward the climb to its airy heights.

The road up Sutton Bank remains one of the most notorious ascents in the country with a hairpin bend in the middle of a long one in four gradient demanding some snappy gear changing. Yet, the summit offers one of the most superb panoramas across the flat and fertile lands of the Vale of York to the distant Pennines that you will find, and the windy outlook provides a perfect launching spot for the gliders that fly from the nearby club.

From the information centre car park, cross the main road at the top of Sutton Bank to find a path opposite, signed 'Cleveland Way and White Horse'. Where it then forks, bear left past the viewpoint and follow the edge of the escarpment for 1½ miles (2.4km), at first beside a plantation and later skirting a small airfield belonging to the



Yorkshire Gliding Club above Roulston Scar to reach the top of the White Horse. After enjoying superb views south over the Vale of Pickering to the Wolds, turn right down steep steps to a car park at the bottom A. The White Horse was the brainchild of a local Victorian schoolmaster, John Hodgson, and his friend Thomas Taylor, who wanted to create a figure similar to those that had impressed them on the chalk downlands of southern England. Hodgson organised his pupils to help mark out the horse in 1857, which is 314ft (95m) long and 228ft (69m) high. However, because the underlying stone is dark-coloured, it had to be painted with lime whitewash to make it visible from afar.

Head down the lane from the car park for just over ½ mile (800m) to the bottom of the hill, there turning right along a tarmac track, marked as a bridleway B. Where it shortly turns left towards a farm, keep ahead on a gravel path that soon rises steadily through a plantation, eventually meeting a broad forestry track. Now go left and follow it down to a major fork, there bearing left again. As you climb away, there is an

Robin Hood's Bay and Ravenscar

Start	Robin Hood's Bay	GPS waypoints
Distance	9 miles (14.5km)	 NZ 950 054
Height gain	605 feet (185m)	 NZ 946 052
Approximate time	4½ hours	 NZ 980 016
Parking	Robin Hood's Bay	 NZ 973 019
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 94 (Whitby & Esk Dale), Explorer OL27 (North York Moors – Eastern area)	 NZ 959 031
		 NZ 954 040

Utilising the track of the disused Whitby – Scarborough Railway creates a splendid circular coastal walk that links Robin Hood's Bay and Ravenscar. During the first part of the ramble, the inland section, the track provides an easy and enjoyable route to Ravenscar, and offers a superb vantage from which the view over the bay is magnificent. The return to Robin Hood's Bay follows a particularly spectacular section of the North Yorkshire coastal path, which, although rather more energetic, has its own special delights. If the tide is safely out, you can follow the shore for the final leg.

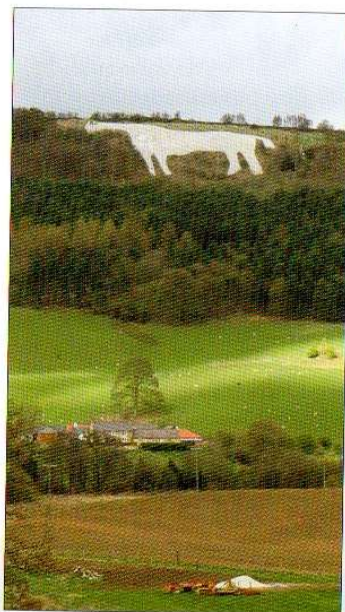
A jumble of red-roofed cottages, clustered below steep cliffs, with narrow, winding lanes, passages and stepped paths leading down to the sea, make up the enchanting fishing village of Robin Hood's Bay. Once remote and inaccessible, it was, not surprisingly, a notorious haunt for smugglers. Like Staithes and other places along this coast, it is vulnerable to winter storms and, in the past, parts of the village have been swept away and had to be rebuilt. Its name derives from a tradition that it was a one-time haunt for Robin Hood, who fled here to escape from his pursuers by boarding a fishing vessel. Disappointingly, however, as with all Robin Hood stories, the tale has no factual basis.

 Because of its narrow streets, visitors' cars are not allowed into the lower village and motorists must park in one of the two main car parks above. The walk begins at the Station Car Park, heading past the former station buildings along a narrow lane. At the bottom turn right, but then after 100 yds at a bend, go left through a gate  A to join the track of the Whitby – Scarborough Railway, which operated from 1885 until its closure in 1965. This pleasant and often tree-lined route runs all the way to Ravenscar, winding at the edge of the higher ground that overlooks the vast sweep of Robin Hood's Bay. Several deep cuttings and high embankments help maintain a gently rising passage, the latter offering

impressive view of the sheer cliffs of Roulston Scar towering above the trees, an indication of just how far you have descended. Some ¼ mile (400m) farther along as the track curves left, leave at the end of the trees on the right by a sign to Hood Grange and the A170. Emerging at the edge of an open field, follow a clear path ahead towards Hood Grange Farm. At the far side, turn beside a brook in front of the farm to a footbridge and walk up at the edge of a small paddock to a track at the top. Cross a ladder stile almost opposite and continue straight up the fields in front to a stile in the top hedge adjoining the main road .

Follow the road verge to the right for some 600 yds (0.5km), before turning off left through a gate  D. Marked as a bridleway, the track climbs to Gormire Farm. Keep ahead past the farm and through a gate to a junction by Gormire

The White Horse, a vivid landmark of the southern Hambleton Hills

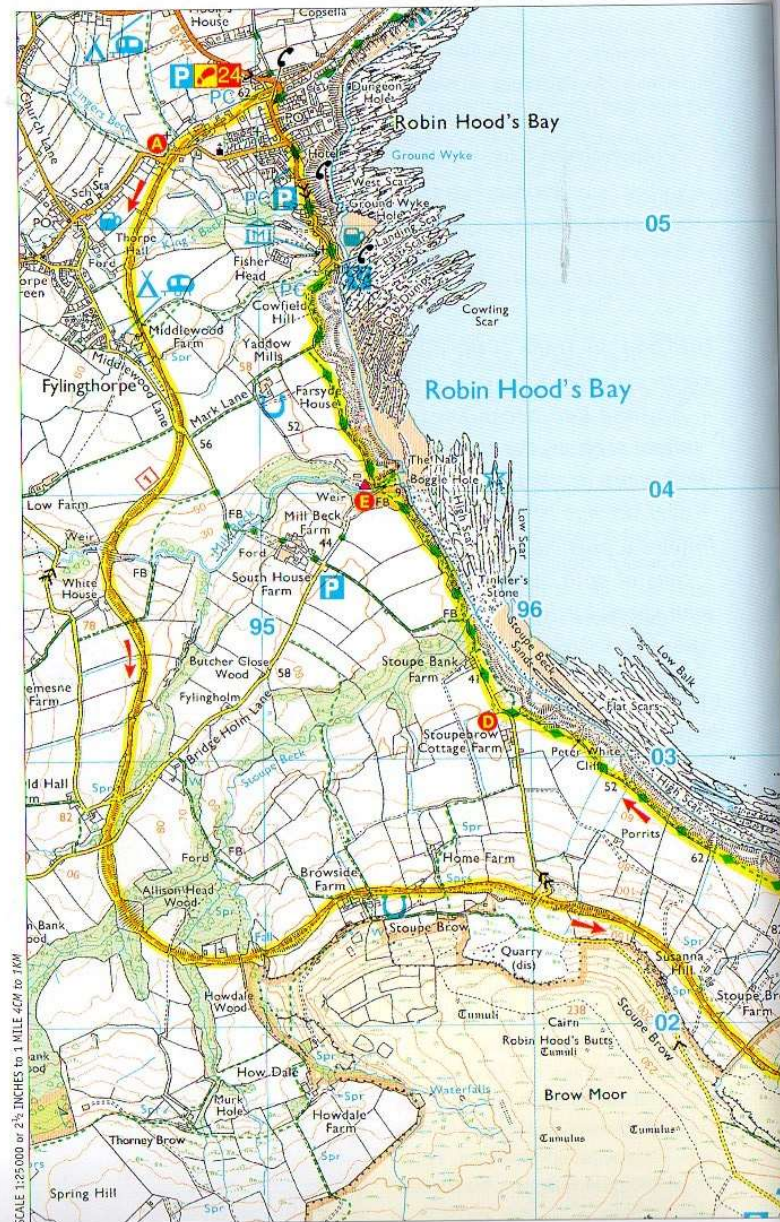


Lake. Despite its proximity to a main road and a well-frequented walking-area, the lake has a decidedly remote and mysterious atmosphere. It was formed by a glacial landslide and is unusual in that the pool has neither inlet nor outlet, its level entirely regulated by underground drainage. Bear right on a wooded path around its eastern shore signed to Southwoods, eventually reaching a junction well beyond the head of the lake. Joining a bridleway from Thirby Bank, carry on a little further to emerge from the trees opposite Southwoods Lodge.

Turn right through a gate and carry on along a bridleway that eventually meets a crossing of tracks at the entrance to Southwoods Hall  E. Signed to Tang Hall and Southwoods the way continues beside the hedge through a wooden gate opposite. At a second gate, slip through to join the drive, but where that then bends left towards the hall, keep ahead to a field gate. Instead of passing through, follow the fence to the right below barns to a small gate. Crossing a stream, bear left up the edge of a field. At the corner of the wall, a sign indicating the Cleveland Way directs you right to a waypost a few yards away. Swing left up the bank and continue uphill, the ongoing path confirmed by occasional blue-topped markers. Through a gate bear left, rising quite steeply to another gate leading into a forestry plantation. Carry on upwards through the trees, shortly reaching a grassy track. Walk a few paces to the right and then turn sharp left to resume your ascent. Emerging from the forest, head left in a final short pull onto the Cleveland Way  F. Turn right for an exhilarating but easy ramble of nearly two miles (3.2km) along the top of the scarp back to Sutton Bank, enjoying magnificent views all the way.

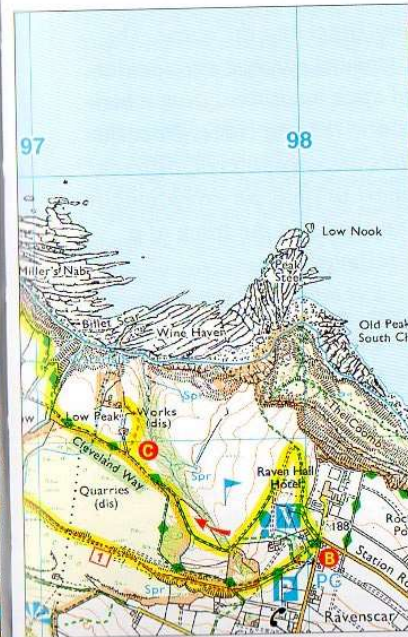
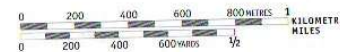
some spectacular views along the coast. Just beyond the station for Fyling Hall, where a bridge has been demolished, cross a road to regain the track, which

eventually leads to quarries from which shale was dug. It was used to make bricks and a ruined kiln stands close by, but more important was the



manufacture of alum, which was undertaken in a factory perched above the cliffs and passed a little later along the walk.

Just beyond the brickworks, landslide has affected the track and the waymarked path drops right, turning beneath a bridge to continue below the embankment. Joining the Cleveland Way, continue up to Ravenscar, passing the National Trust Coastal Centre to reach a road at the top **B**. In the late 19th century there were plans to develop Ravenscar as a major resort, but they came to nothing, one of the reasons being the instability of the surrounding cliffs. The most notable building is the **Raven Hall Hotel**, whose entrance lies just to the left. Built on the headland in the 18th century on the site of a Roman signal station, it is said to have been visited by George III.



Turn left in front of the hotel gates along a downhill track signed to Peak Fault, from which there is perhaps, the finest view of the walk, a panorama along the cliffs to the huddle of cottages at Robin Hood's Bay. Below the hotel walls, the track bends sharply left above the Raven Hall golf course, later curving right through scrubby woodland, where it is joined by the Cleveland Way. A short distance beyond, a path on the right **C** leads down to the site of the alum factory.

The walk, however, stays with the main track a little farther until it is barred by a gate. Sidestep it to a path on the right, which follows the field edge to the coast where it carries on above the cliffs. After $\frac{3}{4}$ mile (1.2km), the path emerges onto a lane **D**. Turn right and follow it down to a cottage, continuing past it along a descending stepped path to Stoupe Beck. *If the tide is safely out, you can then walk the remainder of the way to Robin Hood's Bay along the rocky beach.* Otherwise, carry on over a footbridge to climb steeply beyond. Another short clifftop walk follows before the path once again falls sharply, this time emerging onto a lane above Boggle Hole **E**.

Turn right, but then almost immediately, double back left onto a path dropping to a bridge below the youth hostel. Walk past its front to begin another steep ascent to the top of the cliffs. You then have an easy walk across the fields before the path falls along a decked walkway towards Robin Hood's Bay. At the end, go down to the right to reach a small promenade above the beach, climbing a short flight of steps at its far end and then dropping to a slipway by the old lifeboat station, now a National Trust Information Centre. Turn left and follow the winding street up through the village to the car parks at the top.

Goathland, Mallyan Spout and the Roman road

Start	Goathland	GPS waypoints
Distance	7½ miles (12.1km). Shorter versions 5½ miles (8.9km) and 2½ miles (4km)	NZ 833 013
Height gain	1,345 feet (410m). Shorter versions 1,150 feet (350m) and 475 feet (145m)	NZ 821 020
Approximate time	4 hours (3 and 1½ hours for the shorter versions)	NZ 824 011
Parking	Goathland – National Park car park	NZ 814 003
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 94 (Whitby & Esk Dale), Explorer OL27 (North York Moors – Eastern area)	SE 808 999
		SE 811 990
		SE 807 980
		SE 815 987
		NZ 827 007

Dramatic scenery and considerable historic appeal are features of this superb and rather long, but not particularly strenuous, walk. Nor is the climbing involved overly steep or unduly lengthy but, if neither time nor energy allow for the full walk, two shorter versions are possible, utilising a path at the southern end of the village between the Mallyan Spout Hotel and the gorge. The scenic variety includes a narrow, wooded gorge, a spectacular waterfall and stretches of bare and open moorland, from which there are extensive vistas. The historic interest comes from the fact that two former transport routes are encountered, different in nature and about 1,900 years apart in time: an exceptionally well-preserved stretch of Roman road and the track of a 19th-century railway.

Note that the route beside West Beck past Mallyan Spout can be slippery and dangerous, care is required and you should stick to the recognised path. Indeed, after heavy rain, the gorge may be impassable, as will then be the stepping stones across Wheeldale Beck below the Roman road. If this is the case, the walk should not be attempted.

In Goathland, the moors are inseparable from the village. Sheep graze its spacious commons and the

widely spaced cottages are strung out along a ¾-mile (1.2-km) ridge above the valleys of Eller Beck to the east and West Beck to the west. The squat, solid-looking parish church at the southern end of the village, which was built in 1896, harmonises perfectly with its attractive surroundings.

The walk starts at the car park, from which you should turn left along Beck Hole Road. After 100 yds, go left again through a kissing-gate, signed

'Grosmont Rail Trail', and follow a grassy path down to a road. Cross and continue along a steadily downhill gravel track opposite. Part of the original Whitby – Pickering Railway built by George Stephenson and opened in 1836, this mile-long (1.6km) section to Beck Hole descends a 1-in-15 incline. The climb between Beck Hole and Goathland was a major obstacle for the railway engineers because the slope was too steep, both for the early horsedrawn carriages and the later steam-powered locomotives. The problem could only be solved by hauling the carriages up and down the incline by means of a cable system. However, this proved both unsatisfactory and unsafe, and so in 1865, an alternative route, the one still used by the present North Yorkshire Moors Railway, was created by blasting a cutting through the rocks to the north.

At the bottom, pass through a gate to Incline Cottage . If you want to detour to Beck Hole and the Birch Hall Inn, carry on for another ¼ mile (400m) and then turn right through a gate. Otherwise, go left opposite Incline Cottage, signed 'The Mallyan', and continue through a kissing-gate at the edge of a meadow above West Beck. For the next ¾ mile (1.2km), the sometimes steeply climbing and falling path passes through successive gates as it makes its way up the narrow, wooded valley, eventually leading to a junction by a bench, where a path is signed off left to Goathland .

Those wanting only a short walk can follow this path back to the village. Alternatively, for the medium walk, you can join the route here, having begun from the upper end of the path by the side of the Mallyan Spout Hotel .

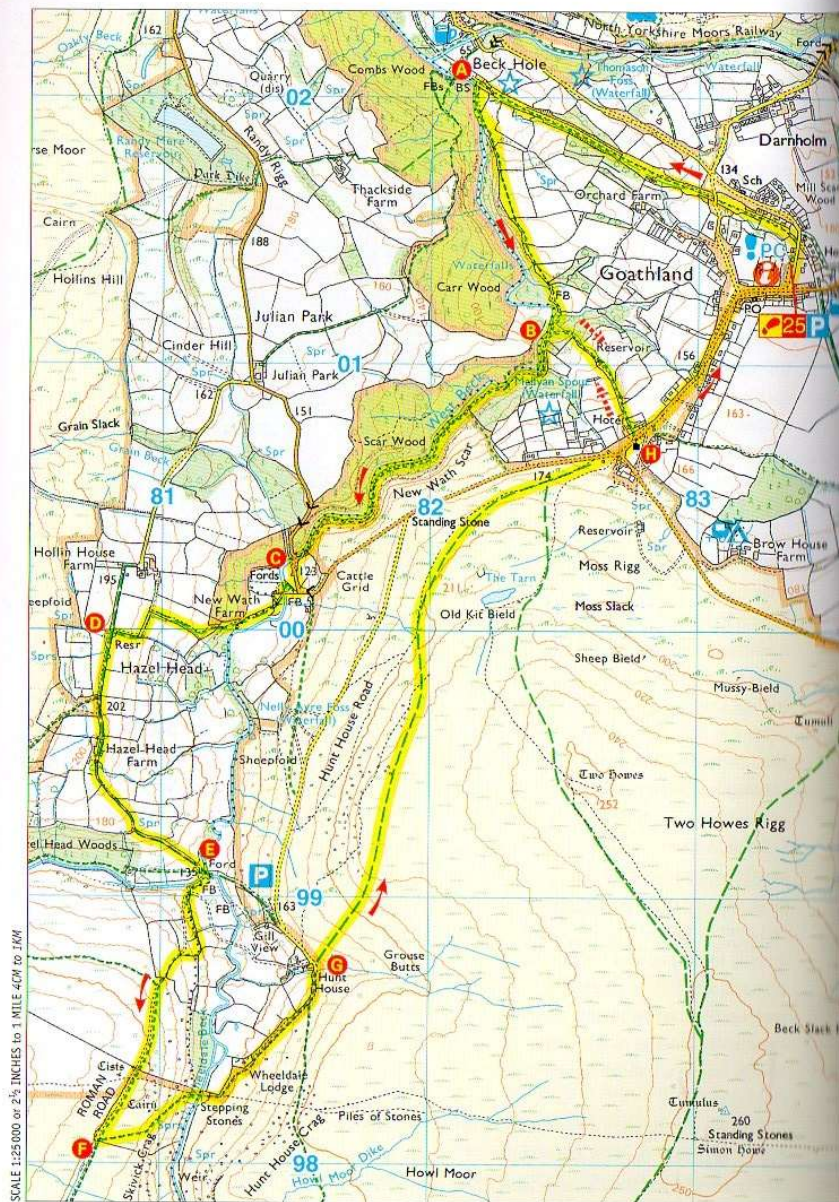
The next mile (1.6km) lies along the gorge above West Beck, where slippery rocks can sometimes make the way dangerous, therefore be careful as you



Mallyan Spout, near Goathland

proceed. However, it is an exceptionally beautiful place, the highlight being the impressive 70ft-fall (21m) of Mallyan Spout, just a little higher up the ravine. Climbing beyond, the path briefly crosses to the opposite bank, before returning to continue upstream, finally emerging over a stile onto a lane by a bridge .

Follow it up left to a bend, there turning through a gate on the right from which a waymarked track drops towards a ford. However, just before the river, bear left over a footbridge and then go left again past the front of a house to reach a field gate just beyond. Walk along the length of a narrow field, leaving through a gate on the right near its far end to continue up through a wood on a stony path. Beyond another gate above, keep going in the same direction by trees and then a wall to the top corner of the field. Turn left through a gate there and continue along the right-hand edge of the next field, passing through a gate on the right when you reach its far corner. Now



climb ahead at the field edge, leaving at the top onto a tarmac track **D**, from where there is a glorious panorama

across the valley. Follow the track left for just over ¼ mile (400m) through gates to Hazel Head Farm. Keep going past the buildings, leaving through another gate at the far end. The way continues as a descending path between

hedge banks, dropping through gates and eventually passing into trees at the bottom above a brook

E. Head upstream to cross a footbridge and continue a little farther on the opposite bank to a stile. Go left to join a track climbing over rough grassland above a wall. Over another stile, follow a wall around left to pass through a gate at the top, where a plaque describes something of the history of the 'Roman' road, which then lies ahead. This is one of the best-preserved and most impressive stretches of ancient road in Britain, its culverts and parallel ditches still clearly visible across the heathery hillside. It was once believed to have been built around AD80, part of a moorland route from the fort at Malton to the North Sea coast, possibly connecting with a chain of coastal signal stations. However, recent research has produced differing opinions, suggesting on the one hand that it may actually be pre-Roman or alternatively, may date only from the end of the Roman occupation.

Follow the roadway across the open and breezy expanse of Wheeldale Moor, shortly climbing a stile. Keep going for another 300 yds, and then turn sharp left **F**, by a helpfully-placed cairn, along a discernible path. Initially through the heather, the way soon becomes rocky as it descends below Skivick Crag to stepping stones across Wheeldale Beck below. On the opposite bank, continue over a stile, but at the corner of a wall, go left on a path to Wheeldale Lodge. Carry on along a track over a rise, dropping to cross a beck by Hunt House **G**.

For the inexperienced, navigating the next section in mist might be difficult,



The Roman road across Wheeldale Moor

in which case, simply stick with the lane back to Goathland. Otherwise, leave the track immediately beyond the bridge, bearing right onto the moor and rising beside a ditch to join a grassy track higher up. Vague tracks and sheep paths confuse the way ahead, but keep your upward direction, bearing right again and making for a prominent cairn on the rocky skyline ahead. Beyond the cairn, a clear path runs to the left along the top of the ridge, giving magnificent views across the valley on a clear day. Keep going for a little over ¼ mile (400m) passing several small cairns before reaching a larger one. Bear off left past it, and follow an indistinct path that descends across the slope, to join a more prominent track below, which leads ahead past the mouth of a shallow valley. The way, again clear, then curves gently to the right, gradually closing with the lane below. Soon the moorland is left behind and a grassy path takes you down to the road. Go right to a junction and bear left past Goathland's church and the **Mallyan Spout Hotel H** for the final ¾ mile (1.2km) walk back through the village to the car park.

Westerdale Moor

Start	Westerdale
Distance	11 miles (17.7km)
Height gain	1,035 feet (315m)
Approximate time	5½ hours
Parking	Roadside parking in Westerdale
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 94 (Whitby & Esk Dale, Robin Hood's Bay), Explorer OL26 (North York Moors – Western area)
GPS waypoints	■ NZ 664 058 A NZ 655 051 B NZ 651 035 C NZ 656 021 D NZ 653 007 E SE 679 997 F NZ 675 012 G NZ 682 019 H NZ 682 028 J NZ 682 040 K NZ 667 058

Westerdale, in the upper reaches of Eskdale, is surrounded by lofty moorland and has a lonely grandeur. The first part of the walk keeps generally by the River Esk below Westerdale Moor before heading up to join the track of a disused railway, from where there are superb views into Farndale. The route continues around the head of Rosedale, passing two of the many crosses that served as waymarks to guide the travellers of an earlier age. There is some rough terrain on this magnificent walk and, although for the most part the moorland tracks are clear, unless you are experienced in the use of a compass, you should not attempt it in poor or misty weather.

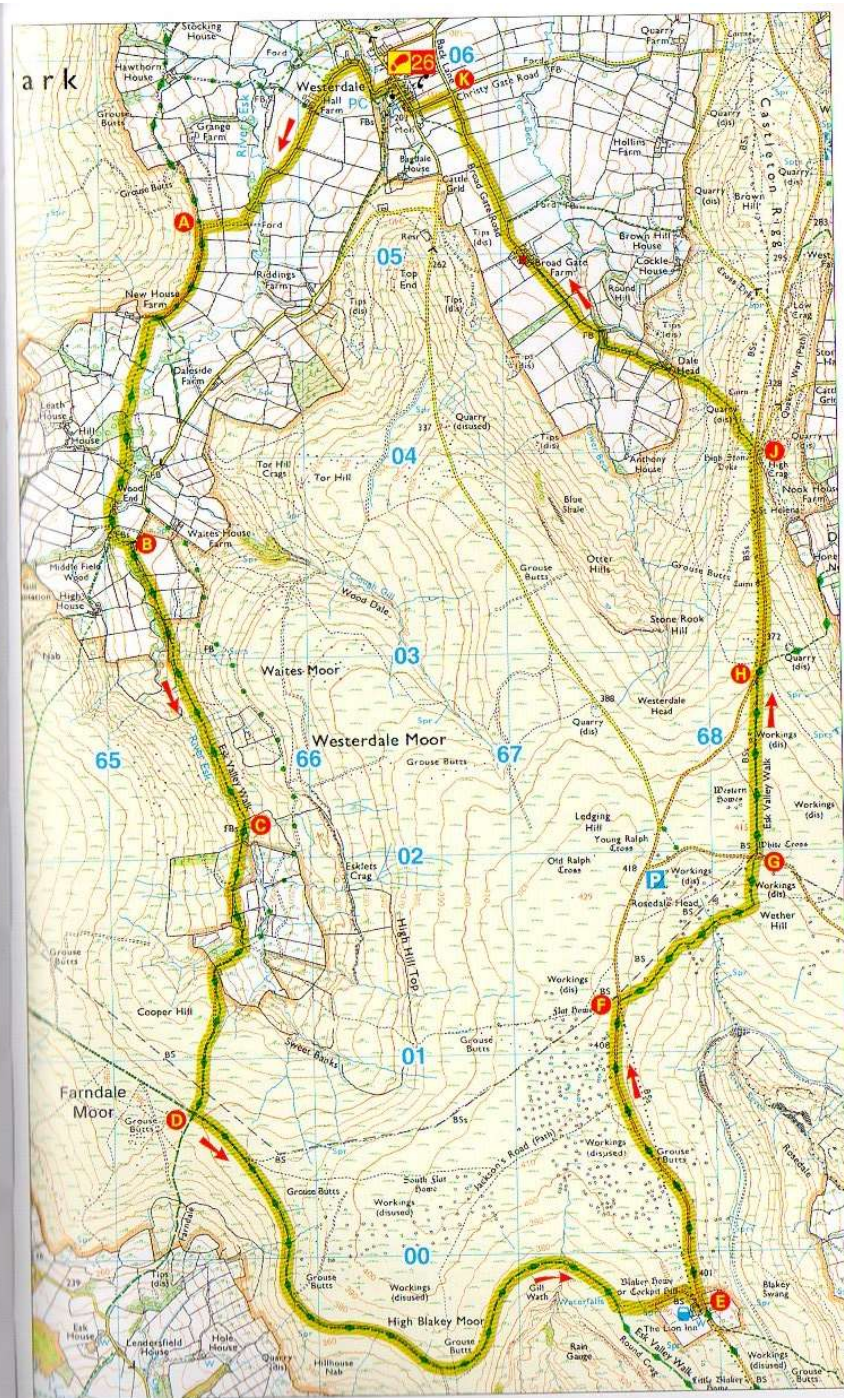
Although little more than a handful of cottages clustered around a 19th-century church, Westerdale appears almost as an urban oasis amidst the remote and empty moors and makes an excellent centre for some particularly challenging rambles.

■ From the village centre, leave along a lane beside a telephone box, marked as a 'no through road'. Follow the lane for ¾ mile (1.2km) down to the River Esk, climbing beyond the bridge to a gate at its end A.

Turn left on a track, which in due course leads around a bend to New House Farm. However, approaching its buildings, go left through a waymarked gate and follow a track across two fields to a footbridge. Continue beyond with

the river on your left, climbing two stiles and then crossing a final field to reach a crossing farm track. Walk to another stile opposite and keep going towards Wood End Farm. Nearing the farmhouse, go over a stile to the right, passing behind it and its attendant buildings to another stile. Keep ahead to a footbridge and on to meet a track, which drops left to a second bridge by a ford B. On the far bank turn immediately right following a sign to Esklets.

For the next ¾ mile (1.2km) the path roughly parallels the River Esk, progressing gently upwards and negotiating successive gates or stiles as



SCALE 1:33,333 or about 2 INCHES TO 1 MILE 3/4 IN TO 1 KM

it makes its way through a strikingly beautiful and increasingly wild and open landscape below Westerdale Moor. Eventually, a footbridge **C** takes the path onto the opposite bank, where it leads to a stile. Over that, carry on gaining height and now moving away from the river. Shortly join a clear gravel track, which you should follow ahead through a gate. After crossing a stream, the track winds steadily up to a saddle at the distant head of the valley **D**.

Running across the watershed is the track-bed of the former Rosedale Ironstone Railway, which was built in the 19th century to carry iron ore from the mines around Rosedale to the River Tees. Nowadays it serves as a superb, high-level moorland route, which gives magnificent views as it loops around the head of Farndale. This section forms one of the easier parts of the Lyke Wake Walk, a strenuous 40-mile (64-km) east-west moorland challenge that has to be accomplished in a single day. Follow it left for the next two miles (3.2km), before leaving beside a low stone marker for the Lyke Wake Walk onto a rising path on the left. Continue past a red-roofed hut and up beside a wall, turning around its top corner below the burial mound of Blakey Howe to reach the road by **The Lion Inn E**.

Turn left along the road from Blakey Ridge, which separates Farndale from Rosedale, walking as far as the Margery Bradley Stone, an ancient marker for travellers across the moors, one mile (1.6km) away on the left **F**. There, a waymarked path winds through heather to the right across the head of Rosedale, giving superb views down the valley. Later curving to the left, it rises to the road near another marker-stone, White Cross, more affectionately known as Fat Betty **G**. Cross to a bridleway beside it, signed with the Esk Valley Way symbol that runs north in an almost straight



Fat Betty - an ancient marker for travellers across the moors

line across the open moorland for ½ mile (800m) beside a series of boundary stones, easily descending to end at a road **H**.

As you follow the road ahead for the next ¾ mile (1.2km), there are splendid views all around. Danby Dale lies on the right, in front is the head of Eskdale and beyond it, Comondale, and, on a clear day, you may even glimpse Roseberry Topping, peeping above the horizon to the north west. At a junction **I**, go left onto another bridleway that passes beneath High Stone Dyke, a low earthwork topped by a boundary stone. The track descends through heather, eventually leaving the moor by a gate at Dale Head Farm. Walk ahead to a tree, turn left between barns and then, following a waymark, go right in front of the farmhouse to pass through the right-hand one of a pair of gates. Continue along the edge of successive fields by the left-hand wall towards a small wood, there bearing right down a bank into the trees to cross a bridge. Through a gate beyond, walk on to another gate and keep ahead by a wall on the left. Carry on through yet another gate, the wall now on your right, to Broad Gate Farm, where two final gates take you past the farm and away along a tarmac lane. After ½ mile (800m), at a crossroads **K**, turn left back into Westerdale.

Cold Moor and Urra Moor

Start	Chop Gate	GPS waypoints
Distance	9 miles (14.5km)	SE 559 993
Height gain	1,605 feet (490m)	A SE 558 997
Approximate time	5 hours	B NZ 550 034
Parking	Chop Gate (car park just to the south of the hamlet)	C NZ 572 033
Ordnance Survey maps	Landrangers 93 (Middlesbrough) and 100 (Malton & Pickering), Explorer OL26 (North York Moors – Western area)	D NZ 579 030
		E SE 576 992

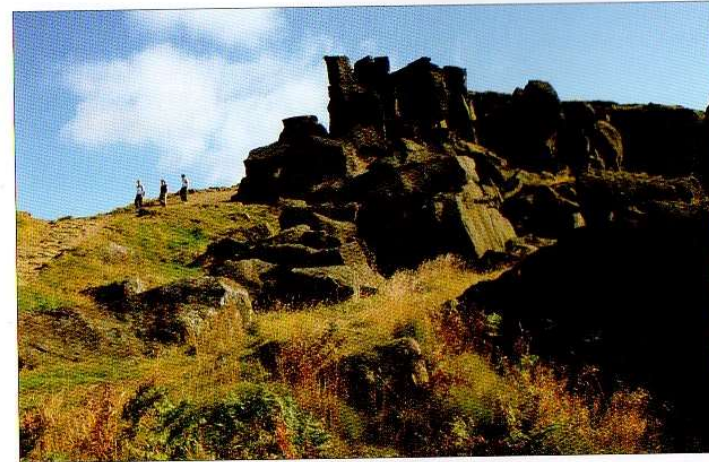
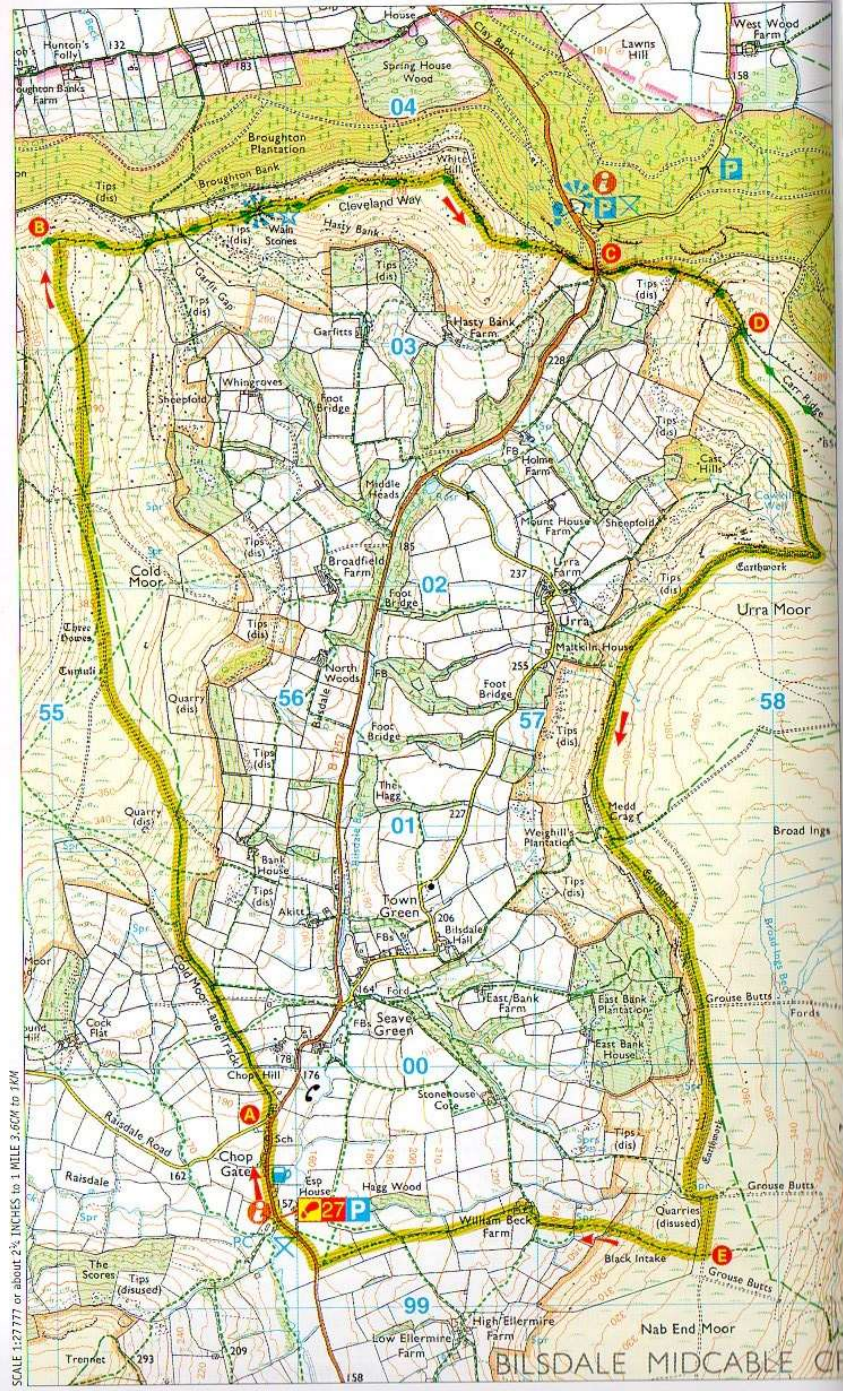
Unless you are experienced in map and compass navigation, this walk, which explores the exposed moorlands of the Cleveland Hills near the head of Biltsdale, should only be attempted in good weather. *It is also quite a strenuous route involving a lot of 'up and down' work, and in parts may be wet, but as compensation there are glorious views all the way around. From Chop Gate it climbs over the, at times, aptly named Cold Moor to the northern edge of the Cleveland escarpment. After then turning east along a section of the Cleveland Way, it heads southwards along the edge of barren Urra Moor before a final descent back into Biltsdale. Not only are the panoramas expansive, they are also varied, with glimpses of urban and industrialised Teesside in the distance contrasting with the sparsely populated gentleness of Biltsdale and the severity and bleakness of the surrounding high moorland.*

 Walk along the main road into the hamlet of Chop Gate, pronounced locally 'Chop Yat', once an important meeting place of moorland tracks and now an excellent centre for walking. Pass the **Buck Inn** and at the road junction turn left along the lane signposted to Carlton, but immediately go right onto a waymarked bridleway **A** climbing behind the Wesleyan Chapel. It continues upwards between hedged banks, later widening to a green lane and passing through successive gates to emerge eventually onto open moor.

Keeping ahead, follow a narrow,

distinct path rising steadily along the hillside above a plantation onto Cold Moor.

As you reach the top, the path joins a clear track. Follow it ahead along the crest of a broad ridge, from which there are fine views into Raisdale on the left and Biltsdale on the right. Keep going over an intermediate rise until you reach the end of the ridge at the lip of the Cleveland escarpment **B**. In front is a magnificent panorama over the Cleveland plain, past Great Broughton and Great Ayton below to the conurbation of Teesside in the distance with the distinctively shaped Roseberry Topping standing in



Approaching the Wain Stones

between them.

Now follows the main 'up and down' part of the walk. Turn right along the Cleveland Way, descending steeply to a gate. Through that keep ahead, climbing abruptly up Hasty Bank to a prominent group of rocks on the top, the Wain Stones. Continue along the top of the scarp over Hasty Bank before dropping sharply again to a stile. Over that, turn right and follow a path down by the wall to emerge onto the Helmsley-Stokesley road ①.

Cross to a gate opposite, from which an uphill path, again signed 'Cleveland Way', follows a wall to a gate. Keep ahead, climbing above a narrow, rocky cleft, which lies over to the right, to another gate. At a junction just beyond ②, turn right along a brideway running at the edge of the bleak expanses of Urra Moor, following an ancient, low and sometimes indistinct embankment and shallow ditch, possibly dating from the Iron Age. For the next two miles (3.2km), the path winds easily above the valley. It

shortly dips and turns right across the course of a stream and then, some distance later, dips again at the head of a gully, past a path dropping to the valley below. Continuing beyond there, most of the day's route around the edge of the valley below is visible, Cold Moor to the right and Hasty Bank behind.

Eventually, the path runs above a wall on the right. Keep going beyond its end to a junction of paths at a small cairn. Carry on ahead, the way soon passing a plantation over to the right, at which point the path curves away, to climb a craggy bank. When you reach the top, go right on a broad track, which later bends left by a wall, rising to a junction just beyond its corner.

Turn right there, walking parallel to the wall for 200 yds, then go right, dropping to a gate through it ③. A clear path continues ahead into the valley, leaving the moor through another gate below. Keep going downfield to another gate from which a walled track leads to William Beck Farm. Bear left around the farmhouse and leave along its access track, turning right when you hit the main road to return to Chop Gate. ●

Ingleby Moor and Greenhow Bank

Start	Ingleby Greenhow	GPS waypoints
Distance	10 miles (16.1km)	NZ 581 062
Height gain	1,130 feet (345m)	NZ 582 063
Approximate time	5 hours	NZ 604 061
Parking	By church in Ingleby Greenhow	NZ 616 040
Ordinance Survey maps	Landrangers 93 (Middlesbrough) and 94 (Whitby & Esk Dale), Explorer OL26 (North York Moors – Western area)	NZ 607 032
		NZ 615 015
		NZ 596 045
		NZ 584 049

There is an exhilarating feeling on this fine and lengthy route across open, sweeping and remote moorland. The walk recalls the heyday of the 19th-century iron-mining boom and makes use of both an old coach road and a disused railway line. Despite its length and the wildness of much of the terrain, there are just two climbs to be negotiated, and only one of these, up Ingleby Bank, is in any way steep. The descent of Greenhow Bank is via the Ingleby Incline, down which wagons laden with iron ore were lowered until the line closed in 1928. The views are superb throughout but, unless you are an experienced walker able to use a compass, this is definitely a walk to be set aside for a fine, settled day.

Nowadays it is almost impossible to envisage the small, quiet and remote village of Ingleby Greenhow, which nestles in a fold of the Cleveland Hills at the foot of a steep, wooded embankment, as a busy and noisy industrial centre. Yet, from 1861 to 1928, it occupied a key position in the transportation of iron ore from the mines around Rosedale to the furnaces of Teesside and Durham. A major problem was how to get the ore across the high moorland and down the steep escarpment to the Tees. The solution came in 1861 with the construction of a railway across the moors from Rosedale to the top of

Greenhow Bank. The wagons were then lowered by means of a rope-worked incline, powered by a massive steam engine at the summit, before continuing their journey to Middlesbrough. Since the line closed in 1928, the village has largely reverted to its previous sleepy existence.

The walk starts by the church, a small, plain building with a low, squat tower, which dates from the 12th century and, though largely rebuilt in the 18th century, retains its fine and rare Norman nave. From the church, walk to a T-junction and go right along the road towards Kildale and Castleton

(left for the **Dudley Arms**). After about 80 yds , turn right along a waymarked path between the houses, which continues across the field behind. Through a gate at the end walk on at the field edge to another gate near Ingleby Manor. Beyond that, go left, signed 'Bank Foot', keeping ahead in the next field. At a gap partway along, pass through to continue on the opposite side of the hedge, finally emerging onto a lane. Turn right and follow it ahead past a cottage to Bank Foot Farm, where it becomes a track, rising to a gate.

Now comes the climb up Ingleby Bank. Just a few steps after the gate, cross a stile on the right and follow a path rising abruptly into a forestry plantation. Keep ahead over a crossing grass track and maintain the steep

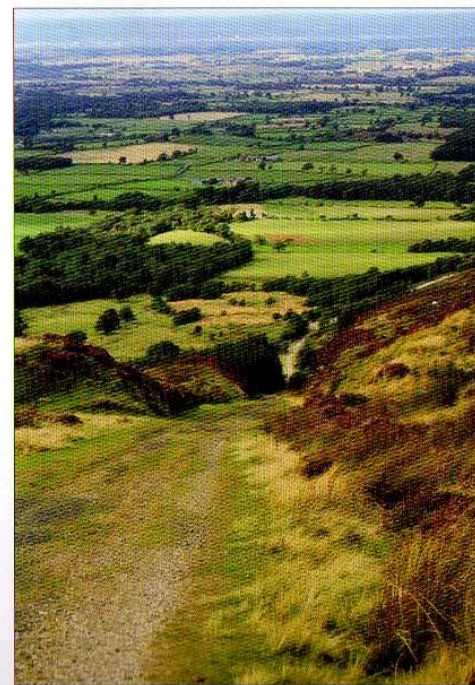
ascent through the trees. Emerging onto a gravel track at the top below Ingleby Bank, turn right and follow it through a gate, the climb continuing around to the left. When you shortly reach a sharp right-hand bend, bear left past a chain barrier onto a more gently rising grassy path that winds onto the open moor. Before long, at a junction, just before a low cairn, turn right to follow a clearer path, which soon meets a broad gravel track, the Cleveland Way. There, go left and walk along to a junction by another cairn .

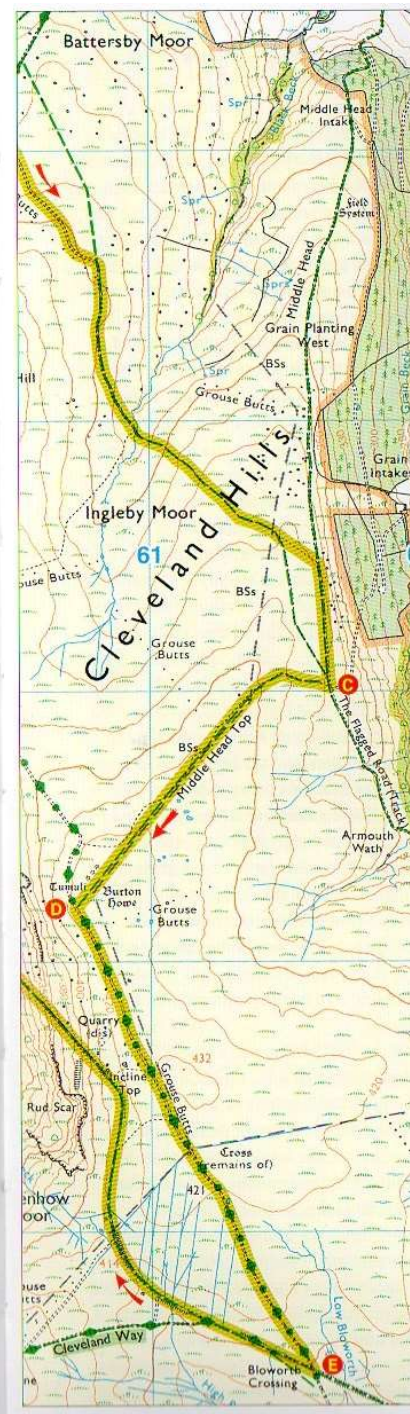
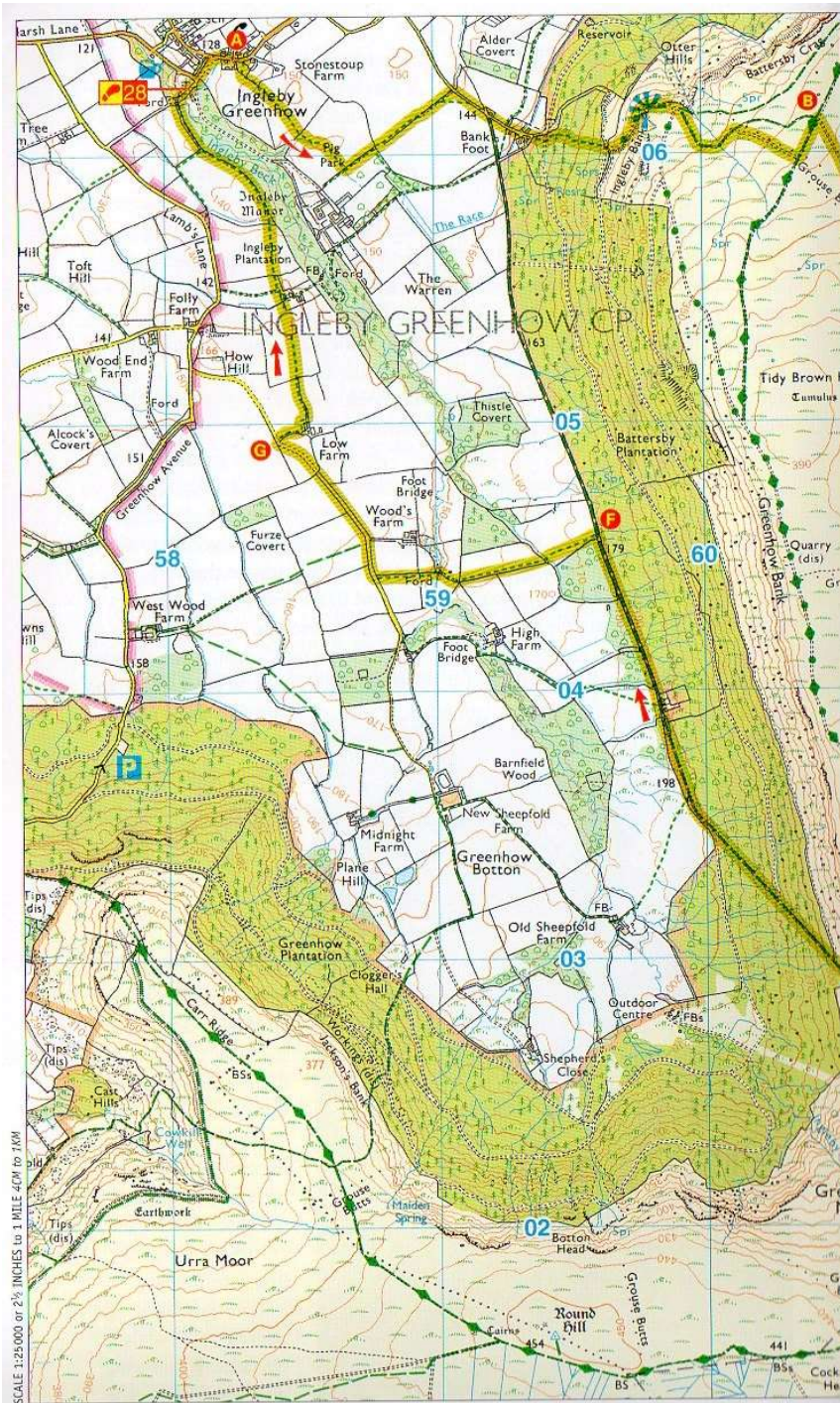
Turn right, the track winding gently for some 1½ miles (2.4km) across the rolling, heathery expanse of Ingleby Moor. Eventually, the way falls to meet another track along the rim of the forested Grain Beck valley. Follow it right, soon reaching another junction and there go right again. After curving left, the track climbs beyond an outcrop

of rocks along Middle Head Top to the low mound of Burton Howe, a Bronze Age burial chamber. Skirt around it to rejoin the Cleveland Way just beyond and turn left. Once an old coach road crossing the moors between Stokesley and Kirbymoorside, it leads for some 1¼ miles (2km) above Greenhow Bank and past the Jenny Bradley Stone, an ancient waymark, to Blowworth Crossing , where the coach road crosses the Rosedale Ironstone Railway.

Here, turn sharp right onto the track of the old railway, following it for just over ¾ mile

Heading down the Ingleby Incline





(1.2km) to the top of the Ingleby Incline. Beyond the massive stone-block foundations of the winding house, the way continues down the incline, which runs dead-straight for another $\frac{1}{4}$ mile (1.2km), cutting through the Battersby Plantation to the bottom of Greenhow Bank. Bear right onto a crossing track and follow that for another $\frac{1}{4}$ mile (1.2km), passing along the way some of the old railwaymen's cottages.

About $\frac{1}{2}$ mile (800m) beyond the cottages, and just past a small copse, look for a waymarked stile on the left **F**. Walk down by the edge of the field and, over a stile by a gate, carry on in the next field. Through a gap at the bottom, follow a faint grass track down to a gate and footbridge beside a ford. Across it, head left to another gate and stile just upstream of the ford and immediately go right, climbing a bank beside a fence. Over another stile, carry on across a final field to reach a lane and turn right along it. Keep going past Wood's Farm to the entrance of Low Farm, a little farther on **G**.

Turn in there, but, just before reaching the farm, leave over a stile on the left, crossing a small paddock to continue at the edge of a larger field beyond. Keep ahead across the middle of the next field, exiting over a stile at the far end by a group of trees near a farmhouse. Briefly, join a track past the front of the cottage as you walk forward to another stile. Carry on over the field beyond to its corner by a wood, continuing beside it at the edge of the next field. Towards the far end, drop right to a stile, from which a narrow path runs beside the trees. Shortly, through a gap, the way descends steps to a track. Turn right and follow it over Ingleby Beck back to the church. **E**