

WALK 3 – HARD: 11 ¾ miles and 2,405 feet of climbing (approx)

Starting point: Park Bottom

Litton - Halton Gill – Horse Head Pass – Yockenthwaite – Hubberholme – Firth Fell - Litton

Refreshments: Katie's Cuppas, Halton Gill; George Inn, Hubberholme; Queens Arms, Litton

Directions:

On leaving Park Bottom turn left. Just before the last houses in Litton turn left at the sign for bridlepath and head down the hill and across the River Skifare on the wooden bridge – often the river is bone dry due to a fault in the river bed which allows the water to run underground.



Once over the river turn right and head through the small wooden gate and go diagonally across the fields until reaching another small wooden gate, with Spittle Croft on your left. Go through this and then climb the stone steps to the next gate, once through this gate you are on the bridleway. Turn right and continue along the bridleway to New Bridge. At New Bridge go through the wooden gate in front of you and start to climb the track by the wall, at the footpath sign for Nether Hesleden ¾ mile turn right and follow this path to Nether Hesleden as it goes through a number of fields through gates and over stiles, until reaching the houses of Nether Hesleden on your left.



Just after the telegraph post turn right onto the track and then almost immediately turn left over the stile following the footpath sign. This area can get very boggy, head over the small wooden bridges. Go through the wooden gate and cross the track and go through the 2nd wooden gate and over the wall. The path now continues over fields going through gates and stiles and passing by derelict barns. Views of Horse Head pass (where you are heading) will appear on your right, Cosh Moor in front of you and Plover Hill to your left. Follow the path until you meet the river again and arrive at the bridge in Halton Gill. Climb the stone steps and turn right to go over the river. At the junction turn left to go through Halton Gill.



Continue to follow the road as it goes around the bend, as the road begins to straighten up take the bridleway on the right hand side signposted Yockenthwaite 3 miles & Beckermonds 2 ½ miles. The grassy path starts to climb steeply and zig-zag slightly. In front are lovely views of Foxup and Cosh Moor. Ignore the path that goes off to the left to Beckermonds, continue climbing upwards.



Make sure to look back down to see a great view of Littondale. The path continues for around a mile winding upwards to Horse Head pass. On reaching the gate at the top of Horse Head pass, Horse Head trig point can be seen on your left. At the top on a clear day, looking in a south westerly direction you should be able to make out all the Yorkshire 3 Peaks. Continue to follow the main bridleway as it starts to drop downwards towards Raisgill and Yockenthwaite, views of Buckden Pike on your right can be seen. After crossing the small beck the path levels out for a while before dropping sharply to the road.



Follow any of the tracks down to the road. Once on the road turn left and walk along the road. At the post box turn right over the humpback bridge and right again to go in front of the main farm house. You will now begin to follow the Dales Way path along the river to Hubberholme. The Dales Way path runs mainly along the side of the River Wharfe for about 1 ½ miles until reaching the church at Hubberholme.

The church and its graveyard are worth a visit. Several of Robert Thompson's (the "Mouseman of Kilburn") mice can be seen carved in the pews. The author, JB Priestley; described St Michael and All Angels Church as "one of the smallest and most pleasant places in the world". He has a memorial at the back of the church and his ashes were scattered in the churchyard. After passing the church on your right go over the bridge towards The George Inn and turn left to head down the road towards Buckden. Unfortunately the walk now follows the road for around ¾ miles, it shouldn't be too busy. Ignoring the Dales Way footpath sign to Buckden on your left hand side, continue along the road until reaching a signpost with Litton 3 ½ miles over a small wooden stile.



Take this path and walk parallel with the wall until reaching the main bridleway path which is stony and then start to follow this as it head upwards to Redmire. As the path levels out go through the 2 gates and continue along the path. The main path appears to continue straight on but you need to take the right hand bridleway following the signpost. Don't forget to look behind you to see great views of Buckden and Buckden Pike. The bridleway is now going over moorland which can often be boggy. Follow the wooden posts with blue on their tops, heading slightly left and upwards towards the ridge.



The path continues for a further 1 mile or so until reaching paving slabs to prevent erosion, on reaching these you know you are near the top!! Follow these slabs past the cairn and along the path, go through the gap in the wall and continue along the path with the fell trig on your left hand side. On reaching the gate you have reached the top and now views of Littondale, Darnbrook Fell, Plover Hill and Pen-y-Ghent should appear. Follow the paving slabs and then start to descend down towards Litton. The majority of the path is grassy but can become boggy in places. The path follows the wall for around ¾ miles before going slightly left and then right and then the path becomes slightly stony as it heads down through a gap in the wall.



Continue down the bridleway through 2 gates and onto a grassy descent, before crossing Crystal Beck. Go through the gate and along the path between the 2 walls until it reaches the farmyard. Go through the farmyard and onto the road by the Queens Arms. Turn right and walk the few metres back to Park Bottom

