

**WALK 27 – HARD:** 13 miles and 2,511 feet of climbing (approx)

Starting point: Litton

**Litton - Buckden – Starbotton – Kettlewell - Arncliffe**

**Refreshments: Pubs & cafes in Buckden, Fox & Hounds, Starbotton; Pubs & cafes in Kettlewell; Falcon Inn & Littondale Larder's pop-up shop, Arncliffe; Queens Arms, Litton**

**Directions:** On leaving Park Bottom turn right and head towards the Queens Arms. Take the bridleway just after the Queens Arms signposted Buckden 3 ½ miles. Follow the bridleway through the farmyard and up to the right, take the right hand path through the gate and between the 2 walls.



Go through a further gate and head over Crystal Beck, using the wooden bridge if walking after heavy rainfall. Head through the gate and up the grassy hill towards a further gate. The path then starts to get a little stony as it continues upwards. Continue through another gate and then through the gap in the wall.



Once through the gap in the wall the path starts to bend to the left, follow this and head towards the wall. The path then starts to head upwards, parallel with the wall. The path is mainly grassy but can be boggy in places. Remember to look back down to see views of Litton and Littondale. Continue upwards through a further gate and continue climbing. Once through the gate after about ¼ mile the path starts to level out as the path becomes paving slabs. Once at the gate you have reached the top, go through the gate and follow the paving slabs.



Go through the gap in the wall and head towards the cairns; the path now starts to descend into Buckden. Follow the wooden posts with blue on their tops as they cross grassy, often boggy ground. On reaching another path, follow the bridleway to the left. Go through 2 gates and start to drop down the stony path to meet the road. Turn right onto the road and follow the road for about ¼ mile. On reaching Buckden turn left up the stony track by the green in front of the village shop and head for the car park.



Go through the car park passing the bus stop towards the large wooden gate. At the gate turn right and follow the path to Buckden Lead Mine & Starbotton. The path follows the edge of the field by the wooden fence before dropping down and going over the stream via the stepping stones (follow the footpath signs to the right for the best route across the stream). The path then climbs steeply on a grassy & stony path parallel with the road until doubling back on itself for a short while. Just after this point take the small path to the right and head over to the wall and the stone steps through the wooden gate. Now follow the wooden posts with yellow on their tops as they head down towards Starbotton.



Just before reaching Starbotton the path will meet a bridleway coming down from Buckden Pike, an old roman road. Turn right and head down this stony track to Starbotton. Once at the road in Starbotton go straight ahead and follow this minor road around the back of Starbotton. Just before reaching the main road take the footpath turning on your left hand side sign-posted Kettlewell 2 miles. The path climbs steeply for a short time before levelling out and going through fields parallel with the road. On reaching Kettlewell the path will meet the road, follow the road until reaching the Blue Bell pub. Turn left by the pub and walk over the bridge between the Blue Bell and the Race Horses.



Continue along the road passing the car park on your right and over the river Wharfe. Turn right immediately over the bridge and follow the obvious stony track to Moor End Farm. Initially the track is level until winding and rising steeply. At the farm take the bridleway to the left of the farm and follow the signs. The path initially goes in the wrong direction but soon meets the track coming up from Starbotton. Join this path, turning left and follow the path until reaching the ridge.



On reaching the ridge go through the gate and start to descend into Arncliffe, following the bridleway, which is rocky and boggy to start with but soon becomes grassy. Views of Arncliffe and Yew Cougar Scar can now be seen. Go through a further gate and the path now becomes concrete, heading down towards Old Cote Farm. Before reaching the farm take the footpath on the left hand side by the signpost and head down the grassy bank to the road. On reaching the road go straight ahead over the river and take the track in front of the houses on the right, sign posted Litton. Follow this track along the side of the river as it bends around and heads to the road.



On reaching the road go over the small hump-back bridge; follow the footpath sign Litton 2 miles & Halton Gill 5 miles along the wide track between the fields. Go through the wooden bridge and cross the stones over the spring. Follow the path as it goes diagonally across fields and through gates until meeting the river again at the sign for Scoska Woods and turn right over the stepping stones (if the river is too high to cross please see the alternative route turning left after the wooden gate). Follow the public footpath signs back to Litton; along the river at first then moving away from the river, crossing fields and going through many gates; soon the Queens Arms will come into sight. At the Queens Arms turn left, and walk the few metres back to Park Bottom.



