

WALK 29 – VERY HARD: 20 miles and 4,687 feet of climbing (approx)

Starting point: Litton

Litton - Buckden – Buckden Pike – Great Whernside - Kettlewell – Arncliffe - Litton

Refreshments: Pubs & cafes in Buckden, 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. At the gate you've 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 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 and head up the wide stony track in front of you.



Follow this track until taking the footpath to the right sign posted Buckden Pike. The climb can be very steep in places but the path is an obvious one climbing to the top of Buckden Pike. At the top continue straight on, keeping the wall on your left. Pass the trig point and follow the path along the ridge, sign-posted 'suggested route to the war memorial' until a junction of walls. Go over the stile and turn right by the war memorial. The path now starts to head down. Follow the small path by the side of the wall, always keeping the wall on your right hand side. The ground can be very boggy in places.



Soon you should start to see the road and car park, with Great Whernside to the right. Head down towards the car park. Cross the road and follow the footpath signposted Great Whernside 1 ½ miles. The path climbs steeply at first over boggy ground and then levels out over more rocky ground on nearing the top of Great Whernside. On reaching the trig point take the small path immediately on the right just passed the cairn and trig point down towards Kettlewell, passing Hag Dyke on the way. At Hag Dyke take the public footpath sign –posted to Kettlewell. On arriving in Kettlewell walk straight along the road passing the Kings Head and then turning right. On meeting the main road turn left and go passed the car park on your right.



Go over the river Wharfe and turn right immediately over the bridge to 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.



Follow 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 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 gate and cross the stones over the spring. Follow the path as it goes diagonally across the fields through gates and stiles until meeting the river again bridge by the sign for Scoska Woods. Here 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.



