

WALK No. 1 ~ 'The Classic'

What you can expect ~ This much-loved popular walk is in our opinion best walked in a clockwise direction. Consisting mainly of flat ground, pasture, arable field and through two historic parks, with 4 short sections of road between. In the first quarter of the walk there are several stiles to negotiate.

Difficulty rating:



Distance: 8 miles.

Time: 2 hours - Very brisk pace
4 hours - Family pace

Map: Ordnance Survey Outdoor Explorer, Sheet No 302, Northallerton & Thirsk, Scale 1:25 000

We heartily recommend you to allow further time to visit Jervaulx Abbey and the various sustenance points along the way! Such as Jervaulx Abbey Tearooms, (if you like ice cream perhaps an excursion to Brymore Icecream Parlour - 1/2 mile up the road from Jervaulx) and Cover Bridge Inn where you are guaranteed to receive very warm welcomes.

Description:

1. Park near the telephone kiosk and Interpretation Board. Take the sign posted track in a South Easterly direction down between the houses to the bottom of the village and then in an easterly direction. Over the first stile into a paddock, followed closely by a second stile, then through a traditional narrow stone stile with swinging gate. Once through the stile look straight across the large field towards a wood and head in this direction. The stile is on the left of the wood in the corner. Once over the stile, keeping the hedge on the right, continue in a straight line over another stile. You will see a brown barn straight ahead of you with a gate beside it, climb the stile and then some 10 yards on bear right over another stile beside a gate. Then walk diagonally in a southeasterly direction through a gate and straight on down the field until finding another stile on your left. Now you will be walking east leaving a large hedge on the left. At the other side of the field, yes you have guessed it, there is another stile leading in to an arable field. Walk diagonally across the field towards a stone building belonging to the Water Board. To the left of the building there is a stile beside a gate. Having walked along a small grass field, over the final stile before reaching the road. Turn right onto the quiet lane and continue over Kilgram Bridge.



almost a mile. The ruins of Jervaulx Abbey can now be seen from the park road. Go and take a look at the ruins.

Jervaulx Abbey was founded in 1156 by a small group of Cistercian Monks who named their abbey after the valley in which it lay - in Norman French, Jervaulx means the "Ure Valley". The Monks became famous for their cheese, which was reminiscent of Roquefort cheese of their native Normandy, the recipe for which has remained in the area ever since and is now known as Wensleydale Cheese.



Can you spot the missing stone left out from the bridge? Superstition has it that if ever the stone is replaced a dreadful spell will be cast!

2. Follow the road for 1/2 mile until you see the entrance to Jervaulx Park. Leaving the Lodge on the right, continue down the private park road, a footpath only, past a duck pond for

Having taken a look around the abbey continue to the end of the park to the main road, please be careful as in the tourist season the road is very busy indeed. We are sure that by now you will be gasping for a cup of tea and something to eat, so why not try the excellent Jervaulx Abbey Tearooms situated immediately over the road?

Feel better for that, good! Go west towards East Witton by following the road in a westerly direction round the Jervaulx garden walls. Having crossed a bridge over a stream, turn immediately right through a gate. Follow the track down to the river, through the next gate then turn immediately left and follow the river Ure upstream for almost 2 miles.

Be wary at dusk of this stretch of riverbank, for this is the haunt of the legendary "Kelpie". From turbulent waters, this horse-like creature is said to rise to stalk its victims before pursuing them into the water - you have been warned!

Do also look out for the varied bird life along the riverside, birds such as the Oyster Catcher, Kingfisher and away from the river a Buzzard circling high above.

You will come across a confluence of rivers, the Ure and the Cover. Through a kissing gate turn right onto the road over the narrow stone bridge – watch the traffic. Now you have arrived at the Cover Bridge Inn and a stop is obligatory.....

Cover Bridge Inn is steeped in history, an ancient coaching hostelry, now owned and run by Nick and Anne Harrington. You will not find a better welcome anywhere in the dale and always a roaring log fire blazing. The inn has gained national television recognition for its Ham and Eggs! Guest beers are a speciality. To the rear of the inn lies a beer garden and children's play area. Dogs are welcome too.

Having, refuelled it is only 2 ½ miles back to the car. From the pub cross the main road and follow the signpost marked to Spennithorne, leaving the farm buildings on the right, once the Brewery, continue over Ulshaw Bridge. Immediately after the bridge turn right.

In years gone by there used to be a wooden bridge spanning the river Ure, connecting Middleham and East Witton with Leyburn.

Pass Ulshaw church on the left, after which you will see on the right the remains of the old millrace and thereafter a disused cornmill on the right. Immediately after the mill, where the road turns left, go straight on down a track which follows the bank of the River Ure for ½ a mile past another disused water cornmill, Danby Low Mill. Through the gate into Danby Low Park. Continue along the grassy track leaving Danby Hall on the left.



Danby Hall is purported to be haunted! A fine, well-proportioned house that dates back to at least the 14th Century, although the present facade is Victorian.

Where the track bends round to the left leave the track, walk straight on across the grass and head for a clump of trees, leaving them on the right. Head straight on towards a stile beside a gate.

Follow the wall on the right to across a field to a small hunting gate. Still keeping to the wall side head for a gate just past the wood. Follow the track beside the wall and cross a small stream and immediately through a metal hunting gate. Keeping the wall on the left go through another metal hunting gate, shortly after which you will be able to see the Church of St Oswald. Walk towards it and either go over a stile into the churchyard or straight on through the hunting gate into the church car park. The church is open to visitors, so you are most welcome to have a look around.

The Church of St Oswald is said to be the oldest church in Wensleydale. The site has been a place of worship since the 7th Century, although the present church is predominantly Norman, built on the foundations of the Anglo-Saxon church by Alan the Red of Brittany, Earl of Richmond, and nephew of William the Conqueror, whose steward lived in the village.

From the church car park go through the gate that leads onto a tarmac road up the hill and through Manor Farm on the outskirts of Thornton Steward. Through the gate. Then down the village to the starting point and your vehicle.

