

# Walk of the month

# Long distance views in Lothersdale



A seven-mile (11.2km) circular walk with long distance views and a tragic tale. A good walk when the heather's flowering, or on a crisp winter's day.

**Difficulty rating:** Moderate with some strenuous sections. You will need OS Explorer Map No.OL21 (South Pennines).

**Parking:** Car parking is available in a lay-by near Park Head Quarry. Grid Ref – SD964 475.



**Public transport:** Please check times by visiting [www.northyorks.gov.uk/businfo](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/businfo) or by telephoning traveline on 0871 200 22 33 (calls from landlines cost 10p per minute).

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**THE WALK:** From the lay-by, head uphill and turn R at the first lane, turn L at the signposted brideway.

1 Walk downhill, keeping the wall on the L, through a gate. Head towards the house and join a track running to the R of the house. Follow the track to the road then turn L. After about 100m up the road, turn R onto a signposted brideway. Follow the wall on the L for about 120m, pick up a faint grass track going half R. Follow this to meet a track at a house. Turn immediately L after the first cattle grid and proceed through a gate between the right hand side of a house and an outbuilding.

2 Turn L and follow the concrete track, over the next cattle grid, then L away from the track and follow the wall, keeping it on the L. Just before the plantation, go L through a gate onto the moor. Turn R and follow the grass track and over a timber stile. At the next wire fence, go through the gate on the R, turn immediately L and follow the wall, over

three stone stiles. Continue straight across the middle of the field to a dog leg in the wall, over a stone stile and straight on through two gates. Head towards the house, into the yard and straight on, down the track.

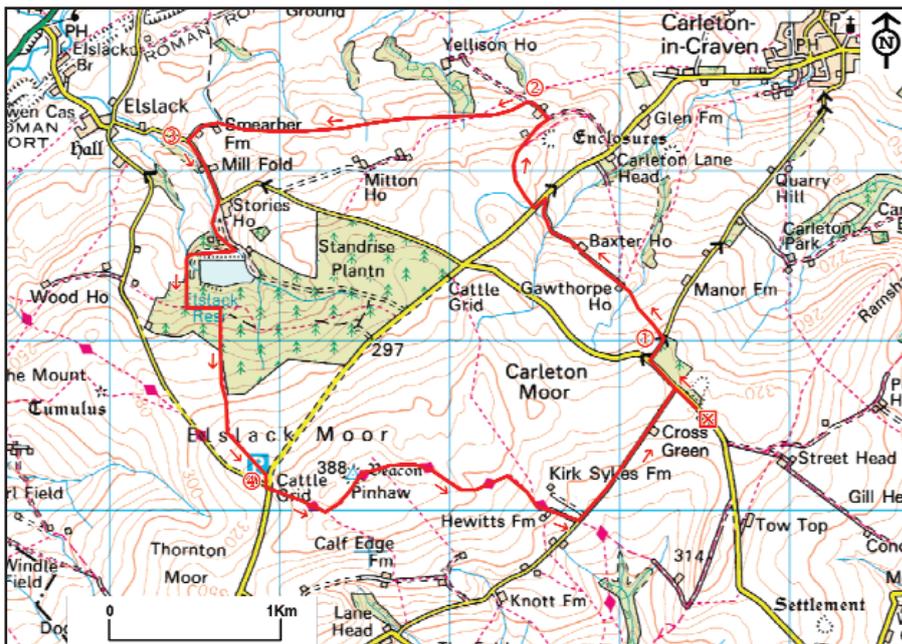
3 Turn L at the road and at the next bend go straight on following the temporary permissive path along the Yorkshire Water track up the hill. Just before a white house bear R through a gate. Follow the track around the reservoir bank, over a concrete sluice and through a gate into a plantation. Turn L at a waymarked forestry track junction and then R at a culvert, heading through the plantation and over a stone stile. Walk uphill, keeping the plantation on your L, through a gate. Go straight on following the clear path across the moor.

4 Turn R at the road and just before the cattle grid; turn L at the signposted 'Pennine Way'. Follow the track up to the trig point on Pinhaw. From here there are fine views on a clear day of the 3 Peaks and Pendle Hill.

## Archaeology in the area

THERE are two enclosures near Lane Head quarry on this month's walk. They are part of an interesting group of features which are found perched on low hills or flat shelves of land in the Skipton area. Often marked in gothic writing as 'enclosure' or 'settlement' on modern Ordnance Survey maps, the first editions in the mid-1850s frequently labelled them 'camp'. At that time there was little understanding of prehistory and they were often thought to be both military and Roman.

'Enclosure' is a term used by archaeologists for an area of land enclosed by a boundary ditch, bank, wall, palisade or other similar barrier. Dating is difficult as few have been excavated but some may have been used for corralling stock in the medieval period. Later, some protected plantations from grazing animals, such as at Blue Hill, Gargrave. However, much earlier a settlement was enclosed at Horse Close Hill, Skipton, where excavations in the 1960s produced finds, now in the Craven Museum, dating from the iron age. This enclosure is defined by a double row of orthostats or stones standing on end, which used to be thought a neolithic or bronze age building style. Now we know that it is not confined to these periods and indeed here it seems they were erected after the settlement was occupied.



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**Robert Wilson's Grave:** In January 1805, England was at war with France. Across England, hilltop beacons were built to be fired if Napoleon invaded. Robert was believed to be guarding the beacon with guards on Pinhaw when severe weather trapped them. Robert set off to get vital supplies, never to be seen alive again. A stone marks the spot where his body was found.

**To find the stone:** Follow the Pennine Way from the trig point until you get to a smashed stone sign. Turn L and follow this path for about 275m then look to your R.

*There is no access for dogs once off the Pennine Way.*

The inscription on the stone reads: "Here was found dead the body of Robert Wilson, one of the beacon

guards, who died Jan 29th 1805 aged 69 years."

After paying your respects, return to the Pennine Way and continue along the clear path across the moor to a stone stile. Go down the side of the field, then down a wide-walled lane to the road. Turn L and head along the road to a T junction. Turn R to the lay-by at the start of the route.