

Open access walks North Yorkshire

Walk locations



1 **Bowland** 12.2 mi/19.6km 🚶🚶🚶

2 **Scar House** 11.3 mi/18.2km 🚶🚶🚶

3 **Meugher** 10.8 mi/17.2km 🚶🚶🚶

4 **Dallowgill** 8 mi/12.8km 🚶🚶

5 **Water Dale** 10.7 mi/17.2km 🚶🚶

6 **Brubber Dale** 10.4 mi/16.7km 🚶🚶

7 **Burdale** 5.5 mi/8.8km 🚶

8 **Allerston** 10.8 mi/17.4km 🚶🚶

9 **Heslerton Brow** 7.1 mi/11.5km 🚶

10 **Fordon** 5.1 mi/8.2km 🚶

🚶 Easy 🚶🚶 Medium 🚶🚶🚶 Challenging

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Design: Catch Design Management

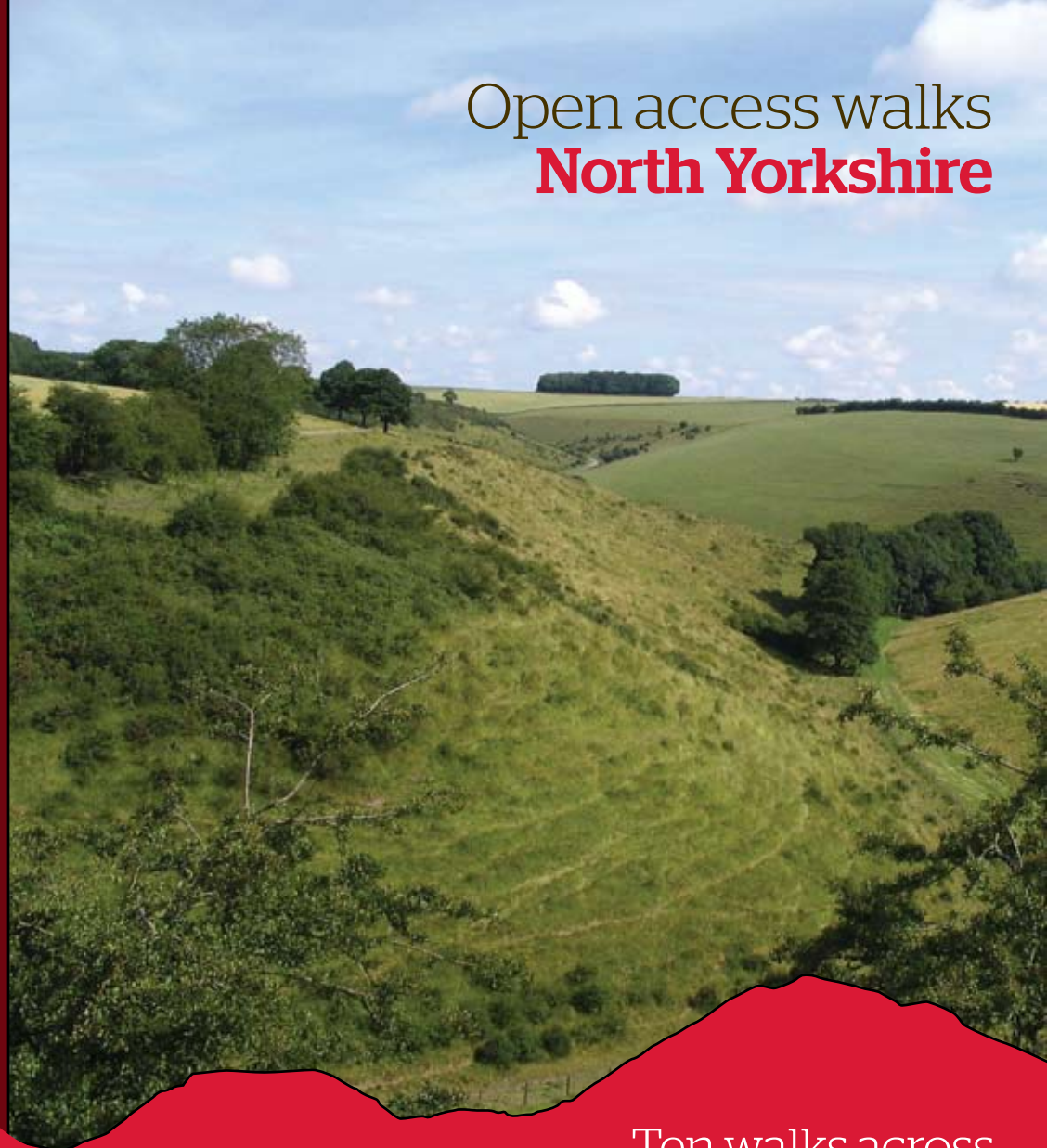
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yorkramblers.org.uk/access



Open access walks North Yorkshire



Ten walks across
the Moors & Wolds

Welcome to Access Land

This booklet of walks has been prepared by Ramblers in partnership with North Yorkshire County Council to encourage the use of the new right of public access to 'access land' in some of North Yorkshire's finest landscapes. This right is granted by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW). Ramblers were closely involved in campaigning for legislation to establish these new rights as the latest step in returning rights to the public, which had been taken away by the eighteenth century Enclosure Acts. They were also actively involved in providing evidence at the mapping stages of its

implementation. Those interested in the struggle to obtain better access to the countryside can find more information at yorkramblers.org.uk/access/walks.html. Access land, which includes, open country (mountain, moor, heath and down), registered common land and dedicated land, is shown in a yellow tint on Ordnance Survey Explorer maps and those in this booklet. Across North Yorkshire there are approximately 174,000 hectares of access land over which you are free to walk, run, explore, climb, watch wildlife and botanise. The 'right to roam' can provide a very different

experience from following a public right of way. You may now do much more than walk along a predetermined path. You are free to wander at will, use any moorland path or sheep trod or choose your own pathless route to explore any features of interest, such as streams, rocks or hilltops.

Acknowledgements

The booklet was devised and written by Tom Halstead with the help of Brian & Cathie Odell, Martin Biggs, Peter Leese, David Nunns, David Gibson and Peter Ayling. Other contributors from Ramblers included: Chris Clark, Peter Butler, Ann Laing, Jack Hutchinson and Tony Wells.

This picture: Scar House Reservoir, Great Whenside
Cover picture: Dale leading from Queen Dike
Photos: Tom Halstead

Restrictions

Along with the new rights come responsibilities. Cycling, horse riding and vehicles are usually not allowed. Dogs must be kept on a short fixed lead from 1 March to 31 July and at all times near livestock. On some grouse moors dogs are not allowed at any time. You should avoid disturbing ground-nesting birds and refrain from picking flowers. In addition, landowners have the right to exclude the public from access land for management purposes, although their use of this right is limited. So walkers need to check whether any such restrictions are in place.

Visit www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk or ring 0845 100 3298 for current information.

The Walks

The ten walks described in this booklet have been devised to take advantage of some access land in North Yorkshire outside the National Parks. A two-page section provides relevant local information about features of interest introduces each walk, including: history, archaeology, geology, architecture, birds, flowers and the origin of place-names. A second two-page spread shows a map of the suggested route, with shorter and sometimes, longer alternative routes. The map is accompanied by a brief description of the route, an elevation profile, and other useful information. The route description tends to be brief, reflecting the spirit of CROW, which is the right to roam responsibly.

Naismith's Rules

The duration given for a walk is based on Naismith's Rule. This is a rule of thumb that calculates the minimum time it will take to walk the route, including ascents. WW Naismith, a Scottish mountaineer, devised the rule in 1892. The basic rule is as follows: allow 1 hour for every 5 km (3 mi) forward, plus ½ hour for every 300 m (1000 ft) of ascent. The basic rule assumes hikers of reasonable fitness, on typical terrain and under normal conditions, but bear in mind that walking on rough moorland will increase the time taken. It does not account for delays, such as breaks for rest or sight-seeing, or for navigational obstacles. You should adjust Naismith's estimate according to your fitness. For example, a very fit person might take only 2 hrs if the Naismith time is 4 hrs, whereas an unfit person might take up to 7 hrs.

Useful websites

www.yorkramblers.org.uk
www.ramblers.org.uk
www.northyorks.gov.uk
www.nidderdaleaonb.org.uk
www.forestofbowland.com
www.highwolds.org.uk
www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk

Abbreviations

CP - car park
L - left
R - right
FP - footpath
BW - bridleway
N, S, SW, etc. - compass points
km - kilometre
mi - mile
Ha - hectare
BC - years before the Christian era
BP - years before present (arbitrarily 1950)
Ma - million years
AONB - Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
SSSI - Site of Special Scientific Interest
OE - Old English
OScand - Old Scandinavian
DB - Domesday Book
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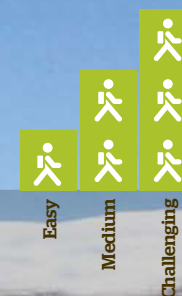
Archaeological periods

AD1500	Medieval Period
AD1066	
AD410	
AD43	
700BC	Roman Period
8000BC	Bronze Age
2300BC	
4500BC	Neolithic Period
9500BC	Mesolithic Period
	Devensian Ice Age

Geological periods

65Ma	Cretaceous
145Ma	
200Ma	Jurassic
251Ma	
299Ma	Triassic
	Permian
	Carboniferous
	Namurian
359Ma	Dinantian

Walk grading



Each walk has been graded for the degree of difficulty involved. In general, walks are judged more difficult if they are longer, involve walking on rough moorland, or pose navigational challenges.

Whelp Stone Crag, Resting Stone and Rock Cat Knott

A walk on the Yorkshire fringe of the Forest of Bowland AONB, using field paths, green lanes and sheep trods and including a short descent over rough moorland. From Whelp Stone Crag there are extensive views of the Lakeland fells, Ingleborough, Pen-y-Ghent, and Pendle Hill. Map and compass are recommended. The basic walk is 12.2 mi with a shorter, 11.0 mi, and longer, 14.0 mi, option.



This picture
Pen-y-ghent and Fountain Fell from Bowland Knotts
Photo: Tom Halstead
Below
Ingleborough from Israel Farm
Photo: Tom Halstead

Between Eldroth and Howith the route crosses the moorland fringe, a transitional enclosed landscape between the fells and the more intensively farmed land of Lawkland, a rolling landscape of marginal pastures divided by stone walls. Trees are usually associated with the isolated stone farmsteads such as Israel **A**. Israel is a corruption of Jeerawhill,

which is the name given in 1702. By 1707, it was referred to as Joe Raw Hill, but after that it was always known as Israel. The last Ice Age, which ended about 11,500 years ago, was responsible for the character of much of the landscape seen in on the walks described in this booklet. Here, to the E of Howith the ice moulded gravelly clays into trains of rounded hills called drumlins **B**.

A few of the drier meadows are traditionally managed to produce a summer hay crop and support a range of characteristic plants, including lady's mantle, sneezewort and adders tongue. On undrained

land, moisture loving plants such as marsh marigold, yellow iris, ragged robin and marsh thistle thrive. Traditionally managed meadows also provide feeding grounds valuable for twite, the 'Mountain Linnnet', while the wet rushy pastures support nationally important populations of curlew and lapwing. The stone walls on some of the commons show that although originally communal open grazing they were partly enclosed later and went into

private ownership.

Rocks from the Namurian stage of the Carboniferous period 326-315 Ma ago, when Britain was at the equator, dominate the geology of this area (and also those covered in Walks 2, 3 and 4). During this period a series of more upstanding 'blocks' and subsiding 'troughs' or basins developed, which still influence this landscape today. The Craven Fault, which runs approximately along the A65/B6480 between Settle and Clapham, separates the resistant limestones of the Askrigg block to the north from the weaker shales and sandstones of the Craven Basin to the south.

The vertical displacement of the still active fault is thought to be about 1.8km. Changing sea-levels resulted in shallow water limestone sedimentation on the blocks and great river deltas advancing southwards deposited

'Israel is a corruption of Jeerawhill'

shales and sandstones in the basins. Whelp Stones Crag **C** and other outcrops are a coarse sandstone, known as Millstone Grit, so called, since millstones used to be made from them. Many of these rocks are poor in nutrients, hence

the distinctive bleak landscape of Bowland.

Although a few people from outside the southern edge of the parish were buried in Giggleswick Churchyard in the 17th century, the Resting Stone **D** is probably not on an ancient burial route nor used for resting coffins but is so-called because the townsfolk rested there when they were doing their duty in 'walking their bounds'.

Whelp Stone Crag Photo: Michael Graham



Place-name origin
Bowland. *Boelanda* (1102)
'district within the curved valley' OE *boga* + *landa*.

Distance 12.2 mi/19.6 km**Time** 5 hr 30 min**Total Ascent** 1330 ft/405 m**Difficulty** Challenging**Start OS grid ref** SD 763 654**Maps** OS Explorer OL41;

Landranger 98, 103

Eating & Drinking The New Inn

(01524 2 51203) Clapham;

The Game Cock Inn

(01524 2 51226), Austwick; The

Black Horse Hotel (01729 822506)

and The Harts Head Hotel

(01729 822086), Giggleswick

Parking Eldroth Village Hall

Walk 1 route description

1 From the village hall go E along the road. After 100 m turn R, go under the railway bridge, past Rigghead, to Black Bank farm.

2 At the road turn L for 200 m then R along FP, keep R when FP branches over an earth bridge and cross two stiles.

3 At Howith turn R, at end of the farm track turn L and continue along the lane. Notice the drumlins **B**.

4 At Sandford follow the lane (not FP) to the road and on to the moor. Where the road bends L continue straight on S across the moor for 300 m to cross a stream, then across a stile in the wall next to a gate and over a field.

5 At Low Bank Farm, turn R and follow a new track past two barn conversions. After the second, cross the

field and, near the corner, climb a gap-filled stile next to a blocked-up gateway.

6 Turn R and follow the track through a gate, past a gate and stone stile, down to a gateway on the L on the track to Bull Hurst.

7 Keep L of Bull Hurst farm then bear R to the gate. Keep straight ahead to a ruined farm (ignore a gate on the L) and continue to Owlshaw.

8 Keep R of Owlshaw, go through the yard and take the entrance track towards Whelpstone Lodge.

9 At the Lodge turn R up a grass track with the wall on L. Follow the FP W to a gap in the wall on the skyline and follow a trod to the trig point at the summit of Whelp Stone Crag **C**.

10 Return to the gap and turn L. Follow a faint trod along the edge to a saddle between two small summits. Descend into the depression, making for a lone pine. Continue due N parallel to the forestry on the easiest line. All walls have gaps in them. Eventually join the FP. Follow a faint trod E of the FP all the way to Brown Hills.

11 Be on the FP by Brown Hills as the only standing wall has to be by-passed by two stiles (in and out of the forestry). Back on the moor follow another trod that bears R round a gully

and on to the Resting Stone. Don't go into the gully but cross the stream at a higher level.

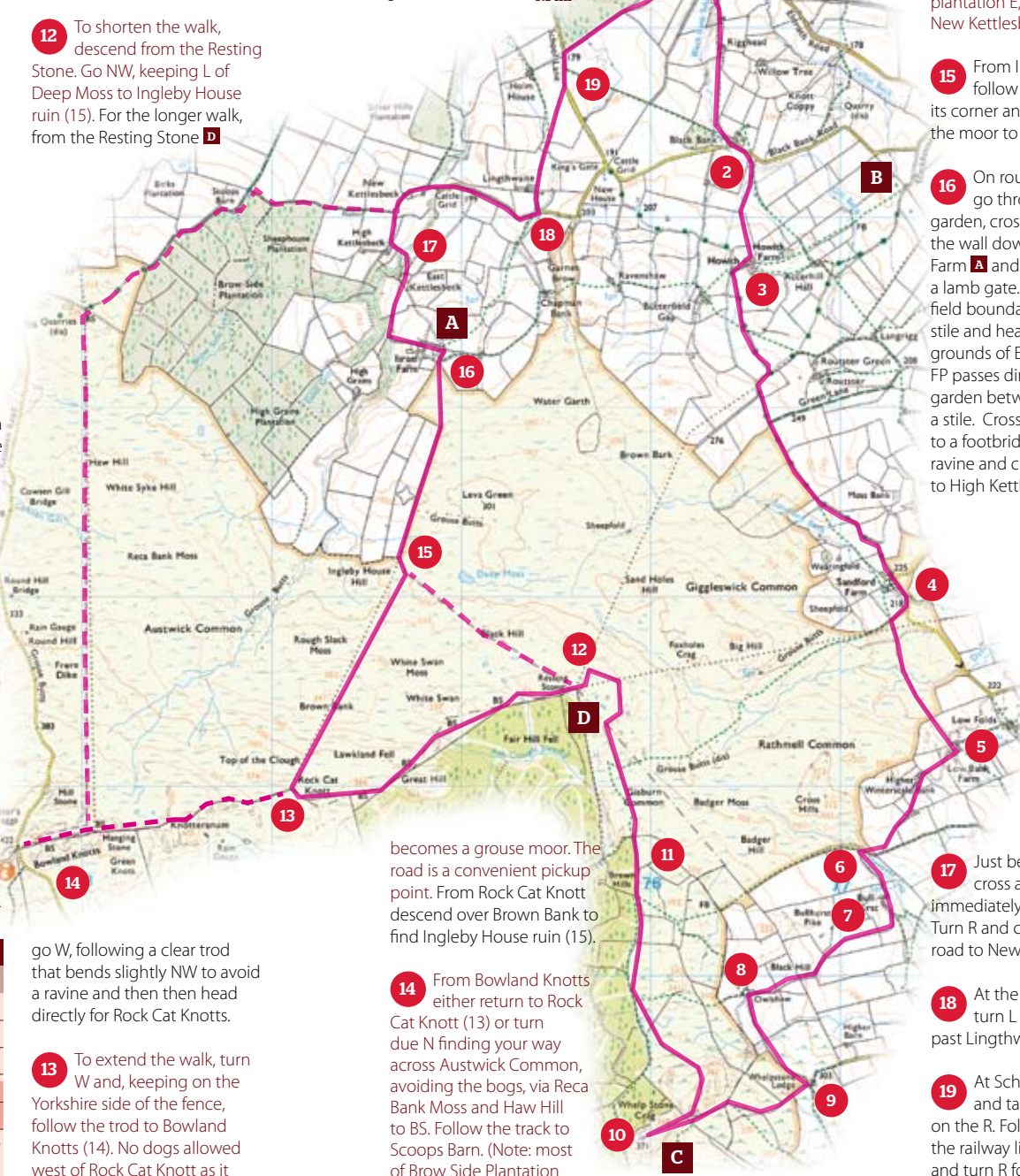
12 To shorten the walk, descend from the Resting Stone. Go NW, keeping L of Deep Moss to Ingleby House ruin (15). For the longer walk, from the Resting Stone **D**

go W, following a clear trod that bends slightly NW to avoid a ravine and then then head directly for Rock Cat Knotts.

13 To extend the walk, turn W and, keeping on the Yorkshire side of the fence, follow the trod to Bowland Knotts (14). No dogs allowed west of Rock Cat Knott as it

Scale

0 1km
0 0.5mi



has been felled and is not a good landmark.) From Scoops Barn follow the edge of the plantation E, eventually to New Kettlebeck (17).

15 From Ingleby House follow the wall to its corner and then across the moor to Israel Farm.

16 On rounding the cottage, go through a gate into the garden, cross a stile and follow the wall down in front of Israel Farm **A** and over a low wall with a lamb gate. Continue W to the field boundary then N, cross a stile and head for a stile into the grounds of East Kettlebeck. The FP passes directly across the garden between buildings to a stile. Cross the field, descend to a footbridge in the wooded ravine and climb up a track to High Kettlebeck farm.

becomes a grouse moor. The road is a convenient pickup point. From Rock Cat Knott descend over Brown Bank to find Ingleby House ruin (15).

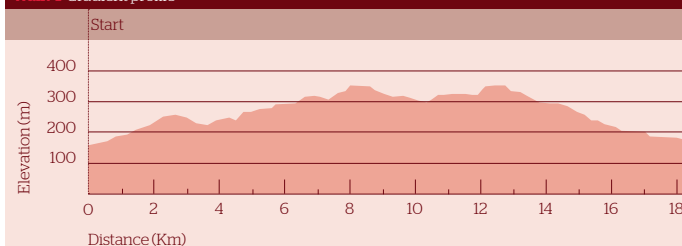
14 From Bowland Knotts either return to Rock Cat Knott (13) or turn due N finding your way across Austwick Common, avoiding the bogs, via Rea Bank Moss and Haw Hill to BS. Follow the track to Scoops Barn. (Note: most of Brow Side Plantation

17 Just before the buildings cross a stile on your R and immediately turn L to the track. Turn R and continue along the road to New Kettlebeck Farm.

18 At the dip in the road turn L and continue past Lingthwaite.

19 At School Lane, turn L and take the second FP on the R. Follow this under the railway line, join the road and turn R for Eldroth. <<

Walk 1 Gradient profile



Great Whernside from Nidderdale

A steady climb along a bridleway alongside the Scar House and Angram Reservoirs up to the saddle between Nidderdale and Wharfedale and along the ridge to Great Whernside (704 m). The descent over steep rough terrain from Great Whernside requires care and navigational skills but this section can be avoided. The basic walk is 11.3 mi with a shorter 4.3 mi option. This high level exposed walk should not be attempted in mist or low cloud. Map and compass strongly recommended.



This picture
Great Whernside
and Scar House
Reservoir
Photo: Tom Halstead
Below Angram
Reservoir
Photo: Mick Melvin*

In 1904, the Bradford Corporation started to construct the Angram and Scar House Reservoirs and the Nidd Valley Light Railway was built from Pateley Bridge up to Angram, in order to carry materials and goods to the construction sites. The concrete sidings for the railway are still visible to the west of the road near Scar House Reservoir. A passenger

service for tourists also operated, with stations at Pateley Bridge, Wath, Ramsgill and Lofthouse. Dam workers could only use it on nights and at weekends. The foundations of small wooden bungalows are all that remain visible of the 'navvy' village **A**. The passenger service was closed in 1929 and with the completion of Scar House Reservoir in 1936 the line was taken up and the bridges demolished. The road from Lofthouse follows the route of the track. The Nidd Aqueduct, which starts at Scar House Reservoir, ends 31 miles away and has 11 miles of covered channels and six miles of tunnels.

Upper Nidderdale lies in the SE part of the Askrigg Block and the rocks exposed are mainly Millstone Grit (see Walk 1). A quarry visible on Rain Stang **B** was opened in 1904-34 to provide stone for the construction of Angram Dam and Carle Side Quarry **C** was developed in 1920-34 for Scar House Dam. Trilobite fossils can be found 300m down-valley from Angram Dam near the S bank of the reservoir (SE 046766) **D** in a 3m bed of shaly mudstone,

Place-name origin
Whernside. *Qwernsyd*13C.
'Upland pasture from which mill-stones are obtained'.
OScand. *kvern* + *sætr*.

'the special quality of the landscape was formally recognized in 1994 when it was designated as an AONB'

overlain by 5.4 m of unfossiliferous mudstone capped by limestone.

When the Yorkshire Dales National Park was created in 1954, Nidderdale was excluded, partly, it is said, to keep the public away from the water catchment areas of the reservoirs, although Yorkshire Water did allow permissive access. The special quality of the landscape, however, was formally recognized in 1994 when it was designated as an Area of Outstanding

Natural Beauty. In 2005, nearly all of the area covered by this walk was mapped as 'access land'.

If you continue along the ridge from Great Whernside, following the fence to Pile of Stones before descending towards Angram reservoir, nearby **E** you may come across the remains of a Wellington bomber that crashed the night of the 2nd/3rd of September 1942.

By the end of the thirteenth century, arable cultivation was



discouraged as enclosure disturbed the free running of wild beasts for hunting, therefore sheep farming was the preferred industry and Byland Abbey (see Walk 3) controlled eighteen granges in Upper Nidderdale. Many were totally destroyed around the Dissolution in 1537 but several still survive as the kernel of existing farms, in the same positions as they were in the thirteenth century, although five are probably now underneath Scar House reservoir.

Angram Dam **Photo: Tom Halstead**



Walk 2 Scar House

Walk 2 information

Distance 11.3 mi/18.2 km

Time 5 hr 15 min

Total Ascent 1510 ft/460 m

Difficulty Challenging

Start OS grid ref SE 069 766

Maps OS Explorer OL30;

Landranger 98, 99

Eating & Drinking The Crown Hotel (01423 755206) and How Stean Gorge Café (01423 755666), Lofthouse; The Crown Hotel (01423 755204), Middlesmoor

Parking Scar House CP

Walk 2 route description

1 From Scar CP, near the site of the navvies village, **A** cross to the N side of dam road.

2 Follow the FP along the N shore of Scar House Reservoir and climb up to a gate into a lane.

3 To shorten the walk and avoid any climbing, turn L along a rough FP west to Angram Dam (4). Continue up the lane through a gate to the sheepfold. Turn L, along the BW that climbs up to the saddle (6) between Little and Great Whernsides. The path passes through gaps in the walls but is indistinct and wet in places,

4 Either cross the dam to (10) or continue along the N bank of Angram Reservoir, along a FP to a bridge over the beck (River Nidd).

5 From the bridge, climb up onto the edge of the moor to return above beck to skirt round the W end of reservoir to footbridge (9) (frequently boggy).

6 Optionally, turn R and follow the FP to Little Whernside, descend over the moor to meet the BW and return to (3). This summit ridge is difficult going with several awkwardly wet peat hags. Return to Scar CP either via (2) or via (4) and (10). At the saddle at Long Hill Sike Head, turn L and, despite to the wall, climb up the ridge onto the vast summit plateau of Great Whernside. The trig pillar and a very large cairn lie on the western edge.

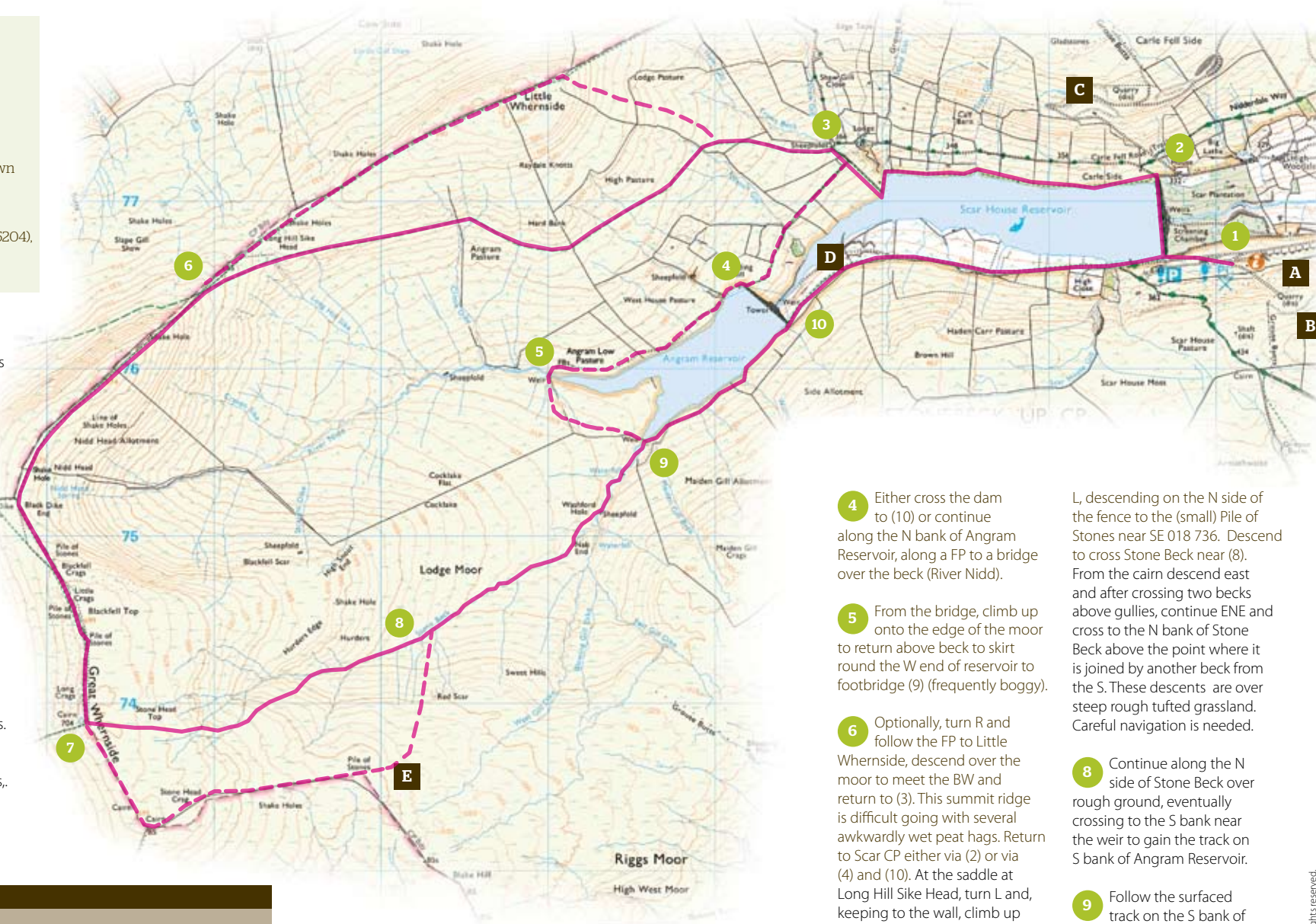
7 Optionally, to visit the aircraft crash site **E**, continue beyond the summit to a cairn at SE 006 733, turn

L, descending on the N side of the fence to the (small) Pile of Stones near SE 018 736. Descend to cross Stone Beck near (8). From the cairn descend east and after crossing two becks above gullies, continue ENE and cross to the N bank of Stone Beck above the point where it is joined by another beck from the S. These descents are over steep rough tufted grassland. Careful navigation is needed.

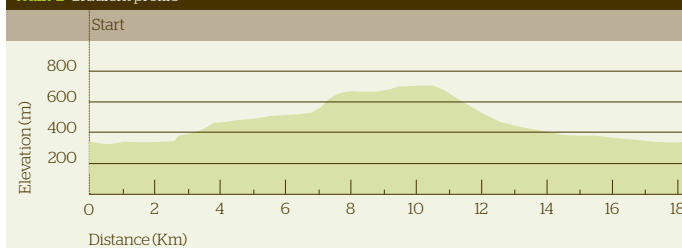
8 Continue along the N side of Stone Beck over rough ground, eventually crossing to the S bank near the weir to gain the track on S bank of Angram Reservoir.

9 Follow the surfaced track on the S bank of the reservoir to the dam.

10 Follow the old railway track down to Scar car park. The rocks containing fossils are 300 m down-valley from the dam **D**. Care is needed because the exposure is close to the bank. <<



Walk 2 Gradient profile



Scale



Stean Moor and Meugher

An approach to Meugher (575 m) (pronounced 'Moofer') alongside Blayshaw Gill and then up a shooting track. From the top there are panoramic views of Upper Nidderdale and Wharfedale. Returning partly over rough moorland and finishing alongside wooded How Stean Beck. The walk is in the Nidderdale AONB. The basic walk is 10.8 mi with a shorter 8.3 mi option. Moorland is very exposed so can be unpleasant in bad weather and crossing Blayshaw Gill could be difficult after rain. Good navigation is needed to find routes over the moors in poor visibility. Map and compass strongly recommended.



This picture Lofthouse, Blayshaw Gill, Stean Moor and Meugher Photo: Tom Halstead
Below Stean Gorge Photo: Paul Baxter*

After the Norman Conquest, English and Anglo-Scandinavian landowners in Yorkshire and Northumberland rebelled in 1069. In revenge, William devastated the countryside and at the time of the Domesday Book, in 1089, this part of Nidderdale, was still waste or uncultivated. In the 1100s this part of the dale was known as the "Chase of Nidderdale"

and was held by the Mowbray family. In 1142, the Mowbrays founded Byland Abbey and in 1251 sold the south side of the dale to the Abbey.

The Cistercian monks engaged in industrial as well as agricultural work, exploiting their mineral rights in the area around Blayshaw Gill, where the remains of bell pits, mine shafts, spoil heaps and medieval bloomeries (furnaces for smelting iron) **A** are still visible. Nidderdale Marble, a crinoidal limestone, was worked in Blayshaw Quarry **B** and polished for decorative stone as far back as the 13th century. This is possibly the source of the marble used in

1250 for the construction of the Chapel of Nine Altars and the Presbytery at Fountains Abbey. It was also widely exploited in the 19th century.

During the medieval period, farmers raised cattle and sheep and grew crops like barley and oats. Medieval hillside terraces, known as lynchets **C**, were created by repeated ploughing in one direction so that soil was turned outwards, expanding the level surface and creating steep banks. The pasture

'Lynchets are medieval hillside terraces created by repeated ploughing in one direction'

fields leading onto Stean Moor, with regular dry stone wall boundaries, are the result of pre-Parliamentary enclosures.

To feed the growing population during the Industrial Revolution of the 18th century, landlords began to improve their land and lime was spread on upland pasture to improve the grazing. Lime kiln sites **D**, associated limestone extraction hollows and quarries, are found along Blayshaw Gill and How Stean Beck, where the streams have cut through the Millstone

Grit (see Walk 1) to expose Yoredale limestone of the earlier Dinantian epoch of the Carboniferous period. A fault line down Blayshaw Gill has also helped to expose limestone on the W bank. The aqueduct across Blayshaw Gill takes water to Bradford from Angram and Scar House Reservoirs (see Walk 2).

The How Stean Beck and gorge is an unusual example of the surface stream capture of cave drainage. The woodland along How Stean Beck dates back to 1600, if not earlier. On the high

ground the Millstone Grit creates a harsh landscape of acid grass, heather moors and cotton grass peat bogs. Tall heather favours merlin and short-eared owl, whereas red grouse, golden plover and curlew prefer the moorland burning regime. Other birds breeding in the area include: snipe, redshank, ring ouzel, peregrine, hen harrier, buzzard, teal, wheatear, twite, common sandpiper and lapwing.

Blayshaw Gill Aqueduct Photo: Tom Halstead



Place-name origin

Blayshaw Gill.

'Ravine of the dark wood'.

OE *blaec* + *sceaga*

OScand. *gil*.



Distance 10.8 mi/17.4 km

Time 5 hr

Total Ascent 1540 ft/470 m

Difficulty Challenging

Start OS grid ref SE 099 735

Maps OS Explorer OL 30,

Landranger 98, 99

Eating & Drinking

The Crown Hotel (01423 755204)

Middlesmoor, The Crown Hotel

(01423 755206) and How Stean

Gorge Café (01423 755666)

Lofthouse

Bus Nidderdale Rambler Service

825 (01423 711252)

Parking Roadside at bend before turn off to Stean

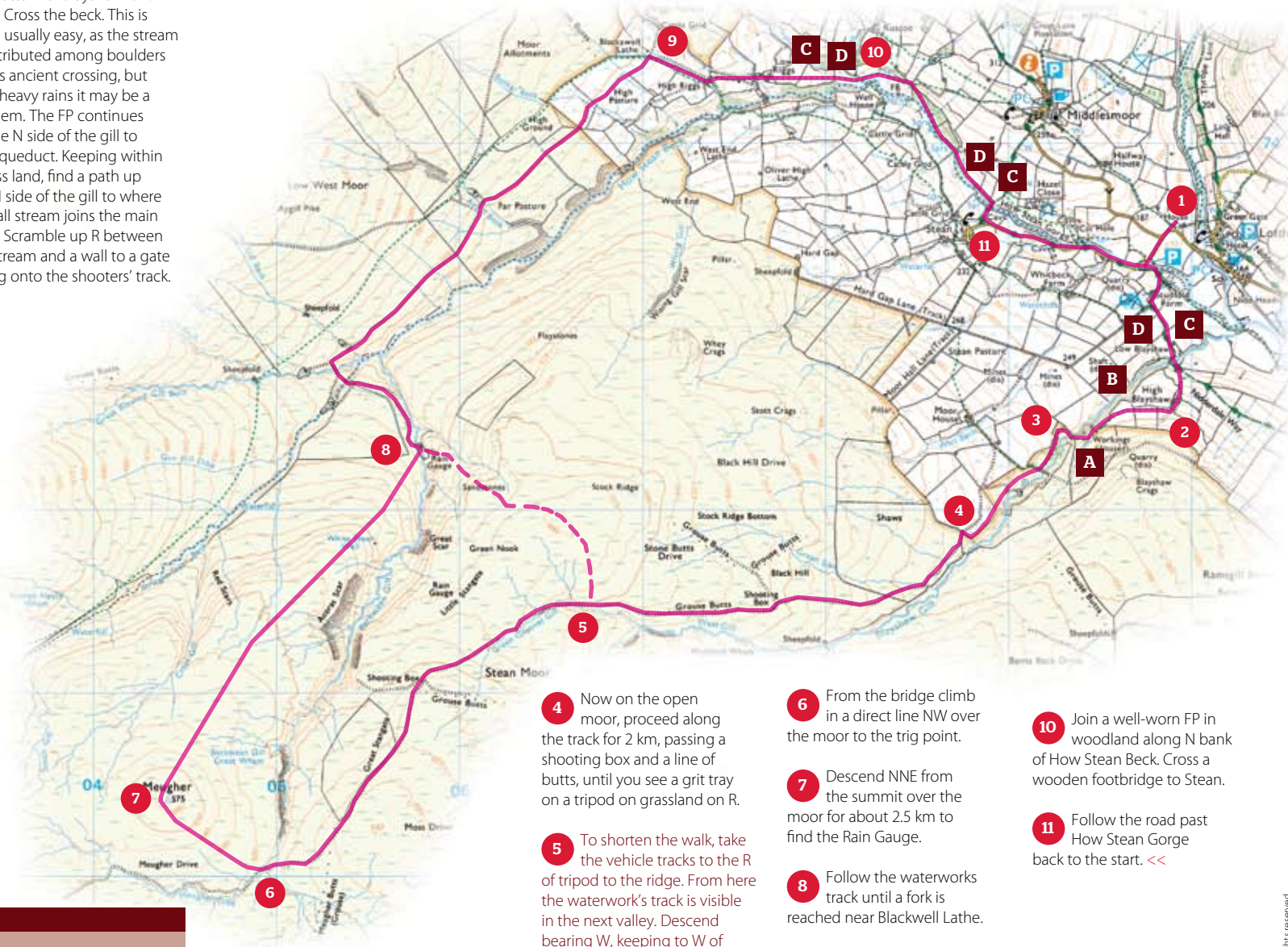
Walk 3 route description

1 Take the road to Stean, over the bridge turn L and pass through Studfold Farm. Climb up the road past the cottages then turn L onto the Nidderdale Way towards Ramsgill. Medieval lynchets **C** are visible in the field on L. After crossing Blayshaw Gill turn up R on a farm track to High Blayshaw Farm.

2 Pass the farm buildings to a gate, where a fence meets the corner of a wall. Following the FP bear R along a wall. There is evidence of medieval monastic industrial workings in this area. After passing through three field gates enter access land and cross a small beck. Hereabouts was a medieval bloomery **A**. Go through a gate in a fence, then descend, through a squeeze stile in a wall, into

the bottom of Blayshaw Gill.

3 Cross the beck. This is usually easy, as the stream is distributed among boulders at this ancient crossing, but after heavy rains it may be a problem. The FP continues on the N side of the gill to the aqueduct. Keeping within access land, find a path up the N side of the gill to where a small stream joins the main beck. Scramble up R between the stream and a wall to a gate giving onto the shooters' track.



4 Now on the open moor, proceed along the track for 2 km, passing a shooting box and a line of butts, until you see a grit tray on a tripod on grassland on R.

5 To shorten the walk, take the vehicle tracks to the R of tripod to the ridge. From here the waterwork's track is visible in the next valley. Descend bearing W, keeping to W of a small gully, to find the Rain Gauge (8). Cross the bridge. For the longer walk, continue for about another 2.5 km, past another shooting box, to the bridge over Blackstea Gill.

6 From the bridge climb in a direct line NW over the moor to the trig point.

7 Descend NNE from the summit over the moor for about 2.5 km to find the Rain Gauge.

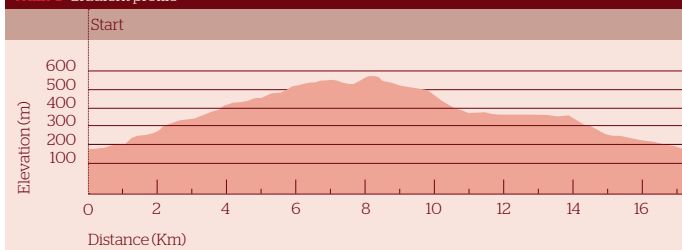
8 Follow the waterworks track until a fork is reached near Blackwell Lathe.

9 Take the R fork. The FP passes between the buildings of Low Riggs Farm. Medieval lynchets **C** are evident in the next two fields. Continue along the FP to a bridge across Armathwaite Gill. The remains of a post-medieval lime kiln **D** are nearby.

10 Join a well-worn FP in woodland along N bank of How Stean Beck. Cross a wooden footbridge to Stean.

11 Follow the road past How Stean Gorge back to the start. <<

Walk 3 Gradient profile



Scale



Kettlestang Cross and Dallowgill Moor

Dallowgill Moor is regarded as one of the best grouse moor landscapes in the north of England. The walk, partly over open moor, climbs steadily up to Kettlestang Hill, which offers fine views in all directions. Return along a shooting track. Some compass navigation may be required in poor visibility. The basic walk is 7.6 mi, with a shorter 7.0 mi option avoiding some of the rougher going. Map and compass strongly recommended.



This picture
Kettlestang
Shooting Lodge
Photo: Tom Halstead
Below
Ling in August
Photo: Andy Beecroft

Dallowgill Moor is part of a large area of heather moorland stretching from Pateley Bridge to Middleham, its vegetation dominated by wavy hair-grass, bilberry and ling. Ling covers the moor with a carpet of purple in late August. The bedrock is Millstone Grit (see Walk 1).

Analysis of pollen from peat deposits near Kettlestang Hill and by

Skill Gill revealed the changes in vegetation since the ice retreated 11,500 years ago. Grassland was replaced initially by pine, birch and hazel and then by alder, oak and elm. Around 8,000 years ago it seems likely that Mesolithic people used fire to open up the woodland for hunting. The major decline of upland woodland and expansion of heath dates from around 4,000 years ago and has been associated with the pastoral activities of the Neolithic/early Bronze Age Beaker Folk, who erected the massive henge at Thornborough. By about the second century BC

the moorland limits were similar to those of today. Taller vegetation was suppressed by grazing, especially when Fountains Abbey had extensive sheep flocks on these moors.

For the past 150 years, the moorland has been managed for grouse shooting. Red grouse nest in a scrape amongst the older heather, as do merlin, short-eared owl and hen harrier. Golden plover, lapwing and curlew prefer the recently

burned open areas. Snipe, redshank, duck, geese and black-headed gulls nest in the wetter areas. Peregrine and buzzard forage overhead.

Grouse can fly at speeds of up to 80mph and it requires a high level of skill to shoot them. On September 22, 1923 the Marquess of Ripon aged 71, shot 165 grouse and one snipe on Dallowgill. At 3.15pm after a drive in which he had killed 51 grouse, he dropped dead in the heather. In 1831, Elisha and John Sinkler, well-known poachers, beat up a gamekeeper on Dallowgill Moor. Elisha was sentenced at York Assizes to transportation to Australia for 7 years. In

‘Grouse can fly at speeds of up to 80 mph’

1841 he was pardoned and returned to Yorkshire where he resumed his poaching. In 1843 he was involved in a stabbing incident and sentenced, uniquely for a second time, to transportation for life. He was again pardoned in 1856 and returned home. John was captured in 1841 and was sentenced to transportation for 15 years.

The right of way across the moor south of Kettlestang Hill, is probably part of an old road that continued



further west. In 1184 an agreement was made between Fountains and Byland Abbeys, that Byland was to have “full right of a road for cattle and waggons and horse loads through Wacldesheng (Kettlestang) towards Sixfoot (Sigsworth) as far as the Nid”. When the moor was being enclosed, an ancient road, paved with stones, most likely the one mentioned in the grant, was found on Sigsworth Moor.

Long Rod Boundary Stone **Photo: Chris Heaton**



Place-name origin

Skill Beck.

‘Noisy brook’. OScand.
skjalr bekkr.



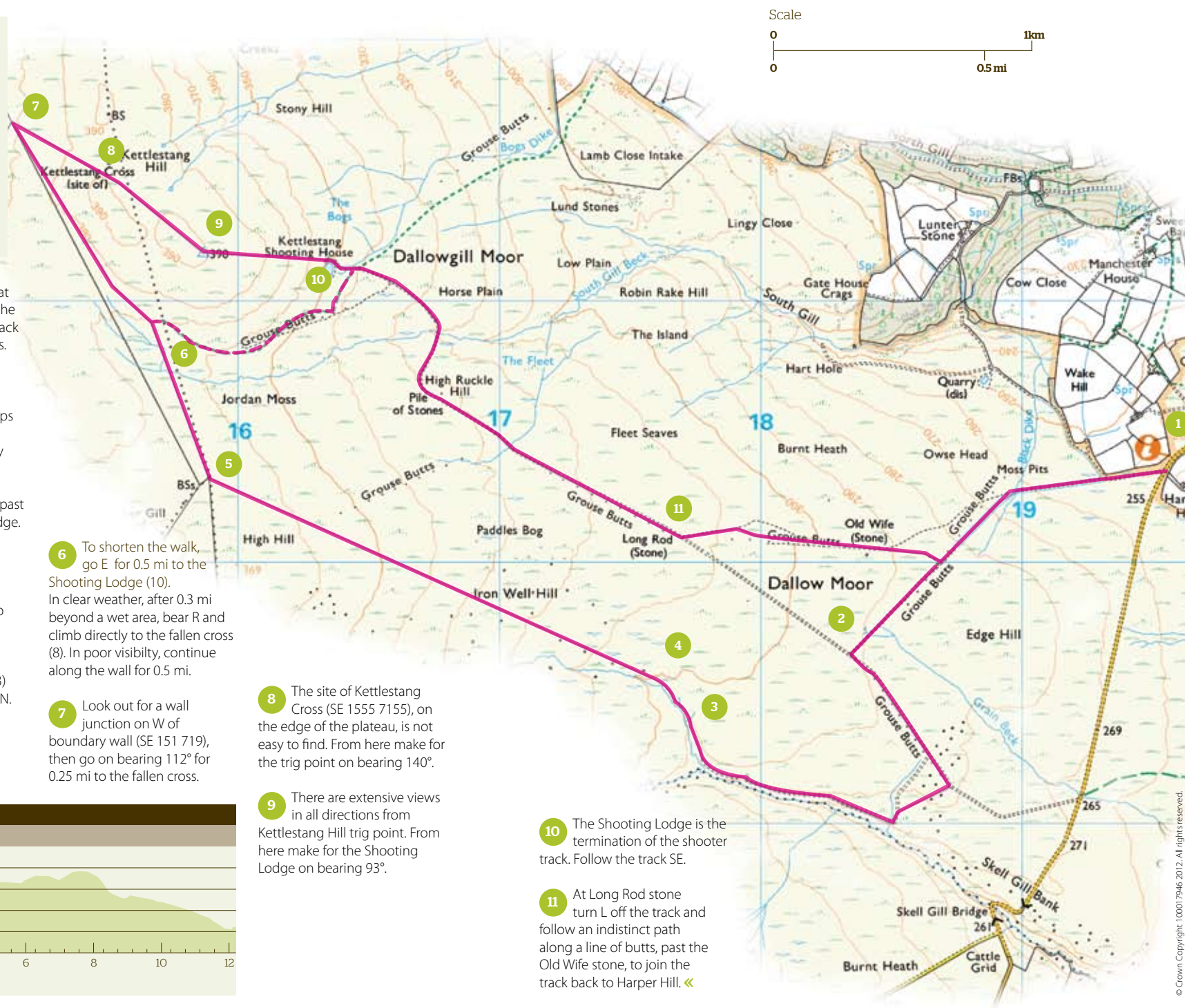
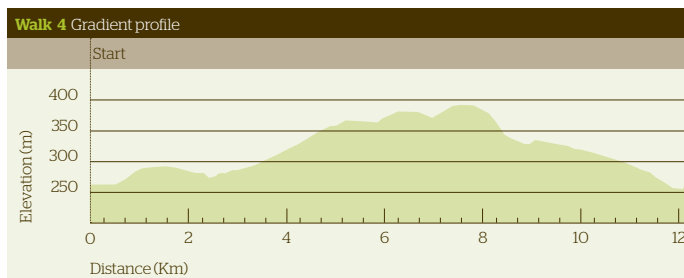
Distance 8 mi/12.8 km
Time 3 hr 30 min
Total Ascent 620 ft/190 m
Difficulty Moderate
Start OS grid ref SE 195 703
Maps OS Explorer 302; Landranger 99
Eating & Drinking
 The Drovers Inn
 (01765 658510) Dallowgill
Parking Harper Hill roadside

- From the roadside CP at Harper Hill cross over the road and take the shooter track past the open access notices.
- At the track junction turn L. After about 0.5 mi turn R on a track that drops down to Skell Beck. Follow the beck upstream for nearly 0.5 mi to where it forks.
- Bear R along the track past a small quarry to a bridge.
- Without crossing the bridge leave the track and continue with the beck on your L. Then follow sheep trods/paths in the direction 290° for 1.3 mi to a wall.
- At the wall (SE 159 703) turn R and follow wall N.

- To shorten the walk, go E for 0.5 mi to the Shooting Lodge (10). In clear weather, after 0.3 mi beyond a wet area, bear R and climb directly to the fallen cross (8). In poor visibility, continue along the wall for 0.5 mi.
- Look out for a wall junction on W of boundary wall (SE 151 719), then go on bearing 112° for 0.25 mi to the fallen cross.

- The site of Kettlestang Cross (SE 1555 7155), on the edge of the plateau, is not easy to find. From here make for the trig point on bearing 140°.
- There are extensive views in all directions from Kettlestang Hill trig point. From here make for the Shooting Lodge on bearing 93°.

- The Shooting Lodge is the termination of the shooter track. Follow the track SE.
- At Long Rod stone turn L off the track and follow an indistinct path along a line of butts, past the Old Wife stone, to join the track back to Harper Hill. <<



Water Dale and Deep Dale

The walk from Thixendale follows the edges of Water Dale, along the bottom of Brownmoor Dale and across the Wolds escarpment. Fine views over the Vale of York. It drops down the escarpment to the site of the deserted medieval village of Hanging Grimston. After climbing up to the Roman road, the route returns through a dry valley. The area is full of prehistoric remains. The basic walk is 10.7 mi with a shorter 7 mi option.



This picture
Thixendale
looking west
Photo: Tom Halstead
Below
Deepdale
Photo: Tom Halstead

The Yorkshire Wolds, along with Wessex and Orkney, has a high density of prehistoric barrows, tracks and dykes. The chalk escarpment, which overlooks the Vale of York, was a place long-used for burial. There is one long barrow **A** and several groups of bowl barrows **B**, excavated by JR Mortimer (see Walk 10), distributed alongside a possible prehistoric route, which later became the Roman road from

Brough to Malton. Long barrows were constructed during the Early and Middle Neolithic periods 3400-2400 BC and bowl barrows, the most numerous form of round barrow ('howes' or 'tumuli' on OS maps), during the Late Neolithic period to the Late Bronze Age, most examples belonging to the period 2400-1500 BC.

During the period 1800-800 BC the old landscape of tracks and burials was gradually replaced with a landscape of enclosure and farming as a massive system of linear earthworks, known locally as dykes **C**, were constructed across the Wolds. These dykes comprise parallel banks

and ditches and several can be seen on this walk. The traditionally named 'Queen Dyke' **D** is a cross-dyke that runs across the Wold from the head of Water Dale and, originally, to the brow of Washpit Dale. It was subsequently cut across by the Roman road between Malton and Brough. Current interpretations favour the view that dykes were used to define territorial landholdings and some appear to separate barrow cemeteries from farm land, although

'a massive system of linear earthworks, known locally as dykes, were constructed across the Wolds'

they may also have been used as trackways, cattle droveways or defensive earthworks.

South and W of Mount Pleasant Farm are the buried and earthwork remains of the medieval village **E** of Hanging Grimston, together with the surviving area of its open field system visible as ridge and furrow earthworks. The village's main street was a southwards continuation of Gatehowe Road, now in the bottom of a hollow way. This continued S, past the W side of the

modern Mount Pleasant Farm and broadened into a long narrow village green. The Domesday Book of 1087 listed two manors, one held by Odo the Crossbowman the other by William the Conqueror. Both manors were later granted to St Mary's Abbey in York, and held until the abbey was dissolved in 1539. The 'Hanging' prefix first occurred in 1300. The medieval open fields were enclosed around 1517 and by 1619 the settlement was abandoned.



Unlike the other medieval villages of Wharram Percy parish: Wharram Percy, Raisthorpe, Burdale and Towthorpe, Thixendale was never abandoned and remained as a nucleated settlement with its open fields until its enclosure in the 19th century by the Sykes family. It is usually dry underfoot, except in Brownmoor Dale and on the lower slopes of the escarpment, which lie on clays from the Late Jurassic 145-165 Ma.

Queen Dyke Photo: Tom Halstead



Place-name origin
Grimston. 'Farmstead of a man called Grīmr'.
OScand. pers. name
+ OE *tūn*.

Distance 10.7 mi/17.2 km
Time 4 hr 15 min
Total Ascent 1440 ft/440 m
Difficulty Moderate
Start OS grid ref SE 842 611
Maps OS Explorer 294, 300; Landranger 100
Eating & Drinking
 The Cross Keys (01377 288272)
 Thixendale;
 The Half Moon (01653 658756)
 Acklam
Parking Thixendale village roadside

- 1 From Thixendale Village Hall go W along the street.
- 2 At the end of the village take the track on the R along the Yorkshire Wolds Way to the top of the dale.
- 3 Leave the FP before the fence, turn L into access land and follow the dale edge.

- 4 Go through the gate and bear L diagonally downhill to round the corner of a thicket. Follow the line of the fence to the road. Turn R along the road. At the end of the plantation turn L into access land through a handgate.
- 5 To shorten the walk, continue along the bottom of the dale with a fence on R to rejoin the road through

another handgate (8). Climb steeply to the edge of the dale with a fence on L.

- 6 At the top of the slope turn R. Follow the dale edge as far as Queen Dike D.
- 7 Cross the top of the dale. Follow the dale edge to avoid scrub. Where the dale opens out, before a dyke C, descend diagonally to go through a handgate and cross a wet area to a handgate at the road.
- 8 Follow the road L for 200 m.

- 9 Turn L along FP in the bottom of Brownmoor Dale. Note the dyke crossing the dale C. Go through the gate on L and climb to the Roman Road. Cross the road and a stile into Hanging Grimston Wold.
- 10 To shorten the walk, keep L along the FP to Gatehowe Road, then to Mount Pleasant (15) or via the Roman road to (17). For the main walk, keep to the R of the dale and take the track downhill to a handgate in a fence. Leaving access land, go through the handgate and continue along the FP, passing one footbridge on R over Gilder Beck, then crossing a stile to a second gated footbridge.

- 11 From the footbridge climb uphill, heading slightly R, to go through the gateway at the hedge-corner. Continue in the same direction across the field to meet a hedge on the R. Follow this to emerge on the lane by an isolated bungalow.

- 12 Follow the lane L to a crossroads. Turn L along Sleights Lane.

- 13 Turn L again onto a FP by a large cattle-pen. Through the gate swing R to follow the tractor track, but where this turns L to go through a gateway, keep straight on heading to the R of some large trees, where you go through a handgate and cross the beck.

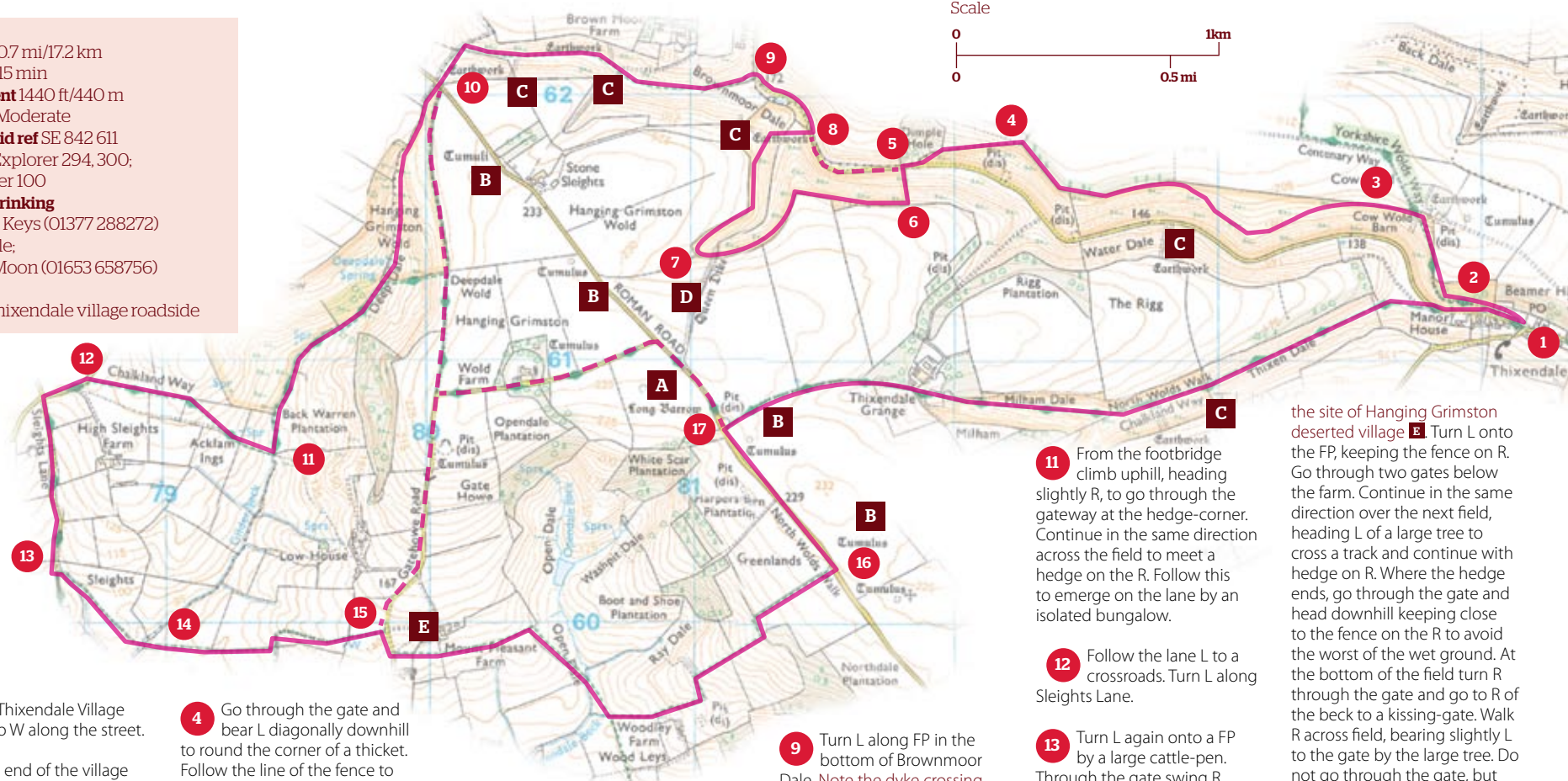
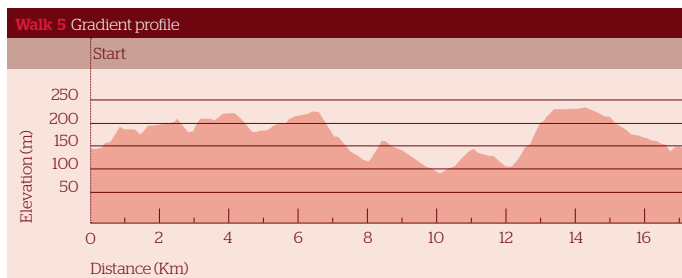
- 14 Turn L to follow the right-hand edge of the field, pass through a gate and continue, keeping the fence on L. At the top turn L to follow a wide track to reach the lane above Mount Pleasant Farm.

- 15 To shorten the walk, turn L and follow Gatehowe Road. At the Roman Road turn R to (17). For the main walk, turn R along the road. This is

the site of Hanging Grimston deserted village E. Turn L onto the FP, keeping the fence on R. Go through two gates below the farm. Continue in the same direction over the next field, heading L of a large tree to cross a track and continue with hedge on R. Where the hedge ends, go through the gate and head downhill keeping close to the fence on the R to avoid the worst of the wet ground. At the bottom of the field turn R through the gate and go to R of the beck to a kissing-gate. Walk R across field, bearing slightly L to the gate by the large tree. Do not go through the gate, but turn L to begin a long climb, with the fence on R. After the third gate turn sharply L then R to reach road.

- 16 Turn L along the Roman Road. A group of bowl barrows are on the R B.

- 17 The long barrow is ahead on the L A. Turn R on BW to Thixendale Grange. Just before the track swings L to the farm, take the gate on R to enter Milham Dale. This is access land, but follow the BW around the fence on L to avoid the seasonally muddy farm track. At the junction of the dales go L and continue to the road. Turn R to start. <<



Six Dales around Thixendale

A moderately hilly walk along good footpaths and sheep trods, through, across or above six dry valleys: Brubber Dale, Court Dale, Thixen Dale, Water Dale, West Dale and Vessey Pasture Dale. The complex of valleys around Thixendale village provides characteristic examples of the chalk grassland landscape of the Yorkshire Wolds. The basic walk is 10.4 mi, with two shorter 8.7 mi and 4.2 mi, options.



This picture Thixen Dale
Photo: Tom Halstead
Below
Common Buzzard
Photo: C. Andreas Trepte
www.photo.natur.de

The Chalk forms the bedrock of the Yorkshire Wolds. It is over 500 m thick and was laid down in warm shallow seas during the Late Cretaceous period 65-100 Ma ago. This landscape of the Wolds, with its dendritic pattern of deeply incised dry valleys, is called karst. Although it is not certain how these dry valleys were formed, it probably involved glacial meltwater erosion of frozen ground. During the

Salad burnet Photo: Thijses Hof*



last Ice Age (see Walk 1), the Wolds remained ice-free but surrounded by ice sheets, consequently, meltwater from local snow accumulations may have flowed over the periodically frozen ground to cut the valleys. As the climate warmed about 11,500 years ago, streams were able to filter beneath the ground, leaving valleys dry.

Open grassland has probably been a continuous feature of the Wolds for the last 10,000 years. Analysis of pollen and seeds preserved in peat, indicates that forest cover was never sufficient to completely oust the grassland plants. At the close of the glacial period

grassland plants grew on the Wolds and were still present even as birch and pine trees spread in. Despite climatic warming about 10,000 years ago, the normal appearance of hazel, elder and oak was arrested, probably because Mesolithic people were disturbing the forests. 5,000 years ago, there was evidence of cereal cultivation, open grassland and deciduous forest.

Far from being a waterless and remote area, in the past the Wolds

Place-name origin
Thixendale. *Sixtendale* 1086 (DB). 'Valley of a man called Sigsteinn'. OS cand. pers. name + *dahlr*.

'open grasslands have probably been a continuous feature of the landscape for the last 10,000 years'

has been attractive for human settlement since the Neolithic Age. By the thirteenth century, it was a patchwork of thriving agricultural communities, with pasture replaced by open fields.

But in the following centuries the population declined, due to the Black Death and cultural changes, and many Wolds villages shrank or were deserted (see Walks 5 and 7) making way for sheepwalks and rabbit warrens. Between 1750 and 1850 enclosure laid out new

open fields, new farms between villages and new straight roads with wide verges, to create the characteristic landscape of the Wolds today.

The name 'wolds' comes from the Old English word 'wald' and in this area references first appear in documents in the tenth century. Before the Norman Conquest 'wold' referred to woodland, but later its meaning became 'high, open waste ground'.

The sides of the dales too steep to plough are still covered by a chalkland sward of fine



grasses such as sheep's fescue and quaking grass. This supports a rich variety of flowers, such as rock rose, rough hawkbit, fairy flax, salad burnet, bulbous buttercup and lady's bedstraw. Parts of some of the dales satisfied the criteria of 'downland' as defined in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, which is why they were mapped as open access land in 2005.

Distance 10.4 mi/16.7 km

Time 4 hr

Total Ascent 1340 ft/410 m

Difficulty Moderate

Start OS grid ref SE 843 610

Maps OS Explorer 294, 300; Landranger 100, 101, 106

Eating & Drinking

Cross Keys (01377 288272)

Thixendale; Seaways Café

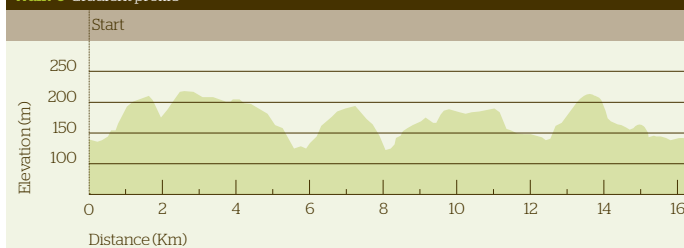
(01377 288203) Fridaythorpe

Parking Thixendale village roadside

Walk 6 route description

- 1 From Thixendale Village Hall go W along the main street.
- 2 At the end of the village take the track on the R. climb along the Yorkshire Wolds Way (YWW), which is well marked, over Cow Wold into Vessey Pasture Dale.
- 3 Go through the gate and bear R up hill, through another gate and continue ahead.
- 4 Turn R by some trees and follow the YWW to the end of the woodland.
- 5 Turn R and follow the Centenary Way for about 800 m. Turn R, marked Chalkland Way and Centenary Way, go through the gate and turn L along the top of Court Dale, descending to the road.

Walk 6 Gradient profile



6 To shorten the walk, turn R along the road. After about 200 m take the hand-gate on your L and climb steeply parallel with the fence until you reach the top of the dale. Bear R and continue keeping the fence to your L. There are fine views of Water Dale and Thixendale village. Continue along the edge of the dale to the road at a new fieldgate. Turn R onto the road and descend to return to Thixendale. For the longer walk, turn L along the road and take the first gate on your R. Bear L to join the track going up the hill to Paradise Cottage.

7 Go through the gate and turn R to join the lane to Gritts Farm.

8 Turn L along the road.

9 At the bottom of the hill, just after the county

boundary sign, go through the gate on the R bearing an access notice (there is also a gate for disabled access) into Brubber Dale. Climb the hill in front of you to the fence at the top. Bear R and continue along the edge of the dale for about 1 km to a fence. Descend to the gate at the bottom of the dale.

10 To shorten the walk, follow the YWW to Gill's Farm (15). Otherwise, follow the YWW up the hill to a kissing gate, or climb over the fence and continue along the dale edge to the gate.

11 Go through the gate, turn L and follow the YWW towards Fridaythorpe.

12 To visit Fridaythorpe continue along the lane to Fridaythorpe. Take the A166 towards York for about 600 m to (13). Otherwise, turn R and follow the minor road to the A166. Turn R along the road for about 100 m.

13 Turn R at the FP sign. Keeping the hedge on your L, descend through the gate in the corner of the field (access notice) into Brubber Dale. Turn R and continue along West Dale for about 1 km.

14 Turn L along the YWW and climb up to Gill's Farm.

15 Cross the road and follow the YWW down into the bottom of Thixen Dale. Go N along the valley to the road and turn R.

16 Optionally, follow the road to Thixendale village. Otherwise, enter access land through the second field gate and find a trod parallel to the road, eventually leaving by a step-over. Continue along the road to the start. <<

Scale



Fairy Dale and Whay Dale

A short figure-of-eight walk centred on Burdale exploring two small dry chalkland valleys that have been accessible to walkers only since 2005. Although the access land is open all year round, Birdsall Estates has given permission for the use of two new paths and entry points during the five months February to June, until 2016. The basic walk is 5.5 mi with a longer 8 mi option combining a visit to the deserted medieval village of Wharram Percy.



This picture
The Fairy Stones
Photo: Tom Halstead
Below
Clustered
Bell-flowers
Photo: Tom Halstead

Burdale lies in a sheltered position near a spring that feeds a permanent pond and pottery finds suggest that the area was continuously settled from the 3rd century BC until it was deserted in the 17th century. A Romano-British village was here **A** and lower down the valley, close to the boundary between the townships of Burdale and Fimber, was

a farmstead **B**. Another farmstead **C** was on the wold top, to the south of an ancient trackway and directly above the 'Fairy Stones'. This rare outcrop of breccia – angular fragments of flint and hard chalk cemented with calcite – was probably formed during the last Ice age by gravel filling a fissure in the chalk with the cementation taking place during a warmer interglacial period.

For probably over 4,000 years a trackway, now on the line of the bridleway and the county boundary, ran from Aldro across the top of Fairy Dale to Sledmere and beyond. A line of five bowl barrows **D** along the trackway

towards Sledmere form part of a group of 21 that Mortimer (see Walk 10) excavated in 1870. They date from the Bronze Age.

The peaceful nature of these dales was shattered by the arrival of the railway navvies during the construction of the Malton-Driffield Railway in 1853. Much of the economic case for the construction of the railway rested on it becoming part of an important trunk

'The peaceful nature of these dales was shattered by the arrival of the railway navvies'

route linking the North East with Hull. This never happened because problems with the alignment and gradients along the route meant that the line was unprofitable and it eventually closed in 1950. At the peak of its construction about 400 people were employed. The site engineer for the route was Alfred Dickens, a younger brother of Charles Dickens. The walk passes by the entrance of Burdale Tunnel, which is now sealed up **E**.

Fairy Dale is a SSSI and features typical chalk grassland plants, such as clustered bell-flower, lady's bedstraw, rough hawkbit, fairy flax and wild thyme.

Wharram Percy, one of the best known deserted villages in England, was excavated from 1950 to 1990. Evidence shows that the site has been occupied for more than 5,000 years from the Neolithic to the post-medieval period. The area includes the remains of the medieval village **F**,



the parish church of St Martin, the sites of the medieval mill and fishpond and the sites of two medieval manor houses. Also included are Iron Age, Romano-British and Saxon settlements. Around the area are traces of ridge and furrow, the earthwork remains of medieval ploughing. The last record of the village dates to 1517 when the last four families living there were evicted.

Burdale Tunnel Photo: Tom Halstead



Place-name origin

Burdale. *Bredhale* 1086 (DB). 'Hall or house made from planks'. OE *bred* + *hall*.

Distance 5.5 mi/8.8 km
Time 2 hr 15 min
Total Ascent 750 ft/230 m
Difficulty Easy
Start OS grid ref SE 872 623
Maps OS Explorer Map 300; Landranger 100,101
Permissive Paths Open: 1 February - 30 June (2014 - 2016)
Eating & Drinking
 Cross Keys (01377 288272) Thixendale;
 Seaways Café (01377 288203) Fridaythorpe
Parking Burdale green

Walk 7 route description

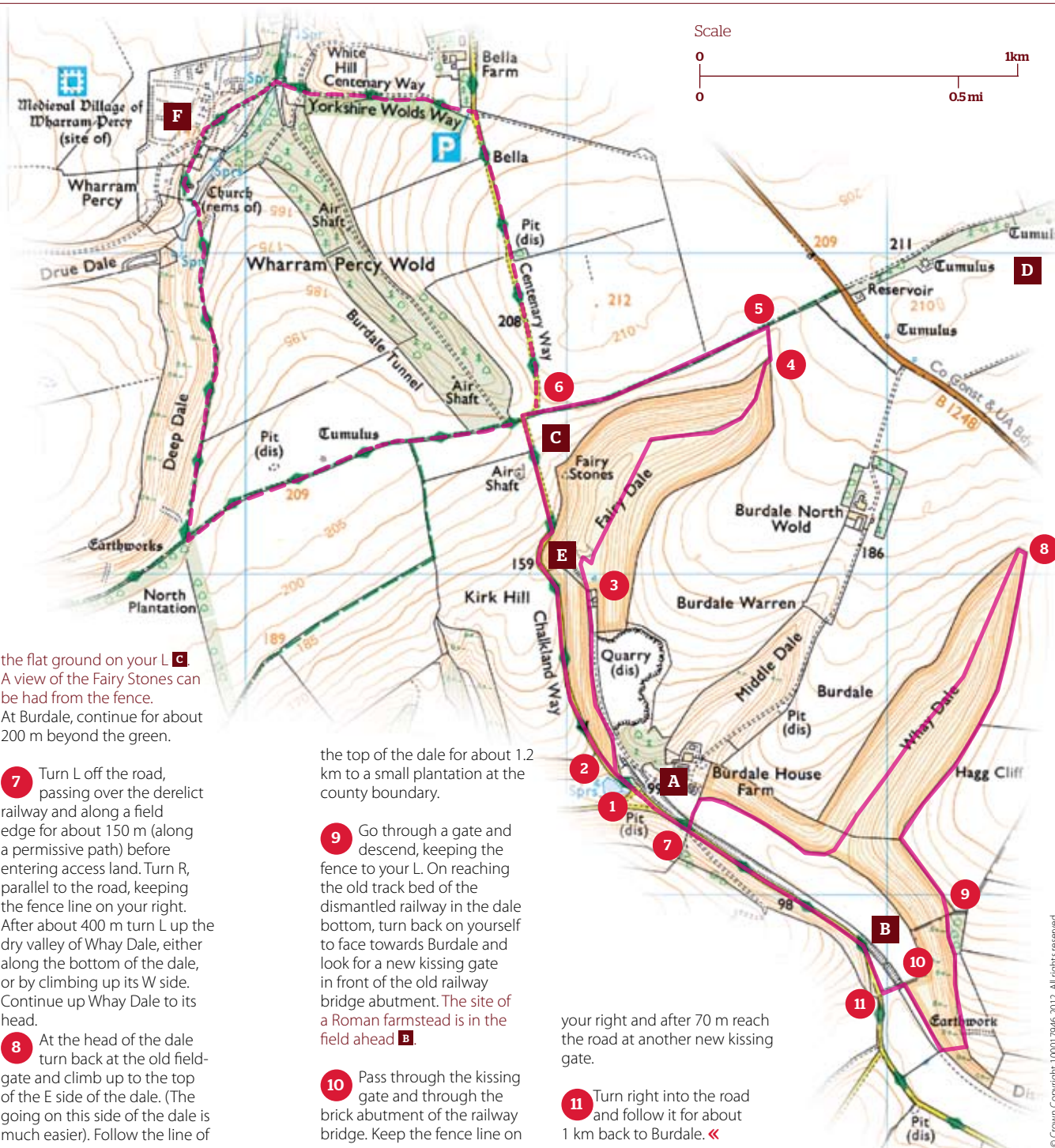
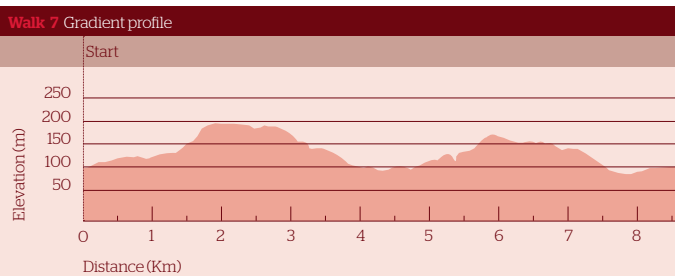
- From the triangular green at Burdale, walk NE along the road towards Wharram le Street. The green is the site of a Roman village **A**.
- After about 70 m pass through a field gate on your R onto access land. Continue straight ahead following the dale bottom, keeping the embankment of the old railway line on your right. Pass through a gate on your R and turn L. Shortly the portal of the Burdale railway tunnel **E** will come into view.
- Before reaching the tunnel entrance bear R through a small copse and follow a track into the dale, keeping the small pond to your right. Continue along the bottom of the steep-sided dale to the head of the dale.
- Leave access land and continue straight ahead for about 100 m to reach a brideway. (This is a permissive path).
- Turn L on a brideway. This is an ancient trackway. The bowl barrows **D** are 500 m to the R. Continue along the BW, taking in some fine views back down the dale to Burdale, before reaching the Burdale - Wharram Road.
- To lengthen the walk by visiting the deserted village of Wharram Percy **F**, turn R along the Centenary Way, then L at the CP, through Deep Dale and along the YWW to complete the loop. Otherwise, turn L, along the Chalkland Way, and walk down the road towards Burdale. A Roman farmstead occupied

the flat ground on your L **C**. A view of the Fairy Stones can be had from the fence. At Burdale, continue for about 200 m beyond the green.

- Turn L off the road, passing over the derelict railway and along a field edge for about 150 m (along a permissive path) before entering access land. Turn R, parallel to the road, keeping the fence line on your right. After about 400 m turn L up the dry valley of Whay Dale, either along the bottom of the dale, or by climbing up its W side. Continue up Whay Dale to its head.
- At the head of the dale turn back at the old field-gate and climb up to the top of the E side of the dale. (The going on this side of the dale is much easier). Follow the line of

the top of the dale for about 1.2 km to a small plantation at the county boundary.

- Go through a gate and descend, keeping the fence to your L. On reaching the old track bed of the dismantled railway in the dale bottom, turn back on yourself to face towards Burdale and look for a new kissing gate in front of the old railway bridge abutment. The site of a Roman farmstead is in the field ahead **B**.
- Pass through the kissing gate and through the brick abutment of the railway bridge. Keep the fence line on
- Turn right into the road and follow it for about 1 km back to Burdale. <



Givendale, Scamridge and Netherby Dale Dykes

A walk along good paths climbing through mixed, access woodland and farmland, past spectacular prehistoric dykes. The second half is largely in the open with good views towards the Wolds, with short stretches on quiet roads and passing through a nature reserve. The basic walk is 10.8 mi, with a shorter 8.2 mi option.



This picture
Netherby Dale Dyke
Photo: Tom Halstead
Below
Allerston Church
Photo: Tom Halstead

The **woodland** on this walk is, except where indicated, access land, therefore you do not have to keep to the paths but can take what routes you like. This gives you the chance to take a good look at the earthworks or wander through the beech woods.

The Givendale **A** and Scamridge **B** Dykes are massive prehistoric linear earthworks thought to

have been major tribal boundaries whose construction spans the millennium from the Middle Bronze Age. The Scamridge Dykes were later converted to a local boundary by the interposition of the Netherby Dale Dyke. The dykes frequently skirt past round barrows **C**, and funerary monuments dating from the Late Neolithic period to the Late Bronze Age. Also in this area are some Iron Age square barrows. In the best preserved parts of the Scamridge Dykes **B** there are five parallel ditches up to 32 m wide and up to 2 m deep. The round-topped banks are made of earth and

stone. Once considerably longer, less than 3 km of the system remains. The Cockmoor Dykes **D** consist of six steep-sided V-shaped ditches running between seven parallel banks and a further series of up to 20 smaller ditches added later to the western side. Even older than the dykes and round barrows are long barrows **E**, constructed during the Early and Middle Neolithic periods 3400-2400 BC. At least

four are found in this area.

Chafer Wood Nature Reserve features typical limestone grassland plants such as carline thistle, woolly thistle, cowslip, salad burnet, common rock-rose and pyramidal orchid and birds such as willow warbler, chiffchaff, blackcap, redstart, great spotted and green woodpeckers, nuthatch and tree pipit. In the reserve, a modern cairn **F** marks the site of a cave where Alchfrid, a Saxon king, reputedly rested in AD 704 after being wounded in battle, possibly near Bloody Field and Bloody Beck **G**.

North of the church at Allerston is a manorial centre within a large

‘These massive earthworks are thought to have been major tribal boundaries’

enclosure **H** dating to the 13th century. A 17th century gunpowder mill, built on the medieval ruins, produced gunpowder during the Civil War. Two dovescotes supplied guano, a source of saltpetre, which is an ingredient of ‘black powder’.

The Tabular Hills on the northern side of the Vale of Pickering are limestones and sandstones laid during the Late Jurassic 150 Ma ago.

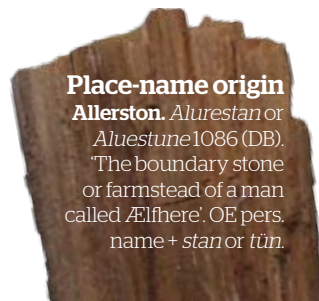
The rich creamy coloured oolitic limestone, made up of tiny bead shaped grains, can be seen in the buildings. The much softer Kimmeridge Clay underlies these harder rocks and Allerston and Ebberston are, more or less, along the spring-line where the limestone meets the clay. Old settlements were always made near good reliable sources of water, and both of these villages have streams running through them.

Alchfrid's Cairn **Photo:** Tom Halstead



Place-name origin

Allerston. *Alurestan* or *Aluestune* 1086 (DB). ‘The boundary stone or farmstead of a man called Ælfhere’. OE pers. name + *stan* or *tūn*.



Distance 11.1 mi/17.8 km
Time 4 hr 45 min
Total Ascent 1310 ft/400 m
Difficulty Moderate
Start OS grid ref SE 876 830
Maps OS Explorer OL27; Landranger 101
Eating & Drinking
 The Cayley Arms
 (01723 859338) Allerston;
 The Grapes Inn
 (01723 859273) Ebberston
Bus East Yorkshire Motor
 Services 128 (01482 327 146)
Parking Allerston roadside
 parking

- 1 From the Cayley Arms in Allerston go N up the road. After 250m take R fork. Soon go through a gate and turn R onto path over a flat bridge. The path goes uphill along the wood's edge and then straight ahead into a beech wood, which is access land.
- 2 Continue into the wood, keeping the fence visible on R. Cross a stile, turn L and follow fence until path turns R onto a track. Turn L and continue N.
- 3 Where another path comes up the valley from the L and goes diagonally across your path, keep to your path, bearing L downhill, before bending R to go N again.
- 4 At a forest road, turn L down to a track in

the bottom of Givendale. The limestone exposed on R contains fossils. Turn R along track. When it bears L uphill, go straight ahead on a grassy FP, boggy in places, to edge of wood.

- 5 Cross the stile, head up the valley for a waymarked fence corner. Follow fence, cross to and over a stile and turn R past the farm to a T junction.

- 6 To shorten the walk, turn R along a quiet road. At the right-angle bend, keep straight on along a track, then a FP to Chafer Wood at 15. Otherwise, turn L, after 50m turn R over a stile, across an arable field to another stile and downhill towards a gate. Approaching another gate, turn R for a few metres before using a small gate. Cross the track veering R, go through a gate, follow waymark L to next gate

- 7 Take the grassy FP into wood (not access land). FP goes downhill, as it flattens off, the wood on R ends. Continue through next gate into the wood (now access land), down steps and across a bridge before climbing, steeply in places, to a forest road.

- 8 The waymark points L, but you turn R along road to go through a gateway. Follow the rightmost road. Shortly take R fork onto a descending

track, through a gate into (open access) fields.

- 9 Track bends sharply L and after 100m crosses a stream, immediately climb R, (with kind permission of the landlord) to a gate. Climb through wood to meet a grassy track. Turn L.

- 10 Here you cross the N end of the Scamridge Dykes B. Continue along track to emerge at a gate into a field.

- 11 The Cockmoor Dykes D and remains of a round barrow C are here. Cross gate and turn R following fence for 100m to a gate onto a track.

- 12 At a finger post the track crosses the Dykes. Turn L on FP along the Dykes. Cross a track and through a narrow gap in the wall and continue on FP along the Dykes to a BW at a 4-way waymark. Here the Scamridge Dykes fork B.

- 13 Cross the BW and continue on FP through a wood along the Dykes and then over a stile into a field. Here the Dykes fork B. Bear L and follow the fence along the Netherby Dale Dyke. Approaching Malton Cote farm, keep R and head for the wall corner beyond the farm. Follow wall and then veer L to cross a stile. Turn R and follow the road for about 600m.

- 14 Turn R through a gate into Chafer Wood Nature Reserve. Take the higher path through the wood to meet a FP.

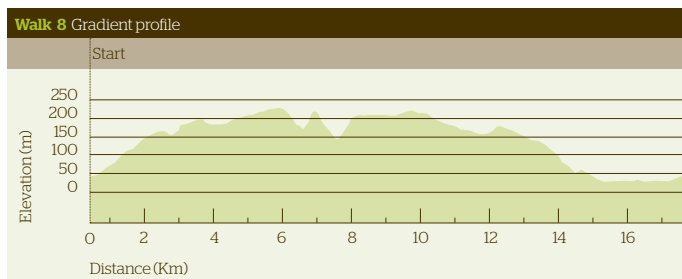
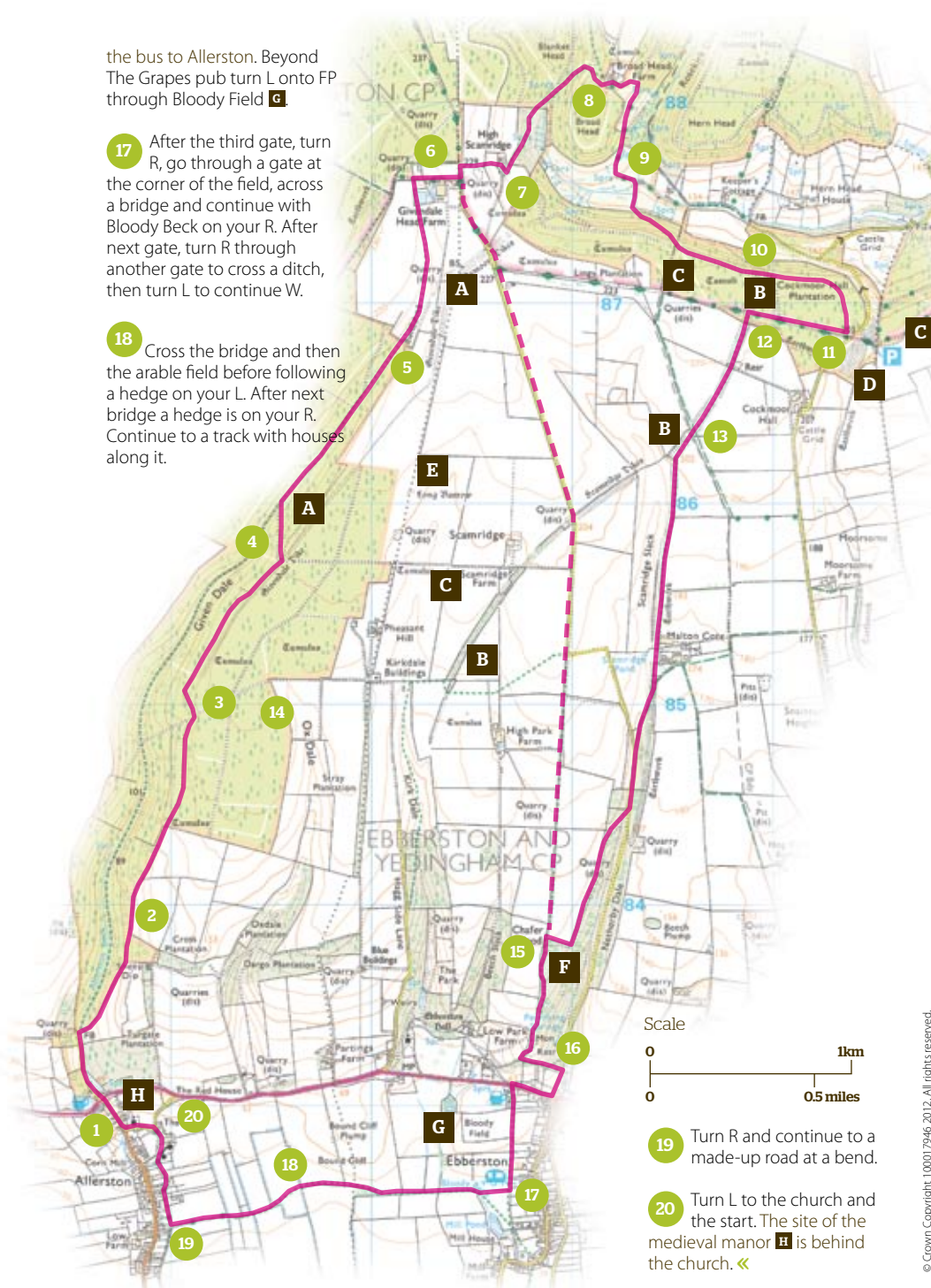
- 15 Follow the FP downhill, through Chafer Wood, past Alchfrid's cairn F to the road.

- 16 Cross the A170 at Ebberston, and turn R. for 100m. To shorten the walk, take

the bus to Allerston. Beyond The Grapes pub turn L onto FP through Bloody Field G.

- 17 After the third gate, turn R, go through a gate at the corner of the field, across a bridge and continue with Bloody Beck on your R. After next gate, turn R through another gate to cross a ditch, then turn L to continue W.

- 18 Cross the bridge and then the arable field before following a hedge on your L. After next bridge a hedge is on your R. Continue to a track with houses along it.



East Heslerton, West Heslerton and Knapton Brows

An easy walk on good field paths along the northern edge of the Yorkshire Wolds with long views across the Vale of Pickering towards the North York Moors. Opportunities to visit prehistoric sites and to enjoy a variety of chalkland flowers. The basic walk is 7.4 mi, with a shorter, 4.4 mi, and longer, 11.0 mi, option.



This picture Vale of Pickering from East Heslerton Brow
Photo: Tom Halstead
Below East Heslerton Church and Brow
Photo: Tom Halstead

The Chalk outcrop (see Walk 6), forming a steep northerly facing escarpment **A**, is the main feature of this walk. The villages of East and West Heslerton are situated on the spring line at the junction of the chalk and the Speeton clay deposits. During the closing stages of the Ice Age, about 11,500 years ago, ice temporarily trapped meltwater to

form Lake Pickering **B** one arm moving down the Vale of Mowbray and the other sweeping in from the bed of the North Sea (then dry).

East Heslerton Brow **C** is access land and a SSSI. Its complex of spurs and small valleys are the result of landslipping. Among the typical chalkland flowers to be found here are: rockrose, carline thistle, burnet saxifrage, autumn gentian, small scabious, lady's bedstraw, bloody cranesbill, fairy flax, salad burnet, dropwort, clustered bellflower, and purple milk-vetch. Various orchids, such as twayblade, fragrant, pyramidal, frog and bee

orchid have also been recorded. A similar, but less extensive, plant community is found on West Heslerton Links **D** which also provides an ideal picnic site.

Staple Howe **E** is situated on a knoll half way down the escarpment. It is a naturally defensive domestic site dating to the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age. Although the hilltop bears no visible traces of the prehistoric settlement, the remains

of palisade defences and some internal structures are below ground.

Worked flints were found in the field **F** between Rectory Farm and the A64, during one of the largest excavations conducted in Britain in the last two decades. This may indicate that Mesolithic hunters had used this site by a stream, now buried, that emerged from a spring at the foot of the Wolds. Remains have also been discovered there of a large and long-lived Anglian settlement, overlying traces of Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, and Roman period occupation. The settlement was finally

deserted, presumably in favour of the present site of West Heslerton by about AD 850, possibly as the result of a Viking attack.

The two settlements of Heslerton Magna (West) and Heslerton Parva (East) emerge during the medieval period. The

'Staple Howe is situated on a knoll half way down the escarpment scarp'

site of a shifted, village is situated to the south of East Heslerton **G** and is accessible under a Countryside Stewardship scheme. Alongside the lane is a hollow way. West

Bloody Cranesbill Photo: www.buxtononline.net



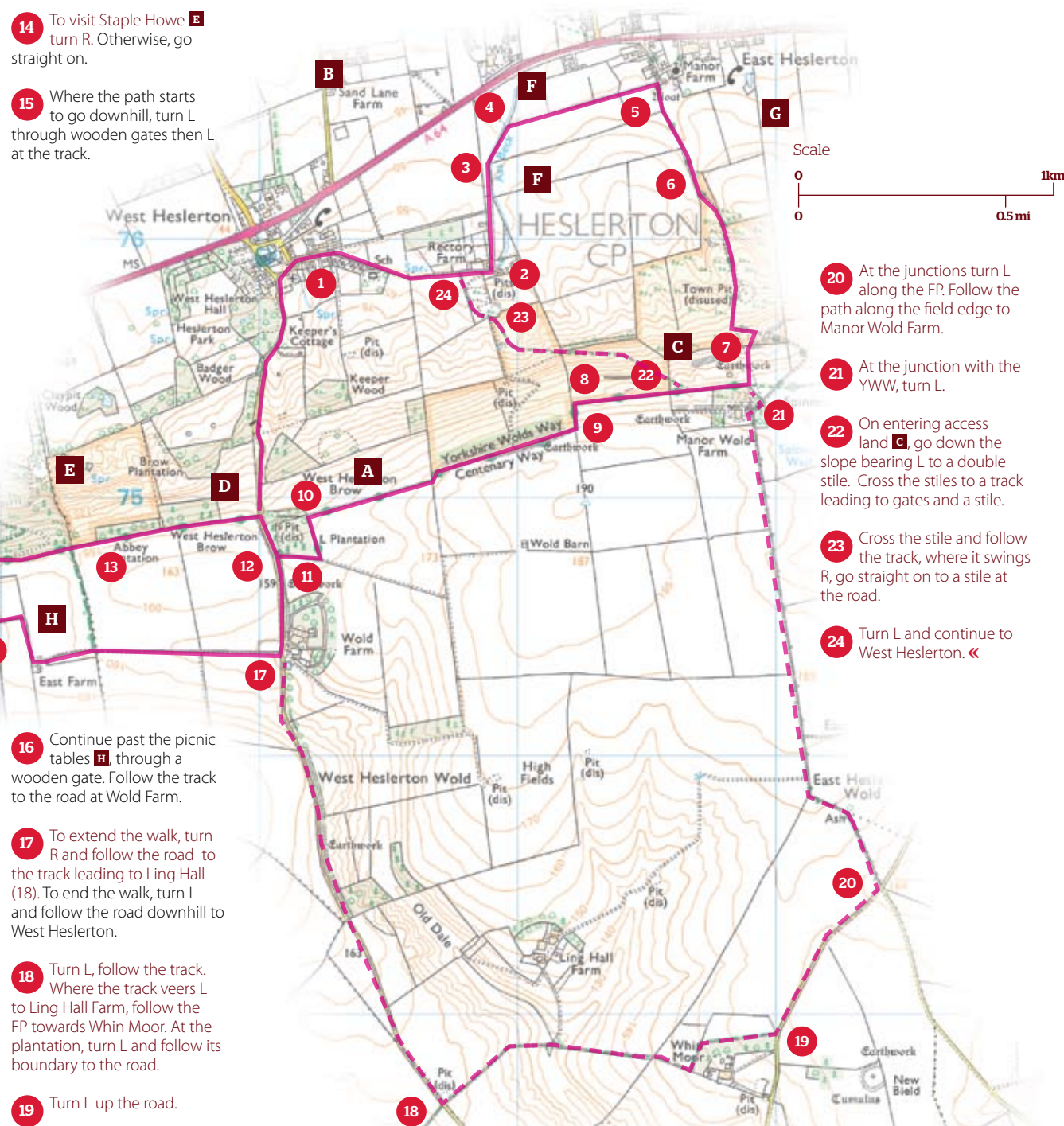
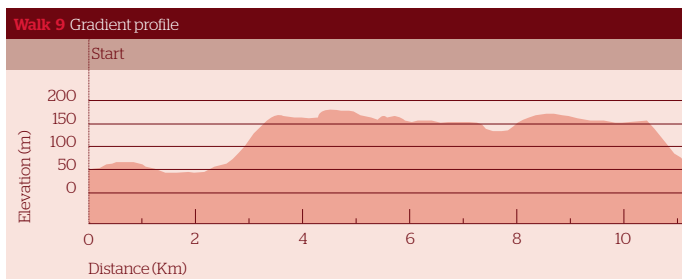
Place-name origin

Heslerton. *Heslerton* 1086 (DB). 'Farmstead where hazels grow'. OE *hæslar* + *tūn*.

Distance 7.1 mi/11.5 km
Time 2hr 45min
Total Ascent 750 ft/230 m
Difficulty Easy
Start OS grid ref SE 911 759
Maps OS Explorer 300, Landranger 101
Eating & Drinking
 The Dawney Arms (01944 728365) West Heslerton;
 Wolds Way Caravan & Camping Site Shop Summer only (01944 728463)
Bus Yorkshire Coastliner 843 (01653 692556)
Parking Roadside at West Heslerton Church

- 1 Leaving West Heslerton Church on the R, take the lane going E past the school.
- 2 Past Rectory Farm, turn L through gates. Take FP along the hedgeline to a stile.
- 3 Go over the stile, turn R and follow the field edge to a bridge on your R. The site of the archaeological excavations **F** is on the L and beyond the A64.
- 4 Go straight across the fields, over two stiles, to a stile into the lane. To visit the church at East Heslerton turn L.
- 5 Turn R and continue along the lane. The hollow way and deserted village **G** is on the L.

- 6 From the gate climb up the track to Manor Wold Farm.
- 7 Turn R along the Yorkshire Wolds Way (YWW). Continue past the farm, parallel with the fence line.
- 8 Turn L over a stile, bearing R up the slope to another stile.
- 9 Cross the stile and follow a grassy track along the escarpment.
- 10 At the plantation, turn L and follow the track around the plantation.
- 11 To shorten the walk, turn R and continue down the road to West Heslerton. Otherwise, turn R and continue for about 50 m.
- 12 Turn L through a kissing gate and follow the YWW along the escarpment.
- 13 Continue straight on with the plantation on your R. West Heslerton Links access land **D** is on the R.
- 14 To visit Staple Howe **E** turn R. Otherwise, go straight on.
- 15 Where the path starts to go downhill, turn L through wooden gates then L at the track.
- 16 Continue past the picnic tables **H**, through a wooden gate. Follow the track to the road at Wold Farm.
- 17 To extend the walk, turn R and follow the road to the track leading to Ling Hall (18). To end the walk, turn L and follow the road downhill to West Heslerton.
- 18 Turn L, follow the track. Where the track veers L to Ling Hall Farm, follow the FP towards Whin Moor. At the plantation, turn L and follow its boundary to the road.
- 19 Turn L up the road.
- 20 At the junctions turn L along the FP. Follow the path along the field edge to Manor Wold Farm.
- 21 At the junction with the YWW, turn L.
- 22 On entering access land **C**, go down the slope bearing L to a double stile. Cross the stiles to a track leading to gates and a stile.
- 23 Cross the stile and follow the track, where it swings R, go straight on to a stile at the road.
- 24 Turn L and continue to West Heslerton. ⬅



North Dale, Lang Dale and Sharpe Howe

A short easy walk along good field paths through a long twisting dry valley, up on to the high wold to a green lane and ending on a sheep trod. There are fine views over the rolling Wolds to the cliffs at Bempton and opportunities to visit a large Bronze Age barrow and to enjoy a variety of chalkland flowers. The basic walk is 5.1 mi, with a shorter, 3.8 mi, and a longer, 5.9 mi, option.



This picture
Fordon Village
Photo: Tom Halstead
Below
Sharpe Howe
Photo: Chris Clark

Fordon was one of the clearings, or 'ovenhams', made in the high Wolds by Bridlington Priory in the 13th century. The monasteries often established sheepwalks on their Wolds granges, but Bridlington created a predominantly arable landscape with sheep ranging over the steep-sided dry valleys that could not be ploughed. The poorer cultivated

land, however, tended to be abandoned during the century after the Black Death when Fordon became a shrunken hamlet.

Chalk grassland has probably been a continuous feature of the Yorkshire Wolds since the last Ice Age (see Walk 6), but is now reduced to 1.3% of the land area. The dry valleys of North Dale **A B** and East Dale **C** form part of the Fordon Chalk Grasslands SSSI, which features a rich variety of characteristic chalkland plants, such as clustered bell-flower, carline thistle, woolly thistle, dropwort, rockrose, purging flax, cowslip, salad burnet, devil's-bit scabious

and thyme, as well as many less common species, such as pyramidal orchid, kidney vetch, purple milk-vetch, frog orchid, bloody crane's-bill, felwort and saw-wort.

The Yorkshire Wolds have long been recognized as an area of archaeological importance and the work of pioneers such as JR Mortimer, W Greenwell and EM Cole during the late 19th century developed a body of information still essential for the understanding

of British prehistory.

John Mortimer was a Driffeld corn merchant who, inspired by a visit he made to the Great Exhibition in 1851, began to collect a broad range of prehistoric artefacts found on the Yorkshire Wolds. Starting in the 1860s, he and his brother Robert excavated about 360 burial mounds (see Walk 7). William Greenwell in his professional life was a vicar, canon and librarian of Durham Cathedral. Every summer he undertook excavations, unfortunately rarely recording the structure of the barrows he excavated. He was an avid collector and many of the national museums, such as The

British Museum, have collections bought, or derived, from Greenwell. He remained a keen angler to his ninety-eighth year and, in 1854, created 'Greenwell's

'Sharpe Howe was one the many barrows excavated by William Greenwell'

glory', the most famous of British trout flies'.

Sharpe Howe **D**, excavated by Greenwell, is the largest of a group of 5 bowl barrows forming a cemetery. A grave at the centre of the barrow



contained a contracted skeleton with a food vessel. Upwards of 1400 bowl barrows are known to exist on the Yorkshire Wolds. These date from the Late Neolithic period to the Late Bronze Age 2400-1500 BC. They often acted as a focus for burials in later periods.

The tiny church **E**, built between 1086 and 1115, is dedicated to St James. The S doorway is Norman, but over the door is the date 1768. It is now a Grade II* listed building.

Sheepwalks Photo: Chris Clark



Place-name origin

Fordon. *Fordun* 1086 (DB). Place in front of a hill'. OE *fore + dūn*.

Distance 5.1 mi/8.2 km
Time 2hr
Total Ascent 460 ft/140 m
Difficulty Easy
Start OS grid ref TA 050 751
Maps OS Explorer 301; Landranger 101
Eating & Drinking
 The Anvil Arms (01262 470279) Wold Newton;
 The Fox & Hounds (01723 890301) Flixton
Parking Fordon on the grass verge

- 1 At the cross roads, face the entrance to South Fordon Farm, turn L and walk along Fordon Lane.
- 2 At the telephone box turn R to follow a waymarked FP. If the farm gate is closed, use a small wrought iron gate partially hidden by the telephone box. Walk through the farm to the gate marked 'Footpath' at the R of a farm building and continue along the FP. Although this is access land, it is more convenient to keep more or less to the FP and use the gateways, as there are fences to contain livestock. The two banks **A** and **B** are part of the SSSI.
- 3 At the N end of North Dale, cross over the stile and follow the FP keeping to the R of the fence. Bear R to cross a farm track, with sheep pens to the L, to a stile.

- 4 Cross over the stile, which is waymarked. Lang Dale is still access land, but the walking is easier along the valley bottom.
- 5 Approaching the end of the dale with a fence ahead, veer diagonally R, climbing quite steeply to join the Yorkshire Wolds Way (YWW) at a stile in the corner of the field. Leaving access land, continue climbing on the YWW up to the road, which is the highest point of the walk.

- 6 To visit Sharpe Howe **D**, which is in the clump of trees ahead of you, turn L along the road for a few metres to a track on R. Otherwise, turn R and continue along the road.
- 7 When the YWW goes off L along some prehistoric earthworks, it is worth turning to have another look at Sharp Howe. On a clear day, the distant sea and the white cliffs at Bampton, can be seen to the East. Continue on the road towards the shelter belt trees of Danebury Manor.
- 8 To shorten the walk, at the T-junction turn R and continue down the metalled road to Fordon village (1). Otherwise, go straight on, taking the farm road through Danebury Manor. Then descend the green lane.

- 9 At the road, turn R for about 100 m to the access point in the hedge.
- 10 Enter the access land. The chalk banks are part of the SSSI managed by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust **C**. There is a choice of routes. To best enjoy the view, take the higher track that traverses the bank. Care is needed, as the chalk is crumbly and the land drops away steeply. Continue, keeping above the trees, to a track.

- 11 Turn L down the track, through double farm gates, on to the road, opposite which is the Fordon sign.

- 12 To extend the walk, turn R, through a kissing-gate, staying inside the access land. Continue N, along the edge of the wood (the field is not access land), across a stile by a large Oak, to a pond (13). To end the walk, turn R along the road to Fordon crossroads. The small church **E** is hidden among trees a few metres up the road to Wold Newton.

- 13 The NE fork is access land. The NW fork is wooded and the boundary of the access land, as mapped, comes within 4 m of the fence alongside the road, but there is no legal right of way across the pasture. Return to (12), keeping within the access land. <<

