

20km/12 miles

Buckden

The beauty of the Yorkshire Dales can be gauged from the top of the moors where you can look down on the picturesque villages or by walking along the valleys and looking up at the peaks like Buckden Pike and Pen-y-ghent. This walk does both and highlights how the Dales have woken up to the need to cater for visitors. There is an inn at each 'corner' of this walk. There is also good food, real ale, warm fires and each place has its own distinct character.

The walk

1 Take Hubberholme Road. Drop down to bridge. Continue on to unmetalled road, L. A signpost marks bridle path to Litton. Follow this up to treeline. Just past gate a sharp R-angled signpost directs you to open moorland. Posts mark track. Near top of moor, track is replaced by paving stones to take you over clinging, black, loose topsoil. Track continues down over softer terrain on leeward side of wall and comes out by farm that is next door to Queens Arms in Litton. It was this dale that Charles Kingsley called Vendale in his book 'The Water Babies'.

2 No more than a few steps up valley a signpost points to ford. Take this bridle path that zig-zags to concrete causeway over River Skirface. (There is a footbridge 200m further up Halton Gill road.) Well signposted track leads through a field to join main footpath to Arncliffe. This track is well signposted. There is even a post in the middle of meadows. Start out

6 hours

along tree root-infested path alongside river that seeps beneath limestone slabs. Scocia wood, R, is a rare example of ash woodland. Strike out across sheep meadows for lane that leads straight to grassy village Arncliffe. If your timing is right you can enjoy beer served from a jug in The Falcon Inn, a place that has one foot still in the last century.

3 Follow main road that leads back to Litton. Walk past old church and on over bridge to T-junction. Directly in front of you on opposite side of road is a signpost pointing way of footpath to Starbotton. Steps in wall lead over stile. (This steep path is a shortcut to the bridle path that starts further down the Litton road.) Turn R at bridle path that leads to top of Old Cote Moor. There is a gate in wall that runs along spine of moor. On way down other side route is springier as it drops over steep side of valley. A junction with footpath up from Kettlewell points you to narrow wooden bridge over River Wharfe. At end of lane turn left for Fox and Hounds in Starbotton.

4 Retrace steps down to wooden bridge and turn R alongside river. Path is part of Dales Way. Follow path by river, flood plain and gravel road, almost to Buckden. Leave gravel road just before Buckden and follow riverside path to bridge. Turn R on bridge and Buck Inn is just up rise.

moderate

DETAILS

Country Walking ID
3016
Mag Route 20,
January 2008
Region North
Area North Yorkshire
Length of walk
20km/12 miles
Time needed 6 hours
Difficulty Moderate

IS THIS WALK FOR YOU?

Terrain Two steep climbs over moorland; footpaths through sheep meadows; rocky and tree root-strewn riverside path
Stiles 2

PLANNING

Parking Buckden car park is behind the village shop, grid ref SD942723

Start grid ref

SD942772

Nearest town

Skipton

Refreshments

Buckden, Litton, Arncliffe, Starbotton

Public toilets

None

Public transport

Pride of the Dales bus

company, tel: 01756 753123, No 72

Mon-Sat from 10am

(two-hourly); No 74 & 76

Grassington-Buckden, Mon-Sat, from 9.15am

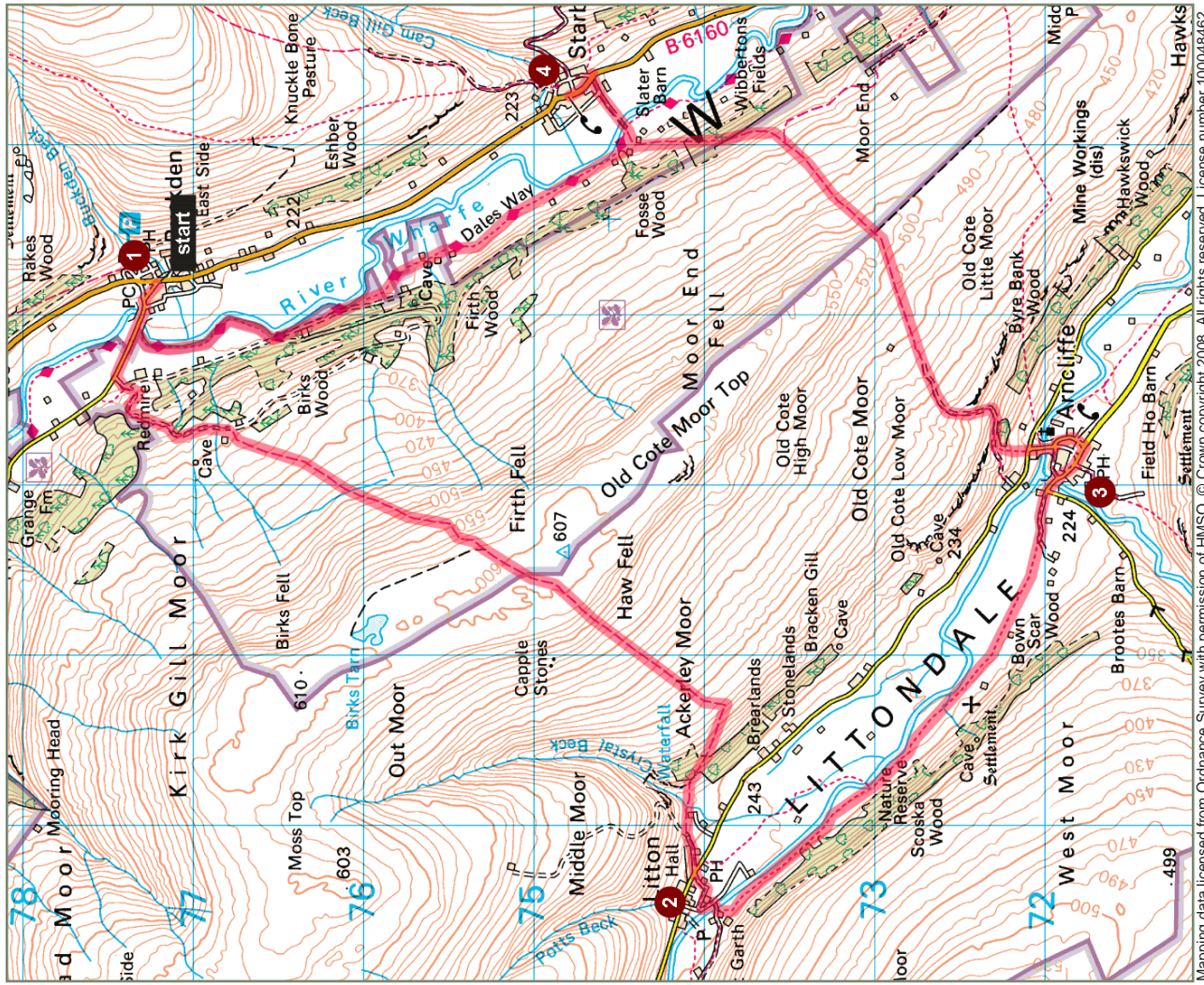
(two-hourly)

MAPS

Ordnance Survey Explorer OL30;

Landranger 98

DAVID NORRIS



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