

Horse Head Moor and Deepdale walk... 5.6 miles

Upper Wharfedale, Yorkshire Dales

 THE NATIONAL TRUST

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Get away from it all and enjoy this invigorating walk up Horse Head Pass and along the remote moorland ridge, with magnificent views of the Three Peaks, returning along the beautiful River Wharfe.

Start: Yockenthwaite **Grid ref:** SD904790 **Map:** OS Landranger 98; this walk requires an Ordnance Survey map and it is advisable to bring a compass

Getting here & local facilities




Bike: Pennine Cycleway, signed on-road route near Kettlewell (around 5 miles from Buckden), see www.sustrans.org.uk. Off-road cycling is permitted on bridleways

Bus/Train: Pride of the Dales 72, Skipton station to Buckden. Service 800/5 from Leeds station and Ilkley station (Sunday, April-October)

Road: 3 miles northwest of Buckden, off the B6160. Parking on left-hand side of road, between Raisgill and Yockenthwaite

Car parks, WCs, cafés, pubs and accommodation in Buckden and Kettlewell (not NT). Exhibition of the River Wharfe at Town Head Barn, Buckden (NT). Trail maps available from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Centre in Grassington, or the National Trust estate office in Malham Tarn.

Look out for...

-  **The Hagg:** The name of this large area of common land often refers to an expanse of woodland that was used as coppice in medieval times, suggesting that this area once had greater tree cover. We want to encourage this tree cover to grow back, so we've reduced the amount of grazing livestock on the Hagg, as over-grazing can stunt tree growth.
-  **Vegetation:** As you walk along the ridge, keep an eye out for the mosaic of various vegetation types. The red-brown patches are mainly purple moor grass, which tends to grow on boulder clay or Millstone Grit, and the areas of green grasses mixed in with small flowers grow over limestone.
-  **Stone circle:** The path passes Yockenthwaite stone circle (after point 7 on map), thought to be the base of a Bronze Age burial mound. The trees above the stone circle have been planted to create an area of native woodland which will benefit the ground vegetation and birds, such as Redstart, Wood Warbler and Green Woodpecker.



The River Wharfe flows some 60 miles through the Dales from its source at Camm Fell, before joining the River Ouse near Cawood. Look out for Kingfisher, Oystercatcher and Dipper by the water's edge.



Pen Y Ghent rises steeply on the far side of Littondale, with flat-topped Ingleborough beyond Ribblesdale. Whernside, the third of the Three Peaks, is on the right. On a clear day, you can even see as far as the Lake District, over 37 miles away.

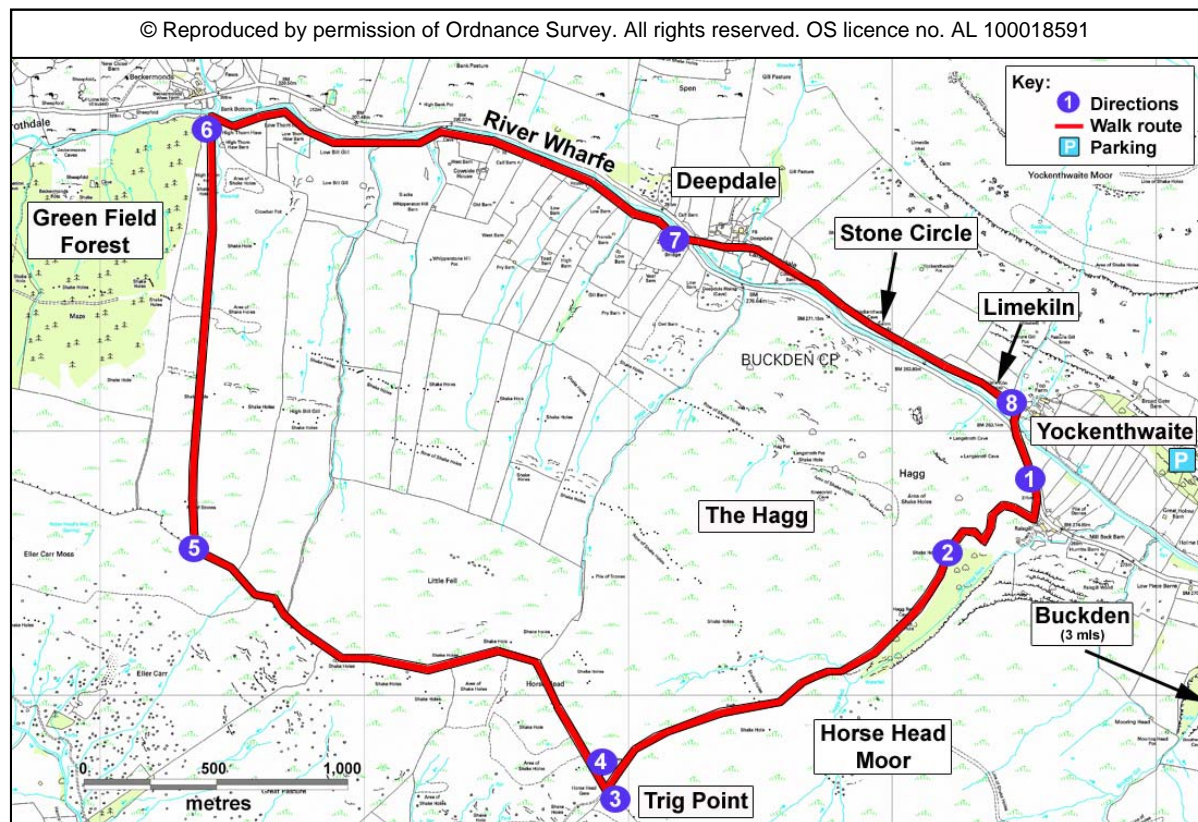


Just before Yockenthwaite you pass a limekiln (point 7 on map). Limekilns are a regular feature of the landscape in the Dales. Soils in the Dales are generally acidic, so, historically, limestone was quarried and burnt in kilns. The resulting burnt lime was used as a fertiliser for sweetening the grassland, creating better grazing.

Directions

Follow the purple waymarkers:

1. Park on the roadside at Yockenthwaite, return along the road to Raisgill farmhouse and follow the bridleway, signed to Halton Gill. The track zigzags steeply uphill, across an area of common land known as the Hagg.
2. When the path levels, continue upwards, keeping Hagg Beck in the valley to your left.
3. At the summit gate, you can take a detour to the trig point (this is optional – the views are just as good on the main route). Go through the gate and turn right, walking by the wall for 328yds (300m). At the trig point enjoy the views of the Three Peaks then head back through the gate and turn left.
4. Walk along the moorland ridge, with the wall on your left, for 1.2 miles (2km), crossing a gate, a stile and a ruined wall.
5. When you reach a ladder-stile on the left do not cross it, but turn right. Follow the footpath downhill, heading to the right of Green Field Forest, towards Beckermonds.
6. When you reach the River Wharfe, do not cross the bridge but turn right and follow the Dales Way footpath along the river towards Deepdale.
7. At Deepdale cross the road bridge and turn right into the hamlet. After a short way up the track, take the footpath on the right, signposted to Yockenthwaite. Look out for the stone circle on your left and a limekiln a bit further along, also on your left.
8. At Yockenthwaite cross over the stone packhorse bridge to return to the start point.



Walk distance, terrain and accessibility

Approximately 5.6 miles (9km) circular walk, along mostly open access moorland and open fellside, returning along the River Wharfe. Very strenuous steep climb of 2000ft (605m) up to Horse Head Moor. Can be muddy after wet weather.

Dogs welcome under close control; they must be kept on leads at certain times of year. Please visit our website for more information: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/upperwharfedale

Contact us

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