Ordnance Survey® Michael Joseph

Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk

Every walker who plans a cross-country expedition refers to his maps, looks for the footpaths and the bridleways and the areas of open access, links them together by quiet roads and lanes that avoid towns and busy traffic arteries, and so devises a pleasant route to his objective that he is free to walk, as is any man, without fear of trespass or restriction.

This is precisely what I have done in the book. To the best of my knowledge the route described will commit no offence against privacy nor trample on the sensitive cons of landowners and tenants. It is a country walk of the sort that enthusiasts for the hills and open spaces indulge in every weekend. It's a bit longer than most, that's all.

The point I want to emphasise is that the route herein described is in no sense an 'official route' such as the Pennine Way; it is a harmless and enjoyable walk across England, entirely (so far as I am aware) on existing rights of way or over ground where access is traditionally free to all*.

The walk is one I have long had in mind, and in 1972 finally accomplished; and I have committed it to print partly because the growing popularity of the Pennine Way indicates that many people of all ages welcome the challenge of a long-distance walk, and partly because I want to encourage in others the ambition to devise with the aid of maps their own cross-country marathons and not be merely followers of other people's routes: there is no end to the possibilities for originality and initiative. And partly, I suppose, because I like to write about my walks and by doing so live them over again.

The route follows an approximate beeline (if a beeline can ever be approximate!) from one side of England to the other : from St Bees Head on the Irish Sea to Robin Hood's Bay on the North Sea, *and if a ruler is placed across a map between these* two points it will be seen at a glance that the grandest territory in the north of England is traversed by it; two-thirds of the route lies through the areas of three National Parks.

It is never possible to follow a dead-straight beeline over a long distance without trespassing, climbing fences, wading rivers, perhaps swimming streets of water, and walking through houses and gardens. The route given makes no attempt to follow a straight line: deviations are necessary throughout, primarily to avoid private ground but additionally to take the opportunity of visiting places of special interest nearby. Thus, although the straight line gives a mileage of 125, the route mileage is 190**: half as far again.

The countryside traversed is beautiful almost everywhere, yet extremely varied in character, with mountains and hills, valleys and rivers, heather moors and sea cliffs combining in a pageant of colourful scenery. It is of great interest both topographically and geologically, the structure of the terrain and the formations of the rocks showing marked changes from one district to the next.

The route, which has a bias in favour of high ground rather than low, is divided into convenient sections, each of sufficient distance to provide a good day's march for the average walker and ending at a place where overnight lodgings are normally available.

Given reasonable weather, the walk can be done in two weeks, not rushing it nor trailing behind schedule. Some people who would like to do the walk may prefer to tackle the sections at intervals of time and possibly not in sequence, travelling from home on each occasion: this practice has other advantages, notably avoidance of the need to reserve a bed and the selection of fine clear days only. Everybody has a car these days, even me (and in my case, a good-looking, competent chauffeur to go with it) and most sections of the route are within reach of the urban areas of the northern counties.

The walk is described from west to east. It is generally better in this country to walk from the west or south so as to have the weather on your back and not in your face. In the case of this particular walk it is perhaps unfortunate that the grandest part of it, through Lakeland, comes so early, but those who do not already know the heather moors of north-east Yorkshire can be assured that they form a fitting climax.

A Wainwright

**Since Wainwright first published his Coast to Coast Walk in 1973, it has become clear that his route did take in stretches over which there was no public right of way. The relevant National Park Authorities and other similar organisations have worked together to either re-route the walk over the nearest public rights of way, or to arrange with understanding and generous landowners that the route could continue on a permissive basis. The book itself carries these amendments in its 1998 reprint, and whenever an alteration is necessary to Wainwright's original text reproduced on this map, the copy has been set in italic. Some sections of the route, however, are still under discussion and walkers are requested to follow official waymarks at all times. At the time of going to press, the publishers are unaware of any objections to using any part of the route as depicted on this map.*

***Because of these changes to the route, the overall mileage is slightly different from that originally given by Wainwright: the length also depends on whether variations to the route are used.*

A Coast to Coast Walk
(revised edition) – A Wainwright

The most popular of all Wainwright's Pictorial Guides – now available in a revised edition. Published by Michael Joseph, 27 Wright's Lane, LONDON W8 5TZ.

The revised edition contains a number of amendments to ensure that the route now passes along public rights of way or permissive paths for its entire length.

These revisions have been completed with the cooperation of the three National Parks through which the route passes, together with the other official organisations and private landowners.

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By e-mail: custinfo@ordsvy.gov.uk

Or visit our web site: www.ordsvy.gov.uk

Keld to Robin Hood's Bay (94¼ miles - 152.5 km)

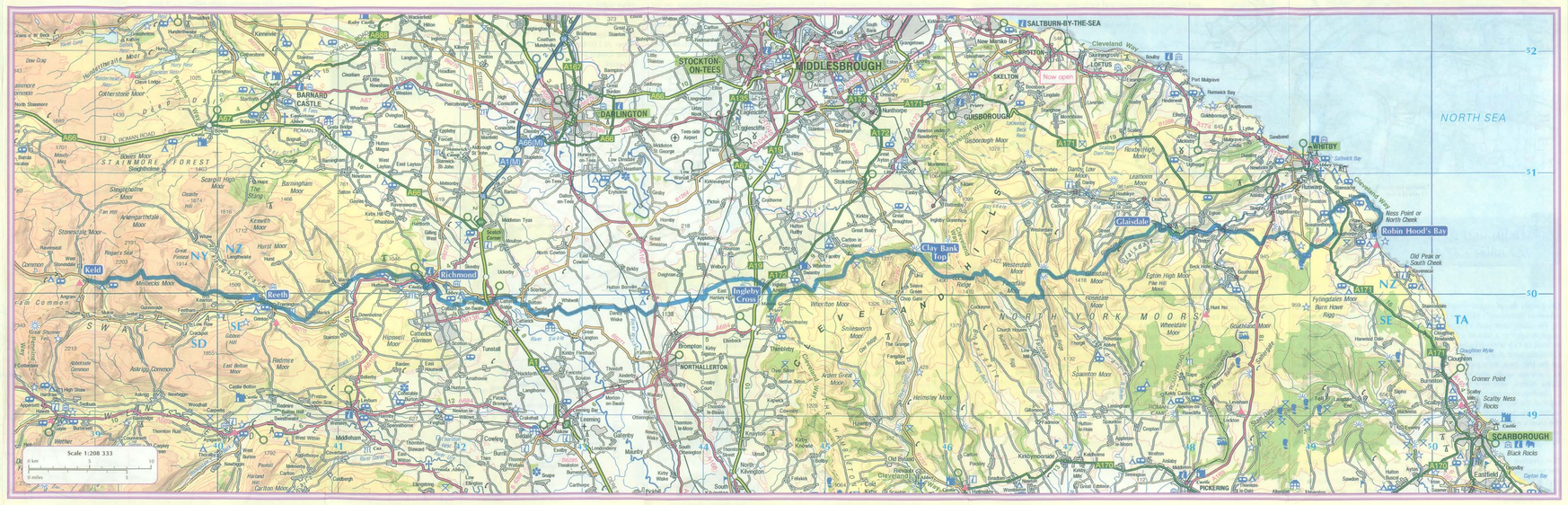
This specially designed strip map is at a scale of 2½ inches to 1 mile, 3.6 centimetres to 1 kilometre. Wainwright's route ● ● ● ● utilises rights of way and permissive paths wherever possible; where this is not the case the recommended right of way route is depicted by orange dots ● ● ● ●. The blue directional text matches Wainwright's route, whilst his anecdotal text is in black.

In several places Wainwright devised alternative routes ▬ ▬ and the advice regarding weather conditions and level of experience required to tackle them should be heeded.

Due to severe erosion problems in the area of Nine Standards and Nine Standards Rigg (on OLM 33 - Coast to Coast west) the Yorkshire Dales Park Authority has designated seasonal routes which should be followed. The **Green Route** ● ● ● ● should be used from December to April, the **Red Route** ● ● ● ● from May to July and the **Blue Route** ● ● ● ● from August to November.

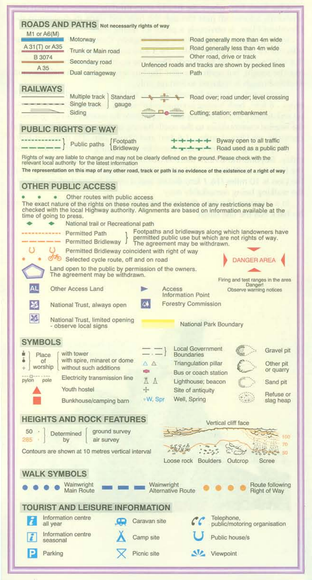
Wherever possible the route mapping is shown in a continuous strip. When this is not the case, an overlap has been included to assist in orientation. Along the map edge, any distance shown to a destination is from that particular point, not from the walk route.

Route planning stage map



Key to mapping

Scale 1:27 777 - 3.6 cm to 1 km (2¼ inches to 1 mile)



Text and map localities index

Text and map localities on this map can be determined by using the following referencing system.

The map has been divided into ROWS and PANELS. There are 4 ROWS on each side of the map (8 ROWS in total) and 8 PANELS in each ROW. On side 1 the ROWS are numbered from 1 to 4 and on side 2 they are numbered from 5 to 8. The PANELS ascend in order, 1 to 8, from left to right.

EXAMPLE:

St Bees — Row 3/4 — Panel 1 — Section Start/Finish

St Bees
Arkle Beck 4/2
Arncliffe Hall 6/3
Arncliffe Wood 6/3
Beacon Hill 6/3
Blakey Gill 7/5
Blakey Howe (Cockpit Hill) 7/5
Blowworth Crossing 7/3
Boggle Hole ▲ 8/7
Bolton Beck 5/4
Bolton-on-Swale 5/3
Bransdale 7/3
Brecken Hill 5/7
Carlton Bank 6/5
Carlton Moor 6/5
Carr Ridge 7/2
Cataractonium (Roman Town) 5/3
Catterick Bridge 5/3
Chop Gate 6/7
Clain Wood 6/4
Clapgate Beck 6/4
Clay Bank Top 6/7 & 7/2
Cockpit Hill (Blakey Howe) 7/5
Colburn 5/2
Cold Moor 6/6
Crackpot Hall 3/4
Cringle Moor 6/6
Cringley Bottom 3/7
Danby High Moor 7/5
Danby Wiske 5/4
Deighton Lane 5/6
Delves 8/2
Easby 5/2
East Applegarth 4/5
East Arncliff Wood 8/2
East Grain 3/5
East Harlsey 5/7
Egton 8/3
Egton Bridge 8/3
Egton Manor 8/3
Ellers 4/4
Ellers Beck 4/3
Ellerton Hill 5/4
Ellerton-on-Swale 5/4
Esk, River 8/3
Falling Foss 8/5
Farndale 7/4
Farndale Moor 7/4
Glaisdale 7/8 & 8/2
Glaisdale Head 7/7
Glaisdale Moor 7/6
Glaisdale Rigg 7/7
Gold Hill 6/5
Graystone Hills 8/6
Great Broughton 6/7
Great Fryup Dale 5/7
Great Fryup Head 7/6
Grinkle Carr 5/7
Grinton 4/2
Grinton Lodge ▲ 4/2
Grosmont 8/3
Gunnerside 3/5
Gunnerside Beck 3/5
Gunnerside Gill 3/5
Hagg Farm 5/2
Danby Bank 6/6
Hawsker 8/6
Hawsker Bottoms 8/7
High Blakey Moor 7/4
High Bride Stones 8/4
High Leases 4/5
Hollins Farm 4/4
Hutton's Monument 4/4
Ing Beck 5/6
Ingleby Arncliffe 5/8
Ingleby Cross 5/8 & 6/3
Keld ▲ 3/4
Linn Ion, The 7/5
Littlebeck 8/5
Live Moor 6/4
Long Lane 5/6
Longlands 5/7
Low Applegarth 4/5
Low Fremington 4/2
Low Moor Lane 5/6
Marrick 4/3
Marrick Abbey 4/3
Marske 4/4
Marske Hall 4/4
Marske Wyke Hole 8/7
Midge Hall 8/5
Moss Dam 3/5
Mount Grace Priory 6/3
Muker 3/4
Ness Point (North Cheek) 8/7
New May Beck 8/5
Newton House 8/5
North Hush 3/5
Oakham Beck 8/7
Oaktree Hill 5/5
Osmotherley ▲ 6/3
Reeth 🚶 3/8 & 4/2
Reeth High Moor 3/6
Reeth Low Moor 3/7
Richmond 🚶 4/6 & 5/1
Richmond Bridge 5/1
River Esk 8/3
River Swale 3/4 & 4/3
River Wiske 5/7
Robin Hood's Bay 8/7
Rosedale 7/5
Rosedale Head 7/5
Round Hill 7/5
St Giles Farm 5/2
Scarth Wood Moor 6/3
Scugdale 6/4
Scugdale Beck 6/4
Sleghts Moor 8/4
Stokesley 6/7
Streetlam 3/7
Surrender Bridge 4/4
Swainby 6/4
Swale, The 4/4
Swaledale 3/7
Swinner Gill 3/4
Sydal Lodge 5/7
Thirns 3/7
Thornbrough 5/3
Trough House 7/6
Urra 6/7
Urra Moor 6/6
Wain Stones (Wainstones) 4/5
West Applegarth 4/5
West Nuton 5/7
Wether Hill 7/5
Whitcliffe Scar 4/5
White Hill 6/7
Whitecliffe Wood 4/5
Willance's Leap 4/5
Wske, River 5/7

Walker's distance checklist

The checklist details the various sections of the route, each providing a good days walk and ending at a place where refreshment and accommodation are normally available. Each section is subdivided into convenient parts for the use of those who cannot, or prefer not to, attempt the whole journey at one time.

Section	National Grid Reference	miles in section	km	miles cumulative (from St Bees)	km
Keld	NY 892 011	-	-	95¼	153.3
Swinnergill Mines	NY 912 012	1½	2.4	96¾	155.7
Blakethwaite Mill	NY 937 018	3½	5.6	98¼	158.9
Surrender Bridge	SD 989 999	7½	12.1	102¾	165.3
Reeth	SE 038 993	11¼	18.1	106½	171.4
Marrick Priory	SE 076 982	2	3.2	108½	174.6
Marrick	SE 076 982	3	4.8	109½	176.2
NZ 105 007	5½	8.8	112	180.2
NZ 145 014	8½	13.7	115	185.0
NZ 171 009	10½	16.9	117	188.2
SE 196 991	3	4.8	120	193.0
SE 228 993	5½	8.8	122½	197.1
SE 251 992	7½	12.1	124½	200.3
SE 299 988	11¼	18.1	128¼	206.3
SE 310 989	12¼	19.7	129¼	207.9
SE 337 986	14	22.5	131	210.8
SE 361 988	16	25.7	133	214.0
SE 389 998	18¼	29.4	135¼	217.6
NZ 418 010	20½	33.0	137½	221.2
NZ 442 012	22½	36.2	139½	224.4
NZ 449 007	23	37.0	140	225.3
SE 460 998	2½	4.0	142½	229.3
NZ 492 008	5½	8.8	145½	234.1
NZ 522 030	8¼	13.3	148¼	238.5
NZ 572 033	12¼	19.7	152¼	244.9
NZ 595 016	2	3.2	154¼	248.2
NZ 616 015	3½	5.6	155¾	250.6
SE 679 997	9	14.5	161¼	259.5
NZ 682 020	10¼	17.3	163	262.3
NZ 783 056	18¾	30.2	171	275.2
NZ 804 052	2	3.2	173	278.4
NZ 829 052	3½	5.6	174½	280.8
NZ 562 047	6	9.6	177	284.8
NZ 879 049	7¼	11.6	178¼	286.8
NZ 888 035	8½	13.6	179½	288.8
NZ 892 024	9½	15.3	180½	290.5
NZ 901 041	10¾	17.3	181¾	292.5
NZ 928 074	14¼	23.7	185¼	298.9
NZ 953 049	19	30.6	190	305.7

Useful Information

Accommodation - ranging from hotels, guest houses, bed & breakfast, Youth Hostels, bunk-house barns and camping sites - is available all along the route of the Coast to Coast Walk.

The Coast to Coast Bed & Breakfast Accommodation Guide: apply to Mrs Doreen Whitehead, Butt House, Keld, near Richmond, North Yorkshire DL11 6LJ (Tel. 01748 886374), price £2.50.

There are now a number of services which organise accommodation for you, and these are listed below. In addition, some also provide a door-to-door baggage service on the route to enable you to enjoy the walk without a heavy backpack. Write or telephone to find out each company's specific services:

The Sherpa Van project — *Enjoying the Coast to Coast without a heavy backpack*

The Sherpa Van will move your baggage door to door between hotels, guesthouses & campsites. We also provide an accommodation booking service.

131 Heston Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW5 0RD
Tel: 0181 569 4101 Fax: 0181 572 9788
email: info@sherpavan.com
(for reservations only Freephone 0800 731 4729).

The Coast to Coast Packhorse:
West View Farmhouse, Hartley, Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria CA17 4SH
(Tel/Fax 017683 71680).

The Jolly Farmers Coast to Coast Booking Service:
63 High Street, Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria CA17 4SH
(Tel/Fax 017683 71063).

The White Knight Coast to Coast Passenger and Baggage Link:
35 Cokeham Road, Lancing, West Sussex BN15 0AE
(Tel/Fax 01903 766475).

The Youth Hostels Association (Coast to Coast Booking Bureau):
8 St Stephen's Hill, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 2DW
(Tel. 01727 845047, Fax 01727 844127).

Yorkshire Dales National Park Information Services:
Colvend, Hebden Road, Grassington via Skipton,North Yorkshire BD23 5LB
(Tel. 01756 752748).

North York Moors National Park Authority:
The Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley,York YO62 5BP
(Tel. 01439 770657).

Safety on the hills and mountains

Everyone planning to undertake this walk should be aware that the hills and mountains need to be treated with respect. Weather conditions can rapidly change, transforming a pleasant summer's day walk into a bone-chilling trek through wind and rain - and exposure can be fatal.

By following a few sensible rules most accidents can be prevented:

- Obtain a local weather report before you set out - see details below. Be prepared to abandon your walk if the conditions become unsuitable
- Tell someone about your planned route and timetable - and keep to it. In the event of any changes, try to let them know
- Keep an eye on the time - take a watch and allow sufficient time to reach your destination before sunset
- Wear the right clothing - take warm and waterproof layers that can be added or removed according to the conditions
- Wear appropriate footwear - walking boots or stout shoes
- Take provisions - a hot drink, packed lunch and emergency rations of biscuits, chocolate, dried fruit and nuts
- Carry safety equipment - a first-aid kit, whistle and torch. Learn some basic first-aid techniques. In an emergency use the distress signal - six blasts of the whistle followed by a minutes' silence, then repeated

In the event of an accident all calls for rescue services should be made through the police (telephone 999). Give precise location and details of the accident; the police will then call out the appropriate service.

To assist in determining the location, all grid lines have a grid figure (94, 95, 96, etc). Except the appropriate **Reference Letters** first (NX, NY, NZ, SD or SE), followed by the **Eastings** (read from left to right) and then the **Northings** (read from bottom to top).

Weather Forecast and Snow Information:
The National Park Wardens' Service posts forecasts and reports of current conditions at many of the most popular access points. Information can also be obtained, from recorded forecasts, by telephoning direct to Weathercall, for North-East England, on **09068 500418**.

Geology of the Walk

Solid Geology (no Drift deposits)

Extract derived from United Kingdom Geology Wall Map courtesy of Ordnance Survey & British Geological Survey

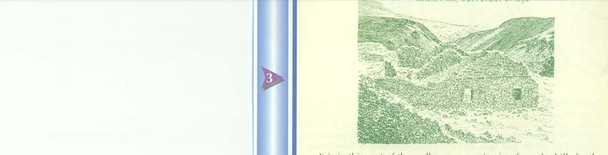
Sedimentary: Shales, Limestones, Sandstones; Marls, Limestones, Sandstones; Marls, Sandstones, Conglomerates; Clays, Limestones; Chalk, Clays, Sands

Igneous - Intrusive: Granite, Doleritie, Grandiorite

Keld to Reeth (11¼ miles - 18.1 km)

For most walkers, the royal road from Keld to Reeth will always be along the lovely banks of the Swale, the first three miles (4.9 km) to Muker especially being very beautiful and the whole distance with minor interruptions being possible by using public footpaths on or near the riverside. If the day be wet or misty, this is the way to go.

But the high-level route recommended here is of infinitely greater interest in addition to providing an excellent moorland walk made easy by the use of miners' tracks. The sites of several of the abandoned Swaledale lead mines are visited on the way and, although they are now ruinous, enough remains to enable the imaginative visitor to reconstruct the scene as it used to be when thousands of men toiled here. They left their mark, and it is a dirty mark, so expect little of beauty in this section.



It is in this part of the walk, as our route aims from the hills for the valleys, that we pass from the settlements of the early Viking raiders who found, in the mountainous north-west, country to their liking, a 'home from home', to those of the Danes, Angles and Saxons who preferred the richer low ground to which, as tillers of the soil, they were accustomed. It is almost possible to fix a boundary between the two types of settlement by reference to place names only. Keld and Thwaite are pure Norse, as are the names of many natural features: gill, fell, foss; but as we proceed east to the gentler middle reaches of the valley, place names ending in -ton (Grinton, Fremington) become frequent and are indicative of the Anglo-Saxon occupation of which indeed there are visual evidences also in the terraced fields or lynchets seen here but absent in the uncultivated upper valley where the Norsemen used the ground mainly for grazing. A few enclosed pigs of lead have told of the Romans' interest in Swaledale, while an ancient fortification near Reeth dates back to prehistoric times. Over the ages, Swaledale has been quite cosmopolitan; a new influx of 'officomers' is today acquiring its old barns and cottages for leisure pursuits. The natives remain impassive. They are accustomed to foreigners in Swaledale.

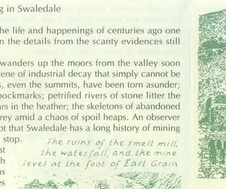
The route from Keld at once heads deep into the moors at Swinner Gill, from which it traverses high land to descend into Gunnerside Gill, a lonely graveyard of industrial relics, thence crossing a moorland devastated by spoil, after which it descends again to another mining area, and then skirts a more friendly fellside to reach Reeth, a pleasant and hospitable village.

Lead Mining in Swaledale

In a search for information relating to the life and happenings of centuries ago one must often rely on imagination to fill in the details from the scanty evidences still remaining.

Not so in Swaledale. Anyone who wanders up the moors from the valley soon finds himself in the midst of a graphic scene of industrial decay that simply cannot be passed unnoticed. The gills, the fellsides, even the summits, have been torn asunder; shafts and levels pierce the earth like pockmarks; petrified rivers of stone litter the steep slopes; barren gullies make big scars in the heather; the skeletons of abandoned and derelict buildings stand gaunt and grey amid a chaos of spoil heaps. An observer of this dismal wreckage is left in no doubt that Swaledale has a long history of mining - and that this history has come to a full stop.

The date of the mines is uncertain. Most of them were opened in the 17th and 18th centuries but it is known that the Romans extracted lead here, probably from mines already existing, and that the Yorkshire monasteries owned workings. Later, a free-for-all developed, the landowners and men individually and in groups plundering the hills in search of profitable veins of ore. Another Klondyke arose in these wild hills. Thousands of men were engaged: a few 'struck it rich' but most toiled for little reward. Then, over the space of a decade towards the end of the 19th century, the industry collapsed. Not only were the best veins worked out but cheap foreign imports supplied the home demand. The population of Swaledale fell dramatically. Lead mining gave way to farming as the valley's source of prosperity.



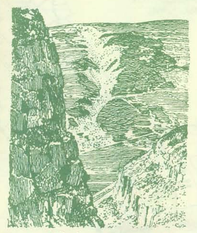
There is a great need, before everything crumbles to dust, to preserve at least one of the mines as a site museum, not necessarily restoring the smelt and crushing mills and opening up the levels but reclaiming enough of it to demonstrate the methods of operation and the tools and equipment used, with a plan of the workings, graphs of annual output, and such supporting documentary records as may still be available.

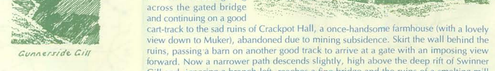
Our route takes us through the heart of the lead mining district yet gives only a faint insight of the vast area explored and exploited for ore. But note especially the the Blakethwaite and Old Gang workings, which we pass, either one of which could be adapted for 20th century study and, it might well be hoped, for 20th century appreciation of the initiative, industry and ingenuity of men who lived hard, in times less favoured than those of today.

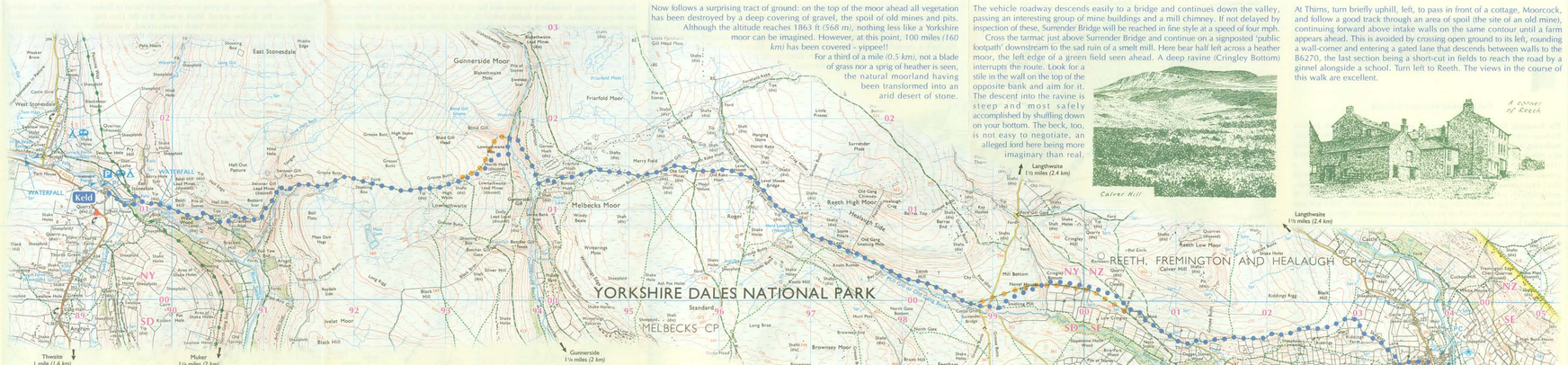
We have lost too much of the past through concern for the present.

What is a bush?

A hush, in mining terms, is a ravine contrived by prospectors on a steep slope and is caused by the sudden release of water artificially dammed above it in such force as to strip the vegetation and scour the ground with the object of revealing any mineral content in the subsoil that might indicate the presence of a vein. (Today a bulldozer is used.) These hushes are found in many mining districts and are especially conspicuous like Gunnerside Gill.







Leave Keld by the lane signposted to Muker *at the exit of the village street*. After 300 muddy yds (274 m), a path indicated by a Pennine Way signpost turns down left to reach a footbridge over the Swale; at this point only does the route coincide with the Pennine Way. Spare a smile (of pity) for any poor wretches you see travelling thereon. Your own route is so much better. Cross the river and ascend the field opposite to a bridge above East Gill Force, in charming scenery. Here the Pennine Way turns left, our own route going across the gated bridge and continuing on a good cart-track to the sad ruins of Crackpot Hall, a once-handsome farmhouse (with a lovely view down to Muker), abandoned due to mining subsidence. Skirt the wall behind the ruins, passing a barn on another good track to arrive at a gate with an impressive view forward. Now a narrower path descends slightly, high above the deep rift of Swinner Gill and, ignoring a branch left, reaches a few bridge and the ruins of a smelting mill on the far bank, near the conspicuous waterfall with a mine-level adjacent. At this point, Swinner Gill is left in favour of the branch-valley coming down from the east (East Grain) where a thin track ascends roughly along its north bank.

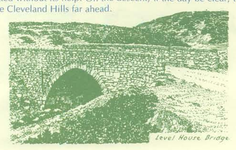
When the gradient alongside East Grain eases, the track becomes indistinct on wet ground near a sheepfold but the way ahead is clear *as the route crosses an unmetalled road and reyoins it further on. From here onwards the walking*, on a gravel ribbon flanked by dark heather moorland, is *excellent, with no danger of straying off course* and far-reaching views to be enjoyed. At the highest point (1895 ft - 578 m) there is a glimpse of Moss Dam, an interesting relic of mining days crossed by a causeway. As the track descends, a cairn on the left marks the start of an area of mining debris and, beyond a sheepfold, a great disturbance of the ground ahead indicates the natural but man-inspired ravine of North Hush.

Here the track turns to the right (for Gunnerside); leave it now and go down the heather on the north side of the hush to reach a good track below, turning left along this to the imposing remains of the Blakethwaite Smelt Mill where the beck is crossed by a huge stone slab to a cloister-like ruin. Looking back, note the ilua coming straight down the rough fellside from a notch on the skyline and the well-preserved kiln to its right. Now scramble up steep grass to a green path and follow it to the right.

The path along the east bank of Gunnerside Beck arrives suddenly at a remarkable area of devastation, a succession of hushes having gouged out much of the fellside ahead. Do not descend with the path to the plentiful remains of mining activity in the bottom of the gill but slant half-left over the stony wastes, climbing steadily across to the farthest hush which ascend to open slopes above with a broken wall on the right where, near a sheepfold, a track from Gunnerside comes down from the east.

The spoil here is being reclaimed and, incongruously, tractors may be met.

Whether or not one approves of the ravaging of natural scenery on so vast a scale, the access roadway for vehicles leading down to the valley ahead is a great boon for foot-travellers who can make rapid progress along it and be spared the slow and wearying trudge over rough ground to which they would have been committed without its help. On the descent, if the day be clear, there is a first glimpse of the Cleveland Hills far ahead.



Scramble up the grassy east bank to the stile found near a junction of walls: it is of the narrow 'squeeze-through' type and will pose a grave problem for walkers with bow legs. But thencetorward all is plain sailing on an enjoyable 'high-level' path. From the stile, keep above the intake wall to a ruinous barn; where take a gate on the open moor: it matures into a cart-track and slants down to a farm, Thirns.

Walk Profile

Vertical scale greatly exaggerated

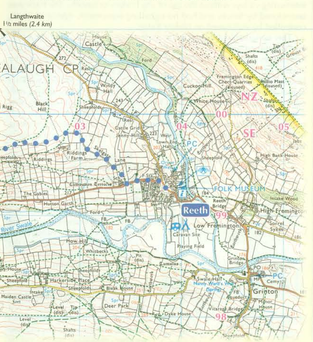
Now follows a surprising tract of ground: on the top of the moor ahead all vegetation has been destroyed by a deep covering of gravel, the spoil of old mines and pits. Although the altitude reaches 1863 ft (568 m), nothing less like a Yorkshire moor can be imagined. However, at this point, 100 miles (160 km) has been covered - yippee!!

For a third of a mile (0.5 km), not a blade of grass nor a sprig of heather is seen, the natural moorland having been transformed into an arid desert of stone.

The vehicle roadway descends easily to a bridge and continues down the valley, passing an interesting group of mine buildings and a mill chimney. If not delayed by inspection of these, Surrender Bridge will be reached in fine style at a speed of four mph.

Cross the tarmac just above Surrender Bridge and continue on a signposted 'public footpath' downstream to the sad ruin of a smelt mill. Here bear half left across a heather moor, the left edge of a green field seen ahead. A deep ravine (Cringley Bottom) interrupts the route. Look for a stile in the wall on the top of the opposite bank and aim for it. The descent into the ravine is steep and most safely accomplished by shuffling down on your bottom. The beck, too, is not easy to negotiate, an alleged lord here being more imaginary than real.

At Thirns, turn briefly uphill, left, to pass in front of a cottage, Moorcock, and follow a good track through an area of spoil (the site of an old mine), continuing forward above intake walls on the same contour until a farm appears ahead. This is avoided by crossing open ground to its left, mounting a wall-corner and entering a gated lane that descends between walls to the B6270, the last section being a short-cut in fields to reach the road by a ginnel alongside a school. Turn left to Reeth. The views in the course of this walk are excellent.



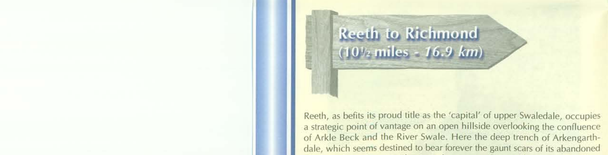
Reeth to Richmond (10½ miles - 16.9 km)

Reeth, as befits its proud title as the 'capital' of upper Swaledale, occupies a strategic point of vantage on an open hillside overlooking the confluence of Arkle Beck and the River Swale. Here the deep trench of Arkengarthdale, which seems destined to bear forever the gaunt scars of its abandoned mining industry, loses its identity in the more verdant and lovelier main valley.

Reeth is a pleasant place, its buildings forming a square around a large green that is gay with daffodils in springtime but littered on summer weekends with coaches and cars and too many human beings. Once primarily concerned with mining and housing twice its present population, Reeth today is mainly engaged in catering for a growing influx of tourists and supplying the needs of the valley communities: there are many hotels and shops. Notably absent from the scene is the parish church: this, 'the cathedral of Swaledale', is situated a mile away across the River Swale at Grinton, as is the Youth Hostel. Reeth is, in fact, distant from the river, and is more intimately concerned with Arkle Beck, itself a considerable watercourse, which forms the eastern boundary of the village.

No railway ever penetrated the upper reaches of Swaledale - what a scenic journey it would have provided, what a pageant of beauty!

This section is short and easily accomplished, but is so abundantly endowed with variety and beauty and interest that it would be unforgivable to rush it in half a day; one should arrange nevertheless to finish with an hour or two to spare for an inspection of Richmond's many historical buildings. The scenery thoughout this section is of high quality, with the Swale the dominant feature and lovely everywhere. The river may be followed more closely than the route given, but it is preferable to keep high along the hillside and so enjoy quieter walking and extensive views. This the recommended route does.



Marrick Priory was established in the 12th century and occupied by Benedictine nuns until it was dissolved by Henry VIII.

The path from Ellers reaches the farm road to Hollins alongside a plantation. The right of way, straight ahead, is now interrupted by a wire fence which can be negotiated by a gate on the right. Continue alongside a well-built wall (the boundary of the former deer park of Marske Hall), crossing the fence again to a gate on the right, from where a slanting course across a field leads to the Reeth—Marske road, reached by a stile opposite a bungalow.

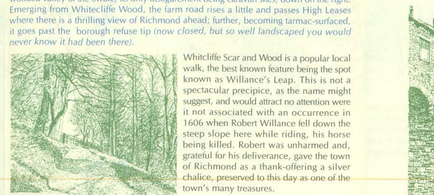
In splendid scenery go down the road to Marske Bridge (between a memorial garden sanctuary and the ornamental grounds of the Hall) and up the hill to the hamlet of Marske.

Marske lies snugly sequestered amongst fine trees in a side valley of Swaledale, a glacial fold in the hills, fringed by limestone cliffs, with wild heathery moor beyond. The charm of the place is its natural scenery but the lovely grounds contribute to the richness of the landscape. The Hall was, for centuries, the home of the distinguished Hutton family, producing two Archbishops of York, but is now occupied as flats following a sale of the estate.

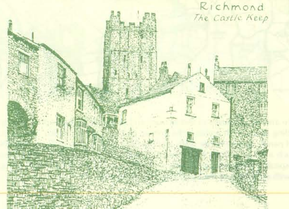
Also worthy of mention is the 12th century church of St Edmund, retaining some of the original features and interesting later additions.

The cart-track is the access road for West Applegarth Farm. It occupies a pleasant shelf below a limestone cliff and has a lovely view of the Swale in its wooded valley and of the rolling foothills around Marske. Hutton's Monument being prominent. Go east along it, between banks of yew, to the farm, where it ends. The clue to further progress is the small and solitary barn ahead: go across to it, using a gate adjoining to pass alongside and enter the pasture beyond. Keep on the same contour, *crossing the drive to Low Applegarth and merging with the drive to East Applegarth. In a few yards bear left along an indistinct path that joins the farm road to the east from East Applegarth.*

The scenery hereabouts is pleasant, having the stony slopes of Whitcliffe Scar high on the left - note the monument at Willance's Leap on the skyline - and the richly wooded valley of the Swale, its only disfigurement being caravan sites, down on the right. Emerging from Whitcliffe Wood, the farm road rises a little and passes High Leases where there is a thrilling view of Richmond ahead; further, becoming tarmac-surfaced, it goes past the borough refuse tip *(now closed, but so well landscaped you would never know it had been there).*



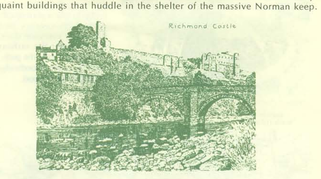
Whitcliffe Scar and Wood is a popular local walk, the best known feature being the spot known as Willance's Leap. This is not a spectacular precipice, as the name might suggest, and would attract no attention were it not associated with an occurrence in 1606 when Robert Willance fell down the steep slope here while riding, his horse being killed. Robert was unharmed and, grateful for his deliverance, gave the town of Richmond as a thank-offering a silver chalice, preserved to this day as one of the town's many treasures.



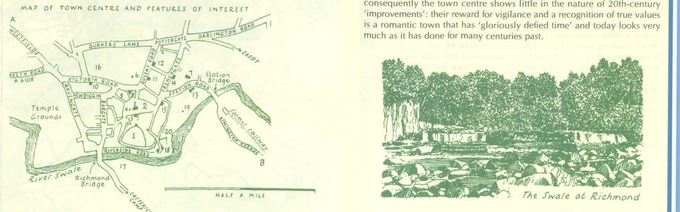
Now tidy yourself up a bit: you have heard of 'the sweet lass of Richmond Hill' and there are still some of them about; besides, Richmond is rather a special place. Continuing expectantly, there follows a long descent of a suburban avenue, Westfields, with a large public open space on the right, to its junction with Reeth Road which, preferably, should be crossed to enter the town's Market Place by way of Cravengate, Newbiggin and Finkle Street.

Richmond

Richmond is a town unlike others, a place unique, rich in relics of the past, steeped in a long history that still lingers in the ramifications of its castle and the narrow alleys and quaint buildings that huddle in the shelter of the massive Norman keep.



The castle, dramatically poised on a cliff high above the Swale, is the dominating feature, but hardly less impressive is the large cobbled market place with the ancient church of the Holy Trinity rising from the stones and having a row of shops beneath its north aisle, or the line tower standing amid the ruins of a Friary.


MAP OF TOWN CENTRE AND FEATURES OF INTEREST
Temple Grounds
Green Swale