

Bentham Line: Wennington Circular

Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Route Summary

Roads, tracks and fields. Can get muddy in parts. Take care on unpaved road sections. Expect livestock. "Walking safely" information available at www.forestofbowland.com Walkers are advised to carry OS Explorer map OL41.

Route Overview



Category: Walking

Length: 9.680 km / 6.05 mi

Last Modified: 11th February 2019

Difficulty: Medium

Rating: Unrated

Surface: Moderate

Date Published: 11th February 2019

Description

This is a lovely walk with wonderful views of the Bowland Fells to the south and the Yorkshire dales to the north. Taking in rolling farmland, steep woodland and tranquil valleys the route will help you discover this beautiful corner of the Forest of Bowland AONB. The village of Wray makes a great detour!

Waypoints

1

(54.12362; -2.58767)

From the station entrance turn left then take the first left (Old Moor Road) over the railway and up the hill. After approx 150m take the signposted path on the right, go diagonally up the field to a gate then up the lane to Overends Farm. Continue past the building and turn right into the yard, exiting by the field gate opposite and into the field

2

(54.12053; -2.58533)

Head slightly left downhill to cross the hedge via a stile. Walk uphill and enter the woods to the left of a ruined barn. Walk through the woods and continue across the next field, over a stile and across the lane. Go past the house and

follow the hedge up hill to cross another stile.

3

(54.11377; -2.58780)

The path then follows the hedge downhill, crossing several boundaries, and eventually veers left away from the fence (look for the waymark disk on the fence) to a stile in the valley bottom. Cross the beck and go up the hillock, continuing in the same direction, to a stone gatepost with a waymarker. At the post go straight ahead to cross a stile next to a field gate then cross the next field to climb over a second stile onto the roadside.

4

(54.10639; -2.59691)

Turn left towards Far Mealbank Farm taking the footpath on the right, through the farmyard and into the field behind. Go downhill and through the gate in the hedge then walk down the short slope and turn sharp left through the field gate into Gamblesholme farmyard. Follow the track to Hindburn Bridge and cross the bridge.

5

(54.10205; -2.59326)

(Optional) Look for a gate in the hedge to the right of the woodland track. Follow this concessionary path through a young orchard until it re-joins the road further up. Continue along the roadside footpath opposite and on into Wray village. Leave Wray village by re-tracing your steps to Hindburn Bridge.

At Hindburn Bridge take the woodland track that goes uphill on your right.

6

(54.10087; -2.59099)

Just before the farm cottage go through a small metal gate on the right and head diagonally left uphill to a gate in the corner of the field. Follow the line of the overhead power cable from here, uphill to the field corner. Go through the gate and continue uphill along the edge of the wood, exiting onto the road by a stile.

7

(54.09734; -2.58609)

Turn left and walk along the road (be aware of traffic) until it bends sharp right, go over the stile opposite and cross the field diagonally to a footbridge at the corner of a wood. Climb up out of the wood to walk along the fence to your right, in front of a bungalow. Exit the field onto the road in front of Cragg Hall. Cragg Hall is a Grade II listed building, constructed in 1693. Up here you will start to get views of the Bowland fells and the wide open spaces characteristic of the AONB.

8

(54.09667; -2.57598)

Turn left and continue along the road to the next farm (Birks) where you should take the footpath on the left after the first barn. Walk along the back of the farm building and small orchard to go through a kissing gate. Turn left down to a

metal field gate at the corner of the wood. Take the woodland track downhill and exit by a gate, go over the little bridge in front of the field barn (have a look for the date stone) to reach the road at Furnessford Bridge.

9

(54.09711; -2.55968)

Turn left to cross the bridge and follow the road uphill (be aware of traffic). Take the second footpath on the left and cross the field in front of Thimble Hall Farmhouse. Climb over a stile into a big field and cross this keeping the boundary on your left. Cross another stile and then keep the hedge on your right to go over another stile which takes you into a hollow.

10

(54.10296; -2.56368)

In the hollow look for a pedestrian gate in the right hand corner where the holly hedge runs downhill. Go through this and up the steep hill towards Riggs Farm. Go through the field gate to the left of the house and round to the front of the farm where there is a stile onto the driveway. Turn left down the drive to the main road and turn right to a lay-by opposite Ashley's Farm.

11

(54.10542; -2.56274)

Cross the road and turn down the bridleway track at Ashley's, keeping to the right of the main house and then left along the track between the buildings, turning left then right beside the last house and through a field gate. Follow the bridleway track along the field edge to another gate. Go through and head diagonally right, down to a bridge. Go over the bridge and uphill keeping the old hedge line to your right as you continue. Go through a gate, past a barn on your left and then along a farm track and through another gate to cross a stream in a wooded clough.

12

(54.11027; -2.57571)

Swing left uphill and keep the hedge on your left until you reach a gate. Follow the bridleway sign right and uphill beside the hedge to Russell's Farm.

13

(54.11215; -2.57923)

Exit the farmyard onto the road and go straight ahead taking the gated track on the left signed Megg's Farm (Park Lane on the map). Go past Megg's Farm taking the second footpath on the right up a track to a barn.

14

(54.11581; -2.58320)

Go through the gate to the left of the barn, heading to a stile at the corner of the wood opposite. Head downhill past the old quarry on your left and down to the hedge. Turn left along the beck and hedgerow to a stile.

15



(54.11880; -2.58356)

Go over the stile and uphill to Overends Farm. Retrace your first steps through the farmyard, down the lane, and across the field to the road, finishing downhill to the station.

