

Safety in the hills

Whilst none of these walks are dangerous, walkers are responsible for their own safety and are reminded of the importance of being fully prepared for walking on the fells. Appropriate footwear is essential. The weather can change quickly and it is advisable to carry warm clothing and wet weather gear, along with adequate food and drink. Rivers and becks can flood rapidly after heavy rain. A mobile phone can be extremely useful, should an emergency arise, and it is a good idea to let someone know where you are intending to walk. Dogs should be kept under proper control particularly during lambing time and during the late spring and early summer mating season of ground-nesting birds. Please follow the countryside code and take your litter home.

Weathercall: To obtain the latest weather report for this walk call 09068 500 419 and enter the code 1903 when prompted. Calls cost 60p/min from a UK landline, mobile charges may vary.

Directions

From the M6, leave at J37 signposted Sedbergh A684. Dent is a further 5 miles from Sedbergh.

From West Yorkshire, leave the A65 at Kirkby Lonsdale, heading north on the A683 towards Sedbergh. At Barbon Village look for signs to Dent.

From the A1, exit at Northallerton and head west on A684 towards Leyburn and Hawes. At Hawes take the B6255 towards Ingleton, looking out for the junction to Dent.

By Rail: Trains from Leeds and Carlisle to Dent Station. Please note Dent Station is 4 miles from Dent Village.

By Bus: Service 564A, Kendal-Sedbergh-Dent (limited service).

Walking in Dentdale

Whernside

Challenging

DENTDALE

www.discoverdentdale.co.uk

DENTDALE

Whernside - Quick Guide



START

Turn left out of the Car Park and follow the cobbles round. Fork right in front of the George and Dragon and follow the road for some considerable time, past old farmhouses and across Deepdale Beck at Mill Bridge.

6 At Mill Bridge, you can either head back along the lane and into Dent village or follow the signs for The Dales Way across the road and remain close beside Deepdale Beck to its confluence with the River Dee. On reaching the Dee, follow its bank back to the village.

5 At the end of the last building on the left a waymarked farm track heads left, down and round into a stand of trees and across a footbridge over Deepdale Beck. Turn sharp right and follow the path down the western bank of the beck, which passes through little gates and stiles, with the wooded beck on your right. After a section of open meadow, the path drops down to the beck and out onto the road which you passed along at the start of your walk.

4 Follow the road into Deepdale, looking out for a waymark and a stile over the wall on your right. Follow the well signed path through fields and past farm buildings always keeping the beck below and to your left. Eventually you will reach Dyke Hall Lane again and soon pass between farm buildings.

1 At the end of a conifer plantation on your right stands the Deepdale Methodist Chapel. Take Dyke Hall Lane that runs uphill beside the chapel to a track on the left signed Craven Way. Follow this towards the shoulder of Whernside. As you finally reach open countryside, look for a path on the right which ascends the fellside beside the final wall. Follow this faint path more or less straight and due south looking for cairns on the skyline. Stay to the left of the cairns.

2 Keeping to the left of the Whernside Tarns, you should soon pick up a well marked track that leads to a wire fence. Climb a stile over the fence and turn right to follow a clear path, upward along a ridge to the summit.

3 From the trig point, turn immediately right and follow a faint path and a few cairns, down a series of wide terraces to pick up a wall on your right that will take you down to a remote gated road. Turn right.

DENTDALE

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26'

24'

0 1/2 1
miles

22'

Walking in Dentdale

Wherside

Route: 10½ miles / 5-6 hours / Challenging

Start/Finish: Dent Parish Council Car Park at SD 703871 on OS Explorer OL2 map.

This challenging, whole-day walk is based on Alfred Wainwright's classic ascent of Yorkshire's highest peak. One of the famous three peaks challenge, Wherside is usually tackled from the Ribbleshead side. Wainwright, however, considers the ascent from Dent to be ".....the best of all routes up Wherside because of the lovely countryside from which it springs." The walk can sometimes be something of a slog in places, particularly in bad weather, but the variety of terrain and the views from the summit make this an unmissable excursion for any serious fell walker visiting Dentdale.

Turn left out of the Car Park and follow the cobbles round in front of the Sun Inn (making a mental note to celebrate your successful conquest with a well-earned pint or two later on). Fork right in front of the George and Dragon and follow the minor road along the southern side of the Dale. Not so long ago, shops and a Post Office used to intersperse the cottages along this narrow lane, but are sadly now all gone. As the buildings peter out fine views up and across Dentdale begin to open up. Ignore a road on your right which leads up Deepdale to Ingelton; you will come across it later in your walk. Instead continue down the lane, past old farmhouses and cross Deepdale Beck at Mill Bridge.

1. At the end of a small conifer plantation on your right stands the tiny Deepdale Methodist Chapel. Take Dyke Hall Lane that runs uphill beside the chapel for a hundred yards or so to a track on the left signed Craven Way. Follow this ancient packhorse route winding slowly upwards, often rutted in parts, towards the shoulder of Wherside. This is a favourite haunt of kestrels, buzzards and curlew, whose plaintive call seems to suit the rugged landscape. As the path finally breaks clear of walls and reaches open countryside, look for a path on the right which ascends the fellside beside the final wall. Follow this faint path more or less straight and due south looking for cairns on the skyline. Stay to the left of the cairns.

2. Eventually you will reach a somewhat surprising collection of shallow pools named Wherside Tarns. Evidently these tarns lie on a gritstone shelf and the sand from their little beaches was once used by local farmers for scythe-sharpening. Keeping to the left of the tarns, you should soon pick up a well marked track that leads to a wire fence. Climb a stile over the fence and turn right to follow a clear path, upward along a ridge to the summit.

3. At 2,419 feet (736 metres), Wherside is the highest point in the Yorkshire Dales National Park and offers a marvellous panorama on all sides including the Dales peaks and on a clear day the Lakeland Fells. An exchange of flashing signals has proved that even York Minster is in view! More closely, to the West lies the long moorland ridge of Great Coum and Gragareth and it is in that direction that the return route begins.

From the trig point, turn immediately right at 90 degrees to your approach and follow a faint path and a few cairns, down a series of wide terraces to pick up a wall on your right that will take you down to a remote gated road. This is the road you passed earlier which comes up from Ingelton through isolated and rugged Kingsdale. You turn right and pass the junction with The Occupation Road backed by the bulk of Great Coum. You could take this rough track back to Dent via Flintergill, but that would miss out on the delights

of Deepdale which soon presents a wonderful view before you.

4. As the road begins its descent into Deepdale, then bends to the left, look out for a waymark and small stile over the wall on your right. This delightful path descends gently over rough ground and then pasture to pass in front of Deepdale Head Farm and over the tumbling beck. Follow the well signed path through fields and past isolated farm buildings always keeping the beck below and to your left. Eventually you will reach Dyke Hall Lane again and soon pass between farm buildings.

5. At the end of the last building on the left a waymarked farm track heads left, down and round into a stand of trees and across a footbridge over Deepdale Beck.

Turn sharp right and follow a clear path down the western bank of the beck.

This is a delightful section of the walk, on a level grassy track which passes through little gates and stiles, with the wooded beck on your right.

In the spring and early summer these fields are full of lovely wild flowers such as primroses, cuckoo flower and wood sorrel. After a section of open meadow, the path drops down to the beck and out onto the road which you passed along at the start of your walk.

6. Here at Mill Bridge, the exhausted hiker might wish to finish as quickly as possible by retracing their steps back along the lane and into Dent village. Those who still have an appetite for more can follow the signs for The Dales Way across the road and remain close beside Deepdale Beck to its confluence with the River Dee. In dry weather this section of the beck often disappears beneath its limestone bed. On reaching the Dee, a lovely stroll along its bank is all that remains to return you to the village, not forgetting to claim your well-earned reward at The Sun.

