

Wild Boar Fell (Garsdale to Kirkby Stephen)			Kirkby Stephen Town Loop		
1 st walk check	2 nd walk check	3 rd walk check	1 st walk check	2 nd walk check	3 rd walk check
31 st August 2023					
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Wild Boar Fell (Garsdale to Kirkby Stephen)

Start: Garsdale Station

Finish: Kirkby Stephen Station

Garsdale Station, map reference SD 788 918, is 346 km northwest of Charing Cross, 75 km southeast of Carlisle and 343m above sea level. Kirkby Stephen Station, map reference NY 762 066, is 15 km north northwest of Garsdale Station and 263m above sea level. Both are in **Cumbria**.

Length: 23.3 km (14.5 mi).

Cumulative ascent/descent: 676/756m. For a shorter or longer walk, see below **Walk Options**.

Toughness: 7 out of 10

Time: 6 hours walking time.

Transport: Garsdale and Kirkby Stephen are stations on the Leeds - Settle - Carlisle Line, with eight trains per day Mon-Sat and seven on Sundays (six at Garsdale). Journey time to Garsdale is 69 minutes from Carlisle, 31 from Settle and 90 from Leeds. Kirkby Stephen is 13 minutes closer to Carlisle.

Saturday Walkers' Club: The walk is not practicable as a daywalk from London.

OS Landranger Map: 91 (Appleby-in-Westmorland) & 98 (Wensleydale & Upper Wharfedale)

OS Explorer Map: OL19 (Howgill Fells & Upper Eden Valley)

Walk Notes:

This is a varied and scenic route in very remote countryside (home to curlews and golden plovers) along the westerly edges of the dramatic Mallerstang Valley and the bucolic Upper Eden Valley, and entirely within the enlarged Yorkshire Dales National Park.

It starts at Garsdale, a very quiet station just beyond the watershed south of the Eden Valley and routes up the lonely Grisedale to the Yorkshire/Cumbria boundary on Grisedale Common. You then follow the long, mildly undulating ridge (mostly with a discernible path and always with either fence or wall nearby) up to Swarth Fell and through a dip further on to Wild Boar Fell.

From the two hills, you have very fine views (weather permitting): west to the Howgill Fells and the Lake District, north down the Mallerstang and Upper Eden Valleys to the North Pennines and east across to Mallerstang Edge and the watershed between the Rivers Eden and Ure, as well as south to the Yorkshire Dales. You visit the enigmatic ancient stone cairns on the easterly scarp of the plateau and then descend gently along the scarp above Mallerstang and to the River Eden.

A short out-and-back to the romantic ruin of Pendragon Castle (as per the legend: built by King Arthur's father) is followed by a bucolic stretch along the Eden through commons and pastures to Kirkby Stephen Station.

An optional out-and-back to a nearby pub and/or a loop through Kirkby Stephen with its refreshment options and sights helps bridging any waiting time for one of the infrequent trains.

Walk Options:

An Extension Loop in the morning leads further up the lonely Grisedale to the deserted hamlet of Scale and on to Round Ing, the farm furthest up that dale, and then back to pick up the A Pennine Journey Long-Distance Path at Flust (add 2.1 km and 20m ascent).

A Shortcut on that Extension Loop cuts out the furthest area, where the paths are rougher to walk along.

Omit the out-and-back to Pendragon Castle ruins (cut 1.1 km).

An out-and-back to The Black Bull pub in Nateby, just before the end of the walk (add 1.2 km).

A loop to and through Kirkby Stephen at the end of the walk past many tea places and some sights (add 5.0 km and 70m ascent for an **8/10** rating).

Lunch: Picnic

Tea (details last updated 31/07/2022)

The Black Bull at Nateby Nateby, Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria, CA17 4JP (017683 71588, <https://www.nateby-inn.co.uk/>). The Black Bull is located 600m off route and 2.3 km from Kirkby Stephen Station. Open all day every day. Food served 12.00-14.00 and 17.00-20.30 Mon-Fri and 12.00-20.30 Sat-Sun.

Numerous options in Kirkby Stephen on a loop to and through the town (adds 5.0 km and 70m ascent). See the walk directions for details.

Northern Glossary

beck: *stream, brook*; brig(g): *bridge*; -by: *habitation*; cam: *bank, slope, ridge*; carr: *marshy woodland or shrubland*; clough: *narrow valley, cleft in a hillside, ravine, glen, gorge, cliff, rocky precipice*; crag: *steep rugged mass of rock projecting upward or outward*; currick: *cairn, pile of stones, often locations used to keep watch for Scottish raiders*; dale: *valley*; -ey: *island, dry area in a marshy place*; fell: *hill, mountain slope (especially rough moorland)*; firth/frith: *long, narrow inlet of the sea or estuary*; force/foss: *waterfall, rapids*; frith: *area of peace, protection, safety, security*; garth: *small grass enclosure adjacent to a house*; gate: *way, street*; gill/ghyll: *small narrow valley or ravine*; hagg: *part of an area of woodland, especially on a sloping bank*; holm(e): *island, inland promontory, raised ground in marsh, river-meadow*; how(e): *barrow, small hill*; hush: *(Roman era) mine on steep hillside, using dammed up water to wash away topsoil and boulders, revealing the underlying lead or ore veins*; ing(s): *meadow(s), especially water meadow near a river*; keld/kell: *spring or well*; kirk: *church*; laithe/leeath: *barn, agricultural building*; lang: *long*; ling: *heather*; lonning/lonnin': *lane or track, something less than a road, more rural than a street, usually short*; mell: *sand dunes*; mire: *bog*; moss: *bog, marsh*; ness: *headland, promontory*; nick: *shallow notch, cut or indentation on an edge or a surface*; pike: *spike, sharp point, peak*; rake: *slant, incline*; rigg: *ridge*; scar/scaur: *cliff, rocky outcrop with a steep face*; seat/set(t)/side: *summer pasture or dwelling place*; seaves: *rushes*; shaw: *hurdle, gate*; sike/syke/sitch: *small stream or gulley, gutter*; stang: *pole, shaft, stake, wooden bar*; stoop/stowp/stoup: *post, gatepost, distance marker (milestone), standing stone*; -sty: *ascent, ascending lane or path, narrow pathway or course*; tarn: *lake or pond (especially in an upland location)*; thorp(e)/t(h)rop: *village or small settlement*; thwait(e): *village or small settlement*; toft(s): *small farmstead with enclosed land, later applied to a village or small settlement*; wath: *ford*; whinny: *gorse, furze, thorny vegetation*; -wich/wick: *village or settlement*.

Notes

Settle – Carlisle Railway

The Settle – Carlisle line is a 117 km-long (73 mi) railway line in northern England. The route crosses the remote, scenic regions of the Yorkshire Dales and the North Pennines, running between Settle Junction on the Leeds–Morecambe line and Carlisle, near the English-Scottish borders. It was constructed in the 1870s and has several notable tunnels and viaducts. The line was built by the then Midland Railway to be able to run trains to Scotland, as the then London & North Western blocked access to a short bit of track linking Midland's network to the existing line to the North. The works needed over 6,000 navvies, who worked in remote locations, enduring harsh weather conditions. Large camps were established to house the navvies, most of them Irish, with many becoming complete townships with post offices and schools. They were named Inkerman, Sebastapol and Jericho. The remains of one camp – Batty Green – where 2,300 navvies lived and worked, can be seen near Ribbleshead.

In the 1980s, British Rail planned to close the line. This prompted a campaign to save it, led by the Friends of the Settle–Carlisle Line (FoSCL). The campaign uncovered evidence that BR had mounted a dirty tricks campaign, by exaggerating the cost of repairs and diverting traffic away from the line in order to justify its closure plans, a process referred to as 'closure by stealth'. In 1989, the UK government announced the line would be saved from closure. Since then, passenger numbers have grown steadily from less than 93,000 in the 1983 to 1.2 million in 2012. Eight formerly closed stations have been reopened and several quarries have been reconnected to the line and it remains one of the most popular railway routes in the UK for charter trains and specials. The railway's summit at 356m is at Aisgill, just north of Garsdale Station, and is the highest point reached by main-line trains in England. <https://settle-carlisle.co.uk/> <https://www.foscl.org.uk/>

Four of the railway properties are available as holiday lets:

<https://settlecarlisletrust.org.uk/stay-at-a-station/> <http://www.dentstation.co.uk/>

Yorkshire Dales National Park

The Yorkshire Dales National Park is a 2,178 km² (841 sq mi) national park covering most of the Yorkshire Dales (some to the south and east of the national park are located in the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). Most of the park is in North Yorkshire, with a sizeable area in Cumbria and a small part in Lancashire. The park was designated in 1954 being then entirely within Yorkshire, and extended in 2016 westwards into Lancashire and Cumbria - encompassing much of the area between the old boundaries of the park and the M6. Over 95% of the land in the park is in private ownership and there are over 1,000 farms in the park, as well as some 23,500 residents (as of 2017). A 2018 report estimated that the Park attracted over four million visitors per year. In 2020, the park was named as an International Dark Sky Reserve.

<https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/>

Pennine Bridleway

The Pennine Bridleway is a 330 km (205 mi) waymarked linear Long-Distance Path and National Trail from Carsington Water, Derbyshire, to Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria. In its southern part, it follows the High Peak Trail along the track bed of the former Cromford and High Peak Railway. The idea for it was launched in 1986 by Mary Towneley, who rode on horseback 402 km (250 mi) from Corbridge, Northumberland to Ashbourne, Derbyshire. It took a mere 9 years for the trail to be approved.

It is not to be confused with either the Pennine Way or the Pennine Cycleway.

A Pennine Journey

The Pennine Journey is a 391 km (243 mi) waymarked circular Long-Distance Path from Settle up through North Yorkshire, Durham, Northumberland and over to Cumbria and back to Settle. It was developed by David Pitt of the Wainwright Society and is a recreation of a solitary walk Alfred Wainwright made in 1938 through the Pennines, but adapted for today's roads and rights-of-way, i.e.: taking a route that Wainwright might have chosen today. The route traverses the Yorkshire Dales and Durham moorlands to follow Hadrian's Wall for a while and heading back south along the western Pennines, up the Eden Valley and along the Howgill Fells.

<https://penninejourney.org/>

Shake Holes and Swallow Holes

Shake holes (or sinkholes or dolines) are a depression or hole in the ground caused by some form of collapse of the surface layer. Some are caused by karst processes, for example, the chemical dissolution of carbonate rocks or suffusion processes. They tend to occur in karst landscapes, which can have up to thousands of sinkholes within a small area, giving the landscape a pock-marked appearance. These sinkholes can drain all the water, so that there are only subterranean rivers in these areas.

Lady Ann's Way

Lady Anne's Way is a 160 km (100 mi) waymarked linear Long-Distance Path from Airedale, Wharfedale and Wensleydale in North Yorkshire into the Vale of Eden in Cumbria. The route links houses and towers once owned by the Clifford family, but is named after Lady Anne Clifford. She was disinherited from her father's estates upon his death by it passing to the next male heir. But 38 years later, it came to her when the last males in her family lineage died, and she became Baroness Clifford of Westmorland and Vecsey. She renovated and repaired the buildings and continually travelled between them taking her household retinue with her.

Pendragon Castle

The ruined Pendragon Castle stands above a bend in the River Eden, overlooked by Wild Boar Fell to the south-west and Mallerstang Edge to the east. It is a Grade I-listed building. According to legend, the castle was built by Uther Pendragon, father of King Arthur. Uther (if he was indeed a real person) was possibly a 5th-century chieftain who led resistance to the invading Anglo-Saxons.

Despite this legend (and the discovery of a Roman coin) there is no evidence of any pre-Norman use of this site. The castle was built in the 12th century by Ranulph de Meschines. It has the remains of a Norman keep, with the later addition of a 14th-century garderobe turret, and some further additions in the 17th century. One of its most notable owners was Sir Hugh de Morville, Lord of Westmorland, one of the four knights who murdered St Thomas Becket in 1170. A nearby high point on Mallerstang Edge is named after him, as Hugh Seat. The castle was attacked by Scots raiding parties in 1342 and again in 1541. After the latter attack it remained an uninhabitable ruin until it passed into the hands of Lady Anne Clifford, who rebuilt it in 1660, also adding a brewhouse, bakehouse, stables and coach-house. Lady Anne's successor, the Earl of Thanet, had no use for the castle though and removed anything of value from it, including the lead from the roof. By the 1770s much of the building above the second storey had collapsed, and it has since gradually decayed further to become the romantic ruin it is today. The castle is privately owned and on farmland. There is permitted public access to the outside of the building only.

River Eden

The River Eden is entirely in Cumbria and is one of the few large rivers in England that flows northwards. The source of the river is on the high limestone fells above Mallerstang Common, between High Seat, Yorkshire Dales and Hugh Seat. Here it forms the boundary between Cumbria and North Yorkshire. Two other rivers arise in the same peat bogs, within a kilometre of each other: the Swale and the Ure.

The Eden makes its way across eastern Cumbria, with the hills of the North Pennines to the East, and the fells of the Lake District to the west, to Carlisle. Here it merges with other rivers to form the great Solway Firth estuary, before reaching the open sea, 145 km (90 mi) from its source.

The river's name derives from the Celtic word *ituna*, meaning *water*, or *rushing*.

The Eden Valley is green and fertile but in medieval times the valley was vulnerable to Scottish raids, and the number of castles and Pele towers (small stone structures with walls from a metre thick, unique to the North of England) in the area are testament to a turbulent and often violent past.

Poetry Path

Conceived by Dick Capel of the East Cumbria Countryside Project and installed in 2004, the Poetry Path celebrates a year in the life of a hill farmer and their ancient relationship with the stunning landscape in and around the Upper Eden Valley. Twelve short poems, one per calendar month, were written by local poet, Meg Peacocke, and have been carved by lettering artist Pip Hall into blocks of local stone incorporated into walls and stiles or positioned as milestones and installed at intervals along a circuital route either side of the River Eden. Route descriptions can be found online and a 12-page brochure is on sale at the Tourist Office.

Coast to Coast Walk

The Coast to Coast (or C to C), is a 292 km (182 mi) waymarked linear Long-Distance Path between the west and east coasts of Northern England. Devised by Alfred Wainwright, it passes through three contrasting national parks: the Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales, and the North York Moors, leading from the Irish Sea at St Bees to the North Sea at Robin Hood's Bay. On 12 August 2022 it was announced that the Coast to Coast would become a National Trail, following a successful campaign by the Wainwright Society. Work will commence to upgrade the route and officially open it in 2025, then 317 km (197 mi) long.

Kirkby Stephen

Kirkby Stephen is a market town in Westmorland and Furness, Cumbria. Historically part of Westmorland, it lies on the A685, surrounded by sparsely populated hill country, about 40 km from the nearest larger towns: Kendal and Penrith. The River Eden rises 10 km away above the Mallerstang Valley in the peat bogs below Hugh Seat and passes the eastern edge of the town. Kirkby Stephen serves as a base for tourism in the Upper Eden Valley area and is a 'Walkers Are Welcome' town on the route of the Coast to Coast Walk.

Geologically, the Upper Eden Valley is dominated by limestone to the south of Kirkby and in Mallerstang, but by red sandstone further north. The main rock from which most houses in Kirkby Stephen are built, is brockram: fragments of limestone in a cement of red sandstone. The river at the gorge in Stenkrith Park in the south of the town has carved this rock into many fantastic shapes, collectively known as the Devil's Grinding Mill or Devil's Hole. The circular holes have been created by pebbles swirling around in them for thousands of years. The Millennium Bridge and a road bridge span this fascinating spot.

Other nearby scenic features include the Nine Standards, a group of stone cairns high up on the ridge of Hartley Fell and visible from many spots in town, the romantically ruined Pendragon Castle as well as Croglam Castle, pre-historic earthworks on the southern edge of town.

The origins of the town's name are unclear, as the Parish Church is not dedicated to St. Stephen or any other saint. It is though referred to as The Cathedral of the Dales and serves both the Anglican and Roman Catholic communities and houses Kirkby's most famous relic, a 10th century (i.e.: Viking) Loki Stone, only two of which are known of in Europe, as well as many other Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Norman carved stones.

WALK DIRECTIONS

Alighting from the train at **Garsdale Station**, a stop on the **Settle – Carlisle Railway** in the **Yorkshire Dales National Park**, **you may want to** go to the middle of platform 1 to admire a bronze statue of **Ruswarp** (pronounced 'Russup'), a Border Collie owned by Graham Nuttall, co-founder of the Friends of the Settle-Carlisle Line, who stayed at his master's side for 11 winter weeks after Nuttall had died on a mountain walk.

Afterwards (or else), make your way down to a road:

- if alighting on platform 1 **from the direction of Carlisle**, go through a wooden gate or a fence gap at the Settle end of the platform into a car park and walk down the drive to the road 70m away and *turn right* downhill along it, under the railway and past a drive along a row of cottages;
- if alighting on platform 2 **from the direction of Settle**, go down some steps or through a fence gap at the Settle end of the platform onto a drive by a row of cottages, *turn left* to the road and *turn right* downhill along it.

You pass a bus stop for the **Dales Bus to Hawes** and ignore a signposted footpath turning left through a wooden field gate ('Low Scale ½ ml') as well as 40m onwards the signposted right turn of the **Pennine Bridleway** (PBW) Long-Distance Path. In 200m at a T-junction with the **A684** at **Garsdale Head**, cross the road a little to the right and follow a signposted footpath ('Grizedale 1 ml', 'Flust 2 ml') through a wooden gate in a drystone wall. *Bear to the right* through the rough pasture and pick up a track from a metal field gate on the right. In 70m *turn left* on a bearing of 295° towards a signpost by a drystone wall at the far end of the field 200m away (i.e.: not towards the wooden gate about 30m further left). With views back on the right to the **Dandrymire Viaduct**, you go through a squeeze gap in the drystone wall into **Access Land** and follow a faint grassy path on the level through a pasture, aiming for the right-hand nose of the nearby small grassy hill (290°, i.e.: not the higher ridge beyond, which is **Baugh Fell**).

The path becomes clearer and ascends gently, eventually with the ground falling away on the left towards the **Grisedale Beck**, the name for the upper reaches of the **Clough River**. The beck meanders scenically through Grisedale (= The Dale That Died), dropping in cascades towards **Clough Force**, a waterfall (out of sight from the path, below the near left field corner). In 120m go through a wooden gate in a drystone wall. The distant hill on the left on 200° is **Whernside** in the Yorkshire Dales. Continue in the same direction along a clear path (note: this is different from the right of way as shown on the OS map). In 230m at the top of the rise, you can spot some farm buildings ahead (**Blake Mire** on the OS map). The hill dead ahead is **Swarth Fell**, part of the ridge that tops out in **Wild Boar Fell**. In 70m you *fork left* towards the farm house and in 80m go through a wooden kissing gate to the right of the farmhouse, **leaving the Access Land**.

Ignore the drive away from the farm house but *veer left* to a wooden gate in the drystone wall 20m to the left of a wooden field gate with a yellow marker on a yellow-topped pole. On the far side, follow a grass path about 30m to the left of the drive initially. In 110m *bear left* down to a stream crossing in a dip and re-ascend to the right to another gate in a drystone wall. Cross a rising field towards a marker post 90m away and *veer left* to a signpost by a drystone wall gap 50m away and then continue to a bend in the farm drive and in 30m pick up the drive by a marker post. In 100m cross a stream on the drive and *turn left* with it by a ruined farm building. Ignore a right turning footpath into a pasture and in 80m go through a metal field gate onto **Grisedale Road** ('Garsdale Head 1 ml' backwards) and *turn right* uphill along it. In 150m go through a metal field gate and in 125m by **Moor Rigg** house, the ignored footpath through the pasture joins from the right ('Garsdale Head 1 ¼ ml') and continues to the left ('East House 2 via Round Ing').

Here you have a choice:

For an Extension, *turn left* and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Grisedale Extension**.

For the Main Walk, follow the road up for 300m. Pass **East House** Barn and Farm and continue steeply uphill along the tarmac lane. In 60m ignore a drive on the left signed for '**Fea Fow**' and in 60m go through a metal field gate **back into Access Land**. *Curve to the left* with the lane and in 80m *turn hard right* with it, now at a gentler gradient. In 75m the tarmac lane ends at a T-junction with a gravel track. The extension up Grisedale joins from the left and **A Pennine Journey** (APJ), a Long-Distance path, runs along it. *Turn right* along the track past an APJ marker post with a wall and fence a little to the right.

*) In 110m *turn left* at a marker post with a public bridleway along a clear, meandering grass path through the open hillside of the rising **Grisedale Common**. [Note: the path runs way to the right of the right-of-way as shown on the OS map.] You pass through a line of **Shake Holes** and eventually see a fence line ahead and a ridge beyond, on the far side of **Upper Wensleydale**, the valley of one of the famous rivers of the Yorkshire Dales, the **River Ure**. The path bears to the left towards a metal field gate (15°) and after 370m on the Common, you go through the metal field gate, at 460m above sea level. *Turn left* along the fence line in a north westerly direction, ignoring the bridleway continuation into the valley ahead. You now follow the fence, which on this stretch marks the **boundary between Cumbria** (to the left) **and Yorkshire** (to the right) all the way to the top of **Swarth Fell Pike**, at 651m above sea level. For the most parts, there is a discernible and decent grass track, but some short soggy and boggy stretches have to be negotiated.

In more detail: in about 200m you pass the top of a gully on the right and an unnamed rise on the right (point 491m on the OS map). **Swarth Fell** is dead ahead with parts of **Wild Boar Fell** to its right, and on the left the **Howgill Fells** can briefly be seen (on 125°), **Ingleborough** and **Whernside** are visible on 195° and 200° respectively. The track negotiates a soggy plateau (**The Hags**) and veers to the left with the fence, by some tarns on the left-hand side of the fence. There are fine views on the right towards the **watershed between the Rivers' Ure and Eden catchment areas**. The terrain ascends gently and you *turn right* with the fence just after a small fenced mire on the right. You ascend **The Tongue** (on the OS map) and at the fence corner on the top of the rise (at 508m above sea level), *turn left* with the fence along a clear track. In 140m the path starts to gently descend into a shallow saddle and in 100m you reach a three-way fence junction. You climb over the wire fence coming in from the right and follow the fence on the left.

You have the top of the peaty gully of an infant stream on the right (**Goodham Gill**, a tributary of The Ure) and in 60m the fence curves to the left to negotiate the gully of an infant stream on the left (**Flust Gill**) and in 120m by a stile, a fence joins up from the left from **Flust Farm**. A drystone wall now runs parallel away to the left and in about 450m a barbed wire fence turns away to the left. You can already see (in most weathers) a cairn on this side of Swarth Fell's plateau. In 300m you cross the upper reaches of **Round Ing Gill** (around 550m above sea level), with **fine views back along the route** walked so far, all the way to the railway station. The gradient increases for a while and you lose sight of the cairn but in 400m from the gill crossing, you get the cairn back into view and in 180m pass it, located on the other side of the fence.

You are on **Swarth Fell** (= Dark Hill). Down in the valley on the right (65°) you can see **Aisgill Moor Cottages**, with a small wood nearby, just to the left of the watershed. You **re-enter Cumbria** at this point and in 90m pass a second cairn, again on the left-hand side of the fence. Veer away from the fence with the path and go over the hardy

distinguishable subsidiary top of the long fell (**Swarth Fell Pike**) at 651m above sea level. The hills visible (in most weathers) on the half left nearby are the **Howgill Fells** (at similar height), and beyond those rise the higher hills in the **Lake District**. In 180m the path starts to descend to a shallow grassy saddle in 75m and you re-ascend, in 50m passing through a band of limestone boulders. In 120m the gradient eases and you can see the cairned top of **Swarth Fell** ahead. There is a drystone wall about 100m away to the left in continuation of the wire fence line. In 600m you reach the cairn at 681m above sea level, with **Wild Boar Fell ahead** across the saddle between the two hills.

Turn left with the path, continuing to the left of a storm shelter. In 50m *turn right* with the grass path, to the left of a limestone tumble on the right. The path slowly converges with the drystone wall to the left and in 200m it starts a steep descent, with the path staying about 20m to the right of the wall initially. You curve to the right with the wall and eventually pass to the left of **Swarth Fell Tarn** at the bottom of the drop. In 60m you **[!]** go over (the base of) a stile in the fence ahead to continue **[!]** *to the left of the fence* along the – initially – less obvious of two paths uphill. In 600m you reach the top of the steep part of the ascent where the fence away to the right bears to the right, by a small cairn (at 672m above sea level). Back on the left you can see the northerly end of **Morecambe Bay** (240°) and the two **Heysham Nuclear Power Stations** to the left along it on 220°.

Veer right a little along a clear path. Some more cairns can be seen on the half-left, positioned at the westerly edge of the broad ridge. You *veer to the right* (30°), still broadly parallel to the fence away on the right, and in 200m you have the rest of the plateau visible ahead (weather permitting). The path veers to the left (12°) and in about 300m you pass to the left of some old quarry workings (on the OS map). In 40m you pass a storm shelter and in another 60m can see the trig point on **Wild Boar Fell** ahead, placed within another storm shelter, 250m away. At 708m above sea level, it sits at the **joint-highest point of the walk**. And while almost all the names of surrounding hills and landscape features can be traced back to the Old Norse language, this fell is named for the preponderance of boar in the area up to the Middle Ages.

From the trig point, ignore the continuation of the previous direction on a bearing of 40° (a shortcut to the far north easterly end of the plateau), and *turn right* on a bearing of 130°. In 130m by a small tarn on the right, the path turns right then left to continue in the same direction as it negotiates a soggy area. In another 300m you reach the easterly end of the plateau, where a clear grass path turns left. **[!]** Continue ahead past an old quarry and in 50m you reach a triangular storm shelter (also at 708m above sea level, same as the trigpoint earlier), with a line of fascinating conical stone cairns to the right of it, partly on the other side of a fence (there is a stile to get across) on **High White Scar**. They are known to partly be centuries old, but of unknown purpose. Suggestions have been that they are the work of bored quarry workers, or that they served as orientation help for travellers in the valley below, unlikely as that sounds.

Return past the old quarry to the grass path junction 50m from the storm shelter and *turn right* in a broadly northerly direction. In 100m you are atop the rockface of **Yoadcomb Scar**, then **Blackbed Scar**, with the deep **Mallerstang Valley** below to the right. In 600m – the direct route from the trig point has joined from the left behind – you reach the north easterly corner of the plateau by a small cairn at the sharp rockface corner of **The Nab**, site of a prehistoric tumulus. *Bear left* with the steep drop and then *bear right* to descend in the previous direction off of Wild Boar Fell, always following the scarp on the right, with glorious views down the Mallerstang Valley and along the **Upper Eden Valley towards Kirkby Stephen**. In 500m you pass a small tarn on your left where the terrain briefly levels out (on the OS map and at spot height 592m) and in 280m you reach the corner of a

high drystone wall at **High Dolphinsty**. The **PBW** crosses here, through a cleft on the right out of the valley and on through a wooden gate in the drystone wall on the left.

Continue in the previous direction to the right of the drystone wall along a clear path, with the drop still on your right and still descending. You have a small hill ahead (Little Fell) and fine views back to The Nab. In 270m a fence continues along the line of the drystone wall as the gradient gets steeper for a while, until a drystone wall picks up again and in 110m – at **Low Dolphinsty** – it turns left. You *veer left* with the path up to the top of **Little Fell**, soon converging with a wire fence on the right (ignore a stile in the fence line). In 600m you pass a row of five small cairns and then a little further reach the summit cairn at 559m above sea level. On a bearing of 45°, you can already see the top of the ruined **Pendragon Castle**, just above a line of trees overlooking the **River Eden** on its far side. On the other side of the valley, the magnificent **Mallerstang Edge** dominates the view, topping out at **High Seat** at 709m above sea level. The far side of that hill contains the headwaters of another of the great rivers of the Yorkshire Dales: **The Swale**.

Continue along a clear grass path, with the fence somewhat to the right. In 475m you have a drystone wall about 30m away to the right and now follow this wall down into the valley bottom to a crossing of the railway line with the hillside beyond the wall **heather-clad** in season. **In more detail:** in 340m you have the wall immediately on your right and in 30m *bear to the right* with it. In 60m *fork right* to continue along the wall and in 550m you pass **Moor Pot Swallow Hole** on your left and then a shake hole, just before the wall turns down to the right. On the descent, you skirt around some soggy parts, all feeding into a stream on the right beyond the wall (**High Intake Gill**) and in 250m from the shake hole *bear right* to proceed in an easterly direction, more steeply downhill, and with **Pendragon Castle** now dead ahead. In 170m you pass a wooden gate on the right with a marker on it, where a bridleway joins from the right out of the walled area (**The Friths**). You *bear left* with the track out of the gate and in 150m *bear further left* with the track to in 125m pass a bridleway marker post and cross the railway line on a car wide bridge.

On the far side, continue along the track with a wire fence on the left, and in 180m *veer right* downhill along a tarmac lane at a bend, ignoring the signposted bridleway across a rough pasture. In 350m you reach a signposted four-way track/road junction by a cattle grid. The route will continue down the left along a restricted byway, but not before a 600m each-way **out-and-back to Pendragon Castle**: you **leave the Access Land** over the cattle grid and in 220m by a house *turn hard left* with the road to in 70m cross **Castle Bridge** and gently ascend with the road to a junction with the **B6259** in 200m. The castle is on your right. Return to the four-way junction 600m away and *turn right back into Access Land* with the restricted byway and an APJ marker on the signpost along a car wide gravel track with a drystone wall on the right. This is a very bucolic stretch, with the Eden meandering away on the right below and the part-wooded limestone **Birkett Common** rising on the left above with plenty of spring-fed streams running down the hill.

You pass **a limekiln** away on the left and eventually get fine views of a left turn of the river in a wide plain at **Birkett Bottom**. *Turn left* here gently uphill with the gravel track and a BOAT marker post, ignoring a grass track ahead towards a ford in the river. On this westerly stretch, the limestone outcrop of **Birkett Knott** towers above and you ford a couple of those spring-fed streams. After 800m at the far end of the hill, you cross a stream on a concrete bridge and ascend with the track. Beyond the drystone wall on the right, you can spot the ruined **Lammerside Castle** (a 12th century building which was rebuilt and strengthened in the 14th century as **a Pele tower**, to provide protection against Scots raiders) and in 120m go through a metal field gate, with **Croop House** farmhouse now above on the left on a road. *Turn right* through another metal field gate with bridleway and APJ markers, now **out of Access Land for good**.

In 180m pass the ruins to the right and in 20m go through a metal field gate and *veer right* through a pasture (20°). In 70m go over the brow of the field and you can now see a gate some way ahead. This is in fact the far gate in a second, narrower field, which is reached in 200m through an initially unseen gate. You cross another field in the same direction towards the left-hand corner of a wood and in 110m continue along the right-hand boundary of a large arable field, with the fenced wood on your right. Curve to the left with the boundary and in 450m go through a metal field gate and in 20m *turn right* along a concrete lane at a T-junction. In 25m go over a cattle grid (with a gate to the right) and in 20m by a weather-worn brideway marker post, ignore a right turn to **Mire Close Bridge** over the Eden River and continue in the same direction with a wooded strip on the left.

You are rising up **Pump Hill** and in 330m pass a large barn on the right, the first of many buildings of **Wharton Hall Farm**. In 70m cross a spring-fed stream and gently descend towards the main buildings. At the farm (a very impressive 14th century tower house with a gatehouse, internal courtyard and out buildings dating up to the 17th century, but mostly hidden from view here), *turn left* uphill with a brideway signpost, away from the farm. In 75m go through a metal field gate by a marker post and *turn right* in a pasture. You have fine partial views back to the **ruined ancient parts of Wharton Hall** from here. In 110m go through a metal field gate in a drystone wall and *bear right* in a sloping pasture to a signposted path junction on a farm drive, with a **Bronze Age Round Barrow** visible in the field beyond (on the OS map), in 75m passing the very old and gnarled **Wharton Oak**. In 50m you reach the concrete farm track through a wooden gate by a four-way signpost.

Here you have a choice (the railway station with its infrequent service is 1.7 km away up a small rise, so assume 25-30 minutes of walking):

For a longer loop to and through Kirkby Stephen town (add 5.0 km and 70m ascent), **as well as for a 600m each-way out-and-back to The Black Bull pub** in Nateby, *turn right* with a brideway through a wooden gate ('Nateby ¼ ml') and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Nateby Pub and Kirkby Stephen Extensions**.

For the Main Walk (i.e.: direct to the station), *turn left* with the concrete track, also a brideway ('Kirkby Stephen ¾ ml'). In 720m you reach **Halfpenny House** on the right, where the concrete farm track leads over a cattle grid to continue as a tarmac lane and a tarmac path turns down to the left with a signpost for the train station. [**Halfpenny House** is thought to be an old resting spot for cattle drovers en route from Scotland to market in Malham. A halfpenny was charged for grazing and accommodation.] The Kirkby Stephen Loop has joined from the right out of a field.

****)** You *turn left* with the tarmac **Station Walk**, in 25m going through a wooden field gate and then through a dip to re-ascend along the flank of **Whinny Hill** and to slowly converge with the **A685** away to the right. After the first steep bit of ascent, you get fine **views on the left to Little Fell and Wild Boar Fell**. By the station, at a T-junction with a lane leading to an industrial estate and the station car park, either follow the lane to the left and approach the platforms from the car park, or *turn right* and go up some steps to get there.

Carlisle bound trains depart from the far platform, reached via an overbridge, Settle bound trains from the near platform. Both platforms have waiting rooms with topical brochures.

Grisedale Extension

Follow the signpost to a wooden gate inside a drystone wall gap 40m away (340°), en route crossing a streamlet, and then *veer left* (315°) along a drystone wall initially, aiming for a field gate in a drystone wall corner 180m away. Follow a descending path to the left of a drystone wall to the bank of the **Grisedale Beck** 60m away and *turn right* along the beck. In 75m continue in the same direction along a barbed wire fence on the right where the beck turns to the left. In 40m cross a tributary stream on a car wide earth bridge and go over a stile to the left of a wooden field gate and follow a signpost along the drive towards **Reachey**, a beautifully refurbished farmhouse. In 30m *bear right* along a paved path with a low marker post. In 15m cross a clapper bridge over a ditch and follow a clear path curving to the left towards a marker post 40m away. In 100m go over a stile to the right of a wooden field gate into **Access Land** by a two-way footpath signpost.

In 30m you reach the beck again and *turn right* along it with a drystone wall on the right. In 70m the beck scenically tumbles down a few rock slabs and in 65m you cross the **Flust Gill** tributary on a plank. In 90m go through a wooden field gate with a stile to the left and continue along the beck. In 90m you pass a marker post where the beck meanders away to the left. Up on the left on 225° on East Baugh Fell, you can see some cairns, the **Grisedale Pike** (on the OS map). Continue along the bottom of the steep grassy **Galey Hill** on the right and in 110m cross a streamlet. Up on the right you can see **Flust** farmhouse, up a car wide grass track. That track is a **shortcut on this extension**. *Turn left* along the track and in 50m you reach a metal field gate this side of an arched bridge across the beck and a two-way signpost beyond. Some ruined buildings on the far side are what is left of **Scale** hamlet. [Trivia: at some this was planned to be turned into a recording studio for Erasure.]

[!] *Turn right* this side of the beck, gently uphill to the right of some trees. In 50m you pass a marker post in a part-ruined drystone wall and follow an initially clear grass path parallel to and above the beck. You can see a marker post up the rise on the right at a drystone wall corner (340°), this will be passed on the return route. Continue on a broad bearing of 300° for 300m to the ruined **Round Ing Farm**, the farm furthest up the dale, by the deep cut of the **Round Ing Gill**. *Turn right* at the farm ruin and right again to head gently uphill, in 60m with views to the marker post at a drystone wall corner 100m away seen earlier. From the post, continue in the same direction (85°, i.e.: not straight towards the farm visible ahead, as this is **Fea Fow!**). You are aiming for **Flust Farm**, which is belatedly visible to the left of and closer than Fea Fow, between two clumps of trees.

En route, you go through a dip and walk through a part-ruined drystone wall, and in 300m from the marker post meet the car wide grassy track up from Scale hamlet. *Turn left* along it through a metal field gate and to the left of the farm buildings, ignoring the continuation of the public footpath towards Fea Fow. In 20m *turn right* at a T-junction with a gravel track, going through a metal gate to the right of a metal field gate. The **A Pennine Journey** (APJ), a Long-Distance path, runs along it. In 40m go through another metal field gate and ford the **Flust Gill**. In about 250m the track levels out and in 150m you pass **Fea Fow** farm down below. In xxxm the car wide track turns right downhill to continue as a tarmac drive past **East House Farm and Barn**. The Main Walk comes up along the track.

Continue ahead along a grass track past an APJ marker post with a wall and fence a little to the right and pick up the directions above at the asterisk *).

Nateby Pub and Kirkby Stephen Extensions

You head down to a car wide bridge over the **River Eden** 70m away with a wooden gate this side of the bridge and on the far side *turn left* along the river in a field. In 90m go through a wooden kissing gate to the right of a metal field gate with a bridleway and **Yorkshire Dales National Park** markers. In 20m *turn left* with the river at this unmarked three-way footpath fork and continue with a low grassy rise away on the right. Ignore the wooden gate just to the right in the fence on top of the rise. In 100m *fork right* along a clear grass path (this is different from the right-of-way as shown on the OS map) towards a stile in the fence line at the top of the rise with a yellow plank attached to its top. Over the stile, cross a pasture to another stile 80m away and then on in the same direction (65°) towards a wooden gate with another yellow plank attached to it by a line of houses.

In 130m you go through the gate and follow a paved path to the right of a grassy area with some pub benches and in 40m continue through **The Black Bull at Nateby's** car park. In 30m at the main road through **Nateby** (the **B6249**) opposite a garage, *turn left* along the road. In 75m ignore a lane to the right and in 40m a signposted bridleway from the left. In 60m, just before the road starts to ascend, you fork off to the right with a signposted bridleway and the **APJ** and **Lady Ann's Way** along tarmac between drystone walls. In 80m cross the **Broad Ing Sike** on a clapper bridge and ignore a bridleway joining from the right. The now gravel **lonning** (a local term for a track less than a lane or road, usually enclosed) gently ascends, always between walls or fences, and in 400m it turns right where a path joins on the left through a wooden field gate up from a dismantled railway line. This stretch is part of a **Poetry Path** and there is a poem-inscribed gritstone block on the left (one of two), this is the **poetry stone** for the month of June.

In 30m *turn left* across an arched car wide bridge over the railway line and *bear right* along a grassy car wide path between wall and fence. There is another poem-inscribed large boulder on the right, as part of the drystone wall (this is the **poetry stone** for the month of May). The **roar of the River Eden gorge** is prominent to the left and this river section of rockpools and cascades is walked along on the return from Kirkby. In 50m continue downhill along a narrow slightly sunken and mud-prone path between trees and in 130m pass another **poetry stone** on the left, also as part of a drystone wall (this is the poem for the month of April). In 100m cross an unnamed beck where you can find the **poetry stone** for the month of March on the right in the little rockface waterfall the beck runs over!

Ascend gently and in 130m cross a small stream (fed by a spring a little away to the right) and in 30m ignore a left forking bridleway path through a wooden gate by a two-way signpost and continue in the direction of 'Hartley'. In 5m ignore an unmarked public footpath joining over a ladder stile on the right. In 300m, just before entering a wooded strip to the left of the walled **Podgill Wood**, an unmarked public footpath joins from the right over a stone slab stile out of a pasture. In 100m the path runs above a deep cut on the left and then curves down to a raised bridge 50m away across the **Ladthwaite Beck**. The beck runs through a tight sandstone gorge on the left to its meeting with the River Eden. Go through a wooden gate into a large pasture and follow a clear path along the left-hand field boundary which hugs the Eden.

In 100m pass clear to the left of a multi-storey farm building and in 300m where the river curves to the left, continue to a three-way signpost 70m ahead by a tarmac path along the field boundary. This is a **Coast to Coast Walk** signpost and you *turn left* along the tarmac path ('Franks Bridge'). In 40m leave the field through a metal kissing gate and follow a gravel path along the river and a little waterfall on the left, with the modest **Hartley** and **Kirkby Hills** on the right and the **Skinner Dub Cricket Ground** town side of them. In 200m cross **Frank's Bridge** (thought to have been named after a brewer who lived and

worked in the houses opposite, the bridge was on a **coffin route** and the stones at both ends were for resting the coffins!) and in 20m *turn right* up some steps with a fading 'Town Centre' sign. *Turn right* uphill along a tarmac lane (**Stoneshot**) and in 15m ignore a tarmac path between houses, despite another Town Centre sign.

In 20m *turn left* with the lane along a narrow stretch with high walls that are leaning into the lane a little (this was by design to make this side of the village easier to fortify and defend against incursions from the Scots). In 30m the lane levels out and you pass a car park and toilet block to then emerge in the **Market Square** in the centre of **Kirkby Stephen**. There is a war memorial on the left, the red sandstone **Church Cloisters** are on the right (formerly a butter market, now the easiest route into the churchyard of **The Parish Church of Kirkby Stephen**, home to both the Anglican and Roman Catholic communities, aka **The Cathedral of the Dales**). Go ahead to **Market Street** (the **A685**).

Away to the right (along North Road), you find the **Buttercup of Kirkby Stephen** gift shop & café 50m away on the right, 40m further **The Taggy Man**, a CAMRA-recommended wet-led pub on the left and in another 30m **The Old Forge** micro-pub on the right.

Turn left along the road. Over the next 230m you pass **The Pennine Hotel** and bistro, the tourist office, **The Kings Arms** (currently closed), **Berry Grape and Grain** wine bar and deli, **The Mulberry Bush** café, **Archway** fish & chips, **The Black Bull** hotel, **The White Hare Café**, a **Costa Coffee**, and **The La'I Nook** micro-pub. In a further 60m you get to a set of traffic lights by the left turn of **Nateby Road**. A **SPAR Market** can be found just a little further ahead. Notice the three-way metal signpost on the right, quoting distances in **miles and furlongs!**

Turn left along **Nateby Road**, signed 'Reeth, Swaledale 22m 0 fur'. You pass the **Temperance Hall** on the left with its impressive façade and ignore Mellbecks (road) turning left to Frank's Bridge. In 40m pass the large Baptist Church on the right and in 50m *turn right* with the road. There are houses on both sides of the road as it ascends the gentle slope of **Stenkrith Hill**. In 250m the road levels out with pavement on the left only. In 60m the pavement discontinues and you pass **Bollam Cottage**. In 20m *turn left* along a gravel path with a signpost ('Bridleway to Hartley/Nateby, Footpath to Stenkrith') with a **Poetry Path** marker. In 50m you have open fields to the side and – in good weather – can spot the **Nine Standards** up on **Hartley Fell** in an easterly direction (SWC Walk 416 Nine Standards – Kirkby Stephen Circular or to Garsdale).

In 70m pass a marker post indicating a fork, with the bridleway interestingly going left down a stepped path, while the footpath turns right through a field gate into a pasture. Follow the footpath and turn left down the pasture, in the previous direction. You follow a line of trees and curve to the right with it along the left-hand flank of Stenkrith Hill (i.e.: stay a little higher than the oft-used-by-locals clear grass path). The Eden River is audible below on the left. In 240m (now close to the river) you go through a wooden kissing gate with a yellow marker and follow a wire fence on the left. In 70m fork either way as the paths rejoin in 30m and in 140m go down a few difficult steps over tree branches. In 30m go over a stile to the left of a wooden field gate with a faded 'Stenkrith Park (footpath to Nateby Road)' sign.

In 10m you find the **poetry stones** for the month of November on the right, two standing stones this time, and in another 10m pass a bench on the left overlooking some **rockpools and rapids** in the river. In 90m there is another bench on the right and in 10m a left-turning semi-circular path gets you close to the river itself (currently the far end of that path is blocked by a fallen tree though) where the **Broad Ing Sike** (crossed earlier near Nateby) joins the Eden. Continue along the main path and in 40m you cross a small spring-

fed tributary. On the right you have the **poetry stones** for the month of October on the right, low slabs these, one sandstone and one limestone, the two dominant rock types around Kirkby Stephen.

There is a **viewing platform** of sorts away to the left, by the **Stenkrith Rockpools** and the lower end of the upcoming gorge. In 5m *bear right* with the main path, ignoring a narrow path turning steeply up to the left towards the top of the gorge and a road bridge just about visible high above. In 70m you reach a wooden kissing gate leading onto a road three-way junction by a footpath signpost. **[!]** *Turn left* along a gravel path inside Stenkrith Park, without going through gate. In 70m you pass an info panel by the **Northern Viaduct Trust** about the **Eden Viaducts**. Continue ahead to cross the Eden Gorge on the **Millenium Bridge**, parallel to the road bridge higher up. On the far side at a T-junction, *turn right* to go under the road bridge and pass a viewing area away to the right. This overlooks the higher parts of the rockpools and gorge. The path curves to the left in 20m and in 60m turns hard left back on itself up to a road level car park.

You walk onto **Nateby Road** and *turn left* along it (without pavement but with some fast moving cars), in 40m crossing the Eden on the road bridge for another peer down to the amazing pools. At the far end of the bridge, **[!]** *turn left* immediately along a signposted public footpath ('Wharton') through a wooden gate and down some steps. *Turn right* with the gravel path along the river and follow it through a couple of turns and down some steps to the level of the swirling waters and back up. You leave the immediate riverside through a wooden gate into a pasture. *Turn left* along the field boundary, gently ascending with the roaring river away to the left, ignoring the signed **Permissive Path to Jubilee Park**.

There are still some **cascades and drops down small rockfaces** to admire along this stretch, as well as plenty of **picturesque rock slabs**. The path slowly veers away from the river and ascends away from the water level as well, eventually with trees to the left down the slope behind a fence. In 200m in the top-left field corner go over a stile and follow the next field's left-hand boundary. In 200m go through a wooden gate within a drystone wall gap and *turn right* with a high marker post in the next field, in 5m going over a stile and then follow the right-hand boundary wall towards a house (**Halfpenny House** as per the OS map). Away to the left you get fine views to **Wild Boar Fell and the Mallerstang Edge**. In 100m by the house, *veer to the left* along a barbed wire fence and in 30m *turn right* through a wooden field gate and continue to a concrete lane 20m away.

The Main Walk joins along it from the left. *Turn right* along it to the house, where the concrete track leads over a cattle grid to continue as a tarmac lane and a tarmac path turns down to the left with a signpost for the train station. Pick up the directions above at the double asterisk ******).