

## **WALK 12** – VERY HARD: 14 ¼ miles and 3,796 feet of climbing (approx)

Starting point: Litton

### **Litton - Buckden – Buckden Pike - Starbotton – Arncliffe - Litton**

**Refreshments: Pubs & cafes in Buckden, Fox & Hounds, Starbotton; Falcon Inn, Arncliffe; Queens Arms, Litton**

**Directions:** Take the bridleway just after the Queens Arms signposted Buckden 3 ½ miles. Follow the bridleway through the farmyard and up to the right, take the right hand path through the gate and between the 2 walls.



Go through a further gate and head over Crystal Beck, using the wooden bridge if walking after heavy rainfall. Head through the gate and up the grassy hill towards a further gate. The path then starts to get a little stony as it continues upwards. Continue through another gate and then through the gap in the wall.



Once through the gap in the wall the path starts to bend to the left, follow this and head towards the wall. The path then starts to head upwards, parallel with the wall. The path is mainly grassy but can be boggy in places. Remember to look back down to see views of Litton and Littondale. Continue upwards through a further gate and continue climbing. Once through the gate after about ¼ mile the path starts to level out as the path becomes paving slabs. At the gate you've reached the top, go through the gate and follow the paving slabs.



Go through the gap in the wall and head towards the cairns; the path now starts to descend into Buckden. Follow the wooden posts with blue on their tops as they cross grassy, often boggy ground. On reaching another path, follow the bridleway to the left. Go through 2 gates and start to drop down the stony path to meet the road. Turn right onto the road and follow the road for about ¼ mile. On reaching Buckden turn left up the stony track by the green in front of the village shop and head for the car park. Go through the car park passing the bus stop and towards the large wooden gate. Continue up the wide stony track in front of you.



Follow this track until taking the footpath to the right sign posted Buckden Pike. The climb can be very steep in places but the path is an obvious one climbing to the top of Buckden Pike. At the top continue straight on, keeping the wall on your left. Pass the trig point and follow the path along the ridge, sign-posted War Memorial until a junction of walls. Go over the stile and turn right by the War Memorial, the path now starts to drop down. After a few hundred metres take the path on the right hand side through the wooden gate and start to drop into Starbotton. On reaching Starbotton continue straight on following the minor road as it bends around until meeting the main road.



Cross the main road before taking the path straight in front of you across the river. Sign-posted Arncliffe 2 ¼ miles; cross the river by the bridge. The path now climbs up a steep path, through a small wood and can be slippery. Follow the path until it leaves the wood and becomes grassy, great views of Kettlewell come into view. Go through the gate and follow the bridleway path to the right to Arncliffe. The path now climbs steeply again but is mainly grassy and often boggy.



Follow the path until reaching the ridge. On reaching the ridge go through the gate and start to descend into Arncliffe, following the bridleway, which is rocky and boggy to start with but soon becomes grassy. Views of Arncliffe and Yew Cougar Scar can now be seen. Go through a further gate and the path now becomes concrete, heading down towards Old Cote Farm. Before reaching the farm take the footpath on the left hand side by the signpost and head down the grassy bank to the road. On reaching the road go straight ahead over the river and take the track in front of the houses on the right, sign posted Litton. Follow this track along the side of the river as it bends around and heads to the road.



On reaching the road go over the small hump-back bridge, passing the footpath sign Litton 2 miles & Halton Gill 5 miles and follow the wide track between the fields. Go through the wooden gate and over the stepping stones over the spring before heading diagonally across the field. The path now goes through fields and gates until meeting the river by the sign for Scoska Woods. Go through the wooden gate and turn right over the stepping stones (if the river is too high to cross please see the alternative route turning left after the wooden gate)



Follow the public footpath signs back to Litton; along the river at first then moving away from the river, crossing fields and going through many gates; soon the Queens Arms will come into sight.

