

LDWA Northumbria Group -

Durham Dales Challenge Walk – 30 Mile Route 2018

This is our third year at Wolsingham Masonic Hall - GR NZ073373 which is located on Church Lane, a narrow street. Following registration, we are asking all walkers to assemble in St. Anne's Recreation Ground (RG) behind the bowling green for a start at 9.00am. This is behind (south) the building immediately in front of you as you enter the RG and where you have been asked to park your cars. The walk will begin from here. To reach St. Annes RG from the Masonic Hall head down Church Lane, across Front Street, and proceed 80 yds to your right.

START. From St. Annes RG follow the footpath on the eastern side of the field heading towards the river and continue to the bridge. Go under the bridge and turn L to ascend to the road. Cross the bridge and bear R uphill. After 100 yds take the Weardale Way (WW) on R at GR NZ 074367 and follow this to Towdy Potts Farm. Pass through the farmyard, turning left through the gate to follow the WW to the ridge at GR NZ 063349. Turn R and proceed to:

CP1 GR NZ 053348 SUNNYSIDE EDGE 2.9 miles

This is where the 30-mile route turns Left. The 16 mile route carries on straight ahead A marshal will be here to guide walkers.

Turn L at once on broad vehicle track across moorland to reach yellow stony track GR NZ 050335. (Look out for flagged section here.) Turn L and then R to pick up narrow footpath through the heather to reach prominent stone cairn. Continue through heather with valley and stream on R. After a stone built ruin in valley bottom turn R down to stream and look to cross shortly afterwards. Continue with stream now on L taking higher ground and cross second stream ahead. Bear L passing trees, through broken stone wall, over stile in wire fence continuing to a lone tree. Continue with broken wall and trees on L. Now on grassy track and descend to metal gate. Through gate and bear L. Cross stream and turn at once R uphill - **do not continue on good path-** to join broad green track and turn R to ascend to gate on entry to forest. (*No smoking in forest*) Continue on path through forest, becoming stony, cross forest road, and continue very slightly to R, heading downhill to stream past notice board "Stream Crossing", to stream. Cross with care (no bridge) and continue to junction with forest road turning L and onwards to forest road junction, turn R (fingerpost Bridleway) and uphill reaching:

CP 2 GR NZ 025292 TRACK JUNCTION ABOVE EUDEN BECK 8.9 miles

Continue for a half mile and where forest road descends to L go R ahead on Bridleway reaching a waymarked wicket gate with pond on R. Ahead onto stony track continuing across moor. At path junction turn R and continue. On reaching junction with stoned track turn R and continue passing through 4 gates to reach main road (B6278). Cross the road extreme care please, and ahead on minor road (Middleton in-T 4 miles) to another junction with main road (B6282), across this extreme care please, down track (fingerpost Teesdale Way). Through waymarked gate to where after 200yds concrete track bears L. Continue on higher path to R with another TW fingerpost. Continue to riverbank and turn L to bridge

Cross bridge and go straight ahead across fields to causeway over marsh, turn left to gate in RH corner and proceed to lane Turn L. into Mickleton. At road turn R. continue to T junction. Turn L. At main road turn L then R to Tees Railway Path (SP)

Follow Tees Railway path to gate at end. Cross stile on R, bear L across green to gate in corner onto road. **Turn L WITH CARE**. After 20 metres **CROSS WITH CARE** to footpath. Follow path half left over fields to riverbank. Continue along riverbank to steps and gate onto main road, **Emerge with care**. Turn R over bridge then R along path on north side of river. Follow path to track on L beside riverside building. Turn L. After 400m bear L to junction next to church. Turn R to

CP 3 GR NY 950252 MIDDLETON-IN-TEESDALE VILLAGE HALL 16.25 miles

Turn R out of Hall to main road. Turn R on main road and carry on round bend. Immediately after the last house on the left take the signposted path beside the house. Cross stile in R corner to follow path alongside fence and stone wall on R to stile beside gate. R over stile then L alongside barn (signed) to stile at rear of farmyard. Follow wall on R to cross stile in corner. Follow walled path L then continue ahead up gully and through tunnel then through gate uphill ahead. Turn R and follow wall round. Ignore stile on R. Continue ahead alongside wall to Road.

Cross Road then over stile into field. Head across field to stile next to stone building. Over stile then proceed ahead in same direction over several more stiles, through gateway to emerge onto road over stile in corner of field

Turn R on road, go around bend to FP on right beside gate. Follow path alongside wall to stile. Cross stile and continue uphill, bearing half left away from wall to join very rough track heading north uphill. Follow track through gate. Just before the track goes through another gate, bear R to small gate in wall. Turn L through gate and follow wall on L for about 400m along faint path until path bears R uphill. Follow path uphill. The path becomes fainter but is marked by small cairns and boulders. Where ground levels off, keep to R of rocky outcrop and go over top of hill. The path disappears in places but gradually bends R as it heads downhill (aim for reservoir visible on opposite side of valley) until you can see two white markers on fence at bottom of hill. Cross stile at R marker and descend to old mine buildings

Turn L on mine road, cross river and follow path ahead up the valley, with small stream on R. Go through gate and continue uphill on grassy path, as it swings R around near the head of the valley it becomes a narrow path through heather. Follow this path which eventually becomes a broad track. Continue on this broad track as it climbs slightly to pass reservoir on R and eventually swings L to descend gully into valley bottom. Continue ahead uphill on track. Where track bears R continue SO on rough path to gate in fence and layby on main road (B6278)

CROSS WITH CARE

Cross B6278 with care. Turn L and proceed to cinder track on R at GR NY 991320. Turn R onto track. At the junction turn L and continue down through old mine workings, cross the Howden Burn. Continue on track to reach the road and ahead and

CP 4 GR NZ 006349 BOLLIHOPE 24.8 miles

From CP follow the path with river on your L passing between old mine workings (quarry on R) and then passing limekilns on R. Through stile by metal gate in fence and over footbridge continuing on narrow path through gorse bushes and then trees (river now on R). Past rock buttress and second footbridge (river now on L) and emerge through gate to road. Turn R to White Kirkley.

Cross L into the field at the stile and follow the Weardale Way over several more stiles and gates, ignoring any other footpath signs, eventually climbing a short hill to a kissing gate. Onwards with

fence on L, up to a stile in corner of field and follow a path between two fences emerging on to a farm road. Turn L here, two further kissing gates then reaching a tarmac road. Turn L, downhill to

CP5 Harehope Quarry NZ 038364

Where road turns L over bridge, turn R and into a wood. Entering the wood take the footpath to your L at the fork junction after 100m. Pass through two gates, fork left downhill and arrive at kissing gate and railway track.

There are trains running on this line today - **STOP - LOOK - LISTEN**, cross and turn R.

Take the riverbank path alongside Caravan Park to a picnic area then bear R into caravan park on a new yellow gravel path to a tarmac road. Turn R to pass between the caravan park reception on your R and the water feature on your L before turning L onto tarmac road at GR NZ 055368. (Please respect the quiet enjoyment of the caravaners on this stretch.) Continue along the tarmac road then straight ahead through gate onto footpath alongside railway. Continue through several fields with railway on your R. Keep R on narrow path alongside railway, climb steps to road and turn L returning over the road bridge. When on N bank take the outward path through St. Anne's RG, crossing Front Street with care and back to the route **HQ. 30 Miles**

FINISHED!!