

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 (Where you were asked to park cars) behind (south of) the building immediately in front of you as you enter the Recreation Ground. The walk will begin from here. To reach St. Annes Recreation Ground from the Masonic Hall head down Church Lane, across Front Street, and proceed 80 yds to your right.

START. From St. Annes Recreation Ground 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 on R at GR NZ 074367 and follow this to Towdy Potts Farm. Pass though the farmyard, turning left through the gate to follow the Weardale Way 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 14 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 at GR NZ 050335. Turn L and then R (Look out for flagged section here.) to pick up narrow footpath through the heather to reach prominent stone cairn. Continue through heather with valley and stream on R. Continue past a stone built ruin in valley bottom to where a stream joins from the right. Cross here and go up the right side of the joining stream and cross it at a rocky outcrop to a path on left. Continue on this path, 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 **do not continue on good path**, turn at once R uphill 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". Cross with care (no bridge) and continue to junction with forest road. Turn L and continue to second forest road junction, turn R (fingerpost Bridleway) uphill to:

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, turn right uphill on signposted Bridleway, cross forest road and continue on Bridleway to reach a waymarked wicket gate with pond on R. Ahead onto stony track continuing across moor. At path junction turn R. On reaching junction with stone 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-Teesdale 4 miles) to junction with main road (B6282), **Cross this with 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

Teesdale Way fingerpost. Continue to metal gate above riverbank. Just before reaching this gate turn left through gate into field and follow riverside path to footbridge.

Cross bridge and go straight ahead across fields to cross stony causeway over marsh then turn left to gate in RH corner of field. Proceed ahead to lane and turn L uphill into Mickleton. At road junction turn R. continue to T junction. Turn L. At main road turn L then R to Tees Railway Path (Signposted)

CHECKPOINT 3 NY 968234 MICKLETON 14 MILES

Follow Tees Railway Path over 2 road crossings and over viaduct. Cross stile on R before gate across path, signposed "Middleton in Teesdale". Bear L across green, past private driveway to gate in corner onto road. **Turn L WITH CARE**. After 20 metres **CROSS WITH CARE** to signposted footpath. Follow path half left over fields to riverbank. After farm buildings, leave track and bear R 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 up lane .After 400m bear R to junction next to church. Turn R to

CP 4 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. Cross R over stile then L at footpath sign on barn 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 half left across field to stile next to stone building. Over stile then proceed ahead in same direction over several more stiles, to emerge onto road over stile in corner of field

There are very few distinct features on this next section and the path is quite faint so some navigation is needed. If you are not using a GPS that will show you the footpath to follow, then a map and compass are essential.

Turn R on road, go around bend to Footpath 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 stile Go over stile and follow wall on L for about 400m along faint path until path bears R uphill. Follow path uphill (bearing 40°) . 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 well to the right of the summit cairn. Proceed downhill on a bearing of 25 °The path disappears in places but gradually bends R as it heads downhill (if you lose the path, 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. (NB this is not the right of way as shown on the OS Map, this path is further south) 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 to main road (B6278)

Cross B6278 with care. Turn L and proceed on road to cinder track on R after 1KM at GR NY 991320. Turn R onto track. At the junction turn L and continue down through old mine workings and across the Howden Burn. Continue on track to reach the road and ahead and

CP 4 GR NZ 006349 BOLLIHOPE 25 miles

Leave the Checkpoint following the path alongside the river, passing between old mine workings on L and quarry on R and then passing lime-kilns on R. Cross stile beside metal gate in fence. Turn left on narrow waymarked path to cross footbridge. Path continues through gorse bushes and then trees (river now on R). Past rock buttress and across second footbridge (river now on L) to emerge through gate to road. Turn R to White Kirkley.

Cross the bridge and go through signposted gate on left into field. Follow the Weardale Way markers 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. After end of fence, bear right uphill to a stile in corner of field, emerging on to a farm track. Turn L onto farm track. (NB the gates across this road are all electronically controlled and cannot be opened. Use the kissing gates on the left) On reaching a tarmac road, turn L, downhill to Harehope Quarry

Where the tarmac road turns L over bridge, continue ahead on farm road. Take the footpath to your L at the farm buildings 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 on the riverbank path alongside Caravan Park to a picnic area on L, then bear R into caravan park on a 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 caravanners on this stretch.)

Continue along the tarmac road, passing a road on the right. Where road turns left over bridge go straight ahead alongside railway on new footpath. *Ignore waymark pointing L, keep on the new permissive path.* On emerging from this path cross over footbridge, continue ahead through several fields with railway on your R, crossing a footbridge into a final field. Keep R onto more defined path that gradually rises alongside railway to gate. Climb steps to road and turn L to the road bridge. Immediately after crossing the river, turn right and go back under the bridge to follow the path you came out on through St. Anne's Recreation Ground, **Crossing Front Street with care,** and return to HQ

30 Miles FINISHED!!