



# Burley in Wharfedale

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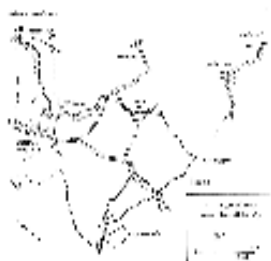
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### Ramble 3

#### **Burley – Menston – Moor – Burley (Circular)**

**Approximate total distance: 6 miles/10 km**

**Walking time: allow 3 to 4 hours, depending on your pace**



#### **Maps**

The accompanying BCC sketch map gives a general indication of the walk – just click on this small image to display a larger, printable version.

Ordnance Survey maps Explorer 27 (Lower Wharfedale – Washburn Valley, 2½" to 1 mile) for good detail of paths, and Landranger 104 (Leeds, Bradford – Harrogate Area, 1¼" to 1 mile) for general landmarks etc., are recommended in addition.

We hope this walk will encourage you to explore the extensive network of footpaths around our village.

### **A SUGGESTED LOCAL RAMBLE – by Colin Newton**

#### **Start point: Burley railway station car park**

This is a most attractive circular walk of some six miles - providing spectacular views, and with convenient drop-off points for those who wish to have a shorter walk.

The walk starts at Burley station. Exit from Platform 1 onto Hag Farm Road, turn left and continue up Hag Farm Road.

When about seven minutes into the walk, cross Cold Stone Beck that comes tumbling off the moor top near Robin Hole.

Continue past some fine houses, with lovely displays of crocuses and daffodils in season. Glancing to your left as you approach a bend in the road, you look across meadowland to the slopes of Otley Chevin.

On your right, with the attractive backcloth of Burley Woodhead village and the Moor, you pass a waymarked stile leading to a path that crosses fields and then continues up to Woodhead. A notice on the fence at this point informs you that the stile was repaired by members of the Ramblers' Association Lower Wharfedale Group; a notice to be seen on many stiles throughout this walk.

After rain, the section beyond here can become rather messy. The hillside farm you now approach is the one that gives its name to the road that you are on - Hag Farm. Glancing to your left you can see a little wooden weekend chalet hut in a clearing - the last of some half dozen that were there for many years. Two more such surviving chalets can be seen on the hillside ahead.

Pass through the section where there are some farm implements and old vehicles. Where the road turns right towards the farm, take the path to the left that leads to a stile on the

left of a field gate. You are now walking on the Ebor Way / Dales Way link path. Continue straight on, soon reaching a signpost at the junction of paths next to a stile in the wall on your left. This is the first "drop-off" point; and the route down from here can be used if you are out for a shorter walk and wish to return to Burley using the path that goes down alongside Carr Beck, crosses the railway, goes through a copse, and then comes out in Holme Park near Holme Grove.

For the main walk, however, continue straight on and go through another stile. The site of the old Bleach Mill is on your left. Continue on, when Bleach Mill Lane is joined, with attractive views all round.

At a bend in the lane, look to your left, where you will see a rise in the land which doesn't look natural - this is the area of a Bronze Age settlement.

Approaching houses on the left, you will no doubt feel that the gorgeous views from here are worth a few thousand pounds on their price.

At a bend near the end of the lane there are charming old houses on the left. The corner house, named Low Fold, still has its' original mullioned windows, and the date 1673 above the front door.

Another "drop-off" point is now reached - for this turn left, and continue down Main Street until Cleasby Road, Menston is reached on your left. Walk down to the bottom and you can then return to Burley by train from Menston Station.

To continue the main walk, cross the road emerging from Bleach Mill Lane and turn right up Moor Lane. Where the lane bends to the right, continue straight on, past Mount Pleasant cottages to your left. Go up a graveled section passing Gable End Cottage, and round the corner at the end. Go through a kissing gate and into the edge of a field. Pass through another "waymarked" stile ahead, go over stone flags crossing a stream and then through another stile into a road.

Cross the road to a footpath, then turn right and continue on up Derry Hill. In harsh winter conditions this hill can be dangerous and an ice warning notice is displayed. At this point, the path peters out, so keep well into the side of the road. Pass a field entrance gate on your left, and then a little further on go through the stile in the wall, and into a meadow, where cattle may be grazing, and the going can be somewhat gooey.

Head for the next stile, which can be seen up a slight hill - to the right of a clump of trees. At the stile an arrow on a post to your left indicates that you now go left. More evidence here of the good work done by the Ramblers. The little copse is over the wall to your left. Go through another stile and keep on in the same direction going up a slight gradient, using an electric pylon with cross wires as your marker, soon reaching another stile which leads into the Keighley road. Cross this, turn left, and a short distance further down go through a stile on your right into a field.

Keep on in the same direction, heading diagonally for the far corner of the field. Before the corner is actually reached, look to your left for a stile which leads into a lane. Go through this and turn right up the lane that runs behind Highroyds Hospital grounds.

At farm buildings, go through a kissing gate at the right of a field gate. Continue on the clearly defined (probably very muddy in parts) route, traversing another stile to the right of a field gate and finally going through a gate at the right hand side of another field where there is a cattle grid. Shortly a path junction is reached near a half-completed stone house on the left. This is another "drop-off" point in the walk: taking the path on the left will take you to Guiseley, emerging at Thorpe Lane. Just before Thorpe Lane is reached, turn left down the signposted path which goes through trees and comes out at White Cross. A return to Burley can be made by bus from there, or by walking down Leeds Road, turning up Morton Terrace (opposite the Guiseley end of what was the Silver Cross factory) and reaching the station for the return by train.

To continue the main walk, take the path on the right at the junction and go through a stile at the left of a metal field gate. When the many gorse bushes are in bloom, it is a riot of colour hereabouts.

To the left is Odda Hill. The name is said by some historians to be derived from "Todhaw": Tod being old English for fox, and Haw or How being old English for a spur-shaped hill. Perhaps local farmers could say whether many foxes are still seen in that area today. It is said that, when the trams still ran to Guiseley (Arnold Lavers building being the old tram shed), many people came out from Leeds to do a walk to Ilkley using this route; returning by Samuel Ledgard's bus to Guiseley, then taking the tram back to Leeds.

Continue on this very ancient track until the Baildon Road is reached, then turn right. Cross the road to a sign-posted stile a little further down and continue on through a farmyard, then going through another stile to the right of a "muck heap". Keep on, with a wall to your left, then through another stile to the left of which is a wooden footpath sign and to the right of which is a seat - so this might be quite a nice picnic stop. There is also a convenient waste paper bin nearby!

Continue on the track, which meanders near a hill where there are more gorse bushes. There is now a wire fence to the left, beyond which is the Reva Reservoir Scout Sailing Centre. Go through another stile and keep straight on where the track now joins the Sailing Centre approach road.

On joining the Bingley road, turn left, and go downhill - keeping well into the side of this busy road. On reaching the road that comes in from Hawksworth (Goose Lane), cross the Bingley road and take the signposted moorland track through a gate at the left hand side of Intake Gate Farm. Then pass through another stile at the left of a metal field gate, continuing on the clear track ahead. More evidence of Ramblers repair work here. You are now walking the Menston section of Rombalds Moor.

The track continues along the edge of the moor, with a stone wall to your right. After poor weather there will very likely be a few challenging "trough-like" sections to be negotiated along here.

Through another stile, soon passing a track that goes off to the left and traverses the edge of what used to be the rifle range. This can, of course, be used to take you back to Burley if you wish. It leads to Yorkgate Farm, from where you go down the lane (Green Lane), then left down a track at the side of the second cottage on your left. Thence to Burley Woodhead and the track down at the side of the Hermit pub that joins Hag Farm Road further down. For the main walk, we continue straight on, with the wall to our right. A magnificent panorama comes into view now. The lovely sweep of the Wharfe Valley ahead, and away to the right the trees at the top of Rawdon Billing can be clearly seen.

Through another wall stile, then down along a broad grass track, heading for two footpath signposts which can be seen ahead. After poor weather another "challenging" section to negotiate on the way. As you near the first signpost something of a scramble may be required when you reach a section of broken-down wall. Certainly care is needed to negotiate this. When the nearby stream is in full spate, an extra hazard is introduced here and dexterity with great care is called for (along with a pair of good stout waterproof boots!). Continue on to the second signpost ahead, then, cresting the brow of a hill, make for a gully track that leads down to a wall where there is a footpath sign. Go through a wooden gate and down a meandering sunken (very ancient) narrow lane to cross a stream at the bottom.

Turn right and go down a wide lane (Green Lane) to join the Woodhead road. Take very great care in crossing here and then go down the Glen road opposite - indicated by a signpost. The very attractive restored stone building on the right originally housed people who worked at the mill, the ruins of which you see shortly.

Just past the stone house on your left (appropriately named The Glen) go through a small way-marked gate which leads into the delightful little Glen itself. Walk down between privet hedges then over a bridge across swiftly flowing Carr Beck.

Turn right when through a stile and go downhill. Looking to your right as you approach the next stile, you can make out the shape of the old mill dam and when through the next stile, you have a good view down onto the haunting ruins of an 18th century mill. Only the chimney section remains now, but by noticing where the stones change colour on the

chimneystack, you can actually see the holes where the roof beams of the mill buildings joined onto the stack. The dam itself is now completely silted up, but the metal and wood remains of a sluice gate can be made out. Trees growing in what was the dam area show where mother nature has been at work reclaiming her own, over the many years that have elapsed since the mill closed.

Through another stile now, the path meandering down through holly trees, the beck to our right, to link up with the path we used on the approach to Bleach Mill Lane, where we turn left and return to Burley station via Hag Farm Road.

After poor weather, please take extra care when coming down the last section of the Glen: the path can be very slippery in parts.

We hope this walk will encourage you to explore the extensive network of footpaths around our village.

**Colin Newton is secretary of the Ramblers' Association Lower Wharfedale Group.**

Please Note: This ramble was published in 2002: some names of commercial premises have changed since then but the route remains largely unchanged.