



# Burley in Wharfedale

## information

[HOME](#) | [Information](#) | [Community](#) | [Parish Council](#) | [History](#) | [Gallery](#) | [Village Diary](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Links](#) | [iBurley](#) | [Businesses](#) |

[Forum](#)

### Ramble 1

#### Burley Woodhead (Circular)

**Approximate total distance: 4 miles**

**Walking time: 2 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

Leave the car park by the footpath exit and turn right into Prospect Road. Turn right into Rose Bank and continue on to Sandholme Drive. A short distance after passing Greenfield Way on your right, turn up a footpath on your right. On joining a road, continue for a short distance straight on and look for a waymarked footpath on your left.

Go up between gardens and then ascend some eroded steps to join the trackbed of the disused Burley to Otley railway. Turn left along the trackbed for a short distance, and then turn right to descend to a stile.

Cross the stile. A short distance further on you will see another stile on your right, leading into a plantation. Cross some stone flags and the stile, and then immediately veer left to walk up the side of the plantation for a few yards. (This section becomes overgrown in summer, but is regularly cleared by members of the Ramblers' Association). The path meanders, then turns right and winds up to a further stile allowing access to a pedestrian crossing of the operating Burley to Menston railway. TAKE GREAT CARE CROSSING THE RAILWAY, keeping children and dogs under control! (If you can see or hear a train, wait until it has passed before crossing: don't take a chance.)

Leave the railway by the stock-proof stile on the opposite side of the track into a field. The path cuts the corner of the field and leads to a wooden plank bridge (provided by the Ramblers' Association) crossing Carr Beck. Cross the bridge and then turn right as indicated by a waymarking arrow at that point. A short distance further on you will see another orange waymarked stile. Cross the stile and continue in the same direction.

With the stream on your right, continue to another stile to be seen on the left. Cross a second wooden bridge. Walk on the left-hand side of the field and admire the view!

Continue through a further stile: high ground to be seen on the left was settled in the Bronze Age. It is possible that the Ilkley to Adel Roman road came this way and that you are crossing the route somewhere along this stretch of the walk.

Pass through two more stiles (some stones on the right hand side will help avoid the worst of the mud after the second!) and continue up the field, keeping holly bushes on your left. Pass through another stile: the stream is just on your left. Continue across a small meadow, through another stile and on up a field. This was the site of smart weekend chalet huts for many years. Only one run-down example now remains, to be seen in the top right corner of the field.

Head for a stile at the left-hand side of a field gate. This leads to a junction of paths where you head on up the hill. The crossing track is very ancient and links Menston to Burley Woodhead and on to Rombalds Moor. It now forms part of the Dalesway link and Ebor Way long distance walks.

Looking to your left as you cross this track you will see what remains of the old Bleach Mill, and Bleach Mill Lane going from there to Menston village. There is still a house, but the mill itself closed many years ago. When the mill was operating, cloth would have been laid out in the surrounding fields suspended from "tenterhooks" as part of the bleaching process.

From here, look back in the direction that you have come and admire the view before continuing up the hillside towards the holly bushes ahead. Pass through a stile in a wall and continue upwards. On your left, you now have a good view of an 18th century mill. Only the chimney now remains, but the change in stone colours reveals where the roof of the mill buildings joined onto the stack. Above the mill is the old mill dam, which can be seen as you pass through the next stile. The pond is silted up and covered in trees, but the remains of a sluice gate can be seen. Go through another stile and straight on, then through a waymarked stile, which leads to a footbridge.

Pass a house named "The Glen" on your right, ascend some steps and turn right. The restored building on your left was originally a complete row of mill workers' houses. **TAKING CARE**, as the view of approaching traffic is restricted, cross the Burley Woodhead road and continue up the lane directly opposite, with the stream now on your immediate left. As you approach a bend in the lane a short distance further on, note the duck pond on your right! Continue past up the lane.

Panoramic views now open out on your right. Pass Moorland Cottage on your right. (If you wish to shorten the walk, there is a path at the right hand side of the cottage that leads straight back to Burley Woodhead near The Hermit public house. A path at the side of the pub carpark leads down to Hag Farm Road, and hence back to Burley village.) Otherwise continue up the lane to the moorland edge at York View Farm, which is on your left. You can look down and beyond the Wharfe valley to the Vale of York. In the right conditions - probably best on a cold sunny day in winter - you really can see York Minster some 25 miles away. Take some binoculars for the best chance of seeing it!

Go through the 6-bar wooden gate on the moor and turn right. Continue along the clear track and then down hill, passing near the back of Crag Top Farm: note the rugged Victorian craftsmanship from 1861 in this bleak and exposed position. An old quarry can be seen on the left: just one of several on Burley Moor. These once provided good quality stone for local projects and have left substantial spoil tips giving some evidence of the scale of quarrying that once went on.

Where the main track turns in to a second farm building, branch off down a grass track and continue down to the Burley Woodhead road. Approaching the road, note the memorial seat (now in need of repair) in memory of local naturalist and campaigner Walter Flesher. Turn right up hill along the road to the Public Footpath Menston sign. Turn left down this path and pass through the stile soon reached on the right. Continue across a small meadow to another stile, through a stone stile and continue to a waymarked stile. Don't pass through this stile, but turn down hill.

At the bottom of the hill, go through a kissing gate and continue straight down. Through another stile and then through a waymarked gate (please fasten the gate shut when you

pass). Veer slightly left and head towards the right hand side of some silver birch trees. Aim for a waymarked post to be seen ahead. This section can be very muddy and wet after heavy rain, so take care! Now cross a meadow to another waymarked stile. From here, head for a stile into Hag Farm Road at the right hand side of the stump of a recently collapsed tree. Turn left along Hag Farm Road and walk back to Burley station.

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