

# WALK

## Otley Chevin and Danefield

Difficulty rating:



3.5 hours  
5.5 miles

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### HOW TO GET THERE



Maps: OS Explorer 297 Lower Wharfedale and Washburn Valley.

Toilets: Near Otley bus station, or near Civic Centre, Pool Road.

Refreshments: Royalty pub on Otley Chevin, and Otley.

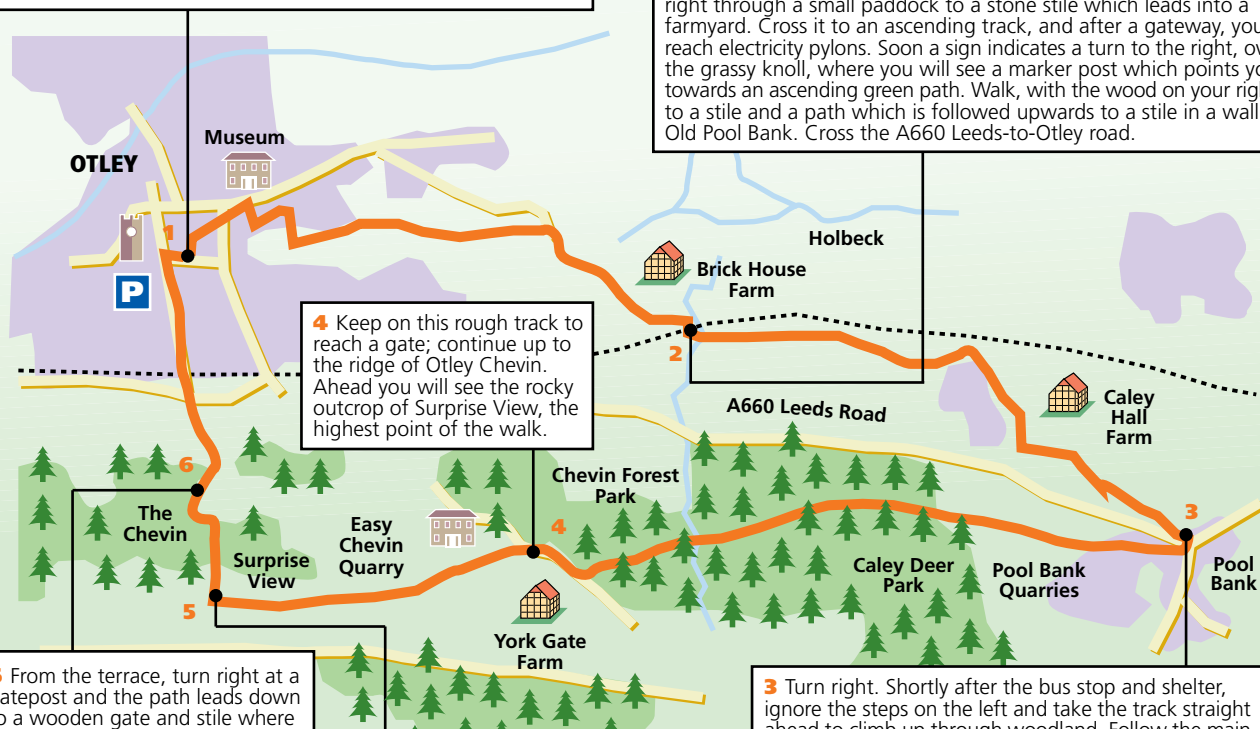
Parking: Otley.

**1** Starting from the Post Office in the middle of Otley, go along Walkergate towards the Maypole. Just before the Manor House pub is a ginnel to South View Terrace, then turn left as far as West View and right to a children's playground. At the public footpath sign, go left along the track to a stile and a row of three houses, then along a track which gives access to a field. Go slightly right to a wooden stile into a field and continue, keeping the fence on your right. Two further stiles and a field bring you to a narrow metalled road, where you turn right. By the entrance to Brick House Farm, turn right where the road becomes a grassy track which is followed to a fence with a stile.

### Walk description:

Otley Chevin's 700 acres are now administered as the Chevin Forest Park and include the Danefield estate where evidence of early settlements has been found, including flint arrow heads and implements dating back 4,500 years. The lower slopes of Otley Chevin are wooded and give way higher up to rocky outcrops with heather and bilberry growing on rugged hillsides. From the summit there are fine views of Lower Wharfedale and towards Leeds and Bradford.

**2** Go right, under the railway bridge, then immediately left at another stile. Keep the railway on your left and, at a stile and small bridge, go straight on, then right at the field corner to a gateway by a stile and left into another field. Continue until a stone stile is crossed. Look for a metal step-stile across the field. Cross straight over a driveway to a similar stile and follow the fence to the right to find a stile. Turn right through a small paddock to a stone stile which leads into a farmyard. Cross it to an ascending track, and after a gateway, you reach electricity pylons. Soon a sign indicates a turn to the right, over the grassy knoll, where you will see a marker post which points you towards an ascending green path. Walk, with the wood on your right, to a stile and a path which is followed upwards to a stile in a wall at Old Pool Bank. Cross the A660 Leeds-to-Otley road.



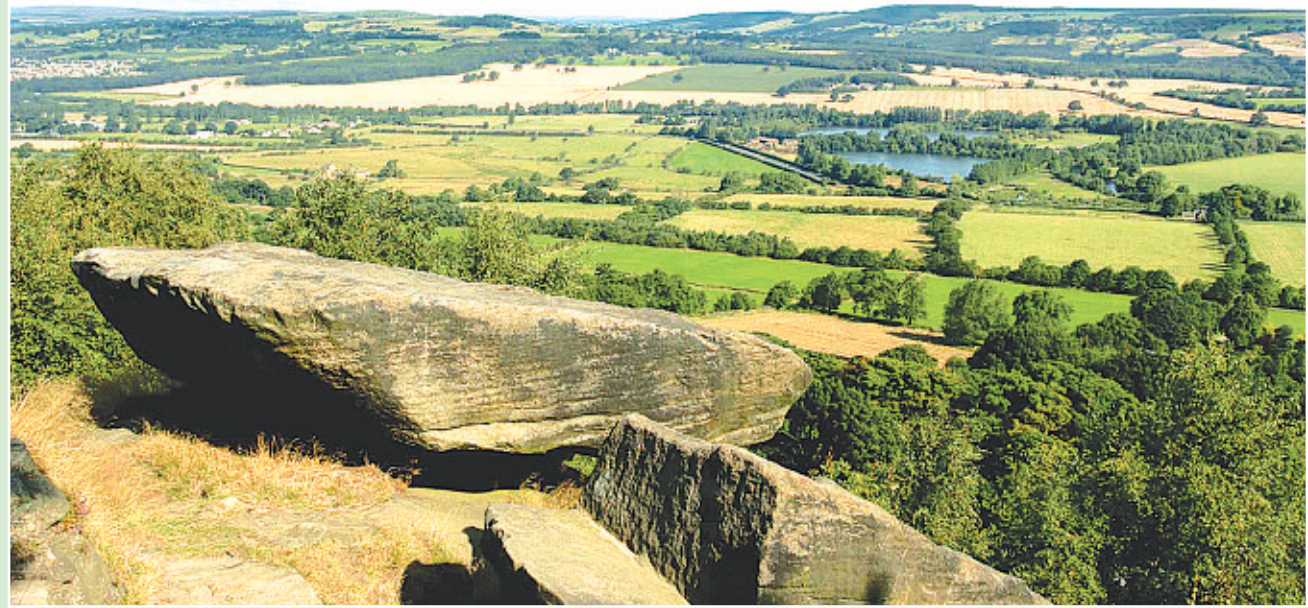
**4** Keep on this rough track to reach a gate; continue up to the ridge of Otley Chevin. Ahead you will see the rocky outcrop of Surprise View, the highest point of the walk.

**6** From the terrace, turn right at a gatepost and the path leads down to a wooden gate and stile where you rejoin the main path from the Chevin. Ignore the second wooden gate on the left and take the next narrow footpath and continue to a road. Go straight over to continue on a footpath, over the bridge above the Otley bypass. Go through the bollards, down Station Road and turn right into Bondgate.

**5** The return to Otley is direct and goes down towards the trees; by a lower track you will see a flight of steps leading steeply down through the woods. A small track is crossed, then, slightly further on, leave the steps and turn left onto a second track to the White House visitor centre.

**3** Turn right. Shortly after the bus stop and shelter, ignore the steps on the left and take the track straight ahead, to climb up through woodland. Follow the main track along the edge of the ridge. At a kissing-gate, keep in the same direction. When the path divides, keep straight on to cross a wooden bridge at Holbeck, from where the track becomes narrower but leads to the car park at Shawfield. From the bottom of the car park, take a narrow path round the fence and through the trees, roughly parallel with the road, to emerge at a stile by the road. Cross to a track directly opposite.

Otley Chevin



Compiled by Roger Ratcliffe; Graphic by Graeme Bandeira

Please note that our weekend walk maps are merely a guide: Walkers should use the appropriate OS map for the area, and take care that they follow rights of way. When following a previously published walk, remember that landmarks and rights of way may have altered. **We cannot take any responsibility for trespass on private land.** Always follow the Country Code. Close gates, keep dogs on leads near livestock, don't litter and don't pick wild flowers.