

# Grisedale and Garsdale

Our walk starts at the Railway Station at Garsdale – We parked at the “overflow” carpark on the right of the station. Please be aware that the station carpark is primarily provided for rail users and be aware that ample parking is also available on the road.

The station is easy to find, and well signed from the A684 – but if in doubt, Sat-Nav Users can use the station postcode – LA10 5PP, whilst paper map users will find grid reference SD78719168 locates the carpark, and for What-3-Words users, the tag is “**twinkling.graphics.quiz**”.

From the car park we set off left, heading down hill on the “Coal Road” – noting the rather dire (and entirely accurate) warning about the dangers of using this unclassified road in the winter.

When we meet the A684 at the bottom of the hill, look for a squeeze stile in the wall opposite. This leads into a rough pasture where we head straight on. We now head uphill, aiming for another stile directly above our first – this is not visible at first, but becomes clear as we head onward.

After the second stile, the ground is flatter, and initially follows the route of the beck in the valley to the left.

Ahead of us, we see a farmhouse – this is Blake Mire, and our path goes through a gate to the right of the building to pick up a short section of track. We follow this for a short while (no more than 100m) before seeing a stile in the wall to our left which takes us back out onto scrubby moorland.

At this point, it’s easy to misinterpret one of the fence posts downhill as being a way marker – it’s not. Stay at the same level and track along the contours to find a stile in the wall. From here the path is clearer and is marked by ad-hoc yellow markers.

The path soon becomes a farm track and heads down toward a gate onto a minor road, where we turn right and head gently uphill toward a farm building at Rigg Moor. As an alternative, there is a path across two fields roughly parallel with the road and emerging at Rigg Moor – the choice is yours.

From the road at Rigg Moor, look left and downhill to find the stile in the drystone wall which takes us Northwest and gently downhill toward a modernised farm building at Reachey – the path here goes along the side of the river, so can be quite muddy if the weather has been wet for a while.

At Reachey, we keep the house on our left and follow the clear path along the riverbank until we see a delightful packhorse bridge at East Scale.

The bridge gives access to two farms, referred to as East and West Scale – both are currently derelict.

From here, the OS map, and indeed the signage, shows the footpath continuing up the side of the valley before turning back and heading back toward the track that we see at the packhorse bridge. Given that there is nothing specific to see at the point where the footpath doubles back, we opted to walk up the track to the farm building at Flust.

Don't be tempted to take the footpath below the farm – press on through the farmyard to pick up the wider track that is part of the Pennine Journey. We now follow the track Southeast along the side of Grisedale Common, passing a lime kiln converted to an animal shelter on our left.

The track soon turns right and heads downhill, and at this point we stick with the Pennine Journey path as we head straight on across flattish moorland toward a high ladder stile – which we use as a landmark as we approach. From here the route may seem a little unclear - so make sure that having crossed the ladder stile you keep the drystone wall on your left tracking it downhill toward a footbridge over the railway.

Having crossed the railway, we cross the field roughly along the line of the telegraph poles to find a stile onto the B6259. This is the main road through to Kirby Stephen, so take care.

At the road we turn left and walk along the B6259 for a short while. We pass Quarry farm and as the road starts to head uphill, we see a stile and fingerpost on the right directing us across fields toward a plantation where a narrow but clear path takes us through pine trees to a pick up a rough track down to a very pretty eighteenth-century chapel, sitting on a lonely hillside.

From here our primary route back heads steeply uphill to reconnect with the High Way / Pennine Bridleway at Calf Moss, where we turn right and pass High Dyke before coming back down to Cobbles Plantation. It is worth noting that there is an alternate footpath along the valley bottom which gives an opportunity to shorten this walk and take out some of the steeper slopes.

At the bottom of the Cobbles Plantation, we meet the top of the River Ure - the river through Wensleydale - at Ure Force. The falls are perhaps best viewed from one of the two bridges over the Ure at this point either one of which we take on the next leg of the journey down to the Moorcock Inn.

The bridleway crosses the A684, and then continues below the viaduct for a while, we cross under it at a gate, and rise again to follow the railway line back to the station and the parked cars.

- **Total distance 15.3 km (9.5 miles)**
- **Total Ascent 590 m**
- **Challenging walk**