

Low Bentham

We start in Low Bentham at the free public car park at Harley Bank.

Sat Nav users will find that postcode LA2 7BX gets them to the right part of Main Street, whilst the What-3-Words tag **boils.partly.shortcuts** or grid reference SD65056935 adds some precision.

There is obviously scope to walk down from High Bentham to pick up the start via the riverside path if a longer walk is preferred.

From the car park we turn left and walk downhill past the Victoria Institute and take the path on the left opposite the Sundial. This takes us under the railway where we see the entrance to the fish farm. We take the path to the right which brings us to the footbridge over the river Wenning.

At the far end of the bridge, we take the steps down on the left and walk between the buildings at Low Mills to emerge onto Mill Lane. We walk left and uphill at the Lane passing the industrial units on our left.

Very soon we see a sign for a public footpath on the right at Clouds Bank, and from here we walk across a couple of fields on a clear path to pick up Eskew Lane at the bottom corner of a field.

At Eskew lane we take a right turn and walk down to the junction with the B6480 at the Punch Bowl. At this stage the river Wenning is on our left again, with Cedar House School and the Church of St John the Baptist on the curve of the river further to our left.

We cross the river at the road bridge, taking care as there is no pavement here, and look out for the footpath on the right hand side of the road immediately after the bridge. We take the narrow path along the edge of the Wenning following it upstream for a short while, before passing under the railway bridge (the punch bowl viaduct) to find the steps known locally as the "Fairy Steps". These lead up through a dense patch of wild garlic to a stile where we enter fields again.

From here the path is well marked, and heads North East to a gate and a rough lane. We go through the gate and immediately turn left to take a smaller path down the side of the farm buildings at West End Farm until we arrive at a small but well surfaced track.

Here we turn left, and follow the lane until it becomes a footpath, heading diagonally across pasture with Goodenbergh farm ahead of us.

At the farm, we cross the farm access road and see the footpath continue ahead - adjacent to a rather fine pheasant mosaic. We climb a gentle slope, with woodland on our right, which for the most parts hides the caravans at Goodenburgh Holiday Park.

To our left now is a small lake which attracts a good selection of water birds, and ahead is the road at Ravens Close Brow. We take the gate onto the road and turn left, again taking care as there is no pavement.

Almost immediately we see the sign for the public footpath continuing on the right hand side of the road, and we follow the clear path slightly to the left and up a gentle slope with views over toward Ingleborough before heading down toward a stile at Gill Farm.

We cross a slightly boggy meadow to take a gate on the left into the farmyard and then head sharp right and uphill to meet Back Lane. Here we turn right, heading East along a very quiet and very straight lane back to a Y-junction with Ravens Close Brow.

At the junction we turn left. Ahead of us to the right we immediately see a large array of solar panels. On the right hand side of the road we see a gate accessing the footpath across the fields to the right of the solar array. The path is clear, and heads uphill, toward a gate in a fence at the far end of the array.

Here we head slightly left toward the corner of the next field where we find a stile that leads onto a lane – on the day of the group walk this was dry, but under different weather conditions it can be somewhat wet and muddy so chose your path carefully.

We follow this lane back down to Low Bentham, where it emerges at Green Head Farm, where Greenfoot Lane and Cross Lane meet. Here we turn right and follow Greenfoot Lane downhill to the Cross and then onto Burton Road.

To finish the walk we continue downhill to the road junction at the Sundial, and then briefly left and uphill back to Harley Bank and the car park.

- **Total distance 7.7 km (4.8 miles)**
- **Total Ascent 264 m**
- **Easy walk**