

Appersett Mosaics

If you are using a paper map to get to the start of this walk, then the grid reference is SD85839069. If you prefer What-3-Words, then the tag **headlines.custard.flagged** pinpoints the parking area, and if you are relying on satnav then postcode DL8 3LN covers the general area, or you might try Lanacar Lane as a destination – this is the road that we use right at the end of the route.

We start by heading west on the A684, crossing the bridge over the Widdale Beck, and head along the A684 toward the next bridge – over the River Ure this time. Under typical weather conditions, the safest way to do this is to take the path into the field on the left by the farm gate, and then walking inside the field until the exit gate just before the river bridge. You might notice from the GPX that we stayed on the road – this was simply because the field was flooded.

Take care crossing the bridge and then follow the road round to the left where a junction will be visible – the minor road on the right leads to Harddraw. Opposite is a fingerpost indicating a footpath into the flatish fields at the bottom of the fells. This is the direction we take toward Harddraw. The path crosses the field and a stream (Broad Carr Sike) before heading left and uphill through a gate. From here we contour around Bearsett Hill until we see a branch in the path. Straight ahead (North) we see a ladder stile on the path that heads up Bluebell Hill to join the Pennine way – however we take a right turn (east) and cross the drystone wall on our right to head along flattish ground toward Harddraw.

As we approach Harddraw, the footpath joins a wide lane where we turn right and head down to the main road through the village where we turn left. We walk along the main road through the village – noting St Mary and St Johns on the left adjacent to the Harddraw Beck. After the church look for the Green Dragon pub on the left and turn left immediately after the pub to take a well signposted path (Simonstone 1/3) through the yard of a house and then up a field with a drystone wall on our left.

We now head up through a gate and across the field heading North toward a building where we cross the drystone wall and head West toward Simonstone, where we see the Simonstone Hotel.

The path joins a lane behind the hotel, and we take this to meet the main road which we briefly take to the left. Note that this road becomes the Buttertubs Pass over to Muker and Swaledale, but we follow it for no more 20m to find a stile on the right. The stile gives us access to a path which tracks along the side of the fell above the Sedbusk lane. We follow this path for a while now, crossing a number of stiles / gates until we arrive at the tiny hamlet of Sedbusk where the path enters the hamlet between a couple of houses.

At the minor road we turn right and head downhill until we see the post-box set in a wall. We are now on Sedbusk Lane, and we turn right here to head back toward Simonstone. We stay on Sedbusk lane for just a short while though: We see a footpath indicated on the left, heading down toward the river Ure and Haylands Bridge. We now head downhill – taking care because the slope is steep and the ground potentially very wet.

The path is clear, crossing stiles until we arrive at the road back into Harddraw. Here we cross and continue along a stone flagged path down toward the river. At the road we turn left and follow the road (carefully) across the Haylands Bridge to take the path on the right to the wooden footbridge

From here, the path heads over to the banks of the Ure, and we follow it upstream for a while.

After a while, the river heads sharp right and the path continues up to the A684, where we turn left and walk with care toward Hawes. We cross the route of the railway and look for a signposted footpath on the right just beyond a caravan park on the left – we are on the main road for no more than 200m.

The path heads back up a track toward farm buildings at Thorns, and just beyond these are some very attractive cottages, Head to the end of these and follow the path across the field toward the waterfall in Spillian Green Sike.

From here we take a stile into a field where we see the path fork – we ignore the first path to the right and head to the far (Southwest) corner of the field where we take a path westward across flat and rather boggy fields. We pass a rather impressive Lime Kiln before we arrive at a way marker offering two different routes to Lanacar Lane – this is the minor road under the Appersett viaduct. We take the lower route – in effect a right turn relative to how we arrived – but clearly it would not matter if you take the other route – it's just further to walk down Lanacar lane.

Our path crests a small hill with a couple of curiously marked stones and then heads down to Lanacar Lane where we turn right and head downhill.

We walk under the rather impressive Appersett Viaduct; This five arch stone structure was built in 1873 and is now Grade II listed. To our left we can see Widdale Beck which boasts some rather fine waterfalls, and we follow the beck downstream on Lanacar Lane until we arrive back in Appersett.

- **Total distance 10.3 km (6.4 miles)**
- **Total ascent 270 m**
- **Easy walk**