

Sedbergh Riverside and Lune Viaduct

We start in Sedbergh using Howgill Lane as a departure point – roadside parking is free - but as ever, please be considerate to local residents. If you are using Satnav to get to the start, then the address to enter is Howgill Lane, Sedbergh, LA10 5BE. The What-3-Words tag **smart.amused.headlines** corresponds to the same location as does OS map reference SD65449230. We initially head out uphill along Howgill Lane, passing houses on the left and the Howgill Fells on the right.

We continue up the road until the end of the housing, when we see a lane on the right leading up to Lockbank Farm. At the farm we head toward the fells via a metal gate and then turn sharp left to follow the drystone wall that marks the lower edge of Winder. This is a popular and well-trodden path, so navigation should not be an issue – we initially stay quite close to the wall, but as we climb the path veers a little to the right - just make sure that you don't stray too far from the wall, and all will be well.

After a while, the path starts to come back down to the drystone wall, and ahead we see a gate at the top of a rough lane leading back down to Howgill Lane, where we turn right and walk along the road for a just a short while. On our left we soon see a farm at Height of Winder where a well-marked footpath takes us Westward through fields toward Low Branthwaite. The path goes around the back of the farm buildings and then into a large field where we head west to cross a stile onto a minor road (Slacks Lane). The stile is not immediately visible – so head for the far left hand corner of the field to find it.

Once at the road, we see a stile opposite and our path continues in an unchanged direction, to pick up a farm track with barns on our right. We follow the track down for a little while, and then spot a waymarked gate in the bottom corner of the field.

At the bottom of the next field, we exit onto a track and find a way marker showing us a good choice of paths. We take the option signed as Low Branthwaite which takes us to a very small road that crosses a beck at a stone bridge before climbing toward a cluster of houses. As we approach the houses we see a way marker for the Dales way, where we turn left and head over a stile and then along the hedge line for a while.

We find a gate at the end of the field and from here the path curves round to the right before the viaduct comes into view. The viaduct is good place to take a break and to enjoy the views before following the river downstream still on the Dales Way. The path initially takes us over a wooden footbridge before following the course of the river down to Lincolns Inn Bridge – another grade II listed structure.

The path now heads Southwest, and initially follows the riverbank, but soon leaves it and heads slightly to the left – it's very clear where the path is, and there is plenty of signposting, so navigation should not be a problem.

We cross a stile into a flat field and walk around the outer edge of the field toward the farmhouse at Luneside. We need to take care to take the Dales Way between the farm buildings and out onto a narrow track, heading Southwest. We continue along the track – which narrows to a path after a while. We are following the River Lune still, but it's not visible at this point.

After a while, the path approaches a gate, where, on our left, we see a rotting tree stump. At this point the Dales way meets another less used path, and we need to go through the gate and then immediately back on ourselves over a stile to head in what is very nearly a reversal of our earlier direction. Some effort can be saved by clipping the corner of the field at the tree stump if you wish.

From here we aim to the right of a stand of trees over meadow that can be quite boggy at times. The direction of travel is now Northwest, and we are helped by way markers at each field boundary. A farm, with a recently built haulage yard soon comes into view, and we pick up a lane to the left of the buildings to head down to the main road – the A684 again.

We turn right on the main road, but leave it again almost immediately – again on the right to take a narrow lane toward a curious castle like structure. This cottage is part of the larger complex of buildings that are Ingmire Hall – relatively little of it is visible from the road or public footpaths,

We continue down a narrow, and clearly ancient lane flanked by magnificent gnarled beech trees until we arrive at the A683.

Here we turn left and walk along the main road for a short while – this needs some care because the road is busy, and there is no footpath. The on-road section is short however, and we soon see a sign indicating the Friends Meeting House on the right – this takes us down a very quiet narrow lane toward Brigflatts.

From the meeting house, we initially head back up the lane and then take a waymarked path just opposite the burial ground. This takes us across fields and toward the track bed of the old railway line, where we find a small tunnel under the line with the path continuing beyond, through fields as far as Birks. Once we meet the road at Birks, we follow it round to the left until we find the entrance drive to Birks House – just to the right of the drive is a pedestrian gate giving access to the public footpath that comes around the front of the house and then heads into Sedbergh.

The path passes the sports centre for Sedbergh School, and then meets a minor road. We cross, and continue on the far side taking a clearly signed route through the school buildings and over to the church of St Andrew where a path behind the church brings us onto main street Sedbergh.

It is worth taking a few minutes to explore Sedbergh, before returning to this spot to take the alley opposite the Tourist Information Centre which leads up to Bainbridge Road – we cross here and continue on a second walkway to meet Fairholme where we turn left and walk to the end where we encounter Howgill Lane once again. From here we head right and back to our starting point.

- **Total distance 10.1 km (6.3 miles)**
- **Total ascent 248 m**
- **Easy walk**