

Furnessford & Hindburn Bridges

The start of the walk is at the free car park in Low Bentham – it's clearly signposted off Main Street, just uphill from the Victoria Institute. If you are not from Bentham, and need to use Satnav to find it, then enter the address as The Sidings, Low Bentham or use What-3-Words tag **drizzly.leopard.plays**. The OS Grid reference is SD65060 69337.

We begin by exiting the car park and heading downhill into Low Bentham where we take the walkway on the left opposite the Sun Dial which goes under the railway bridge and toward the River Wenning.

Once we are under the railway bridge we take the path round to the right and over the pedestrian bridge toward the housing that sits on the site of the Silk Mills for which Bentham was once famous. After the bridge we walk between the flats to pick up Mill Lane where we head left, walking uphill along the road until we see the entrance for Kirkbeck on the right. Here we go right and follow the farm track toward the farm buildings. Once we get to the farm head diagonally right as you approach the farm to find a footbridge over Eskew Beck at the bottom of the small valley just beyond the farm.

After the footbridge the path continues steeply uphill before flattening out and following a field boundary up to a stile where we cross onto Mewith Lane.

We walk right down Mewith Lane for a little while now, and look for a Public Footpath sign on the left. This is just beyond a set of grand gates. The path now heads uphill, keeping to the side of the field at first and then heading right toward a farmhouse at Hill House. As we approach the farmhouse we see the path continuing along a well made track which runs between the farmhouse and the barns to it's right. Follow the track all the way to a minor road.

We cross and continue downhill toward Spen Gill Wood and follow the tree line down to the very attractive houses at Spen Gill Farm. We turn right on the access road and through a flat field to head left at the road, and over the bridge – Furnessford bridge.

Just beyond the bridge, we see a footpath sign on the right, and we take this to enter a field where a wonderfully atmospheric barn sits.

We head uphill through Birks Wood to find a minor road at Birks Farm and turn right at the farm and walk along the very quiet road for a while, enjoying views over the Wenning Valley to Ingleborough, Whernside, and as far as the Lake District Fells if the weather is good.

The road passes a barn similar to the one we passed earlier and then heads toward Cragg Hall – on the left of the road. At Cragg Hall, the road turns sharp left, and as it does so, we see a marked path leaving the road on the right, passing a modern bungalow, and heading across the field toward woodland. Here the path crosses a small beck to continue around the perimeter of a wheat field before coming back to the road. We re-join the road at a ninety degree bend, and we have no need to change direction – the road is in effect and extension of the track we were already on. So, we walk along the road for a while until we see it dip down to cross a beck, and then rise steeply on the far side.

We look out for a stile on the right hand side of the road which takes the path along the right hand boundary of the field and then diagonally across the next, to approach a farm.

We make sure we keep to the left of the farm, and soon see a stile onto the farm track which we follow downhill. We are now back at the River Hindburn, and as we follow the track down we see Hindburn Bridge come into view.

After crossing the Hindburn Bridge, look for the footpath on the left – it follows a farm access lane downstream along the Hindburn for a little while. We continue until we arrive at the farm and walk between the buildings and round the back of the farmhouse. At this point we see a path waymarked on the right taking us steeply uphill, and then across fields to Mealbank, and another farm. The path emerges between farm buildings onto a minor road and we turn left and almost immediately see a way marker and a stile such that we leave the road and continue Northeast across the fields.

After leaving the road we cross a series of fields at stiles, and as we emerge from the third stile – quite well hidden in a small depression where a beck runs – we need to make sure we bear slightly to the left and the top corner of Tatham Park Woods. (There is another path heading right which is not part of our route today).

We continue heading Northeast crossing field boundaries at stiles, until we crest the hill and start to descend, seeing the old school house of Tatham Church of England School dating from 1876. Just beyond the school, we meet a minor road where we turn right and head up to the next farm where we see a track on the left taking us to a stile to the right of a converted barn. The path from here forks – we need to keep hard right so that from the stile we head out Eastward. In practice the path we are taking is the more commonly used so the route should be clear.

The path heads toward a minor road at Higher Perries, and when we reach the road we turn right to walk along the road for a short while until we reach the track to Clintsfield – there is a marker stone with an ornate metalwork name plate.

From here we walk up the track between signs that refer to Lower Perries (on our left) and Higher Perries (on our right). Just past the buildings at Higher Perries, we notice a stile on the right and take this to connect with a path over to the farm at Greenfold.

The path continues through the farm buildings and then to the right of the farmhouse – way markers are present so the route should be clear, and from here we cross a number of fields at stiles to head down to a footbridge over a beck. Climbing on the other side, we soon arrive at a flatter (but boggy) field where the path heads over to Robert Hall. The path crosses the front of Robert Hall, and then heads out on the access lane. This would eventually arrive at Eskew Lane, which is where we are heading next, but rather than follow the farm lane all the way we take a clearly signposted path on the left which takes us down toward the woodland that lies behind the church of St John the Baptist in Low Bentham.

We stay with the path through the woodland, and emerge onto Eskew lane where we turn left and walk down to the Punchbowl, before heading right at the main road and back into the centre of Low Bentham where the walk ends.

- **Total distance 13.6 km (8.5 miles)**
- **Total ascent 361 m**
- **Moderate walk**