

# Wigglesworth

We start in Wigglesworth, and on this occasion, we used the layby on Jack Lane, just to the North of the village on the Rathmell road. There is also roadside parking in the village, and if you combine this walk with a visit to the pub, then using their car park would be an option. If you are using a paper map, then the layby is at grid reference SD80975710, and if you use Satnav, the address Jack Lane Wigglesworth, or postcode BD23 4RJ should work. If you prefer What-3-Words, then the tag is **evaporate.solicitor.outwards**.

From the parking place, we head slightly uphill and toward the centre of the village, where almost immediately we meet a junction with a small village green. We head right here to walk through the village passing the Plough Inn on our right.

After passing the pub, we stay on the right hand side of the road until we get to the old Post Office, where we find a public footpath leaving the road on the right. We take the path across the fields toward the woodland and then bearing slightly to the left follow down to a footbridge over Wigglesworth Beck.

Beyond the bridge, the path heads North – the route is clear and obvious, so navigation should not be a problem. After crossing a couple of field boundaries, we see a large pond ahead - the path skirts the right hand side of the pond before continuing North to a stile in the corner of the next field – this is quite well hidden so just head for the corner of the field under the tree canopy - the stile should then become apparent.

We now cross two more flat fields - it is worth noting that cattle may well be grazing here. We found them to be placid and curious of the walking group, approaching us quite closely. Some may find that close approach intimidating, especially if walking with a dog, so be prepared.

We soon arrive at a farm track and turn left to follow the track for a while. It bends right almost immediately, and we follow it round to Hard Head Plantation where we find a shepherd's hut set in a clearing at the edge of the woodland, announcing itself as Ali's Little Woodland Wonder.

We press on along the farm track and soon see Hard Head Farm ahead of us, and as we approach the farm, we see a gate on the right where the path continues downhill toward the trees growing at the side of Hollow Gill Beck. As we follow the path down, we find a footbridge, which takes the path onto a climb up the edge of woodland on the opposite side of this small valley, now heading toward Cattleside.

Before we get to Cattleside however, we reach a high point where to our right we find more shepherd's huts, and directly ahead a drystone wall that we used to sit against whilst we enjoyed a break. From here, the path heads downhill toward a small terrace of cottages, and beyond that Far Cattleside Farm. We walk to the left of the farm at first and then at the end of the barn turn sharp right, joining the Ribble Way to start our return journey.

We follow the farm access road down to the road linking Rathmell and Wigglesworth, where we turn right. There is no pavement on the road, so care is needed – however we are not on the road for long, and soon leave at a clearly waymarked path on the left. This takes us onto a farm access track, and its tempting to follow the track. In fact, the right of way is along the fence on the right.

We continue along the fence line, crossing a couple of stiles before we veer right and then down into a valley where we cross the Hollow Gill Beck again on another footbridge. On the far side we

scramble uphill – this is the only steep part of the walk, and then head left where the path levels off and heads toward Wigglesworth Hall Farm, with great views over the Ribble Valley toward Settle and Long Preston as we go.

As we approach Wigglesworth Hall Farm, we look for the way marker taking us off the farm track and through fields such that we skirt the right hand side of the farm. At the end of the farm buildings, we head down to a dusty track where we bear left. This soon meets another lane at a T-junction, and we take a right – if you are in any doubt here, we are heading away from Wigglesworth Hall farm and across a small stone bridge over Wigglesworth Beck.

The track now continues to the left heading toward a recently renovated barn at the far side of the beck. The public right of way leaves the track on the right just before the bridge that accesses the barn, and we now continue along the Ribble Way heading toward the river Ribble and the flood plain.

Navigation is easy now – we just follow the path along the side of the Beck until we get to the Ribble where we continue downstream along the riverbank toward Cow Bridge – a late 18<sup>th</sup> century stone arched bridge which is grade II listed. At the bridge the footpath returns to the road via a stile at the top of the field and we head right on the road before taking a left onto a minor lane almost immediately. We follow the lane for just a few metres until we see a way marker on the right at the access track to Cowber Farm. This takes us toward the farm, with the path passing to the left of the farm buildings, before heading South toward a cluster of buildings at Sandholme.

Here we are faced with an unusual sign – one warning us of bees, as there are a number of beehives situated here. We follow the path round to the left of the houses and then through a pair of gates to meet the access road. The path continues almost opposite, and we now continue across fields heading West toward Wigglesworth. On the day that the group completed the walk, the ground was firm and dry, but you should be aware that these final two fields before we arrive back on surfaced lanes can be quite boggy in wet conditions.

After crossing two fields, we arrive at an unclassified lane and head right, following it down to Church Lane at Wigglesworth where we turn left. From there it's just a short walk back to the village centre to find the cars (or enjoy a pint).

- **Total distance 10.5 km (6.5 miles)**
- **Total ascent 155 m**
- **Easy walk**