

## Hawes Mosaics (Part 2)

We start in Hawes, which has ample parking – we recommend the large car park at the old station where the Dales Countryside Museum, The Tourist Information Centre, the Ropeworks, and public toilets can all be found. To find this, head through Hawes as if to take the A684 toward Bainbridge – the carpark is clearly signed on the left just after the one way system. If you are using Satnav to get there, then try Burtersett Rd, Hawes DL8 3NT as an address. If you prefer paper maps then the grid reference for the car park is SD87558988, and the what-3-words tag is **directive.freedom.finishing**.

We head out of the car park along the access road. On the right hand side of the road, we noted an interesting flap set in the adjacent garden wall, which from a distance looks like it may be one of the mosaics – it's not. The exact function is unknown – guesses within the group included allowing hedgehogs transiting the garden to exit safely, or simply to allow improved drainage. Either way, it's an interesting addition and adds colour.

Back at the A684 we head left toward Bainbridge, crossing the road before we get to the agricultural merchants to ensure that we see the mosaic of a Land Rover set in the wall just beyond the entrance. Not far beyond this we see a well signed public footpath leaving the A684 on the right to head diagonally across a field toward Burtersett. The path goes to the right of the cemetery, and then heads up to a minor road which heads into Gayle. We cross the lane and continue opposite still heading uphill toward Burtersett, a village with an interesting history going back to Viking/Norse times.

Once you arrive at Burtersett, you may want to set aside a few minutes to explore the village. Worth seeing are the four storey old candle mill – disused since the new fangled electricity came in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and Hillary Hall, a grade II listed building which was once the seat of Sir Henry Hillary, a landowner in Upper Wensleydale famed for his work on tropical diseases. His nephew, Sir William Hillary, who campaigned for the institution of the RNLI, was born in the village, and Sir Edmund Hillary the mountaineer is part of the same family – although he was born in New Zealand.

Also in Burtersett is a mosaic depicting a Roman Soldier – this references the Roman Road (Cam Road) on the hill above Burtersett which linked Bainbridge to Hawes. Bentham Footpath Group have a walk that explores that in more detail: <https://benthamfootpathgroup.co.uk/semerwater-from-bainbridge/>

We now head out of Burtersett on the small road next to the Institute, heading West along Shaws Lane, passing a mosaic of a shepherd and dog as we head toward Gayle. The lane gives way to a clear and well signed path over fields, and we soon arrive at a fingerpost offering a choice of routes to Gayle. We take Gayle East, which brings us to the village close to the road bridge over Gayle Beck – notice the mosaic of a cow as we arrive at the road.

From here we cross the road bridge as if heading back into Hawes and look for the small path on the left immediately after the bridge. This takes us through interesting and pretty houses, past a ford and onto a minor road where we find a candle mosaic.

We continue for a short while, and as we arrive at the last cottage, we see a waymarked path heading uphill on the left. We take this and follow the path up to Aysgill Force, noting the Curlew mosaic in the last wall before the secluded 40ft waterfall.

We continue on upstream – the path is on the right of the beck - until we find a pedestrian bridge, which is a great place to pause for lunch. As we sit and enjoy a break, note Whether Fell looming over us on the left.

Refreshed, we stay on the right of the Beck and follow the path until we arrive at a fingerpost offering another choice of routes. We head right, signed for Faw Head, finding a metal gate which gives access to a green lane where we head right back toward Hawes and Gayle. Our next mosaic is set in the drystone wall to the right of the lane – and is the intensely colourful sign of the fish.

We follow the lane for a while now, passing a farm at Faw Head, and eventually arriving at the end of a minor road called Mossy Lane, which were we to follow it, would reconnect to the B6255 at the edge of Hawes.

We don't go that far though: We see, but do not take a path signed as Pennine Way on the left and continue down to the next metalled track on the left – this is Bands Lane, and we take the track up to farm buildings at Low Bands where we notice a mosaic depicting a small pink flower.

We carry on until we arrive at a T junction with another lane. This is the Cam Road again, this time the section that linked Hawes to Ingleton. We find a mosaic of a sunset here, before following the track to the right and down to the B6255.

We head right along the side of the road – care is needed here as the road is busy. We are on it for just a short section though before taking a waymarked footpath on the right back into fields. Before we do that though, we note the mosaic of a Kestrel set in the drystone wall to the far side of the road.

Once in the field the path forks, with the right hand route going back to Gayle, and the left (which we take) going back to Hawes. We cross Mossy Lane again and continue through a series of fields until we arrive back at Hawes near the creamery, where we take a well signed path back to the town centre at St Margaret's church. From there the route back to the car park is short and easy to find.

- **Total distance 11.6 km (7.2 miles)**
- **Total ascent 261 m**
- **Easy walk**