

Leyburn Shawl, Preston-under-Scar and Wensley

7-mile circular walk



START in Commercial Square outside Campbell's supermarket. With the shop on your right, walk to the bottom of Shawl Terrace and turn left through a gate onto Leyburn Shawl. Forward through another gate and there is an information board on your left.

LEYBURN Shawl is an escarpment which runs for a mile and three quarters and affords panoramic views towards Penhill and the Coverdale fells.

AFTER about 100 metres there is a stone plinth showing the names of the far hills. There are many viewing points and benches along the Shawl. Walk along the edge and you will go through fields and a wood to the end of the Shawl where there is a step stile, a wooden sign post and a gated stile.

LEAVE the Shawl via the gated stile on the left and walk down the sloping field, slightly to the right but in the general direction of Penhill. You will pass through another gated stile and continue downhill.

AT THE bottom of the hill, pass a five-bar gate (don't be tempted to walk through the gate down to the farm). With the wall on your left, walk to the corner of the field on your left, and proceed through a stile in the corner of the field.

FROM here, turn left and then right after about five metres into a wood. Follow the path that meanders through the wood and over streams.

LEAVE the wood via a stone squeeze stile and cross a large field, keeping the wall on your left of the field, aiming for the corner of the wall to the left of the tree and to the right of

the stone barn. Go through the gate and walk along the lane, turning right onto the metalled road to the village of Preston-under-Scar. You just skirt the village.

AS YOU enter the village, follow a footpath sign left, down between houses to reach a large pasture. Continue bearing slightly left. Aim between the large Ash trees towards a stile in a short length of old wall. (This wall has been in a state of disrepair).

GO THROUGH the stile and continue ahead towards a gate with a stile to the left at the bottom of the field. Cross over the stile to reach the Wensleydale railway line. Cross the line and continue up the track at the far side of the line. You will reach and should climb over a stile into the next field. Walk straight over the field, keeping to the right of the ruined barn. Use the gate and a footpath to reach a flight of stone steps leading down to the road ahead. Cross the road to proceed down a green lane opposite which passes a small plantation.

PROCEED down the hill which will take you into the grounds of Bolton Hall, passing farm buildings, you will see the hall on the left as you reach the long straight hall road. Walk along the road with the hall on the left towards the gates into the village of Wensley.

CROSS the main road towards the church and turn left, passing the church on your right. After about 150 metres, cross a stone bridge and immediately turn left and, after 60 metres, turn right through a gate which has POW inscribed on the gate post. Walk across the small field through a gate into a larger field.

MAKE for the right hand corner of the field, keeping to the bottom edge of the field to find another stile shortly after passing under the electricity line. Cross over this wooden stile and walk around the field boundary, keeping the fence on your right. Climb over the wooden stile at the top edge of the wood. Forward on your right is another stile into Old Glebe Field. You will cross over a wooden bridge, keeping the wall on your left, make your way uphill to exit the field by a stone squeeze stile.

CROSS the next small field and climb over the wooden stile on the opposite side. Turn left and make your way to the top side of this field, ignoring the wooden clad stone squeeze stile opposite. On reaching the top of the field, climb over the wooden stile on the right (has been in a state of disrepair) and proceed through six fields of varying sizes keeping to the northern edge and passing a small stone barn in the last one.

THEN through a stile and cross a small field to another stile and then over a ladder stile to cross the Wensleydale Railway and then over a second ladder stile. Cross diagonally right across the field to reach a stile next to a gate and then follow the footpath up the hill into Leyburn Market Place.