

Evening Walk

Distance: 1 mile (or more)

Right out of the farmyard and then turn left to the village. The green is on your right. Cross the green at the seat on the far side and go between the houses, to the field at the back. Cross to the top lefthand corner – disused quarry on the right. Go into the next field (over the stile) and cross diagonally to the top lefthand corner where it meets the road. Turn left* and follow the road back to the village and Valley View Farm.

*For a longer walk, turn right. When you come to a gate on your left with a bridleway sign, go through and follow the wall on your left as it runs away from the road; cross two fields, then turn left and walk with the wall on your right crossing three fields. At the corner of the third, turn left and with the wall on your right follow it back towards the lane. There is a stile onto the lane. Turn right and follow the road back to Old Byland.

Hill Gill and Grange Farm

Distance: 1 mile

Right out of the farmyard and right again, away from the village, onto the road towards Sutton Bank. Take the path on the left leading to Grange Farm, but just before the farm take the track to the left and go across two fields. Look for the footpath sign on the left, and go through the gate into Hill Gill. Follow the path across the gill and onto the road. Turn right to get back to the farm. A wide variety of trees grows in Hill Gill – hawthorn, hazel, elder, blackthorn, sycamore – some of them very old specimens. The few bare Elm trunks are the legacy of Dutch Elm disease. As the gill widens out it provides a good undisturbed habitat for flowering plants.

Field Walk

Distance: 1.25 miles

Through the gate at the end of the farmyard and straight across the grass field to the lower gate of the two. From here, follow the field wall on your right through the next field to the gate in the corner. Go through this and turn right and follow the hedge on your right which leads up to Mount Pleasant Farm. Go through the gate onto the road and turn right. When you reach the junction turn right and back to Valley View Farm.

Under the first field are the ruins of old Byland Abbey. Much of the specially shaped stone was taken to the new site, four miles south and a lot of the remaining stone was used to build the houses in the village.

High Leir Lane Walk

Distance: 3 miles

Left out of the farmyard and keep straight ahead as the road from the village joins. Take the next left (High Leir Lane). At the second stile on the left and footpath sign, turn left. Take this path down through two fields; the wall is on your right. When you meet the road turn left and back to Valley View Farm.

Caydale

Distance: 4.5 miles

Left out of the farmyard and keep straight ahead, down the narrow lane signed 'unsuitable for motor vehicles'. Cross the river at the bottom with Caydale Mill to your right. Keep on the road as it goes up the other side and onto the top where it runs through grass fields. Walk on until on the left is a marked bridle path, leading back along the edge of a field towards Old Byland and Cold Kirby. When you reach the corner of this field take the track down and slightly to the right, looking for a narrow path on the left, with a fingerpost signed Cold Kirby and a blue arrow. Follow these posts down through the woods and cross back over the river by a small gated wooden bridge. Carry on up the other side through scrub and past a wooden seat. The path comes to the corner of a field. Follow the edge of the field, doing a dog leg, until you come onto the road. Turn right and pick up the signed footpath on the other side of the road. On meeting the road turn left back to Valley View Farm.

This is a wonderful walk which shows how the lie of the land determines its use. You will get good views and walk through picturesque and interesting countryside. In Caydale, there are, Field Maples, Devil's Bit Scabious, Meadow sweet, Angelica. There are hares on the tops and Kestrels and deer in Caydale.

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