

The Old Croft House

Guest House Accommodation in the Eden Valley

Warm Greetings from Rachel, Nick & Dylan

Welcome to the Old Croft House. We hope that you enjoy your stay and feel refreshed to head out and enjoy all that the Eden Valley and surrounding areas have to offer.

We moved from Warwickshire to the Old Croft House and Kirkby Stephen in Summer 2011 to follow our dream of owning a bed and breakfast in a location that would allow us to enjoy the outdoors. We have decorated and renovated throughout and hope that you feel as at home in the Old Croft House as much as we do.

As keen walkers, occasional cyclists and reluctant runners we feel lucky to have found ourselves in such a perfect area with stunning countryside to explore without the crowds of some more well known areas.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park was extended in 2016 and now covers the Westmorland Dales surrounding Kirkby Stephen, giving deserved recognition of the beauty of our favourite local areas such as Mallerstang, Wild Boar Fell, The Howgill Fells and Smardale Gill Nature Reserve.

We have explored the area by foot, by bike and by car so we can help with ideas for a day out to suit all. There is a selection of guides in the lounge and suggested itineraries at the back of this pack.

If there is anything we can do to make your stay more enjoyable please don't hesitate to ask.

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Special Offers

If you have enjoyed your stay why not come back to explore the area further. We offer a 10% discount for stays of two or more nights October to March (excluding Easter, Christmas and New Year)

The Old Croft House is available for groups of 6 or 7 (if your group is larger we can arrange alternative accommodation locally) to exclusively rent.

For more information or to tailor-make your stay please ask Rachel or Nick.

We can also help organise activities such as horse riding, mountain bike hire & paragliding. If there is anything else you would like to experience whilst staying in The Eden Valley let us know and we shall see what we can do.

Thank you for choosing The Old Croft House for your stay in Kirkby Stephen.

We'd be grateful if you would review us on TripAdvisor. Our guests often tell us how helpful it is to read past guests' reviews before booking their own visits. And we're always eager to hear what you liked.



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INFORMATION FOR YOUR STAY

Check out time is 9.30 am. Please note we are not able offer a late check out but if your train/ bus is later in the day you are welcome to leave your bags in the hall and collect later.

We will only be offering a room service option for stays of longer than three nights, however if you require anything please leave outside your room and we will collect and replenish. If you are staying for longer than one night and require fresh towels please place used towels in the bag provided in wardrobe and leave outside your room.

The tap water in your room is drinking water, we do not have water storage tanks and our cold water comes straight from the mains.

Fresh milk is available on request and should you need more supplies during your stay please let us know.

Herbal teas can be provided on request.

Your room has a set of keys for your bedroom and front door. Please keep these safe and take them with you as the front door may be locked on your return.

You are welcome to come and go as you please but if arriving late we do ask you to keep the noise down out of respect for other guests.

In case of emergency there is a map of evacuation route on the back of your bedroom door, this also identifies the assembly point (Haugheys Antique shop two doors from Old Croft House)

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We have free WIFI throughout the building although please note that due to our location and thickness of walls it is not always guaranteed superfast.

Wireless Network: BTHub6 Q5TZ

Wireless Key: cTnrM3q6KMiy

We respectfully ask guests not to bring takeaways to their rooms,

We do not offer a laundry service however there is a laundrette approximately 100 metres from us. Turn right from our front door, walk past Mic Macs hardware store and take first right. Please help yourself to complimentary washing powder from the hall on your way.

If you require assistance during your stay please come to find us or ring the doorbell. If we are out please contact us on 07979 967440

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Breakfast

Breakfast is served from 7.30 – 8.30. If you require an early start let us know and we will do our best to accommodate you.

If you would rather enjoy a lie in and we're happy to offer either bacon, sausage or vegetarian sausage sandwich with tea/ coffee in your room or to takeaway as an alternative.

Please complete the breakfast menu form and advise if you have any specific dietary requirements/ allergies.

If you would like your flask filled for free with tea, coffee or hot chocolate please bring down at breakfast.

We will provide cereal, fruit, yoghurt and toast

Porridge

Egg either Poached, Scrambled, Fried

Sausage

Vegetarian Sausage

Bacon

Black Pudding

Mushrooms

Tomato

Beans

Scrambled or Poached egg on toast

Boiled egg with toast soldiers

OR

Kipper

OR

Scrambled egg and Smoked Salmon

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Lunch

We offer a full packed lunch for £6 including roll, crisps, fruit, home-made flapjack and juice drink.

We also offer a roll only for £3.00

See reverse of breakfast menu for options and daily specials.

Dinner

There are several dining options a short walk or drive from us and we would recommend pre-booking. Please ask if you would like us to book a table for you.

Century Chinese Restaurant 017683 72828

The Mango Tree Indian Restaurant 017683 74960

The Black Bull Hotel 017683 71237

The Pennine Hotel 017683 74997

If you have a car (or enjoy a good walk!) there are very good pubs in villages nearby

Bay Horse Winton (approx. 2 miles) 017683 71451

Nateby Inn (approx. 1.5 miles) 017683 71588

Ravenstonedale (approx. 5 miles)

The Black Swan 015396 23204

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Useful Information

DOCTOR'S SURGERY

Kirkby Stephen Health Centre 017683 71369

NHS Direct (Over the phone NHS help and assistance) –111

NEAREST HOSPITALS

Westmorland General, Kendal (Minor Accidents and Injuries) LA9
7RG – 01539 732288

Royal Lancaster Infirmary (Accident and Emergency) 36 miles LA1
4RP – 01524 65944

CHEMIST

Green Tree Pharmacy

Turn left out from our front door, approximately 100m

Open 9am – 5.30pm Monday – Friday, 9 am – 1pm Saturday

CASH MACHINES

Cash machines are available at Barclays Bank or McColls
Convenience Store

There are also two outdoor shops which will be able to supply you
with a range of supplies from compeed to new boots!

BAGGAGE COURIERS

Coast to Coast Packhorse 017683 71777

Sherpavan 01748 826 917

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TRANSPORT

Please ask for up to date bus and train timetables as they vary throughout the year.

The train station is approximately 1.5 miles from the centre of Kirkby Stephen. Taxis are available, but we would suggest pre-booking.

BD Taxi: 017683 71682

AM Taxi: 07890 856778

Prima Taxi: 017683 72557



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We have plenty of information on local history, walks and attractions either on the landing dresser or in the lounge. Feel free to borrow any leaflets or books please do but please return after use.

Suggested Itineraries

Cumbria Classic Coach (car free)

Take a trip to Barnard Castle on a Cumbrian classic coach. Pick up the bus from Kirkby Stephen and then enjoy a scenic journey through the fells and reservoirs of the Pennines on your way to Middleton in Teesdale then on through the valley to Barnard Castle.

Spend your time exploring the Castle remains followed by a walk around the many independent shops or visit The Bowes Museum, the grade I listed building housing collections of decorative arts. Set in 22 acres of parkland with formal gardens there is plenty for everyone to enjoy.

(Please note bus runs Wednesday s only, in summer months there is also a service to Hawes every Tuesday)

Explore Kirkby Stephen (car free)

After a leisurely breakfast today is a day to leave the car, get your walking shoes on and enjoy some of Kirkby Stephens Sights and History. Much of Kirkby Stephen is a designated conservation area with many interesting buildings and alleyways.

The Parish Church, known as the Cathedral of the Dales with its side chapels dedicated to the Wharton and Musgrave families. Richard De Musgrave once owned Hartley Castle which was unfortunately demolished in the 18th century. It's also home to the Loki Stone, a 9-10th Century Viking carved stone which depicts the mischievous Norse God Loki and is one of only two found in Europe.

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A good yet straightforward walk is to follow the Coast to Coast route to Hartley and pick up the Poetry path, twelve large stones inscribed with poems representing each month of the hill farmers year. It offers good views to the North Pennines and follows a section of the disused Stainmore railway line and crosses the impressive Merrygill and Podgill viaducts. The path also takes you to Stenkrith where the river Eden rushes below the bridge with such force that it has created a pothole the width of the river – known locally as Cowkarney Hole. Approximately 2 ½ miles.

On return to town, enjoy a rejuvenating coffee and cake before browsing some of the independent local shops.

Kirkby Stephen is a traditional market town and has a thriving livestock market, you are welcome to go in and watch but please remember to keep your hands low as we would not have space if you accidentally buy a herd of cows!

A trip on the train (car free)

Kirkby Stephen is located on the famous Settle- Carlisle railway line which is renowned as being one of the most scenic railway journeys in the world. The journey either North to Carlisle or South to Settle is spectacular but the some of the most dramatic scenery is to be seen if you head south including crossing the famous Ribbleshead viaduct.

www.settle-carlisle.co.uk

You'll have time to explore the Yorkshire market town of Settle or continue further south to Skipton where you can admire the castle – once home to Lady Anne Clifford.

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Explore the Eden Valley.

Today is a day to explore more of the Eden Valley's stunning scenery and picturesque villages.

From Kirkby Stephen follow the A66 West heading towards Penrith for approximately 25 minutes before turning to Temple Sowerby and follow the signs to Acorn Bank.

Acorn Bank is a National Trust property whose gardens specialise in herb and fruit orchards with beautiful woodland walks and views towards the Lake District and the Pennines.

From Acorn Bank follow the B6412 via Culgaith and Langwathby alongside the River Eden to the pretty village of Little Salkeld and pay a visit to the restored Watermill.

Little Salkeld Watermill offers a tea room, Mill tours, gallery and if you are a baker they have a good range of organic and stoneground flours as well as occasional baking courses. Open daily 10.30am – 5pm.

If you have time and the weather is suitable why not pay a visit to Long Meg and Her Daughters, one of the largest Bronze Age stone circles in Europe.

From Little Salkeld it's a short drive via the A686 to Brougham Hall which is a 14th Century Hall and an ongoing restoration project. It is also home to several arts and crafts workshops which are well worth a look round. If you have time follow the country lanes towards the picturesque village of Orton and pick up some sweet treats from the chocolate factory before heading back to Kirkby Stephen.

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Trip to Yorkshire.

Have your passports ready as today you'll be heading into Yorkshire.

From Kirkby Stephen there are two routes to Hawes the home of Wensleydale Cheese.

1. Head towards Nateby and take the road to Hawes which follows the River Eden through Mallerstang and past Pendragon Castle. Near Aisgill keep an eye out on your left for Hell Gill Beck which is the source of the River Eden.
2. Head towards Nateby and follow the road to the left towards Keld, this drive takes through stunning Swaledale. Take time to stop and enjoy the views of Wainwath Falls just before you reach Keld and follow the road to Thwaite before turning off to the Buttertubs Pass.
It's a beautiful winding, hilly road and as you drive along spare a thought for the cyclists racing here in the 2014 Tour De France.

Take time to explore Hawes and enjoy a visit to the Countryside museum, Rope making museum or the Cheese factory.

Depending on time either return straight back to Kirkby Stephen via Mallerstang or head towards Sedbergh and enjoy afternoon tea at the Fairfield Mill.

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A day in the Lakes

This is a classic journey taking in a wide variety of the Lake Districts scenic spots.

Driving via Kendal you pick up the road to Windermere and enter the Lake District National Park.

If you wish to take a trip on a Lake then Bowness-on-Windermere is probably one of the best places to stop. It is also home to the World of Beatrix Potter visitor attraction. If you don't wish to stop in Windermere continue to Ambleside or Grasmere – the home of William Wordsworth

Take time to enjoy a short walk to some of Wordsworth's favourite views at Rydal, Alcock Tarn or visit his former home Dove Cottage.

Head back towards Ambleside to pick up the Kirkstone Pass and enjoy a drink with a view at the Kirkstone Pass Inn. The road will then take you back through Patterdale, past Ullswater and then follow the A66 back to Kirkby Stephen (for a quicker option either drive via Keswick or back via Kendal)

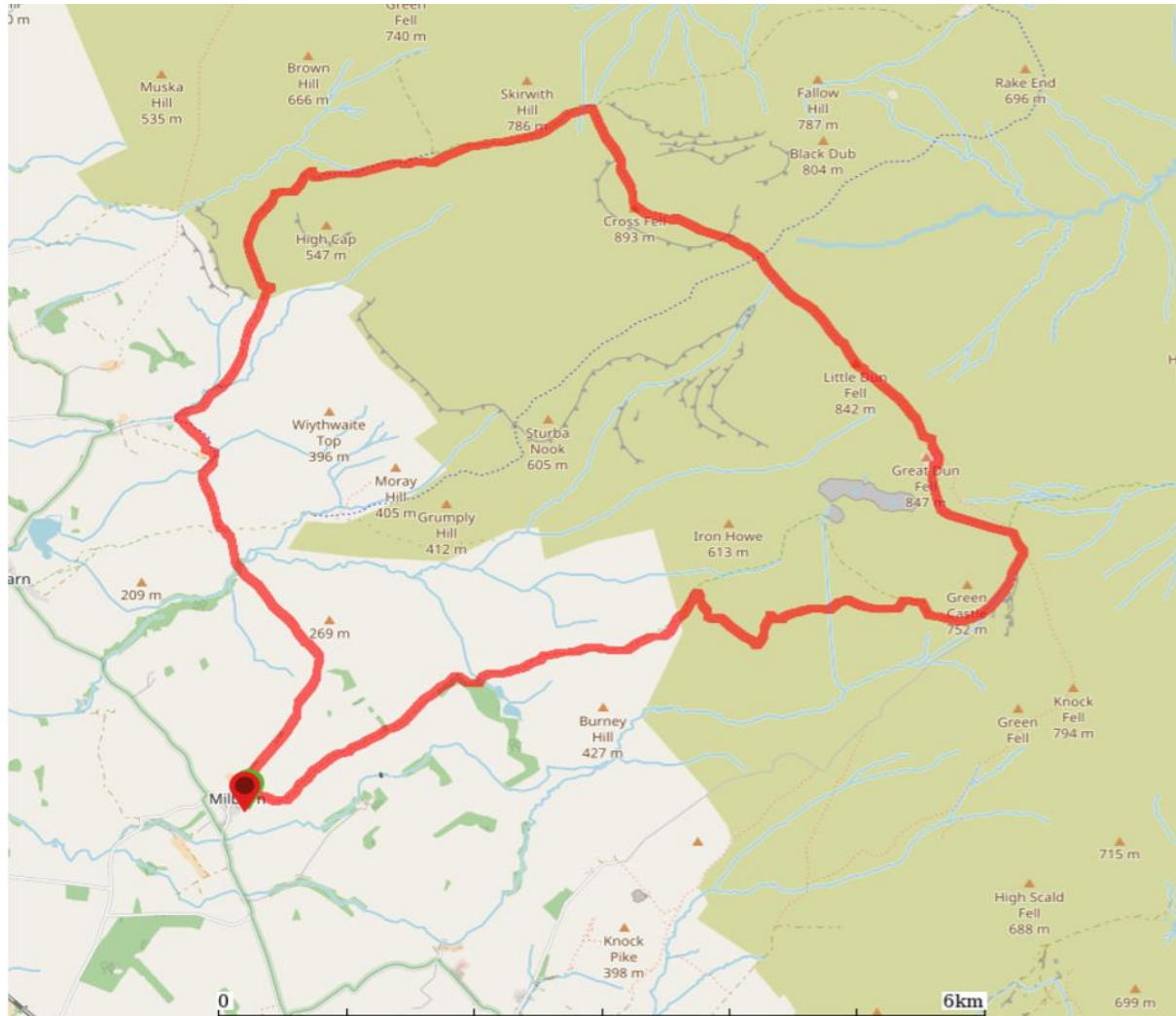
Walking and Cycling

On the following pages are some examples of our favourite walks and bike rides in the local area. There are far too many to list them all but if you tell us the type of walk you would like we guarantee we can think of one that you will enjoy

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Circular Walk from Milburn via Great Dun Fell and Cross Fell using Pennine Way and Pennine Journey



Map: OL31

Length: 14 Miles

Altitude Gain: 3000 ft

Max Altitude: 2930 ft

Total Time: Approx 8 hours

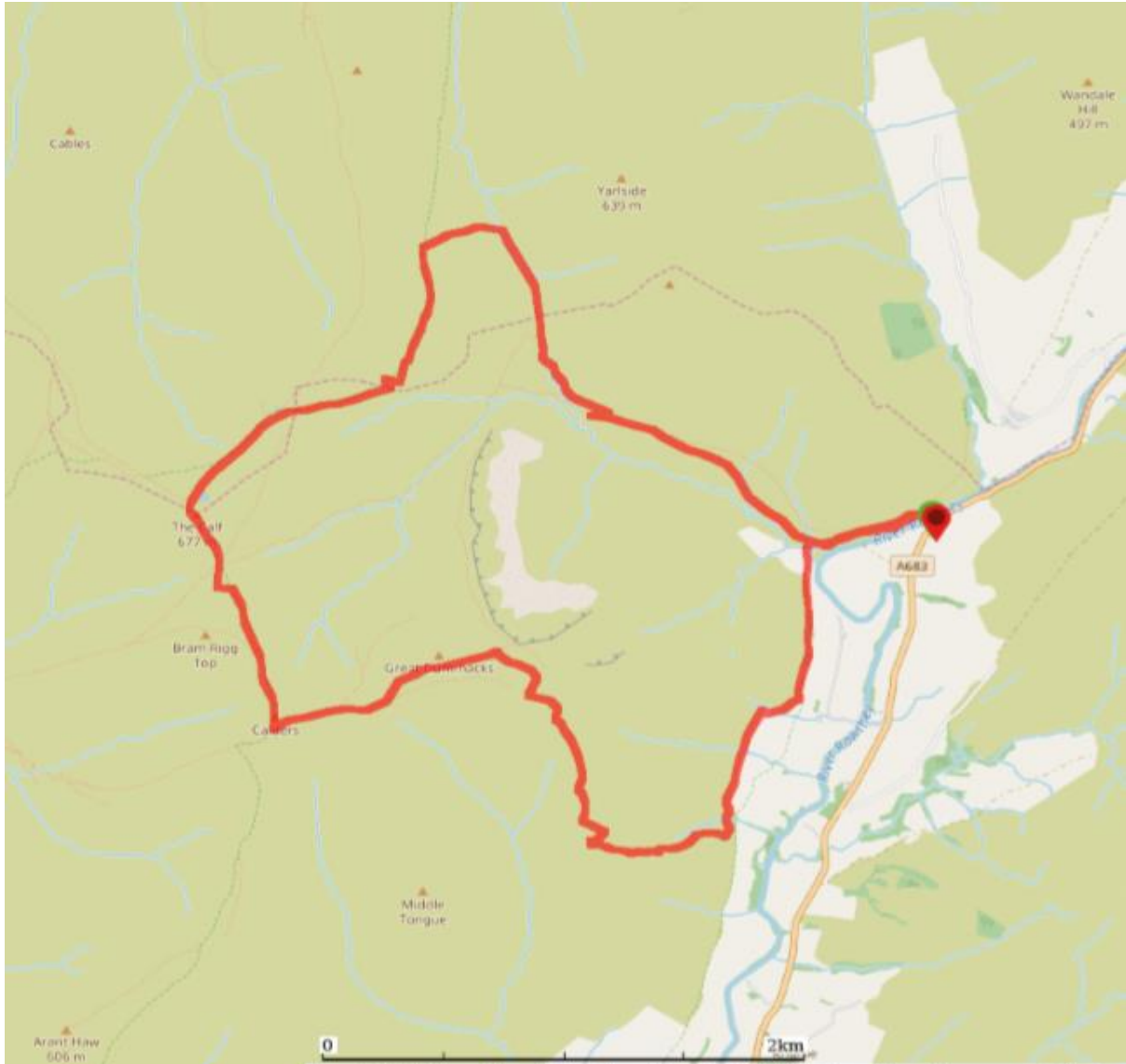
Walk Summary: A long but rewarding walk to Great Dun Fell and its prominent radar station and Cross Fell, the highest mountain in the Pennines. Gives great views across the Eden Valley towards the Lake District and one to be saved for a clear day.

This route follows bridleway and footpath with some very boggy sections.

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Circular walk to The Calf and Cautley Spout



Map: OL19 Length: 7 Miles Altitude Gain: 2180 ft Max Altitude: 2205 ft

Total Time: Approx 5 hours

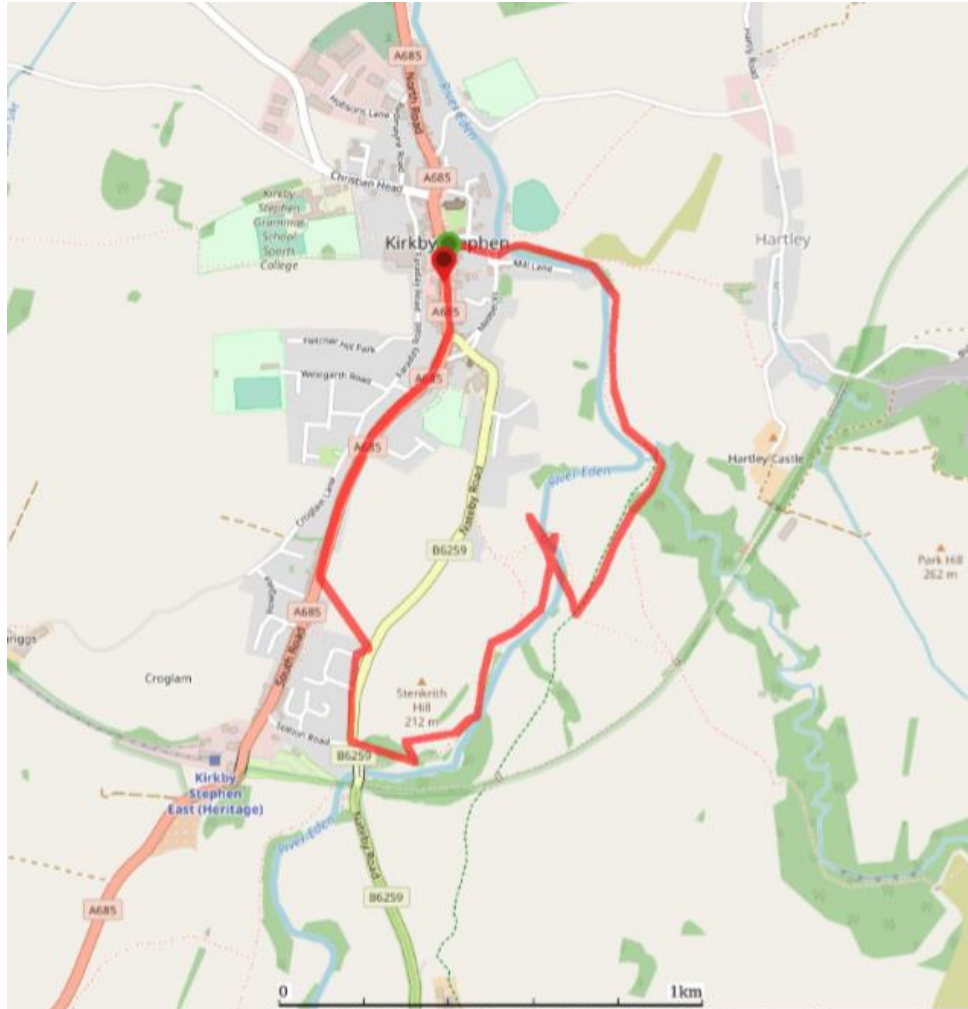
Walk Summary: From the Cross Keys Inn follow the River Rawthey to Rooker Gill up Fawcett Bank Rigg, Middle Tongue, Calters, The Calf, Hare Shaw, Bowderdale Head and Cautley Spout.

Please note this route follows bridleway, footpath and sections with no marked path on open access land.

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Kirkby Stephen Circular



Map: OL19 Length: 2.5 Miles

Total Time: Approx 1.5 hours

Walk Summary: From The Old Croft House follow signs to Franks Bridge cross bridge and bare right. Turn right through kissing gate follow the river and footpath through the woods continue straight down narrow track. Take first right to bridge, cross bridge turn left and follow footpath through Stenkrith.

Gentle walk on footpath and quiet road. May be muddy in places.

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Smardale Gill Viaduct



Map: OL19 Length: 5 Miles Altitude Gain: 480 ft Max Altitude: 877 ft

Total Time: Approx 2.5 - 3 hours

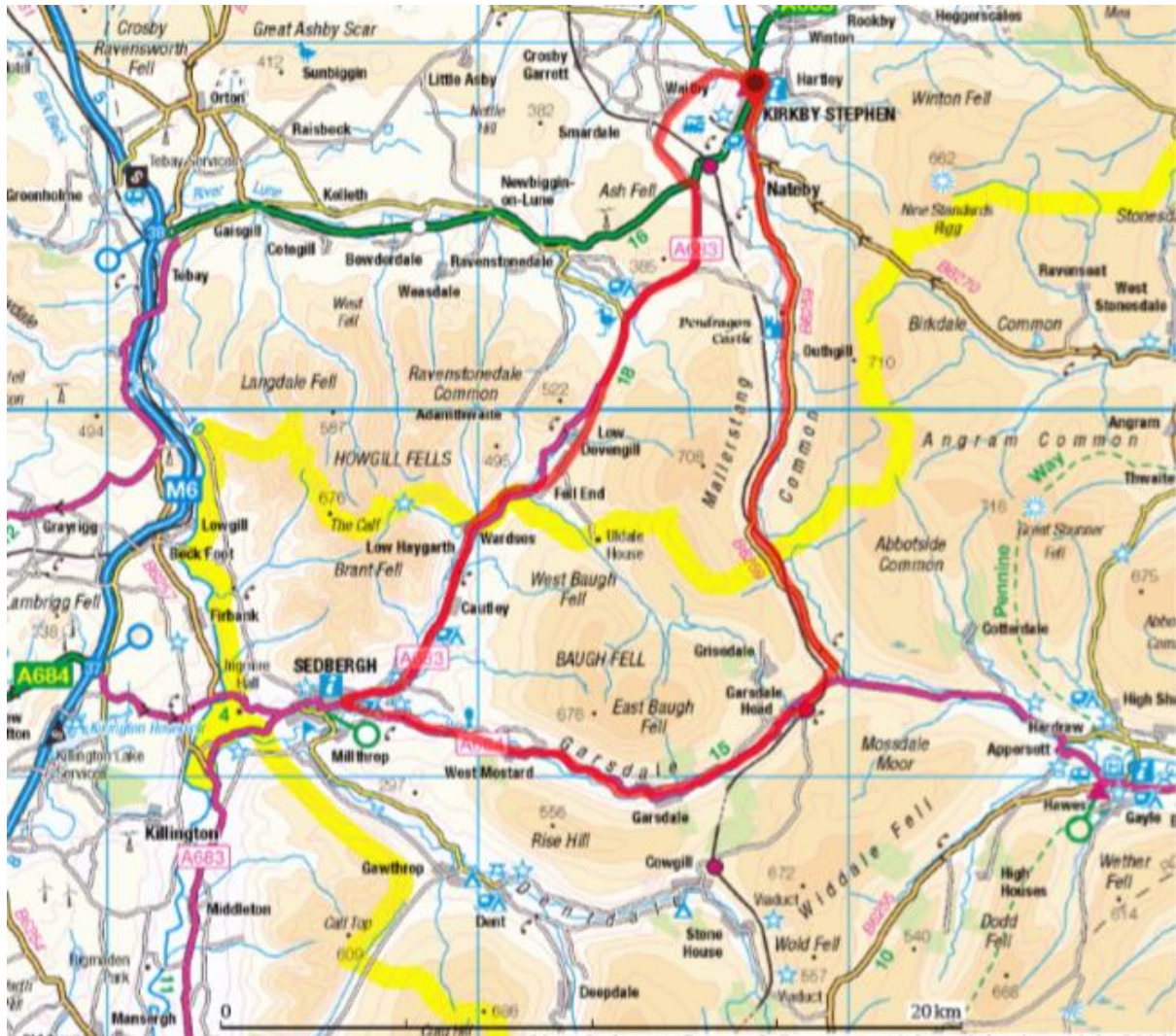
Walk Summary: From Newbiggin on Lune, pick up the disused railway line to Smardale Gill Viaduct before heading back on the opposite side of Scandal Beck. A good walk to try and spot deer, red squirrels as well as butterflies and rare flowers.

An easy low level walk on good path, the path to East of Scandal Beck can get muddy.

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Kirkby Stephen to Sedbergh and Garsdale cycle route



Length: 35 Miles

Altitude Gain: 1980 ft

Max Altitude: 1220 ft

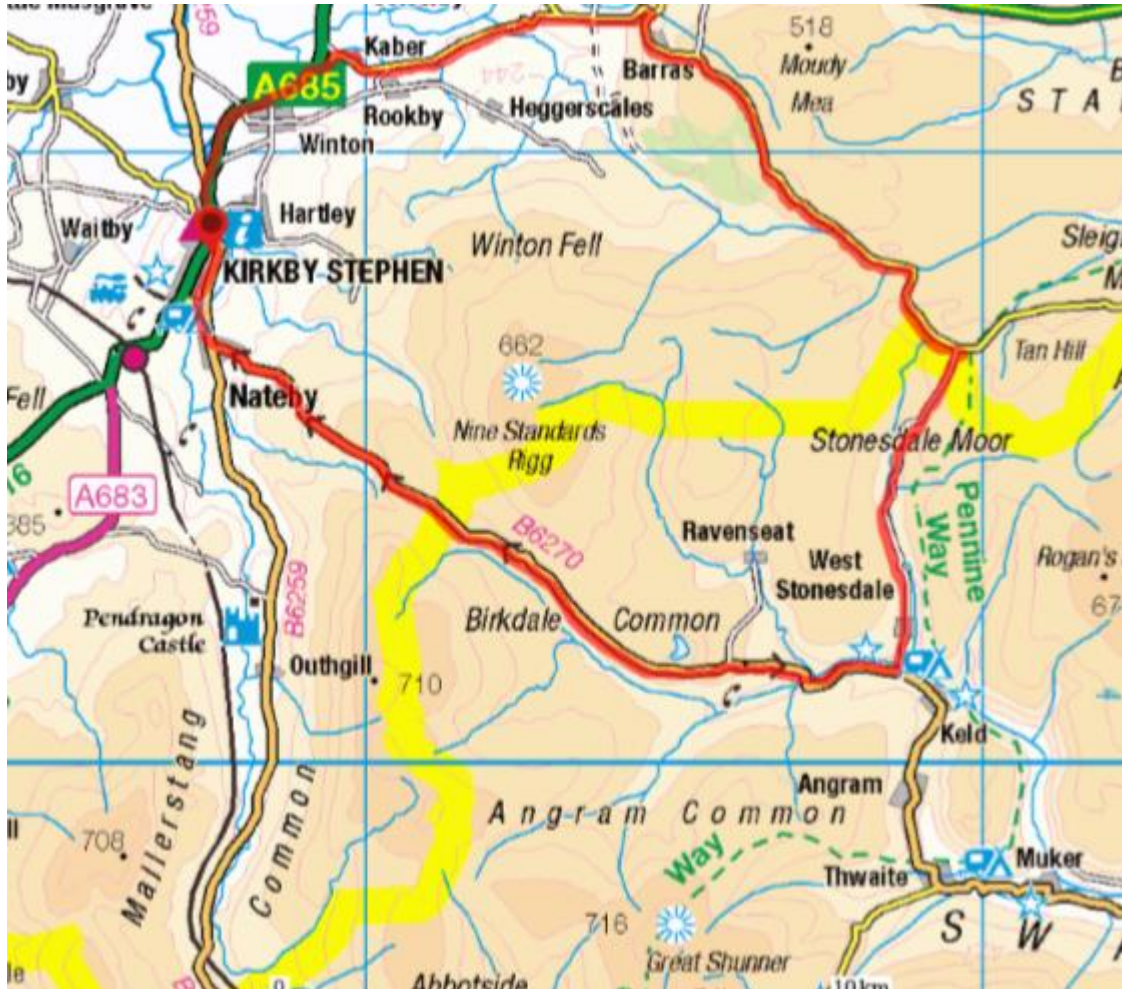
Route Summary: Beautiful road route into one of the quieter areas of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Highlights include Fell End Clouds limestone pavement, Garsdale, Mallerstang Common and Pendragon Castle.

Refreshments available at Sedbergh or Moorcock Inn.

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Kirkby Stephen to Tan Hill cycle route



Length: 25 Miles

Altitude Gain: 2420 ft

Max Altitude: 1720 ft

Route Summary: Road route to the Tan Hill Inn, Englands highest pub. Involves some steep climbing but plenty of fun downhill!

Refreshments available at Tan Hill Inn or Keld.

There are off road options for this route from Heggarscales to Tan Hill and Tan hill to Keld and from Tailbridge to Hartley