



INTO THE VALLEY

Follow Jody Vaughan on a shortish stroll in the beautiful Esk Valley in North Yorkshire

Just a 10-minute drive from The Club's North Yorkshire Moors site, near Whitby, is the little village of Sleights. It sits in the Esk Valley – although, for this walk, we're going to follow a smaller watercourse rather than the River Esk itself. We start by climbing Echo Hill before heading to Ugglebarnby. We then descend to Iburndale Beck which we follow in a northerly direction back to Sleights.

This route offers wonderful views of rolling countryside, especially over to the seaside town of Whitby.

Having completed this light but enjoyable challenge, there are many other walking opportunities in the area, not least

up and down the Heritage Coastline where you can join the Cleveland Way and stroll along the clifftops for miles.

DIRECTIONS

1 Leave the recycling centre car park (see 'Information' panel) via its entrance and turn left to walk along the road, passing the front of the Salmon Leap Hotel. On reaching the railway station, veer right down Lowdale Lane and then continue straight ahead over a small speed bump and through a gate marked with the numbers '43 to 79' (following a public footpath sign).

2 On arriving at the bowling club's car park, where there's a public footpath sign above the road marked 'Beck Holme',



turn left following one of these signs across a small bridge over the Beck. Walk to the right side of the bowling green. Before you reach the clubhouse, go through a wooden gate (on your right) and immediately turn left up the lane for a short distance before turning right (leaving the tarmac for a gravel track up a hill towards some houses).

3 Just after the crest of the hill, follow a footpath right (signposted 'Footpath Ruswarp'). Go past a wooden gate and



follow the yellow 'Esk Valley Walk' arrow. Go through another wooden gate and continue along the right side of the field.

4 At the top of the field, before entering another, turn left, following the public footpath sign to walk along the top edge of the same field. Go through a break in the hedgerow and continue straight ahead, along the right side of the next field. Look for some yellow arrows on a fence directing you to the right – follow these as they almost immediately take you left over a stile. Then continue along the left edge of the next field.

5 Walk around the field's perimeter to the top right-hand corner where you cross over a stile and follow the footpath to the left side of the next field – you'll see Whitby Abbey on the hill in front of you.

6 Go around the field's perimeter until you come to another stile. Cross this and then head diagonally right to another

stile. Step over this and then walk across the field in front of you (veering very slightly left to follow the lightly-trodden path which, as you can see as you pass the brow of the hill, takes you directly towards a farmhouse).

7 As you approach this farmhouse you'll see another footpath sign and two stiles – ignore the stiles and instead turn right towards the footpath to 'Ugglebarnby', along the left side of the field. At the end of the field, cross another stile and veer right to walk the right perimeter of the next field, following the yellow arrows. At the top of this field, go through a kissing gate and go along the right side of another field.

8 At the end of the field, cross another stile and continue to the lane, where you turn right, following the lane downhill into Ugglebarnby. Go round the sharp left-hand bend and continue until you reach a staggered T-junction. Proceed almost straight ahead, following a public footpath sign to 'Tom Bell Lane, Dean Hall ¾ mile'.

9 Eventually, you'll come to another T-junction. Turn right, following the 'Seggimire Lane – Throstle Nest ½ mile' signpost. Ignore the imminent footpath sign ahead (next to a wooden fence), and instead continue along the lane, veering right to continue following the signpost to Seggimire Lane.

10 Eventually, at the bottom of the hill, you'll see a footbridge – ignore this and keep right to continue walking along the path, keeping the river on your left-hand side. Cross a ladder stile and walk along the left edge of the field, following the trodden path. Eventually, you pass through a wooden gate. Carry on ahead, veering right to again keep the river to your left-hand side.

11 Go over another stile and then a small stone bridge as you walk behind the houses. Go through another kissing gate and carry on down the lane. At the road, turn left and cross a small bridge – but then immediately turn right (just before you get to a brick letterbox) down what looks like a driveway. Then keep straight ahead as the path narrows, soon following a footpath sign which returns you to the riverside (this time with the water on your right).

12 Go through two more kissing gates and continue ahead. On emerging onto the lane, continue straight ahead, but at the T-junction, with the green island in the centre, veer right to return to the bowling club's car park. Here, turn left (signposted 'Public Bridleway'). Continue all the way back to the station, where you'll veer left to return to the recycling centre's car park.



INFORMATION

Club site: North Yorkshire Moors Caravan Club Site, Sneaton, Whitby, North Yorkshire YO22 5JE. For the most up-to-date details, see The Club website – alternatively, turn to p189 of the *Sites Directory & Handbook 2015/16*. Open 27 March to 2 November. To book, call 01342 327490 or see caravanclub.co.uk/searchandbook.

Walk distance: 4.2 miles

Terrain/level of difficulty: fields and lanes with a couple of small hills/easy to moderate

Number of stiles: 8

Essential equipment: Ordnance Survey Explorer Map OL27 – North York Moors

Refreshments: in Sleights

Toilets: none

Directions and parking: if heading north on the A169 (Coach Road), turn right before the bridge onto Coach Bank (following the sign for 'Station' and 'Salmon Leap Hotel'). Turn immediately left into the recycling centre's car park which should be big enough for small motorhomes as well as cars.



The Caravan Club Magazine recommends the use of Ordnance Survey maps – your ideal passport to navigating Britain