

# Countryside & Rights of Way

## Windgate Nick

5 miles (8km) circular walk



An almost complete millstone, carved from the now disused quarry near Windgate Nick.

### Start Point

In front of the two field gates on the grass verge, opposite Church Street, at the Ilkley end of Addingham Main Street (GR: SE085 494).

### Walk Information

Quite a steep climb of 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles (2.8km) on to Addingham High Moor, suggests that this walk is not suitable for the less mobile and children in pushchairs. For other regular, reasonably fit walkers the steep climb is worth the effort for the spectacular views.

Outdoor clothing to suit the season and strong waterproof footwear is advisable.

### Public Transport Information

Buses 762 and 765 Keighley to Ilkley, stop opposite the walk start point on the old Ilkley road. X84 Leeds/Otley/Ilkley to Skipton stops nearby in the centre of Addingham. For further details telephone Metroline: 0113 245 7676.

### Car Parking

There are no public car parks nearby; therefore parking is on street, please park with care and consideration.

### Route

Starting from the roadside opposite Church Street at the Ilkley end of Addingham Main Street, go through the right hand gate of the two gates in front of you. Walk up the field bearing slightly to the right to the small kissing gate at the top end of the field. Go through the gate and turn sharp right and follow the hedge on the right for approx 100 yds (91m) to the junction with another path, which crosses from left to right. Here turn left uphill to follow the well-defined footpath to the kissing gate at the top of the field. Go through the gate and out onto the busy Addingham Bypass, cross over the road, going through a second kissing gate on the opposite side. Here turn immediately right to go through the double field gates and across the former railway bridge, which used to span the now dismantled Ilkley to Skipton railway line. At the far end of the bridge go through another field gate and follow the path as it runs parallel with the fence line on your left, up the field a short distance to a gate and stile. Don't go through the gate or climb over the stile but continue up the field bearing slightly to the right across the field to a small gate, which is hidden under the trees at the top centre of the field.

Go through the gate and down a few stone steps, following the path over a small bridge and up an incline to the gap stile, which can be seen ahead. Once through the stile the path bears slightly to the left as you cross the field to a stile at the side of the gate. Climb the stile and continue straight ahead, eventually walking along the side of the stable block to go over a second stile where, after only a short distance you climb a third stile over the dry stone wall onto Cocking Lane at the hamlet of Small Bank. Turn right here, uphill and take the second turning on your left off Cocking Lane and up the rough, unmade road to walk between the houses, turning left at the top, then immediately right onto a grass farm track. Follow the track straight ahead climbing gently uphill through two gates/stiles, on nearing the third gate don't go through but turn left uphill and follow the hedge on your right until you reach a gateway which can be seen at the top of the field. On reaching the gateway don't go through but turn right to climb over the stone step stile built into the dry stone wall on your right.

Continue uphill by following the path with the hedgerow on your left for approx. 150yds (137m). Look out on the left for a stile in a short section of tumbled down dry stone wall, go through the stile and down a small dip to a second tumbled down wall and climb over the stile turning right to follow the path as it climbs steeply up the field. On nearing the top of the field the path bears to the left in front of a gate before crossing a small bridge under the trees. Once across the bridge ignore the first stile on the right and continue along the track for a short

distance until you reach a second stile, here climb over the stile and walk steeply uphill behind the buildings at Cuckoo Nest Farm. Continue to the top of the steep incline and then bear left and cross a level field to a stone gap stile, which can be seen in the wall across the field. Once over the stile the path goes diagonally to the right and heads for the farm buildings at School Wood Farm. On nearing the farm the path bears to the right to follow the fence on your left round to a stone gap stile, climb over and turn immediately left and left again over a second stile in the same wall onto the farm access road at School Wood Farm.

Turn right to follow the access road the short distance as it turns right out of the farm enclosure. Here where the surface road joins the rough limestone track, bear right off the road to follow the fence line on your right across the field to the stile in the dry stone wall which can be seen ahead.

Climb the stile into a second field and continue straight ahead up a slight incline heading for the gate and stile in the wall at the top end of the field. Go through the stile to emerge onto a surfaced road (Moorside Lane) at Scar Gill Farm.

Turn right to walk in front of the farm and continue along Moorside Lane to the next house on the left called Slade. Here turn left off Moorside Lane to go down the grassy track along the side of the building before climbing a ladder stile into the field. Follow the path straight ahead keeping close to the wall on your left across the field to a gateway at the top left hand corner.

Go through the gate out onto Addingham Moor to start your final ascent to your destination Windgate Nick, which can be seen on the skyline above. Follow the wide grassy farm track uphill for a short distance before bearing right up a much narrower track, going steeply uphill to eventually join one of the several paths across the rough grass and heather. Continue uphill bearing slightly to the right heading for the top corner of the drystone wall on your right. From here join the obvious well worn path, climbing in a semi-circle to arrive at Windgate Nick from the rear.

To continue assume the position of looking north across the valley below and turn right following the well-defined path along the escarpment of Addingham High Moor. Walk on for quite a distance going through four stiles passing Noon Stone along the way. Approx. 25yds (23m) before the fifth stile, which can be seen in the dry stone wall ahead, turn sharp left almost back in the direction you have come from. Here leave the well-trodden footpath along the moor top to follow another footpath as it goes diagonally downhill across the boulders and rocks heading for the left-hand gate of the two gates, which can be seen in the drystone wall far below. Go through the gate and into the field and continue more or less in a straight line to go through a second gate at the bottom end of the field leading into the farmyard of Cragg House Farm.

Turn left in front of the farmhouse along the surfaced farm access track and through a gate adjacent to the bungalow on the left. Continue along the track for a

short distance before leaving the surfaced track by turning first right through a gate into a field. Go straight ahead and through a second farm gate, to follow the path along the wall/hedge on the left as it drops down to a third gate and stile.

Once over the stile the path bears to the right downhill for a short distance and then to the left, to a stile built into the corner of the wall near a recently built ornate stone summer house at the rear of Over Gate Croft. Go through the stile and straight across the small paved area and over a second stile at the opposite side. Through the second stile turn right following the path downhill with the hedge on the right, pass two old gate stoops and a wooden electricity pole before going down a slight incline to join a farm track. Turn right and walk down to the cattle grid (which can be avoided by using the gate at the side), continue straight ahead up a slight incline following the track onto a second cattle grid and once again using the gate at the side, go out onto the surfaced road, Cocking Lane.

Turn left along the lane for a short distance before going through the small gate in the hedge on the right into a field. Once in the field continue straight ahead to a stile at the far end which leads down into some woodland, follow the well-defined path as it meanders downhill through the trees bearing right to cross a small bridge. Once across the bridge the path bears to the right uphill between the grassy mounds and emerges in front of the remains of a derelict dry stonewall. Turn right here and walk the short distance to the end of the wall before turning left to join a well-trodden footpath. Follow this path across the field and go over a stile at the far end and continue by following the fence line on your left down to a small gate. Go through the gate and straight ahead across the next field to a kissing gate, leading out onto the Addingham Bypass. Cross the road carefully and go through the kissing gate opposite. Head straight ahead towards the hedge-lined field boundary then follow this to the right and through into the next field. Head diagonally across the field towards the road (Addingham Main Street) and the start point.

#### **Footnote**

We hope you enjoyed your walk. If so tell your friends, if not, or you have encountered any problems please tell us at:

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Noon Stone

