

Sheet 2: Draughton – Eastby – Halton East – Draughton

Head north down the village and turn left immediately after Draughton Hall to a farm gate (there is a stile over the wall to the right). Once past the gate follow the sheep shelter wall then bear slightly to the right (NNW) down to a stone slab bridge over the small stream. Keeping the field wall to your left, cross the wall stile and over the pasture, with the disused railway bridge across the valley to your right-hand side, to a further wall stile. Go over this carefully as it may be very muddy after rain, especially on the far side. Then cross the field diagonally (NNW) heading for a group of trees that should be slightly to your left. There is a stile here, leading on to the A59 Skipton to Harrogate road (1 M, GR 026 532).

Cross the road with care to the stone stile opposite. Once over the stile, use the wooden telegraph pole as a marker to cross the field, then descend to the metal pedestrian footbridge over the railway line (wooden stiles at each end). Cross the bridge and continue down the side of the field, keeping the railway to your left, to a third wooden stile. A small stream has to be crossed immediately before the stile, and it can be very boggy on either side. Once across this stile, walk diagonally over the field to a culvert outflow and through the metal gate in the fence, bearing left slightly as you go. You will reach a stone stile to the right of Water Lane Laithe (GR 022 536). Climb over this stile on to the Embsay – Halton East road. Immediately across the road is the entrance of the track (bridleway) to Eastby. Follow this all the way, keeping right at the junction of the farm lanes, to reach the village at Bower House Farm (GR 019 544).

Turn right onto the road and walk to the end of the village then bear right along Bark Lane (track) (marked “No access to Studfold Farm”). Where the track ends (1 km from the village) there is a wall stile immediately to your right. Use the stile, then go diagonally SE across the field to pass through a squeeze stile and over the stone bridge across the beck. Now continue ESE, keeping the beck to your left throughout, so as to cross a farm track then three stone stiles. On reaching the large field beyond these stiles, continue to keep the beck to your left until you reach a metal farm gate. Pass through the gate, through the field to a second farm gate, then walk on, keeping the fence of a small paddock to your immediate right. This brings you to a third set of gates (usually open) and the paved access road of Calm Slate Farm (whose buildings should be on your right).

Now turn left along the farm access road until it joins the public road, using the gate to the immediate right of the cattle grid (Moor Lane, which becomes a rough track at this point). Turn right along the paved surface and continue south until you reach the small village green (seating available here) then left past the disused bus shelter into Halton East village. After 60 m (GR 042 539) turn right along the short ginnel between buildings, then along a short lane with metal gates at either end, keeping a cowshed and its concrete apron over the wall to your left. From here, simply head south downhill across stone and wooden field stiles and through the small plantation to reach the A59 (GR 043 533). Cross this, (now three lane) road with care and walk back towards Draughton along Low Lane via Priors Bridge and Draughton Bottom until you reach your starting point.

Possible Extensions

Stout boots, clothing and suitable equipment are strongly advised for both extensions. Access to both of them may be restricted occasionally during the grouse shooting season.

Embsay Crag and beyond ...

You could extend the walk to a total of 16.5 km (10.3 miles, five and a half hours) by turning left at the junction of farm lanes immediately before reaching Bower House Farm at Eastby, passing through Embsay in order to climb Embsay Crag. You might then continue along the wall side of this open access area as far as a cattle grid on the Eastby to Barden road, and making your way from there on to Moor Lane in order to return to the original route immediately before Halton East.

Eastby Gate and Hutchen Gill

A slightly shorter route follows the walk to Bower House Farm at Eastby, but then turns left (instead of right) when reaching the road. Then, after about 60 m, turn right at the waymark outside Hunter's Laithe house, up Hunters Croft and along the path that runs past the left side of Number 2's garden wall. Cross over a wooden stile. You now ascend the wooded Heugh Gill to Eastby Gate, from where you continue straight across the moor along a barely visible path, passing grouse butts, to the shooting hut near the top of Hutchen Gill. Here, turn right to descend the gill (track) to reach the Bolton Abbey to Rylstone bridleway (from which are excellent views up and down Wharfedale and across to Simon's Seat). A right turn here will bring you back to the Eastby – Barden road at the cattle grid south of Lower Barden Reservoir. The top of Moor Lane (here just a track) is directly across the road, and this will take you back down to Halton East to rejoin the original walk.

Food and Drink

"Billy Bob's" is at Calm Slate Farm, on the approach to Halton East (American diner style menu and ice cream parlour). Opening hours:

February - October

Daily: 9:00 am to 5:45 pm

October - February

Monday – Thursday 9:45 am to 4:45 pm

Friday – Sunday 9:00 am to 5:45 pm