

Sheet 3: Draughton – Berwick East – Draughton

This route returns to Draughton via a one kilometre walk along the busy A65 Leeds to Skipton road. Please avoid the latter part of the route unless you are absolutely confident of your ability to walk along it safely. Alternative ways back are suggested below.



Walk east along Church Lane between the Village Hall (left) and the Church (right). Bear right immediately after the first cattle grid and continue past another cattle grid until the lane turns right at ninety degrees (Haynholme). Here you must continue straight ahead through the wooden field gate and follow the wall downhill to a metal gate followed immediately by a stone slab bridge over a beck. Cross this and climb the other side of the hill keeping the fencing to your right and continue roughly ENE to a further field gate. Once through this, continue across the fields keeping the wall to your right until reaching another field gate by a small stream (it may be muddy here).

After passing through this gate, turn slightly to the right to go uphill, diagonally across the field to a wooden stile over a fence (GR 0605 5254). Once over the stile, turn approximately SW and continue uphill to another metal field gate. After passing through, roughly follow the contour of the side of Haw Pike (it is possible to climb from here to the trig point at the summit of Haw Pike, giving excellent all-round views, but there is no formal right of way to the top).

To reach Berwick East Farm, you will find a stone stile in the wall in the right-hand corner of the field. Cross this and proceed through a small group of trees and a wooden gate through a fence

to pass around the front of the farm buildings. *If you want to avoid walking along the A65, this is the point at which you should start using one of the alternatives set out below.* Turn right at the end of the farmhouse, to find the next stone stile almost immediately to the left, opposite the SW wall of the building. *Note that the public right of way around Berwick East Farm may be subject to change.*

Use this stile, then keep the stone wall to your right as you descend the field towards Berwick West Farm. At Berwick West, turn left along the farm road for 50 m then turn right (SW), walking diagonally across a field to a stream and gate, from where you climb uphill to reach the main A65 road close to the old milepost at the start of the Chelker bends.

Turn right along the A65, keeping as close to the right-hand side of the road as possible so as to face oncoming traffic, using the narrow verge wherever you can. After a 1 km walk along the main road, turn right towards Draughton, then right again when you come to the stone stile immediately before the bridge over Howgill Beck. Follow the footpath across the fields, keeping the beck and old quarry to your left, eventually to emerge on to Church Lane. Turn left to return to the start.

Alternative routes avoiding the A65

A: via Hag Head Laithe and Hawpike Farm

From the far corner of Berwick East Farm, turn left along the access road until you reach the edge of the small copse to the left. Turn left here, walk upwards through the copse, and cross the wooden stile at the top. Continue straight uphill to the stone stile. After crossing this, follow the wall to your left until you reach the corner of the field. You will see a stile in the wall to your left. Climb it, then turn round completely until you are facing it. You will see that there is a metal gate almost immediately to the left of the stile you have just crossed. Go through this gate and turn left, keeping the wall to your left.

When you reach the two closely-spaced metal gates, go through both into the next field. Cross it until you come to the hole in the wall with weathered gateposts. Once through the hole, bear left across the field towards the small stone building (waterworks), heading for the wall stile to the left of the fence around the building. After crossing the stile, bear left towards the small group of trees that mark the edge of the rubble ruins of Hag Head Laithe (GR 0651 5161).

Leaving the ruins on your left, continue along the track using the stiles or gates. As you approach Hawpike Farm you will see the end of a large shed immediately ahead. Take the field gate to the left of the shed and walk roughly NW across the field until you reach the wooden stile across the fence (GR 0605 5254). Now retrace your steps back to Draughton.

B: via the Roman Road and Draughton Height (You will also need the sheet for Walk 6 for this) ***or to return by bus from the A65***

From the far corner of Berwick East Farm, turn left along the access road until you reach the edge of the small copse to the left. Turn left here, walk upwards through the copse, and cross the wooden stile at the top. Continue straight uphill to the stone stile. After crossing this, follow the wall to your left until you reach the corner of the field. You will see a stile in the wall to your left. Climb it, then turn round completely until you are facing it. You will see that there is a metal gate almost immediately to the left of the stile you have just crossed. Go through this gate and turn left, keeping the wall to your left.

When you reach the two closely-spaced metal gates, go through both into the next field. Cross it until you come to the hole in the wall with weathered gateposts. Once through the hole, bear left across the field towards the small stone building (waterworks), heading for the wall stile to the left of the fence around the building. On the other side of this stile you should keep straight ahead to the stile in the wall opposite, across the field. Over this stile, keep the wall to your right as you continue ahead (roughly S) to reach the side of Highfield Farm.

At Highfield Farm cross the wall stile to the left (E) of the buildings and walk across the field either to the gate or the wall stile to its right (you may use either) leading in to the grounds of Bracken Ghyll Golf Club. Once inside the grounds, turn right and walk diagonally downhill across the course, avoiding the greens and taking care when crossing fairways. The path leaves the Golf Course through a deciduous plantation and emerges shortly afterwards at a lay-by on the A65. Cross the road to the stop opposite if you elect to return to Draughton on the bus.

If returning to Draughton via the Roman Road and Draughton Height you should now refer to Sheet 6. Note that this roughly doubles the length of your walk.

Public transport

There are bus stops in both directions at the lay-by on the A65. The X84 Leeds – Skipton service runs more or less hourly during the day, Monday to Saturday. There is no late evening service, and no service at all on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays. The journey time to Draughton from the bus stop opposite the lay-by is just 3-4 minutes. As these stops are little used, bus drivers are unlikely to expect to have to pick up passengers on this fast stretch of road. Indicate clearly and as soon as you see the bus appear if you want to board. Timetable information can be obtained from www.wymetro.com/buses/bus-timetables.