

## 3.2 Ilkley to Burnsall

**Map** panel 1

**Distance** 13 miles 21 km

**Terrain** well-defined field paths, surfaced paths, roads (less than 10%)

**Grade** gently rising path with no significant climbs or descents

**Food and drink** Addingham (500 m off-route), Cavendish Pavilion, Appletreewick (1 km off route)

**Summary** easy walking beside the River Wharfe, passing the scenic highlights of Bolton Priory and the Strid



- Turn right out of the train station (next to the bus station) and after 50 m go right again down Brook Street. Continue downhill to the River Wharfe and turn left along the bank to the Old Bridge.
- The Dales Way begins at a bespoke stone bench, where a prominent sign announces Bowness as 82 miles away. You will reach its twin at journey's end: see page 59.

*Stone bench at the start*



- After 250 m beside the river, continue along the tennis club access road. Just before the buildings, go left through a metal gate.
- Follow Dales Way and Millennium Way signs for 1.8 km (1.2 mi) through fields and along the riverbank to the old A65 road.
- Continue ahead for 500 m (0.3 mi) and turn right into Old Lane. At Low Mill, a former industrial village now converted to residential use, go ahead between the houses. Exit over a footbridge onto a lane that leads to Addingham.
- St Peter's Church appears ahead on the right. Descend steps and cross a grassy open space into the churchyard. Turn left to leave by the west gate.
- Go forward over a narrow stone footbridge and along North Street. At the end, turn right.
- Where the road curves left, the Way branches right down steps. Stay close to the river on your right, cross a small field, and pass between houses into a caravan park. Exit right.
- Continue along the river bank for 2.1 km (1.3 mi). The Way climbs and swings right into a wood to pass a house on your left. Cross the road.
- Walk past the restored Quaker Meeting House to a farm road. Turn right, and almost immediately go right again over a stile in a stone wall.
- Keep to the footpath, close by the wall on your right. Cross a stone wall, and before the end of the next field, exit through a gate onto the road. Walk on its verge on the right.

*St Peter's, Addingham*







Stepping stones beside Bolton Priory

- About 50 m before the junction with the A59 road, go right through a gate and cross a small stream before bearing left to the river bank. Walk under the new bridge and pass Ferry House on your right to reach Bolton Bridge.
- Cross the road and go through the metal gate onto the broad grassy footpath to Bolton Priory, with the River Wharfe to your right.
- You are now in the Yorkshire Dales National Park: see panel on page 14. From here to Barden Bridge you will be walking on land owned by the Chatsworth Settlement Trustees, who maintain the Cavendish family's tradition of allowing public access to their land. On a fine summer day you can expect crowds of people in the next couple of miles.
- Walk north across the field towards the graceful ruins of Bolton Priory, see panel above and page 16.
- From the Priory, cross the river by footbridge or stepping stones. Continue north-north-east across the grassy slope, ignoring a steep path to Storiths on your right.



#### **Bolton Abbey and Bolton Priory**

Bolton Abbey is a tiny village beside the B6160 linking Addingham to upper Wharfedale. Confusingly, the estate surrounding the village (with farms and grouse moors) is also referred to as Bolton Abbey, marketed by that name as a visitor attraction by its owners, the Chatsworth Settlement Trustees. To visit the village (with post office, shop, cafe and toilets), turn left on a surfaced path leading through a gap in the high stone wall. The turn is before the Way reaches the ruined priory (often referred to as Bolton Abbey).

The ruins and the Priory Church of St Mary and St Cuthbert lie close to the Way. Before the stepping stones, divert left to explore the ruins. Enter the site by either of the wooden gates at its south-east corner. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Open daily from 08.30 to 17.00 in summer, 16.00 in winter (tel 01756 710 238). See also page 16.

- Go through a gate onto a path leading to a ford and footbridge across Pickles Beck.
- Continue along the river bank and after 400 m cross the River Wharfe by the wooden bridge. Turn right into Strid Woods. The Cavendish Pavilion café is open daily (except Christmas Day) from 10.00, with variable closing times.
- A roadway of rolled crushed stone provides wheelchair access for 2 km (1.2 mi) to the Strid: see panel.
- Retreat a few yards from the Strid, ignoring signs to the car park and to Barden Bridge (unless in need of transport). Continue upstream on a narrow path signed by a green arrow, climbing onto a ledge and passing beneath a large holly tree.
- The Way climbs to a stone wall, descends again, and then forks right towards Barden Bridge before leaving Strid Woods.
- Walk towards and across the fine stone aqueduct to resume the east bank of the River Wharfe. As you approach Barden Bridge, look left beyond the trees to see Barden Tower, a former forest lodge rebuilt in the 17th century by Lady Anne Clifford: see panel on page 34.
- From Barden Bridge continue past the parking lay-by with the Wharfe on your left, and join the riverside path for 2 km (1.2 mi). Approaching Howgill, the Way swings right past two wooden cabins to pass through a farmyard and onto a road bridge over Fir Beck.
- Immediately, turn sharp left into a short lane, cross a field and continue upstream through a wood and into pastures where the Way keeps to the riverside path. Mason's campsite and the path into Appletreewick are about 1.4 km (0.9 mi) ahead.



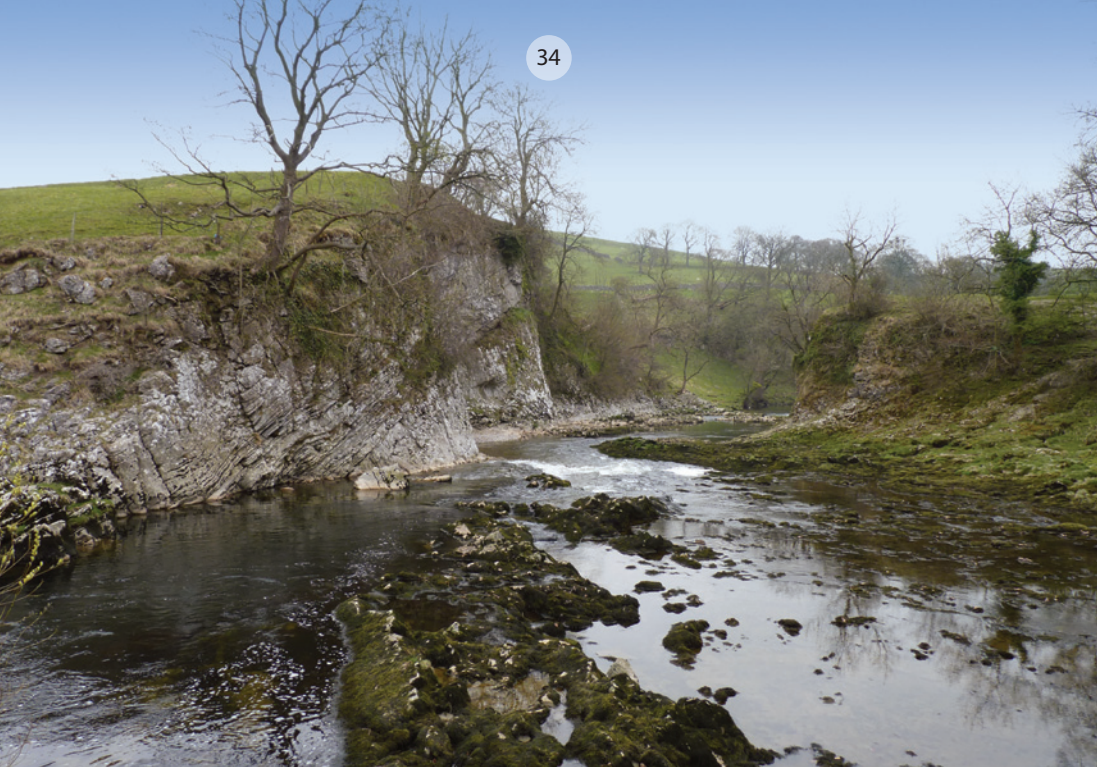
The Strid



#### The Strid

At the Strid, the River Wharfe surges through a slot in the bedrock, a series of connected potholes eroded by swirling pebbles. The temptation to jump the slippery gap has claimed many lives. The 10-metre deep chasm is churned by powerful currents. Submerged ledges can trap bodies for several weeks. The dank grimness contrasts with the delicate beauty of Bolton Priory, though tradition links the two locations: see page 17.





River Wharfe at Loup Scar, near Burnsall

- Ahead looms the dark crown of Burnsall Fell, whilst the hills to your right near Appletreewick show outcrops of limestone and traces of abandoned cultivation strips. You are crossing the Craven Fault, one of the most important geological features in England: see page 14.
- Continue along the river bank for 700 m, where the Way veers right towards a barn. Pass between farm buildings on a vehicle track.
- The track soon forks, and the Way turns left across a footbridge to follow the footpath to Burnsall. This rejoins the river, then climbs away from it across pasture to meet the road.
- Cross the river to enter the village. If continuing along the Way, turn sharp right before the Red Lion, then left along the riverside path.



#### **Barden Tower and the Cliffords**

Barden Tower was a derelict forest lodge until becoming home to Henry Clifford, "the Shepherd Lord".

Henry, aged seven, went into hiding after his father's death in The Wars of the Roses in 1461. He lived as a shepherd before claiming his inheritance in 1485 after the defeat of the last Yorkist king. Preferring country to court, Henry turned the Tower into a fortified house where he studied astronomy and alchemy. Lady Anne Clifford had to wait 38 years for her inheritance. This redoubtable woman then restored the derelict Tower in 1657-9. She rebuilt many churches and established almshouses on her estates, which stretched north to Penrith. She also restored the castles of Skipton, Pendragon, Brough, Appleby and Brougham. For a tribute walk, see [www.ladyannesway.co.uk](http://www.ladyannesway.co.uk)