

**Map:** Explorer OL30, Yorkshire Dales Northern & Central areas.

It is recommended that this leaflet is used in conjunction with the map.

**Nearest village:** Buckden, just over a mile south east (pub, cafés, toilets, the National Trust's Town Head Barn has an exhibition about the area's history).

**Terrain:** Moderate. Mostly fairly level but with a steep climb and descent. Tracks, footpaths (muddy in places), steps, gates, footbridges.

**Start and finish point:** Grid ref: SD92657823, a lay-by on the minor road running through Hubberholme.

**Getting there without a car:** DalesBus operates buses to Buckden (see [www.dalesbus.org/874.html](http://www.dalesbus.org/874.html)). The B6160 that runs up Wharfedale is popular with cyclists but it is narrow in parts and can be busy with traffic.

The best time to visit a meadow is in June, as most of the wildflowers will be flowering by then. This is also a good time to visit the Dales as it's just before the main tourist season starts. However, the walk is equally enjoyable in the autumn and at other times of the year.

This is one of a series of walks incorporating Yorkshire Dales hay meadows. Other routes include Muker Meadows (Swaledale), Askrigg Bottoms Meadow (Wensleydale), Dentdale Meadows and Grassington Meadows (Wharfedale). All are available to download at [www.ydmt.org/resources](http://www.ydmt.org/resources)

The leaflets have been produced as part of the Into the Meadows project, which aims to help people enjoy, understand and celebrate the Dales meadows. To find out more about the project and how YDMT has helped to restore meadows go to [www.ydmt.org/haytime](http://www.ydmt.org/haytime)

**Into the Meadows has been funded by:**



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# Yockenthwaite Meadows



An excellent circular walk from Hubberholme to Yockenthwaite and back, partly along the Dales Way, seeing meadows, woodland, limestone scenery and historic farmhouses along the way, and with wonderful views of upper Wharfedale and Langstrothdale

3.5 miles / 5.5 km / 2.5 hours

Into the Meadows



The tiny hamlet of Hubberholme (locally pronounced Ubboram) takes its name from Hubba the Berserker, a fearsome Viking chieftain.

On the first Monday after New Year's Day since at least the 18th century, a 'parliament' has been held at the George Inn at which the grazing rights to a nearby pasture are auctioned by the vicar, with the auction finishing when the candle on the bar burns out. The highest bidder (usually a local farmer) pays the rent which is used to support the elderly of the parish. The toilets at the George (signed t'ewes and t'tups) are for customers only, so please only use them if you also spend a penny in the pub!

The picturesque church, dating from the 13th century, is famous for its rood loft, one of only two surviving in Yorkshire, which is thought to have come from Coverham Priory in 1558. The choir stall and pews were made by Robert Thompson of Kilburn in 1934 and several of his carved mice can be seen on the pew ends. Also inside is a plaque commemorating J B Priestley.

1

Grid ref: **SD92657823**

From the lay-by, walk towards the church and then follow the fingerposts to head west towards Yockenthwaite on the Dales Way besides the River Wharfe.

2

Grid ref: **SD91157852**

The next six fields make up the Yockenthwaite Meadows SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest), as they are so species-rich. In each meadow the central slope is left uncut but the whole site is grazed and this results in the fields having elements of both pasture and hay meadow vegetation, including wood crane's-bill, pignut, common knapweed, bird's-foot trefoil, autumn hawkbit, devil's-bit scabious and salad burnet, as well as three species of orchids.

3

Grid ref: **SD90517907**

Follow the path through the farm buildings at Yockenthwaite (meaning 'Eoghan's clearing in a wood'), admire the packhorse bridge across the river, and then head uphill on the farm track signposted to Cray. Alternatively,

make a short detour to Yockenthwaite stone circle, about a third of a mile further along the Dales Way. The circle of 24 limestone boulders is about 7.6 metres in diameter. It is believed to date from the Bronze Age and that the stones once formed the kerb of a burial cairn.

4

Grid ref: **SD90757915**

Turn right at the fingerpost to head east along 'Postman's Walk' towards Cray. Enjoy the stunning views of the farmed dale below and the wild fells.

5

Grid ref: **SD91227887**

The limestone pavement here forms a series of stepped terraces – the result of the differential erosion of limestone (laid down as layers of tiny shells and micro-skeletons in shallow seas some 300 million years ago) and the alternating layers of shales and sandstone that erode more easily.



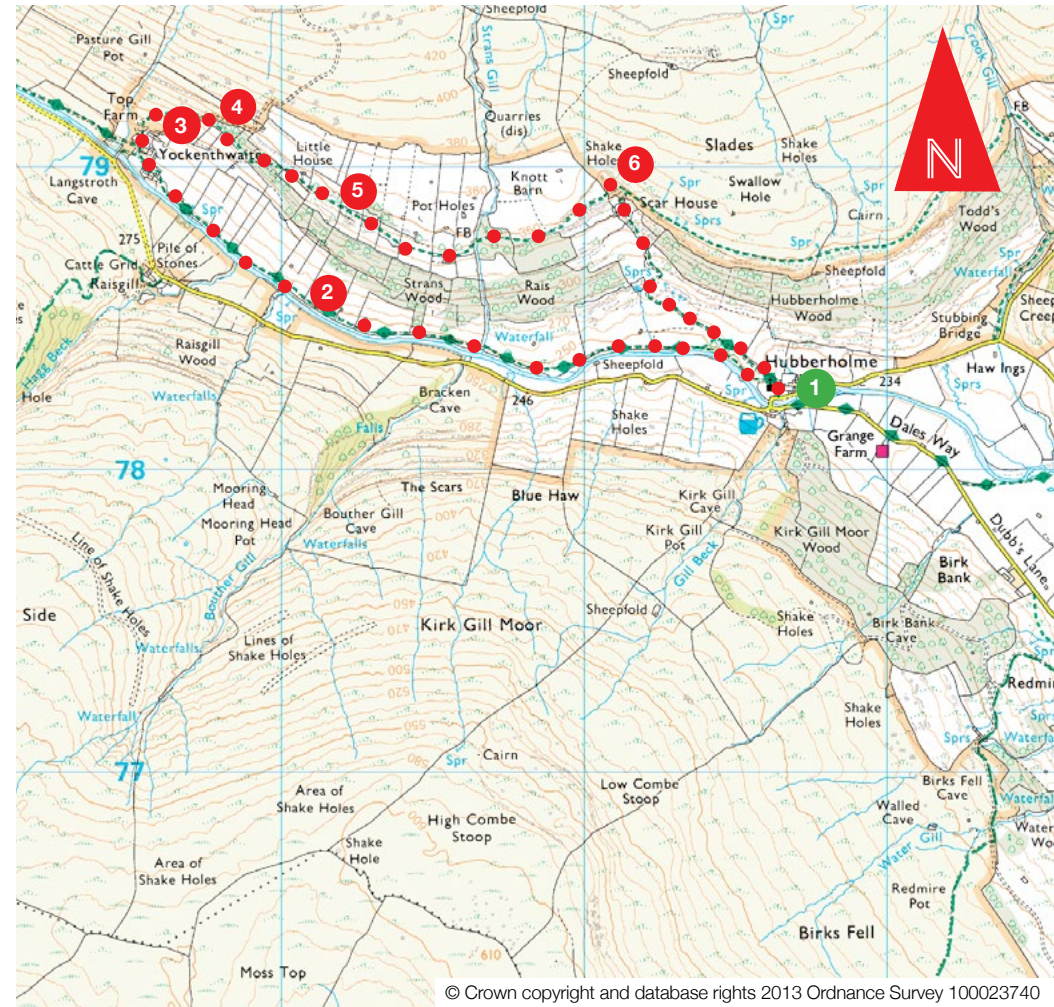
1

Start & finish

•

Walk route

Scale: 1km / 0.6miles



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6

Grid ref: **SD92147886**

Scar House, a National Trust holiday home, is an impressive 17th century house that George Fox, the founder of the Quaker movement, visited in 1652. There's a small Quaker burial ground to the west of the building. Follow the track back down to Hubberholme.

Meadows provide winter fodder for livestock so please stay on the public rights of way and walk in single file (there is no 'right to roam' through meadows). Please leave gates as you find them and keep dogs under close control, preferably on a short lead. Thank you!