

Map: Explorer OL30, Yorkshire Dales Northern & Central areas.
It is recommended that this leaflet is used in conjunction with the map.

Nearest village: Muker (pub, café, shops, toilets).

Terrain: Easy/moderate. Mostly fairly level with one moderate climb.
Tracks, footpaths (muddy in places), wooden stiles, squeeze stiles, gates, steps, footbridges. Take care around waterfalls and derelict buildings, especially if you're with children. Do not enter mine levels.

Start and finish point: Muker pay and display car park (Grid ref: SD91039782).

Getting there without a car: National Cycle Network route 10 goes through Muker. DalesBus 30 runs from Richmond (see www.northyorkstravel.info/timetable/YNAO030Z.pdf). The nearest train station is about 14 miles to the north west at Kirkby Stephen.

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 Dentedale Meadows, Askrigg Bottoms Meadow (Wensleydale), Yockenthwaite Meadows (Langstrothdale) and Grassington Meadows (Wharfedale). All are available to download at 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

Into the Meadows has been funded by:



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Muker Meadows



A superb walk through some of the best meadows in the Dales and alongside the River Swale, passing by waterfalls, lead mining remains, historic farmhouses and field barns.

5.2 miles / 8.5 km / 3 hours

Into the Meadows



1

Grid ref: **SD91039782**

From the car park turn left and walk over the road bridge (no footway so take care). Follow the road left briefly then bear right and right again to go past Muker Literary Institute, built in 1800. The name Muker is of Old Norse origin - from *Mjor-aker*, which means 'the narrow acre', perhaps referring to the narrow strip of fertile land between the River Swale and the fellside. Carry on past the fingerpost marked Gunnerside & Keld and bear right at the postbox.

2

Grid ref: **SD91029798**

Follow the track and then the flagged footpath through a series of meadows, via wooden gates and squeeze stiles. These meadows are part of the Muker Meadows Site of Special Scientific Interest. They are species-rich with lots of wood crane's-bill, Lady's mantles, yellow rattle and rough hawkbit.

3

Grid ref: **SD90959863**

Go through the gate and turn right. Follow the path over Ramps Holme footbridge, bear left down the steps and follow the riverside track.

4

Grid ref: **NY90890053**

Go over the footbridge. On the right is a waterfall and the remains of Beldi Hill lead smelting mill. Here, quarried stone was heated and the molten lead extracted. Go through a wooden gate and follow the fairly steep track up the hillside.

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!

5

Grid ref: **NY90460086**

Enjoy the fabulous views down the dale. At this point you could make a short detour up the track on the right to see the romantic remains of Crackpot Hall, a 17th century farmhouse, still with its hearth and oven. The name is derived from Old Norse and refers to crows and a nearby pothole. Slightly higher up are the remains of a lead mine including the bouse teams – partitioned stone chambers used to store the ore-rich stone before it was processed. Continue along the track, passing by the rusting remnants of an old tractor, slowly disappearing into the ground.

6

Grid ref: **NY89760105**

On the track and in the rocky bank on the right look out for the fossilised remains of crinoids (marine animals resembling plants). These circular and tubular fossils, known locally as St Cuthbert's beads, formed around 300 million years ago when much of what is now Britain was under a shallow tropical sea.

7

Grid ref: **NY89640112**

Go over the bridge above the impressive Kisdon Force. This is a great spot for a picnic and to take heed of the message on one of the benches: Rest a while and leave with a smile. Turn left downhill to briefly join the Pennine Way. Go across the footbridge over the Swale and bear right up the steps.

8

Grid ref: **NY89500103**

Turn right towards nearby Keld for refreshments, or left along the track to Muker to continue the walk. Keep left at the fork in the track.

1

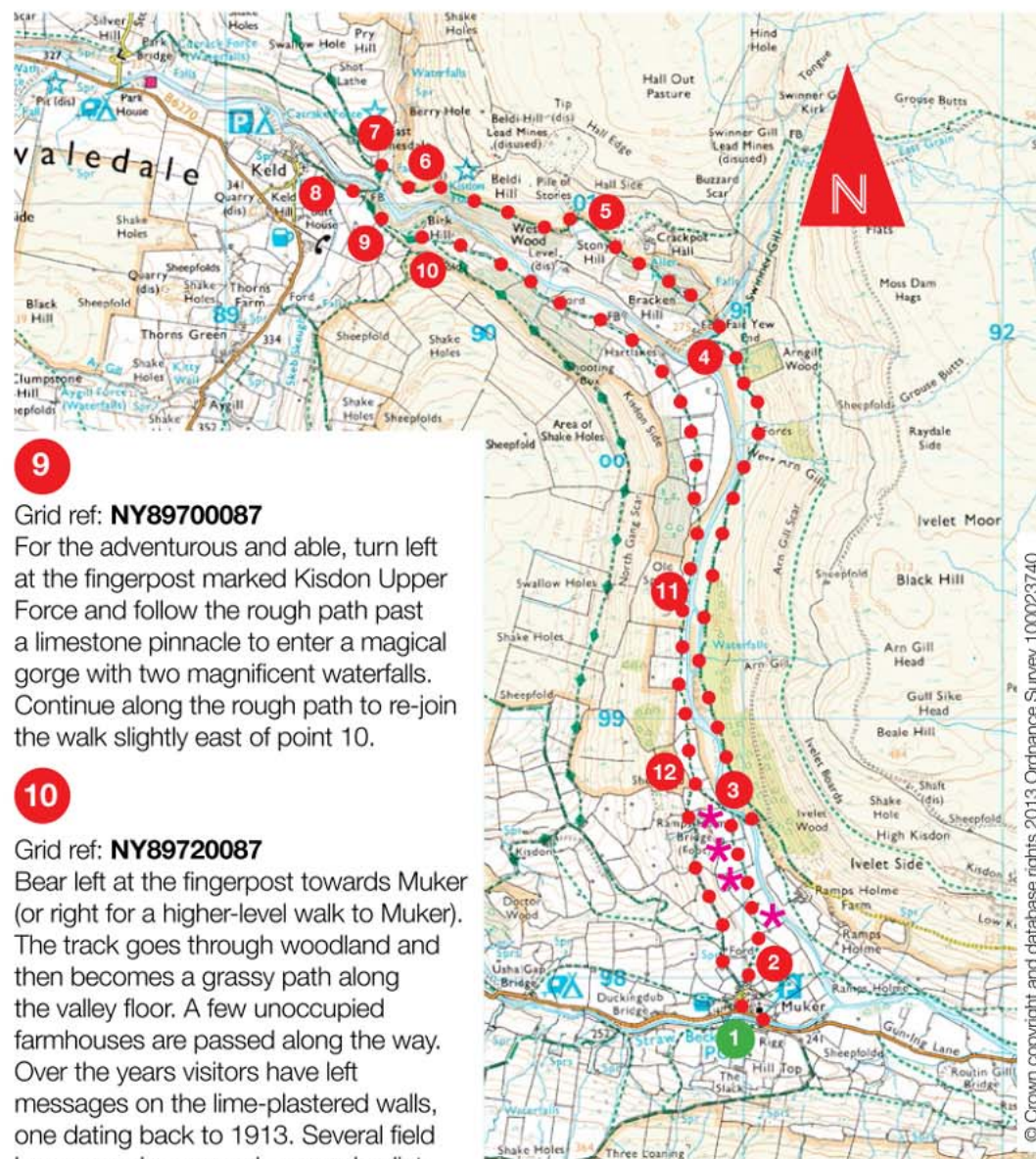
Start & finish

Walk route

*

Meadow

Scale: 1km / 0.6miles



9

Grid ref: **NY89700087**

For the adventurous and able, turn left at the fingerpost marked Kisdon Upper Force and follow the rough path past a limestone pinnacle to enter a magical gorge with two magnificent waterfalls. Continue along the rough path to re-join the walk slightly east of point 10.

10

Grid ref: **NY89720087**

Bear left at the fingerpost towards Muker (or right for a higher-level walk to Muker). The track goes through woodland and then becomes a grassy path along the valley floor. A few unoccupied farmhouses are passed along the way. Over the years visitors have left messages on the lime-plastered walls, one dating back to 1913. Several field barns are also passed, some derelict, some restored, and the remains of old horse-drawn haymaking equipment can be seen.

11

Grid ref: **SD90779946**

Go through a small gate on the right and continue to follow the path across fields.

12

Grid ref: **SD90819874**

Immediately after the barn, bear right uphill (or left to go back to Ramps Holme footbridge to revisit the meadows). Stay on the walled lane back to Muker and enjoy the views of the meadows on the left.