

# Wensleydale Walk

## Discover Redmire Force in the Yorkshire Dales

Visit my website for full details: <https://www.paulbeal.com/wensleydale-walk>

### Introduction to the Walk

This Wensleydale walk begins in the pretty village of Wensley, with parking beside Wensley Bridge on the River Ure. The circular route takes you through Wensley Park on the Bolton Estate, past the historic Keldheads Lane smelt mill, and on to the village of Preston-under-Scar. From there, the path leads across fields to Redmire and the peaceful setting of St Mary's Church, before continuing south to the waterfalls at Redmire Force. The return journey follows the River Ure, passes Bolton Hall, and winds back through Wensley Park to finish where you started.

### Highlights of the Walk

The walk begins with views of the medieval arches of Wensley Bridge and a visit to Holy Trinity Church, which dates back to the 13th century. Further on, Penhill dominates the skyline as you cross fields and pass the heritage Wensleydale Railway. The old lead smelt mill near Preston-under-Scar adds a touch of industrial history, while Redmire offers charm and character with its church, village green, and welcoming pub. The real gem is Redmire Force, a series of cascades on the River Ure, reached by a woodland path and footbridge over Apedale Beck. The return through West Wood and past Bolton Hall makes for a scenic and peaceful end to the route.

Wensleydale is one of the best-known valleys in the Yorkshire Dales, taking its name from the village of Wensley rather than its river. The dale is shaped by the River Ure, historically known as Yoredale, which flows east to become the River Ouse. With landmarks such as Addleborough in the upper dale and Penhill in the lower dale, the valley is rich in scenery, history, and culture.

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### Additional Information

- **Distance:** 9¼ miles (14¾ kilometres).
- **Duration:** Approximately 4¼ hours (excluding stops and breaks).
- **Difficulty:** Moderate, with a mix of field paths, woodland tracks, and village lanes, plus some mild ups and downs.
- **Trail Conditions:** Generally good, with clear paths and tracks. Some small sections can be muddy or uneven, but nothing too difficult.
- **Recommended Map:** OS Explorer OL30 – Yorkshire Dales Northern & Central Area.
- **Parking:** Free roadside car park beside Wensley Bridge on the A684, at the southern edge of Wensley village.
  - **Google Maps Link:** <https://maps.app.goo.gl/iEAB8LuCGX57RsMy7>
  - **What3Words:** ///roosters.pile.creatures

### Support My Work

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Thank you for your support!

Paul Beal



# Step-by-Step Directions

Begin your Wensleydale walk in the picturesque village of Wensley. Park in the spacious **roadside car park on the A684 (1)**, situated next to Wensley Bridge on the southern edge of the village. From the car park, cross Wensley Bridge and head into the village. You will pass the **church (2)** on your right before reaching a small village green on your left. Turn left here and follow the road into Wensley Park, which forms part of the Bolton Estate.

Walk along the concrete road until you come to a large stone house called **Wensley House (3)** on your right. Just beyond the house, take the public footpath on your right. This path leads diagonally across a grassy field in a north-westerly direction. Aim for **Hellgill Cottage (4)**, the house in the far corner of the field. Pass the cottage, turn left, and go through a gate. Then, turn right onto a stone track. Follow this track around the edge of the wood and turn left into the woodland to reach the **main road (5)**.

Turn left along the road for a short stretch, then turn right onto a public footpath. Follow this trail across a field, where you will cross the **Wensleydale Railway (6)**, and then continue across another field. Cross the road and follow the track uphill to Keldheads Lane Smelt Mill near Tullis Cote. Use the tall chimney of the former smelt mill as a guide. Continue past the smelt mill, climbing uphill. Pass a farm and some **large barns (7)** on your right before reaching a crossroads. Walk straight ahead here, following the wide stone track as it ascends into woodland.

Look for a **gap in the dry stone wall (8)** on your left and take the public footpath into the woods. Cross a stream and continue until you emerge into a grassy field. Follow the trail across this field to reach a **road (9)**. Turn right and head towards the village of Preston-under-Scar. Walk through the village, ignoring the left turn signposted for Redmire, Wensley, and Leyburn. At the village's western edge, turn left just after **Jubilee Cottage (10)**. Take the public footpath downhill, which leads to the main road.

Turn right briefly along the main road, then turn left onto another public footpath. Cross the **Wensleydale Railway (11)** again and continue across several fields, heading diagonally south-west. Pass a large stone barn on your right and aim for the right-hand side of the farm at Wood End. The path here may be faint, but as you near the farm, veer right to reach **Wood End Lane (12)**.

Turn right onto the concrete lane, passing **St Mary's Church (13)** on your left. Continue along the tarmac road to the **southern edge of Redmire (14)**. If you want to explore the village, turn right. Otherwise, turn left and follow Mill Lane southwards. At the bottom of the lane, pass **Mill Farm (15)** on your left and take the permissive footpath on your right. This path leads to the waterfalls. Walk through the woodland and descend a grassy bank to the banks of the River Ure. Follow the river upstream, crossing a footbridge over Apedale Beck, and continue along the river to **Redmire Force (16)**.

Retrace your steps back to the permissive path near Mill Farm. Instead of returning up Mill Lane, follow the public footpath straight ahead. This elevated path runs along the north side of the River Ure. When you reach a large open field, turn left and go through a gate. Walk along the trail, turn left again, and then turn right onto **Well Lane (17)**. This wider track passes a farmhouse on your right. Just beyond the farmhouse, turn right and follow the public footpath into a large open field.

Continue along this footpath in a south-easterly direction, crossing several fields, until you reach **West Wood (18)**. Walk through the woodland on the forest track. After about a mile, the path will bring you past **Bolton Hall (19)** on your left. From here, follow the route east through **Wensley Park (20)** for roughly another mile until you return to the village of Wensley. At the main road, turn right to cross the River Ure once more. This will bring you back to the car park, completing your Wensleydale walk in the stunning Yorkshire Dales.

## Map of the Walk

