

Sutton Bank Walk

From the Kilburn White Horse to High Paradise

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

Introduction to the Walk

This Sutton Bank walk begins at the car park on Low Town Bank Road near the Yorkshire Gliding Club. From there, the route joins the Cleveland Way above the Kilburn White Horse and follows the escarpment north all the way to High Paradise. It's a straightforward there-and-back trail, easy to follow, with highlights along the way including Ivy Scar, Roulston Scar, Sutton Bank Visitor Centre, Whitestone Cliff, Sneck Yate, and the peaceful tracks of Boltby Forest.

Highlights of the Walk

Sutton Bank is one of the standout features of the Hambleton Hills in the North York Moors National Park, with sweeping views across the Vale of Mowbray. Roulston Scar is the site of a vast Iron Age hillfort, and the ridge also witnessed the Battle of Old Byland in 1322, when Scottish forces defeated the English army.

Along the way you'll enjoy big open views above the White Horse, quiet benches dotted along the escarpment, and dramatic scenery from Ivy Scar and Roulston Scar towards Hood Hill. The route also passes the Yorkshire Gliding Club, a toposcope above Sutton Bank, and the famous viewpoint described by James Herriot as the 'finest view in England'.

Further on are silver birch woods, the sheer face of Whitestone Cliff, and views of the mysterious Gormire Lake – one of only four natural lakes in Yorkshire. Beyond Sneck Yate the trail winds through Boltby Forest, past the ruins of High Barn, and finishes at High Paradise Farm, a welcome stop before the return journey.

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Additional Information

- **Distance:** Up to 12 miles (19¼ kilometres).
- **Duration:** Up to 5½ hours (excluding stops and breaks).
- **Difficulty:** Easy to moderate, depending on how far you go. Mostly level with gentle undulations and straightforward navigation on the Cleveland Way. Turn-backs are possible at any point.
- **Trail Conditions:** Well-maintained National Trail on compact gravel, stone, and earth. Mostly level along the escarpment, with some narrower sections, occasional tree roots, and short exposed stretches near the edge. Can be muddy in wet weather, particularly approaching High Barn.
- **Recommended Map:** OS Explorer OL26 – North York Moors Western Area.
- **Parking:** Low Town Bank Road car park. Alternative at the White Horse car park below the hillside, but that approach involves steep steps.
 - **Google Maps Link:** <https://maps.app.goo.gl/rj6jwEY9985R2qp8A>
 - **What3Words:** ///diplomas.flags.perkily

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Thank you for your support!

Paul Beal



Step-by-Step Directions

This Sutton Bank walk starts from the car park on **Low Town Bank Road (1)**. If you are coming from the north, take the A170 to the top of Sutton Bank and follow the signs for the Yorkshire Gliding Club and White Horse. If you are arriving from the south, drive along Carr Lane from the village of Kilburn and follow the signs for the White Horse. Once you reach the car park, cross the road and turn left onto a footpath. After about 10 minutes, this path will bring you to the Cleveland Way at the top of the **White Horse Hill Figure (2)**.

From here, you will follow the Cleveland Way for the entire walk, there-and-back. This straightforward, linear route is well-maintained and easy to navigate. On clear days, you will enjoy spectacular views throughout your hike. You can choose how far to walk before turning back, making this walk as flexible as it is scenic. For this guide, the full route is described to High Paradise, which is 6 miles each way, giving you a total walk of 12 miles. If you prefer a shorter trek, consider these alternative waypoints:

- From the White Horse to the Sutton Bank **Visitor Centre (4)** and back: about 3½ miles in total.
- From the White Horse to **Whitestone Cliff (6)** and back: roughly 5 miles in total.
- From the White Horse to **Boltby Scar (7)** and back: approximately 8 miles in total.
- From the White Horse to **Sneck Yate (9)** and back: about 10 miles in total.

To begin, head north on the Cleveland Way, which hugs the top of the Sutton Bank escarpment. The path leads you across Ivy Scar and **Roulston Scar (3)**, offering dramatic views across the Vale of Mowbray. After walking for around a mile, you will pass the Yorkshire Gliding Club on your right-hand side. If you're lucky, you might catch sight of a glider taking off or even one soaring above you over the landscape.

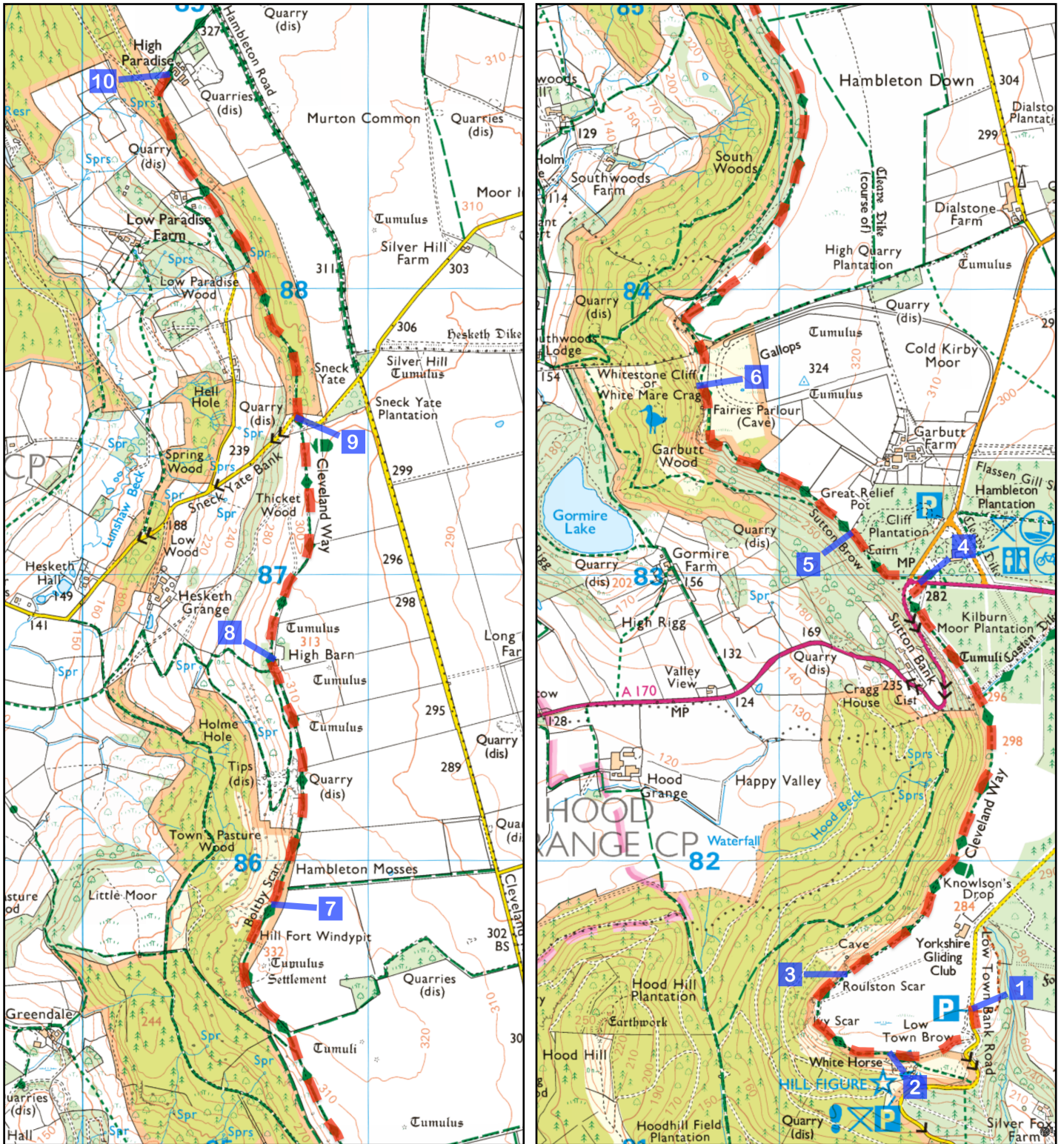
As you continue, the trail reaches the main road at Sutton Bank after about 1¾ miles. Cross the busy road carefully and turn left to rejoin the Cleveland Way. If you need a break, this is an excellent opportunity to visit the North York Moors National Park **Visitor Centre (4)**, which has a café, shop, and toilet facilities. Once ready to continue, the Cleveland Way guides you along **Sutton Brow (5)**, eventually leading to the stunning **Whitestone Cliff (6)**. By this point, you will have walked about 2½ miles.

This section of the Sutton Bank walk becomes slightly more remote as you trek towards **Boltby Scar (7)**, which you will reach after about 4 miles. Shortly after, you will pass **High Barn (8)**, a crumbling but atmospheric structure on your right-hand side. The scenery remains captivating as you continue for another half a mile to reach **Sneck Yate (9)**, where the trail crosses a minor road.

Beyond Sneck Yate, the Cleveland Way enters the enchanting Boltby Forest. As you follow the well-trodden path through the trees, the peaceful woodland adds a new dimension to your walk. After 6 miles, you will arrive at **High Paradise (10)**, your final waypoint. This beautiful spot marks the perfect turnaround point.

To complete your Sutton Bank walk, simply retrace your steps along the Cleveland Way. This return journey allows you to enjoy the spectacular views from a fresh perspective, ensuring that the experience is as rewarding on the way back as it was on the way out. With its dramatic escarpments, picturesque woodlands, and well-signposted trails, this 12-mile walk perfectly captures the beauty of the North York Moors.

Map of the Walk



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