

Yorkshire Moors Walk

Masham Moor, Dale Edge and Colsterdale

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

Introduction to the Walk

This Yorkshire Moors walk is a real gem for lovers of open landscapes and quieter trails. Starting from Gollinglith Foot, the circular route explores the rugged terrain of the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It follows the Six Dales Trail through fields and woodland before heading out onto the windswept uplands of Pott Moor and Dale Edge. The route loops through Colsterdale and returns via Coal Road.

Highlights of the Walk

Along the way, you'll experience exhilarating exposed moorland to blow the cobwebs away, and a short section in a valley where the bracken can be high in summer—adding an extra bit of excitement as you push through the overgrown trail. There are also a few trickier sections where the path becomes faint and navigation requires care. This is a less well walked route, ideal for those who enjoy solitude, nature, and a true sense of the wild.

Highlights of the walk include a peaceful climb through woodland, followed by wide, open crossings of Pott Moor and Dale Edge with sweeping views towards Scar House Reservoir and the high ridges of Little Whernside and Great Whernside.

The route skirts South Haw, marked by a lonely boundary stone, and descends into the valley along the banks of the River Burn. You'll pass old farm buildings, Swaledale sheep, and colourful upland moorland filled with heather and bracken. The final stretch along Coal Road offers an easy finish with spectacular views across the Colsterdale valley.

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Additional Information

- **Distance:** 11½ miles (18¾ kilometres).
- **Duration:** Approximately 5¾ hours (excluding stops and breaks).
- **Difficulty:** Fairly demanding. The route includes several steady climbs, some overgrown sections through tall bracken, and stretches where the path is faint or hard to follow, particularly across open moorland.
- **Trail Conditions:** A combination of farm tracks, grassy footpaths, woodland trails, stone bridleways, and open moorland. Certain areas can be overgrown in summer, with a few stiles, gates, and stream crossings. The terrain is generally straightforward but exposed in places, especially across Pott Moor and Dale Edge.
- **Recommended Map:** OS Explorer 298 – Nidderdale.
- **Parking:** Roadside parking at Gollinglith Foot beside the postbox and red telephone box, next to the footbridge over the River Burn. Space for about half a dozen cars.
 - **Google Maps Link:** <https://maps.app.goo.gl/eg8XHKE3uFEw8JUS9>
 - **What3Words:** ///unpainted.sprinter.worker

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Thank you for your support!

Paul Beal



Step-by-Step Directions

Begin your Yorkshire moors walk by parking at **Gollinglith Foot (1)**. There's space for about half a dozen cars next to a postbox and a red telephone box. From the parking area, walk past the small stone garage on your right and cross the footbridge over the River Burn.

On the far side of the footbridge, turn left onto the bridleway, which also forms part of the Six Dales Trail. Follow this bridleway south through farmland and woodland, using the blue waymarker arrows for guidance. These signs confirm you're on a public bridleway, and some also mention the Six Dales Trail.

After roughly half a mile, you'll reach a tall, disused farmhouse called **Pickersgill House (2)**. Walk past it and emerge onto a minor tarmac road. Turn left and follow the road uphill. At the top, turn right, continuing along the public bridleway, still following the Six Dales Trail.

Carry on along this quiet lane for around a quarter of a mile. Then turn left, signposted as a public footpath for the Six Dales Trail. Walk past the right-hand side of the farm buildings at **Towler Hill (3)**. Keep following the waymarked trail across five more fields and over several stiles.

In the final field, you'll see a row of farm buildings at **High Sourmire (4)** ahead of you. Skirt around the right-hand side of the buildings and continue downhill on the footpath, which remains part of the Six Dales Trail. Descend into the valley and enter an area of pine woodland. Walk through the trees to the **bottom of the valley (5)** and cross the stream via a wooden footbridge.

From the footbridge, begin your climb out of the valley along a woodland path. The track is fairly clear underfoot, but in summer the bracken may be high and the path could become overgrown. After emerging from the trees, continue on the public footpath, still on the Six Dales Trail.

Cross the next few fields to reach a stone track and pass over a **cattle grid (6)**. Avoid the right-hand track and keep straight ahead. This route leads you to the minor road known as Pott Moor High Road. Turn right and follow the road for about two-thirds of a mile. At this point, you leave the Six Dales Trail.

Turn right onto a **broad stone track (7)**, signposted as a public footpath heading across the open moorland. Follow the track for half a mile until it splits into two. **Ignore the right-hand fork (8)** and continue straight ahead.

You're now walking across Pott Moor, the most exposed section of your Yorkshire moors walk. Follow the moorland path for roughly a mile, pass through a boundary gate, and shortly afterwards, enjoy wide views as the Nidderdale valley comes into sight.

Soon, you'll reach the **bridleway at Dale Edge (9)**. Turn right and go through the gate. The track then divides —avoid the left-hand path downhill and continue straight ahead along the right-hand fork. Walk along Dale Edge for 1½ miles. This high-level stretch is the scenic highlight of your Yorkshire moors walk.

As the track gently descends, look out for a **clump of coniferous trees (10)** on your left, about 150 metres away. As you reach them, turn right onto a grassy bridleway heading north. There is no signpost, but the path is faintly visible. This section climbs gently uphill and passes a deep, disused shaft on your right, surrounded by a small fence, then a semi-circular stone sheepfold on your left.

Keep going north across the moorland for about two-thirds of a mile. You're now heading for a hill called **Little Haw (11)**, also known as South Haw. On its summit is a boundary stone. Skirt around the left-hand side of the hill to reach a metal gate. Go through the gate and continue straight ahead in a north-easterly direction, still on the bridleway across the open moors.

The track is faint but visible, trodden by other walkers. If you find yourself pushing through tall heather or long grass, you may have strayed off course. After about half a mile, descend to cross a small stream at the top of **Steel House Gill (12)**. Turn right to join a stone track heading east.

Follow this track for around two-thirds of a mile, staying on the left-hand side of the valley. The path descends to cross the stream again—this marks the **start of the River Burn (13)**. From this point, continue along the well-maintained track on the right-hand side of the valley.

Stay on this wide track for almost a mile. You'll pass a **shooting house (14)** on your right. Not long after, the track splits—be sure to take the left-hand fork. Stay on the track for another three-quarters of a mile, always keeping to the right-hand side of the valley, until you reach the start of a route known as **Coal Road (15)**.

Coal Road is a pleasant, grassy track that's easy to follow for the next two miles. This part of your Yorkshire moors walk offers stunning views over the Colsterdale valley to your left. Ignore any side tracks and continue straight on.

Eventually, the track descends into the valley and passes some **farm buildings (16)** on your right. After the buildings, follow the track downhill, then turn right where a sign points to a public bridleway.

A little further on, turn left and use the footbridge to cross back over the River Burn. You'll return immediately to the car park, where your Yorkshire moors walk comes to an end.

Map of the Walk

