

# FALLING FOSS WALK

## Explore Waterfalls, Woodlands, and Littlebeck

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

### Introduction to the Walk

Set out from May Beck Car Park for a peaceful, family-friendly woodland outing. From the car park, cross the bridge over May Beck and follow the clear waymarkers for the Coast to Coast Path and Falling Foss. The trail leads through quiet woods to a handsome arched stone bridge, then turns towards Midge Hall and views of the waterfall. Continue past The Hermitage into Little Beck Wood Nature Reserve and on to the hamlet of Littlebeck, with its ford and Methodist Chapel, before retracing your steps to return.

### Highlights of the Walk

Highlights include peaceful woodland paths beneath a leafy canopy, a picturesque stone bridge with small cascades nearby, and the centrepiece, Falling Foss plunging to a tranquil pool. North of the falls, The Hermitage, carved from a single sandstone boulder and inscribed 'GC 1790', adds a touch of history. The route continues through Little Beck Wood Nature Reserve before emerging in Littlebeck, where the ford and chapel make a natural halfway pause.

The section from May Beck to The Hermitage is generally pram and pushchair friendly on well-made paths. Beyond The Hermitage there are short ascents and descents, steps, and varied surfaces, yet it remains fairly easy in normal conditions and is suitable for the whole family, including children.

If you're looking for a gentle day out that suits all ages, engages the kids, and offers beautiful waterfall views, this is a lovely choice. Visit <https://www.paulbeal.com/falling-foss-walk> for full details.

### Additional Information

- **Distance:** 4¼ miles (6¾ kilometres).
- **Duration:** Approximately 2¼ hours (excluding stops and breaks).
- **Difficulty:** Easy. This is a straightforward, well-signposted walk that's ideal for families and suitable for all ages. The section from May Beck to The Hermitage follows wide, well-made paths that are pram and pushchair friendly. Beyond The Hermitage, there are gentle ascents, steps, and uneven surfaces, but nothing too challenging.
- **Trail Conditions:** Mostly firm and well maintained, with compacted gravel and natural woodland paths. There are some short stepped sections and occasional muddy patches after rain, particularly beyond The Hermitage and through Little Beck Wood.
- **Recommended Map:** OS Explorer OL27 – North York Moors Eastern Area.
- **Parking:** May Beck, a well-maintained Forestry Commission car park signposted from the B1416.
  - **Google Maps Link:** <https://maps.app.goo.gl/9PtzUrTGA5EB1n4a8>
  - **What3Words:** ///speaks.strapping.shuttered

### Support My Work

If you've found these directions helpful or enjoyed this walk, please consider making a £2 donation to support what I do. Your contribution helps me create more free walking guides like this one.

You can donate by visiting <https://buymeacoffee.com/paulbeal> or by scanning the QR code.

Thank you for your support!

Paul Beal



# Step-by-Step Directions

To begin your Falling Foss walk, start by parking in the **May Beck Car Park (1)**. This car park is located at the end of a minor road, which you can reach by turning off the B1416. The B1416 links the A171 with Ruswarp, and the turn-off to May Beck is clearly signposted. The car park offers ample spaces, making it a convenient starting point for your walk.

From the car park, cross the bridge over May Beck and immediately turn left onto the path. Look for the sign pointing towards the Coast to Coast Path and Falling Foss ( $\frac{3}{4}$  mile). Follow this well-maintained trail north through the woodland. Although the route generally follows the course of **May Beck (2)**, the stream will occasionally be out of sight. The path is straightforward and easy to navigate, allowing you to enjoy the peaceful surroundings.

After roughly half a mile, you'll come across another signpost for the Coast to Coast Path and Falling Foss ( $\frac{1}{4}$  mile). Continue along this woodland trail, which is marked by frequent signposts. The path soon leads you to an attractive arched stone bridge. Cross this bridge and immediately turn right, following the sign once again for Coast to Coast Path and Falling Foss.

Continue on the path, passing the **Midge Hall café (3)**. Shortly after, look for a sign pointing towards Littlebeck (1 $\frac{1}{4}$  miles). As you walk uphill, you'll see Falling Foss waterfall on your left, which is a highlight of the route. The waterfall adds a delightful moment to your Falling Foss walk as you make your way up the trail. Continue along this well-marked and relatively easy woodland path towards Littlebeck.

Soon, you'll pass **The Hermitage (4)** on your right. Up until this point, the trail has been pram-friendly. However, after The Hermitage, the path becomes less suitable for prams. The next section of the trail involves small ascents and descents, steps, and some boardwalks. The path's condition varies, with some compacted gravel sections that are easy to walk on and occasional muddy stretches. Despite these changes, there's nothing too challenging along this part of the walk.

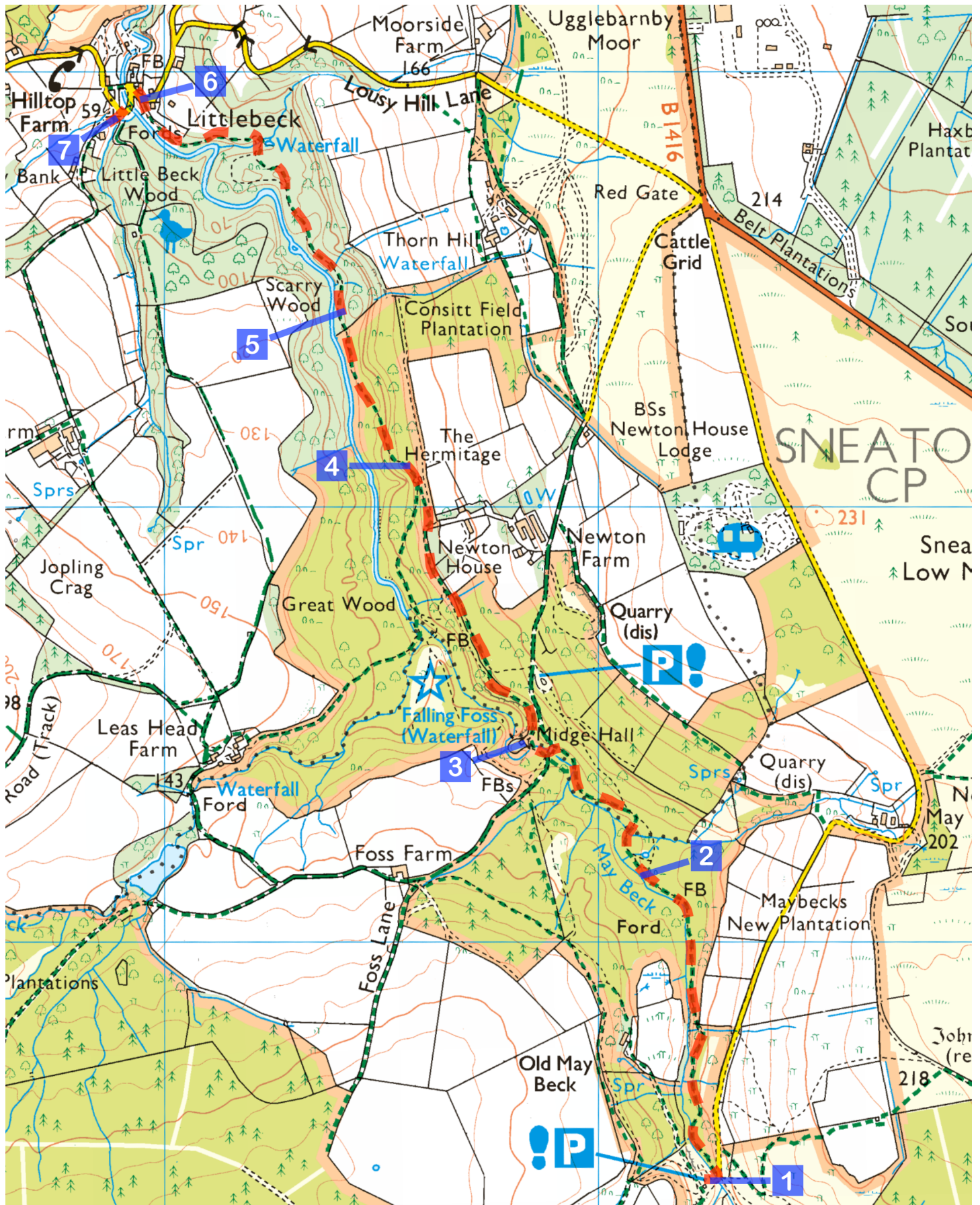
As you progress, you'll enter **Little Beck Wood Nature Reserve (5)**. Continue for approximately half a mile until you reach a gate. Pass through the gate to arrive at the hamlet of **Littlebeck (6)**. Turn left and follow the road, which bends sharply to the left, leading you to a ford crossing the stream known as Little Beck. Here, you'll find the **Methodist Chapel (7)** with a bench nearby, an ideal spot to rest and enjoy the tranquil setting. This point marks the halfway point of your Falling Foss walk.

Next to the bench, an interpretation board provides information about Littlebeck and its history. It highlights key landmarks such as the Methodist Chapel, the Old Woodcarver's Cottage, the Kelpouse, and Littlebeck Village Hall. These are all interesting spots to explore if you wish to learn more about the area.

Since this is a linear route, you will now retrace your steps back to the car park. Follow the same path through the woods, past the landmarks you passed earlier. On your return journey, you might notice new features or enjoy different perspectives, adding a fresh experience to your Falling Foss walk.

The entire route is approximately 4 miles (6.4 kilometres) in total, with 2 miles (3.2 kilometres) each way. This delightful walk through the North York Moors offers scenic views, peaceful woodlands, and the refreshing sight of Falling Foss waterfall to complete your adventure.

# Map of the Walk



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