

LEYBURN SHAWL WALK

Walk and Explore Preston-under-Scar and Wensley

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

Introduction to the Walk

This lovely circular walk is now available to explore on my website. Starting in the centre of Leyburn, the route leaves Market Place and follows easy paths towards Chapel Flats before reaching the peaceful woodland of Leyburn Shawl Plantation. Walkers can look forward to a varied mix of scenery, from open fields and quiet woodland to village lanes and historic sites. The route visits Preston-under-Scar and Wensley, offers wonderful views across Wensleydale, and includes the atmospheric remains of the old lead smelt mill near Tullis Cote. It is a walk full of interest, gentle contrasts, and wide, uplifting landscapes.

Highlights of the Walk

The route is full of memorable highlights. Early on, there are lovely views across Wensleydale, complete with a topographical map stone pointing out the landmarks. The woodland section is particularly charming, with twisted trees, moss-covered dry stone walls, and glimpses of Penhill through the branches. Further along, the limestone scar appears more clearly, the old smelt mill provides an intriguing stop, and the paths through Wensley Park offer peaceful countryside views before the route returns to Leyburn.

Leyburn Shawl is a striking limestone escarpment in the Yorkshire Dales, well known for its far-reaching views over Wensleydale. This natural terrace, stretching for almost two miles, has long been enjoyed by visitors. Its history includes nineteenth-century promenades, shelters built for walkers, and stories connected with Mary, Queen of Scots. With its blend of natural beauty and rich heritage, the Shawl remains one of the area's most distinctive landmarks.

Additional Information

- **Distance:** 6¾ miles (10¾ kilometres).
- **Duration:** Approximately 3¼ hours (excluding stops and breaks).
- **Difficulty:** A moderately easy circular route with gentle climbs and descents, field paths, gates and stiles, suitable for walkers with a reasonable level of fitness.
- **Trail Conditions:** A mix of town pavements, grassy field paths, stone tracks, woodland trails and quiet minor roads, generally easy to follow but uneven and muddy in places after wet weather.
- **Recommended Map:** OS Explorer OL30 – Yorkshire Dales Northern & Central Area.
- **Parking:** Central parking in Leyburn Market Place, with additional parking available in the nearby car park behind the Golden Lion Hotel, close to the start of the walk.
 - **Google Maps Link:** <https://maps.app.goo.gl/x7cMfh2re3vBQ2oKA>
 - **What3Words:** ///violinist.animals.surcharge

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

Begin your Leyburn Shawl walk by parking in the heart of **Leyburn at Market Place (1)**, a central location surrounded by shops. If parking is unavailable, use the nearby car park behind the Golden Lion Hotel, which offers around 120 spaces. Signposts will direct you to this alternative parking area.

From Market Place, walk past the bus shelter, crossing the cobbled area between the World War I memorial cross on your left and the town hall on your right. Cross High Street and continue straight along Commercial Square. As you pass Campbells Family Grocers on your right, look for the signpost marked 'Way To The Shawl', which directs you along the narrow street.

At the end of the street, another sign directs you left towards Leyburn Shawl and the children's playing fields. Pass through the gate and follow the flagged path alongside the high stone wall. Continue through the next gate, arriving at Chapel Flats, a large grassy area. Walk straight ahead, passing the children's playing fields on your right. The path, bordered by woodland on the left, is easy to follow as it **continues across fields (2)** and through several gates.

As you enter the peaceful woods of Leyburn Shawl Plantation, follow the **well-trodden trail (3)** for about half a mile until you reach two prominent stone gateposts. Beyond these, **the route splits (4)**. Take the left-hand path, which descends diagonally across open fields to a **wider stone lane (5)** running beside the trees. Turn right onto this lane and follow it westward towards Tullis Cote, continuing for roughly half a mile.

When the lane forks, take the left-hand track, descending towards **two large barns (6)** on your left. After passing the barns, turn left again and follow the track past the farmhouse. As the track begins to bend left, take the grassy trail straight ahead, leading downhill towards the **old lead smelting mill (7)**. After exploring the mill, continue walking through the farm to meet a minor tarmac road. Turn right and follow the road, passing a cluster of stone houses.

Stay on this quiet road for half a mile until you reach the picturesque village of **Preston-under-Scar (8)**. Look out for the public footpath sign directing you left down a property's driveway. The path takes you behind the property and into open fields. Follow the footpath across the fields until you reach the **old railway line (9)**. Cross over and continue straight ahead to meet the road at Stoneham Cottage.

Cross the road and take the smaller concrete road southwards for just over half a mile. You'll pass the **entrance to the Bolton Hall Estate (10)** on your left. At the junction with another track, turn left and continue walking **in front of Bolton Hall (11)**. This beautiful route takes you through **Wensley Park (12)** for about a mile before you arrive in the **village of Wensley (13)**.

In Wensley, cross the main road (A684) and turn right. Almost immediately, turn left onto Low Lane, passing the church on your right. After a short distance, take a left onto a smaller road that ascends past a large white house. As the road bends right, then left, leave the road and follow the public footpath across the fields.

The final part of the Leyburn Shawl walk leads you through **fields, gates, and over stiles (14)** for about a mile. Public footpath markers guide you along the way. Eventually, you'll cross the **disused railway line (15)** and continue across another field to the A684. Turn right and follow this road, which leads directly back into Leyburn.

This scenic 7-mile walk offers a delightful mix of countryside and village landscapes, starting and ending in Leyburn. With its variety of shops and cafés, Leyburn is the perfect base for your walk. Along the route, you'll enjoy stunning views from Leyburn Shawl and visit the charming villages of Preston-under-Scar and Wensley, all set within the beautiful Wensleydale countryside of the Yorkshire Dales.

