

LEYBURN SHAWL WALK

Visit Bolton Castle and Wensleydale Villages

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

Introduction to the Walk

This rewarding walk explores some of the finest scenery in Wensleydale, beginning right in the heart of Leyburn and quickly opening out to long, sweeping views across the valley. The route offers a lovely mix of woodland paths, open fields, and peaceful village lanes, with plenty of opportunities to enjoy both the landscape and the area's rich local character.

The walk starts in Leyburn's Market Place before heading west along the Leyburn Shawl, a limestone terrace that reveals impressive views over the valley. From there, the route drops towards Preston-under-Scar, continues through woodland to meet quiet country lanes, and passes through Castle Bolton and Redmire. It then crosses fields and woodland near Bolton Hall before arriving in Wensley and completing a final stretch back to Leyburn.

Highlights of the Walk

The route is full of memorable moments, from the early views across the valley at Chapel Flatts to the woodland trails of the Leyburn Shawl, where tall trees and glimpses through the canopy create a peaceful atmosphere. Highlights include the approach to Bolton Castle, the scenic footbridge into Redmire, the quiet paths of West Wood, and the grand setting of Bolton Hall.

Leyburn is a charming market town set above the River Ure, its name meaning 'clearing by the stream'. First recorded in the Domesday Book, it later grew in importance after nearby Wensley declined in the 16th century. The town's historic centre includes a Grade II listed war memorial and Leyburn Hall, and it serves as a gateway to Wensleydale and the eastern edge of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Additional Information

- **Distance:** 11 miles (18 kilometres).
- **Duration:** Approximately 5 hours (excluding stops and breaks).
- **Difficulty:** This is a moderately challenging route, suitable for walkers with reasonable fitness. The distance requires stamina, but the terrain itself is straightforward and the paths are generally easy to follow.
- **Trail Conditions:** The walk uses a mixture of well-defined footpaths, woodland tracks, field paths, and quiet country lanes. Surfaces vary from firm stone tracks to grassy sections that can become muddy after rain, but there are no technical or exposed areas. Stiles are crossed occasionally on this route.
- **Recommended Map:** OS Explorer OL30 – Yorkshire Dales Northern & Central Area.
- **Parking:** Parking is available in Leyburn's Market Place, with additional spaces at the large pay-and-display car park behind the Golden Lion Hotel.
 - **Google Maps Link:** <https://maps.app.goo.gl/dpDjjagruCEURnpH9>
 - **What3Words:** //violinist.animals.surcharge

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Thank you for your support!

Paul Beal



Step-by-Step Directions

Begin your Leyburn Shawl walk by parking in **Leyburn's Market Place (1)**, located in the heart of the town and surrounded by shops. If parking here is unavailable, there is a car park to the rear of the Golden Lion Hotel, which has around 120 spaces. From Market Place, make your way towards the small central bus shelter, where you will find a sign with information about the Leyburn Shawl. Cross the cobbled area, passing the World War I memorial cross on your left and the town hall on your right. Next, cross the main road, High Street, and head straight ahead along Commercial Square.

As you pass Campbells Family Grocers on your right, look for the signpost marked 'Way to the Shawl', which directs you down a narrow street. At the end of this street, another sign on the wall guides you left towards the Leyburn Shawl walk and the children's playing fields. Enter through the gate and follow the flagged path alongside a stone wall. Once through the next gate, you'll reach Chapel Flats, a large grassy area. Continue walking straight along the path, passing the children's playing fields on your right and the woodland on your left. The path is then easy to follow as it winds through several fields and gates.

Eventually, the trail leads you into the **Leyburn Shawl Plantation (2)**. Follow this well-trodden path through the woods for about half a mile (0.8 kilometres). When you reach **two tall stone gateposts (3)**, the route splits into two paths. While the right-hand path seems more intuitive, take the left-hand path instead. This path descends diagonally across a field to a wider stone track near the trees. Turn right here and follow the track westward for about half a mile (0.8 kilometres) towards Tullis Cote. When the lane splits again, take the **left-hand track (4)**, descending past several large barns on your left. After passing these barns, continue straight ahead, passing another stone barn with arched doorways and square windows.

The track will soon lead you to a minor road. Turn right and follow the road for about one-third of a mile (0.5 kilometres) until you arrive at the village of **Preston-under-Scar (5)**. Continue straight through the village, and as you reach the western end, the road becomes a narrower stone track. Shortly after, the track splits in two. Between the two, go through the wooden gate and follow the trail into the woodlands of **Preston Spring (6)**. Continue along the path through the wood for just over half a mile (0.8 kilometres), after which you'll arrive at a main road. Turn left and carefully walk down this road, as it can be busy, but don't worry—you won't be on it for long.

At the next junction, turn right, heading towards Redmire. However, almost immediately turn right again onto a **narrow tarmac track (7)**, which is signposted as a cycle route. Follow this quiet lane for over three-quarters of a mile (1.2 kilometres) until you reach another main road, **Hargill Lane (8)**. Cross the road and follow the smaller lane straight ahead, signposted to Castle Bolton. This is a peaceful road that dips into a valley and crosses a bridge over Apedale Beck. The road then ascends back out of the valley, and after half a mile (0.8 kilometres), you will arrive in the village of **Castle Bolton (9)**.

As you enter Castle Bolton, notice Jacksons Cottage on your right, and further along, Castle View on your left. Pay attention to the lane signposted 'Public Footpath to Redmire', as this is where you'll return after exploring the village. Take the time to explore Bolton Castle, perhaps stopping for refreshments at the castle's café, visiting the nearby church, or viewing the wild boars near the castle car park. After you've explored the area, return to the footpath signposted 'Public Footpath to Redmire'. This path leads you south-east across fields and countryside for about two-thirds of a mile (1 kilometre) to the village of **Redmire (10)**.

When you reach Redmire, turn right onto Hargill Lane and continue down the road, passing the Bolton Arms until you reach the stone statue on the village green. From here, turn right again and follow the road down to the southern end of the village. As the main road bends to the right, take the smaller lane on your left, **Mill Lane (11)**. Soon after, turn left again onto Church Lane. After passing a few houses on your right, turn right onto Well Lane. Follow Well Lane for about a quarter of a mile (0.4 kilometres) before leaving it to join a public footpath that crosses farmland.

This public footpath will lead you across several fields in a south-easterly direction to eventually reach **West Wood (12)**. Walk straight through the woodland, and after about a mile (1.6 kilometres), the path will bring you past **Bolton Hall (13)**. From here, the route continues through Wensley Park for roughly another mile (1.6 kilometres) until you arrive in the village of **Wensley (14)**. Upon reaching Wensley, cross the main road (A684) and turn right, then shortly after, turn left onto Low Lane, signposted to Middleham. Pass the church on your right, and after a short distance, take a left onto a smaller road that ascends past a large white house.

As the road bends right and then left, leave the road and follow the public footpath that takes you across open fields. The final stage of your Leyburn Shawl walk takes you through fields, gates, and over stiles for about a mile (1.6 kilometres), guided by public footpath markers. You will eventually cross a **railway line (15)** and continue across another field to the A684. Turn right and follow this road, which will lead you back into Leyburn.

Map of the Walk

