TROLLERS GILL WALK

Grimwith Reservoir to High Skyreholme Circular

Visit my website for full details: https://www.paulbeal.com/trollers-gill-walk

Introduction to the Walk

This circular walk from Grimwith Reservoir explores open Yorkshire Dales moorland, the limestone ravine of Trollers Gill and the quiet hamlet of Skyreholme. The route combines grassy paths, stone tracks and rocky ground, with fine views towards Simon's Seat and Lord's Seat before returning across heather moorland to the reservoir.

Highlights of the Walk

Trollers Gill is the main highlight, where Skyreholme Beck disappears underground and the route passes between steep limestone walls over a rough bed of rocks and boulders. Beyond the gorge, the valley opens towards Skyreholme, with views across the surrounding fells and the pale crags of Old Man's Scar.

The return route crosses Black Hill Road and the open moorland around Nursery Knot before Grimwith Reservoir comes back into view. Flowering heather lines the paths in places, while the final waterside section passes Grimwith High Laithe, a distinctive centuries-old cruck barn with its steep heather-thatched roof, before returning to the car park.

Additional Information

Distance: 7½ miles (12 kilometres)

Duration: Approximately 3¾ hours (excluding stops and breaks)

Difficulty: Moderate. The route includes rocky and uneven ground through Trollers Gill, a steep climb out of Skyreholme and sections across open moorland. Extra care is needed in the ravine, particularly after heavy or prolonged rainfall.

Trail Conditions: A mixture of stone tracks, grassy paths, minor roads, rocky and uneven ground through the gorge, open heather moorland and a permissive waterside footpath beside Grimwith Reservoir.

Recommended Map: OS Explorer OL2 Yorkshire Dales Southern & Western Area

Parking: Start your Trollers Gill walk from the large car park at Grimwith Reservoir.

- **Google Maps Link:** https://maps.app.goo.gl/aVqD5oXwfQgrwfoLA
- **What3Words:** ///footsteps.rotations.tree

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STEP-BY-STEP DIRECTIONS

Start your Trollers Gill walk from the **large car park at Grimwith Reservoir (1)**. Standing in the car park and looking towards the water, you'll see the toilet block over to your left. Head across to it, and behind it you'll reach a tarmac road. Turn left here and walk past several farm buildings to join a stone track leading through a gate. Continue south along this track for a little under two-thirds of a mile to reach the **B6265 main road (2)**.

Cross the road with care and take the track opposite. This isn't the track leading through the gate into the field, but the one just to the left of it, running between the fields and enclosed by dry stone walls on both sides. Follow it straight ahead for just over half a mile to reach a minor road, part of the 688 cycle route and known as **New Road (3)**.

Turn left when you reach New Road, and shortly afterwards take the public footpath on your right, signposted Skyreholme. As you pass Hell Hole Wood on your left, make a mental note of the first valley on your right, with a path running through it. This is the alternative way down if the Trollers Gill ravine is impassable after very heavy rainfall, although that is rarely the case.

Continue until you meet a wider stone track and turn right. Follow the track until it bends sharply to the right, and at this bend carry straight on along the grassy path, slightly uphill, signposted Trollers Gill. The track bending away to the right is the one leading into that first valley you noted earlier. Follow the grassy footpath **up and across Gill Heads (4)**, with waymarker arrows on wooden posts to guide you.

The ravine is the highlight of the Trollers Gill walk. Carry on down through two gates, cross **Skyreholme Beck by the footbridge (5)**, then turn right, following the course of the beck downstream through the valley and into the rocky ravine for about half a mile. Unless there has been exceptionally heavy rain, the beck dries up partway along and continues its course underground. The route through the ravine is easy to follow and straightforward, though it is rocky and uneven underfoot, so take your time.

After emerging from the steep-sided ravine, continue straight ahead through the valley, still following the line of Skyreholme Beck. You'll notice the beck resurfacing here, and you'll rejoin the **official public footpath (6)**, marked with yellow waymarker arrows. Continue along this valley footpath for another half a mile until you reach the **minor road near the entrance to Parcevall Hall (7)**, then turn right.

Follow the road past Ghyll House Farm towards Middle Skyreholme. **At the junction by Skyramgate Farmhouse (8)**, carry straight on rather than turning right. This tarmac road, called Skyreholme Bank, takes you all the way through High Skyreholme, passing several stone-built houses and other buildings on your right. There are fine views in the same direction towards Simon's Seat and Lord's Seat.

The road climbs steeply out of the valley and becomes a stony track, where you'll see a signpost for Stump Cross. A little further along, **where the track splits (9)**, take the left-hand fork. This is Black Hill Road, and it forms the longest continuous stretch of the Trollers Gill walk, running north for just over one and a quarter miles. Keep to the main track as it descends and **begins to curve to the right (10)**.

A little further on, where the track bends left towards the B6265, leave it and continue straight ahead on the grassy path instead. This runs parallel to the dry stone wall and the main road, both on your left. Follow it for about a quarter of a mile until you reach a gate on your left in the wall. Go through the gate and **cross the main road (11)** to a small clearing, often used as a car park, and turn left onto the public footpath signposted to Grimwith Reservoir.

Follow the grassy footpath uphill, heading for the rocky outcrops of Nursery Knot. Walk past them and **cross the dry stone wall (12)** by the stile, and Grimwith Reservoir comes into view in the distance. Stick to the grassy path running diagonally across the field, then follow it alongside a dry stone wall on your left, with the reservoir opening up more fully as you descend. Soon afterwards you'll reach a wooden signpost, where you turn left, cross the wall and follow the path across the heather moorland. More signposts guide you from here, and after half a mile you'll reach the **stone track encircling the reservoir (13)**. Turn left, head towards the thatched building known as Grimwith High Laithe, and immediately after it turn right onto the Yorkshire Water **permissive waterside footpath (14)**. Follow this for about two-thirds of a mile back to the car park, to finish your Trollers Gill walk.

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MAP OF THE WALK



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