

Pickering to Levisham

This walk, from just outside the **North York Moors National Park**, at Pickering is a great excuse for a classic steam train ride. Walk from **Pickering** to **Levisham Village** and down to Levisham Station - and catch a steam train on the **North Yorkshire Moors Railway** back to Pickering.

As with all linear walks, **remember to check the times of the return trains before heading out. Do not aim to return on the very last train of the day in case you don't make it to Levisham station.**

Remember to check the times of the return trains on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway website before heading out.

- Leave the station car park by heading towards the road and bear left immediately. Cross the beck and turn right on the other side. Cross a stile and follow the path through the meadow.
- Always keep the to lower path as it passes over a tarmac lane and between hedges. There is another stile after which, turn right and head towards the riverbank.
- Here, trains can be seen on the right arriving and departing from Pickering Station. Follow the path between the undergrowth after passing a house.
- Go through two gates and turn right after the second gate, along a tarmac path. Go through two white kissing gates either side of the railway track and cross the beck again.
- At the road, bear left, pass Newbridge Signal Box and when the road bends left, veer right. Follow this no-through road to Park Gate farm. When the buildings are behind, veer left up the bank. Follow the bridleway through the trees and two gates, and continue to an oak tree - with another gate.
- Go right and then right again just before West Farm and follow the track between the fields. Carry on beyond Blansby Park Farm and at the junction of the bridleways turn

right. Go through a gate and head left across the field towards the woodland.

- Merge with another path and descend steeply towards the railway track. Turn left at the next path junction and the Pickering Beck can be seen through the trees on the right.
- After several steps, bear right onto another descending path and head down towards the ford. Turn left to a metal gate, then right to cross a footbridge over the beck.
- Beyond the bridge lies tiny Farwath once a remote halt on the North York Moors Railway. Cross the track, pass some old barns and outbuildings and continue ahead. Pass through a gate and follow the bridleway as it curves to the left.
- Go through another gate and keep to the track as it cuts through the trees. A galvanised gate marks the woodland boundary and beyond it the track (Sleights Road) runs across the fields and beside a line of trees.
- Pass through another gate and continue on the sometimes-muddy track. The church tower at Levisham peeps into view at the next gate. Keep going for about 50yds/m, then bear left to join a path under a horse chestnut tree.
- Follow the path down to a gate followed by a footbridge spanning the Pickering Beck. Take the track past ruined, roofless St Mary's Church. Walk up the steep track and bear right further up and head for the road. Turn left and follow it round the horseshoe bend, passing the village sign for Levisham and Walk along the broad village street.
- Turn left past the church and follow the lane between houses and cottages. When the road bends left, cross a stile by a galvanized gate and go straight on along a track running alongside a stone wall.
- Looking to the left, there are views of the wooded valley and the outward leg of the walk. Cross the field boundary and continue beside the wall to the next corner.

- Cross the stile and follow the path down the slope between gorse bushes and then round to the left. After looking at the view of Newton Dale and Levisham station, head towards a waymark at the bottom of the slope.
- Cross the stile towards the station. Head through the field and through the gate at the bottom. Follow the woodland path ahead, which can be slippery at times. Go through a gate, over a beck and out to the road. Turn left and walk down to Levisham station.
- Catch the North Yorkshire Moors Railway back to Pickering.