



Route Information

Cow & Horse Dales, Huggate

Total Distance	4.65 mi (7.48 km)
Elevation	331 ft at lowest point 604 ft at highest point
Total Ascent	534 ft

Elevation Profile



1. As usual with our walks from Huggate, start in the car park just past the Wolds Inn. At the car park entrance take the foot path to your right, heading across farm land. There may be cows (and horses) here so keep your dog on a lead as you follow the path first to your left in front of an open barn, through a gate and down to another gate leading to a small non-through road in Huggate.



2. Follow the road to the left into Huggate village, past the playground and turn right heading out of the village along, what turns into, the farm road. This takes you past the sewage works (don't turn left towards Glebe Farm - you will return via this route) and then climbs steadily up along the road heading toward Northfield Farm House. If your dog gets excited around sheep you may want to keep them on a lead for now as there are sheep in the field next to the road and this is the way you are heading.

3. At this first field you will spot a signpost on your right pointing to your route along the Chalkland Way. Go through the metal kissing gate here and head down into the valley. Even though this is Cow Dale there are often sheep here.

4. Keep meandering along the valley bottom enjoying the quiet and the views until you can see another valley splitting off to your right and two way-markers on a post, one pointing straight on and another pointing left and down.

5. The way-marker arrow is a bit misleading, as actually you want to head up the bank of the valley on your left. At the top there is a metal gate in the hedge and signpost, but to find it you have to go slightly back on yourself whilst heading up.

6. Go through the gate and head along the public footpath which travels along the edge of the field. Follow the path all the way along until you come back to the farm road at Northfield Farm.



7. Go straight across the farm road and pick up the Yorkshire Wolds Way straight ahead in front of you.

8. Follow the Yorkshire Wolds Way along the field edge with the hedge on your left until you get to the wooden gate and another signpost for the Wolds Way and public bridleway.

8. Go through the gate and you are now in the beautiful Horse Dale.

9. Head down the path to your right as you are making for the poetry bench which you should be able to see on the lower path.

10. At the poetry bench take some time to have a light snack - Bill and I shared a banana - and just enjoy the tranquillity and loveliness of it all! Once you are finished walk back along the path behind the poetry bench the way you came but at the path you came down from the gate, carry straight on.

11. You can now just enjoy this stretch as it takes you all the way along the side of the dale. Keep a look out, though, across the other side in the fields for crop marks, which seem to mark out circular structures that once stood there. As this valley has a number of remains of prehistoric earthworks at this point, it may be that there was once a settlement here and these marks could be the evidence of roundhouses long since disappeared. I only saw these marks when I walked this route in February so you might not be so lucky in later months of the year.



The earthworks of Huggate Dykes on Huggate Pasture form part of a large series of prehistoric banks and ditches that can be found across East Yorkshire, stretching in total across 80-100 miles of the high ground of the Wolds although many have been ploughed away and are now only recorded as crop marks from aerial photography.

The dating of earthworks is not easy, they may have their origins in the middle of the Bronze Age, although it is thought that their main construction and use phase was probably during the Iron Age - a single piece of early Iron-age pottery was found in a ditch during excavation of the site in the 1970's.



12. As you come to the end of Horse Dale (just watch for cows, by the way) the path bends up to your left towards a gate (if you keep going straight ahead the path starts to dip down into the valley bottom and you have gone too far). Go through the swing gate.

13. Follow the path along the field edge with the hedge on your left until you get to the end and a signpost. Take the left-hand way on the farm road toward Glebe Farm.

14. At the entrance to Glebe Farm. Take the path that runs down the right-hand side of it and is noted with the initials P.F. and a way-marker on the fence.

15. Follow the path to the end of this stretch and you will emerge back on the farm road heading down and back to the part at point 2, where you noted the turn off to Glebe Farm.

16. At the end of the farm road and at the sewerage works turn right and head back up into Huggate to retrace your steps back to the beginning.

Whilst in Huggate, though, you might just want to head up to the main road at the top of the village, turn right and pay a visit to Rachel's Walnut Cottage Tearooms (open Friday to Tuesday 11am to 4pm) and where, from April 2024 you can enjoy 'Paws for Tea', Rachel's brand new dog-friendly extension where you can relax in front of a cosy log burner, get some of Bill's Biscuits for your dog and sample at least one of Rachel's delicious homemade cakes.

