

TROLLER'S GILL and KAIL HILL

FROM BARDEN BRIDGE 9¼ MILES (14.9KM)

This moderate walk begins, and also ends, with a pleasant stroll along the Dales Way footpath. The river scenery is spectacular and there are panoramic views throughout.

Barden Bridge, with its three high arches and angled buttresses, is a very elegant and impressive structure. The bridge was rebuilt in 1676 after being washed away in the disastrous flood of 1673. Bridges at Kettlewell, Burnsall, Bolton, Ilkley and Otley were also destroyed in the same flood.

Barden Tower, sited on the main road above the bridge, was built in the eleventh century as a hunting lodge in the Forest of Barden. It was rebuilt and the keep enlarged in 1485. The ruined but imposing shell of the tower remains. There is a chapel next to it and traces of an outer curtain wall and gate.

During most of its 900 year history the tower was owned by the Clifford Family who held title to the Honour of Skipton. In 1461, their estates were seized by Edward IV after the ninth Lord, 'Butcher' Clifford, was killed at the Battle of Towton. On the accession of Henry VII, in 1485, the estates were restored to Henry Clifford. Henry was also known as the 'Shepherd Lord.' Lady Clifford, fearing that the Yorkists might harm her son, had sent him to be raised secretly by a shepherd at Threlkeld near Keswick. In 1513, at the age of sixty, Henry led an army from local villages to help defeat James IV of Scotland at Flodden Field.

Leaving Barden we follow the Dales Way footpath to Howgill Bridge and after a short climb to Howgill Lane we can enjoy extensive views across Wharfedale. Our route continues

through the meadows to the peaceful hamlet of Skyreholme and on to Parcevall Hall.

Parcevall Hall stands in sixteen acres of exquisitely landscaped gardens with terraces, woodlands and nurseries. It is stocked with many rare plants and shrubs. The gardens are open to the public from Easter to October. Early records suggest that it was once called Parson's Hall, which is appropriate today because the hall is now used as a retreat for the Diocese of Bradford.

The hall is also noted as having been used as a resting place by William Nevison, one of Britain's most flamboyant highwaymen. The exploits of this gentleman-rogue impressed King Charles II so much that he nicknamed him Swift Nick - allegedly! His romantic reputation was sealed after a renowned ride from the south of England to York in 1676, a feat mistakenly attributed in popular legend to Dick Turpin and his horse, Black Bess.

Our path to Troller's Gill passes the former Skyreholme Dam. The dam, which supplied water for a paper mill in the village, burst in 1899 and was never repaired. The mill is said to have had the largest waterwheel in the North of England.

Troller's Gill is a narrow, steep-sided limestone ravine about 300 yards (275m) long and just a few yards wide. The gill is usually

dry but, after heavy rain, it can become a raging torrent. According to local folklore a barguest, the 'Spectre Hound of Craven,' lives in a cave near the gill. A cobbler from Thorpe, who had lost his way, saw the barguest and described it as, 'Yellow, wi such eyes! they war as big as saucers. This mun be a barguest, thowt I, an' counted mesel for dead!' He escaped by crossing the beck. A barguest cannot cross running water!

After visiting the gill, we pass the remains of the Gill Head Mine. The mine closed long ago, but it was reworked for fluorite in the 1970s by a group of local men. The fluorite was concentrated in one large deposit at the side of the old lead vein.

During our descent to Woodhouse there are excellent views of Simon's Seat, Barden Moor, Thorpe Fell and the deep valley of Barben Beck. The dome shaped hill in the foreground is Kail Hill which is a good example of a reef knoll. Reef knolls are composed of pure limestone, rich in coral fossils and were formed 330 million years ago. An Iron Age camp existed on the summit of Kail Hill and a grinding stone was found near the site.

From Woodhouse we follow the Dales Way back to Barden which allows us to enjoy more of the river Wharfe's scenery and wildlife.

Start/Parking:

Barden Bridge, a small car park by the riverside or in the car park belonging to the Bolton Abbey estate.

Location:

Barden Bridge is situated between Bolton Abbey and Burnsall, 6 miles (9.6km) north east of Skipton. Leave the B6160 at Barden Tower, signposted Appletreewick.

Grid Ref:

SE 052 574. Postcode: BD23 6AS.

Distance:

9¼ miles (14.9km) circular. Allow 4½ hrs walking time.

Total Ascent:

1450 feet (442m) Maximum Elevation: 995 feet (303m).

OS Maps:

Explorer OL2 (1:25,000) or Landranger 104 and 98 (1:50,000).

Refreshments:

Cafés at Howgill Lodge and Parcevall Hall.

Public Toilets:

None en route nearest Burnsall.

Bus Service:

From Ilkley, more information at www.dalesbus.org.

Other:

Telephone at Skyreholme.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The path through Troller's Gill is not a public right of way but a permissive route created under a Stewardship Agreement. The present agreement ends in September 2012, after which there is no guarantee that it will continue to be a permissive route. In that event please use the public right of way described in point a.

TROLLER'S GILL AND KAIL HILL

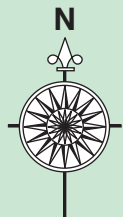
- 1 (GR 052 574) Follow a narrow path between the wall and the riverside. Bear left at a signpost (*SP Howgill 1m*) and go through a gate. Continue on a clear path staying close to the riverside and pass through several meadows.
- 2 (GR 058 592) Turn right at some huts. (*At the last survey there was also a green static caravan at this point*). Turn left at a barn onto a good track which leads to the main road near Howgill Bridge. Cross the road and follow a walled track to Howgill Lane (*SP Howgill Lane*). Turn left and follow the lane past the Howgill Lodge Caravan Site.
- 3 (GR 065 594) Leave the lane via a gate on the left (*SP Skyreholme*). Keep to the left wall and go through a gap stile. Continue along the right wall and go through a gateway.
- 4 (GR 065 597) Bear left and descend to cross a stile. Continue downhill and cross the beck, bear right and go through a broken wall. Now follow the beck upstream to a wooden footbridge.
- 5 (GR 066 603) Cross the footbridge and climb some steps, bear right at the top and continue to the road at Skyreholme. Turn right and follow the road to the junction near the telephone box. Turn right and cross the bridge over Skyreholme beck.
- 6 (GR 069 607) Leave the road via a stile (*SP Gill Heads/New Road*). Climb to the top right of the field and go through a gateway. Continue on a clear path through two fields and cross a stone step-stile to join a farm lane near Parcevall Hall's café.
- 7 (GR 068 610) Turn left and follow the lane. After crossing a wooden bridge go through a gate on the right (*SP Gill Head/New Road*). Continue on a clear path close to the beck, pass through two gates and go over a stile. Bear left along a clear path above the former Skyreholme dam and cross a wooden step-stile.
- 8 (GR 067 616) Bear half right towards the beck. Continue upstream and cross a wooden step-stile to the entrance of Troller's Gill. (*If the beck is in spate please use the alternative route*). Climb up through the gorge and cross a stile at the top. Follow a clear track and cross two more stiles.
- 9 (GR 071 623) Cross the beck via a footbridge near the boundary, turn left for a few yards and go over a stile. Continue on a clear path, climbing over the hillside and descend to join a stone track. At the next right bend leave the track (*SP New Road*) and continue straight ahead, climbing up to cross a stile leading onto the main road.
- 10 (GR 063 622) Turn left and follow the road round a left bend, after about 120 yards (110m) leave the road via a gate on the right (*SP Hartlington*). Continue on a good farm track through two gates to a fork.
- 11 (GR 054 611) Take the right fork and go through a gate (*SP Bridleway*). Continue on an enclosed track through another gate (*SP Hartlington*). Stay on this track descending gradually via three more gates to the main road.
- 12 (GR 041 608) Cross the road and continue down the lane opposite (*SP Dales Way Path 100 yards*). At the farm turn left (*SP Appletreewick*) and continue through three gates to reach the river at a bend. Turn left and follow the river downstream. Go over a stile and through two gates to Fold Bottom.
- 13 (GR 047 600) Bear left (*SP Barden Bridge*) cross a stile, climb some steps and go through a gate. Continue downstream, go through another gate, climb some more steps, continue via two gates and descend back to the riverside. Follow the river downstream, passing through a small wood.
- 14 (GR 058 594) Bear left and go through a gate which leads to the main road near Howgill Bridge. Turn right and cross the bridge. Leave the road at the first track on the right (*SP Barden Bridge 1m*). Return to Barden via the outward route.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE – shown on the map as a broken red line.

- a (GR 067 616) Turn left (*SP footpath*) and follow a clear track over two stiles. At a sharp right bend leave the track (*SP New Road*) and continue straight ahead, climbing up to cross a stile leading onto the main road. Now follow directions from point 10.

THE DREBLEY MORAINE

During the last Ice Age, the Wharfedale glacier pushed debris of rocks, mud and sand into a pile across the valley, damming it completely to form a glacial lake. The river has long since cut through into the solid rock below to form a deep and narrow gorge.



▲	Cairn/Hilltop
■	Building
□	Ruin
■	Woodland
6	Miles Walked
P	Car Park (Pay)
P	Other Parking
—	Route
—	River/Stream
—	Crag/Scar
—	A or B Road
—	Minor Road
---	Unfenced Road
----	Farm Road or Cart Track

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