

Walk No. 3 – Muker to Ivellet Circular

Summary

A great circular walk to Ivellet via Oxnop, with spectacular views of Kisdon Hill, Oxnop Side and the villages of Muker and Gunnerside.

Start: The Farmers Arms, Muker

Facilities: Public Toilets at Muker

Distance: 5 miles

Refreshments: Muker

Duration: 2 hours

Difficulty: Medium – An undulating walk to Ivellet, followed by a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile climb* along the road through Ivellet and past Gunnerside Lodge, returning to Muker via a stone track with spectacular views of Upper Swaledale and gradually descending down to Rampsholme footbridge and returning through the level flagged footpath through the meadows.

* The climb is worth it but it can be avoided should you wish to choose the well signposted riverside footpath to Muker from Ivellet Bridge.

Important Note: The first half of this walk can be very wet underfoot after heavy rainfall.

Route

- 1) With the pub behind you turn left and follow the main road B6270 as it heads out of the village and over the bridge. Look to your right and you will see a footpath sign directing you up a track which initially runs parallel to the road, turn onto this track.
- 2) As you pass in between two stone barns, the track turns right and slightly downhill. You will see 2 wooden gates on your left. The second one has a footpath arrow on its crooked end (pictured below left). Follow this path. The path is quite well defined but stays reasonably close to the bottom field boundary and keeps the stone wall on your left.



- 3) You'll come through another wooden gate (pictured above right), and again the path is easy to follow, just keep the stone wall to your left until the path brings you to 'Rash Grange' and joins a track that passes through 2 black metal gates.



- 4) Keep on this track which winds through several houses and after you cross a small bridge (pictured above), turn right through a red metal farm gate. It's not signposted as a public footpath at this point but it is one so don't worry, you're not trespassing. Follow the track round and to the top towards the houses, go through another metal gate and immediately to your right you will see a public footpath sign and a small wooden gate which takes you away from the houses and a slight diagonal left through a field to a style.
- 5) Climb over the style and turn left, follow the footpath keeping the crumbling stone wall to your left, climbing up until you reach another style (picture below left). A short distance from this style there is a gap in the stone wall taking you into the next field where you will reach a 3-way footpath sign; follow in the exact direction of the sign that points uphill to the wall at the top of the field. The footpath is not well defined so look carefully for a gap in the stone wall with a small wooden gate which is hidden until you're almost on top of it (picture below right).



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- 6) Go through this gate and turn left, following the footpath through the next small gate next to a larger gate. There is an obvious mud track that leads to the road, however the (undefined) footpath heads through the reeds diagonally uphill slightly until you see a small wooden gate within the wall that leads you onto the road (pictured below).



- 7) Turn right on the road heading uphill and follow the road until you come to the first footpath sign and a large metal gate on your left, go through this gate and walk towards the plantation in front of you. As you approach the plantation, turn left and follow the plantation boundary until you come to a gap within a dry stone wall, go through this gap and follow the footpath signs along the field boundary before heading down the slope towards the farm. The footpath passes behind the farm buildings before going through the stone wall and into the grass field, turn right and follow the field boundary down the hill.
- 8) With the beck on your right hand side, you will pass through a few trees before coming back out into the open field again, don't follow the boundary fence, instead walk straight ahead towards the large house (circled below) you can see in the far distance and you will soon see the road bridge and to the left of it, steps up to a small gate (pictured below left). Go through this gate and onto the road (B6270), turn right. Cross over the road and take the small road that goes off to your left. This takes you to Ivellet Bridge (pictured below right).



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- 9) As you cross the bridge you will see the road go round to the right, a bench, and a footpath sign to your left. Should you wish to take the riverside path to Muker, follow this path and it is well signposted all the way to Muker. However, if you would like to see some fantastic views of Swaledale, keep following the road to the right as it leads you into the little hamlet know as Ivellet.
- 10) As you approach Ivellet, keep heading uphill and you will pass a signpost on your left indicating Muker this way. You can follow this to Muker and the path does join the riverside path further along after heading through the meadows. But again, as I mentioned earlier, if you want spectacular views then keep heading on the road up the hill. After the cattle grid, the road winds its way up the hill towards Gunnerside Lodge. As you reach the crest, a road turns off to the right. KEEP LEFT, continuing on up the hill. The road levels out further ahead and the views of upper Swaledale open up around you as you keep following the road - don't worry, it's unlikely you'll see any cars. At the point where you reach Calvert Houses, take the high road keeping to the right of the bollards (pictured below).



- 11) Follow the road as it turns into a stone track, you will pass Rampsholme House and Farm on your left, keep right, continuing along the stone track and keep a look out on your left for Rampsholme footbridge, which is where you are heading for. The track takes you past the bridge but a little further on, there is a path to your left doubling back and leading you to the bridge.
- 12) Cross the bridge and follow the path to your right along the river bank where you will reach a signpost directing you to Muker through the seven field along a stone-flagged footpath.
- 13) When you reach Muker turn right, past the narrow lane and keeping the row of houses to your right until you see the sign for The Farmers Arms and the path leading down the side of the pub. You have now earned yourself a well-deserved pint of local real ale.



The Farmers Arms is open all day except Mondays and serves food from 12pm – 2:30pm and 6pm – 8:30pm.

OS Route Map

