

Cloughton and Hayburn Wyke

The woods of Hayburn Wyke

The woods of Hayburn Wyke seem timeless, and the apt name certainly goes back centuries – Hayburn from the Anglo-Saxon for ‘a hunting enclosure by a stream’ and Wyke from the Norse word ‘vik’ (sea inlet or creek). But during the 1940s the oak, ash and beech trees here were felled for the war effort and the Forestry Commission later replanted the area with conifers. In 1981, when the woods were purchased by the National Trust, work started to restore the woodland to its earlier state – by thinning out the conifers and encouraging native species.



Janice C. Williams



Hidden valley, secret bay

Discover one of the gems of the Heritage Coast – the wooded valley of Hayburn Wyke, which reaches down to a magnificent rocky cove complete with tumbling waterfall and giant boulders. This 5-mile circular walk follows an exhilarating stretch of the Cleveland Way National Trail footpath above the cliffs to Hayburn Wyke, before returning along the track-bed of the old Scarborough to Whitby railway line.

Did you know?

Woodpeckers are at work! Listen out for their local call or distinctive springtime ‘drumming’ display in the Hayburn Wyke woods.

Great for:

coastal capers, family walks, nature nuts, rock hounds

Length:

5 mile (8km)

Time:

3 hours

Start/Finish:

Cloughton Station, Station Lane, off A171, 4 miles (6.4km) northwest of Scarborough

Grid Reference:

TA 012 941

Map:

OS Explorer OL27

Refreshments:

Cloughton and Hayburn Wyke

Toilets:

Scalby village (3 miles/4.8km)



Wildlife in the Wyke

Hayburn Wyke’s mixed woodland is visited by roe deer, fox and badger. Over 30 species of breeding birds have been recorded, and in spring and summer you may well catch a glimpse of redstart, blackcap and spotted flycatcher. Great spotted woodpecker and green woodpecker are resident throughout the year.



North East Wildlife

Exploring the shore

Down on the shore, marine creatures left stranded by the receding tide find refuge in shallow rock pools. Darting blennies and butterfish share their temporary home with dog whelks, periwinkles, limpets, topshells, mussels and the occasional crab. Further out, beyond the waves, huge kelp forests provide a tangled habitat that adds to the prolific biodiversity of this enchanting coastline.



The old railway station at Cloughton contains the Station Tea Rooms, with a lovely garden, and there’s another tea room at the Coast Gallery, half a mile (800m) south down the A171. In nearby Cloughton itself, just to the north on the A171, there are the Blacksmiths’ Arms and the Red Lion pubs. Above Hayburn Wyke is the Hayburn Wyke Inn, with a garden and play area.

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Route instructions

- 1 On Station Lane, go through the gate opposite the station building to join the old railway.
- 2 At the road bridge, go under the bridge and climb up onto the lane by the steps, and turn left down the lane towards the sea.
- 3 At the small parking area, go straight on down the waymarked path, down the steps towards Cloughton Wyke, and turn left onto the Cleveland Way.
- 4 Enter the wood at a National Trust sign and follow the rock-stepped path downhill. At the Cleveland Way sign descend the steps on the right, following the stony path down through the woods – turn right at a waymarked junction and descend to the waterfall and shore.
- 5 Return up the path to the waymarked junction (ignore the path across the footbridge above the waterfall) and keep straight on uphill, through the woods.
- 6 Exit the woods through a gate (by a National Trust sign) and cross the field on a farm track, bearing left to another gate. Walk past the Hayburn Wyke Inn.
- 7 Follow the road slightly uphill (inn garden on your right) and turn left through a gate to rejoin the railway and return to Cloughton station.



The old railway line is level and easy to follow but is also used by cyclists and horse-riders. There's also a short section of the walk that follows a quiet country lane. The outward coastal part of the walk follows the Cleveland

Way National Trail – keep clear of the cliff edges which may be unstable. The route at Hayburn Wyke involves a steep descent and ascent, often on rough steps, and the paths are muddy and slippery after rain.



Most of the clifftop path is unfenced – it is advisable to keep your dog on a short lead for safety on this part of the walk. It is also safer if you put your dog on a lead on the old railway path when cyclists or horse-riders pass.



Like this walk?

For more great days out along the Cleveland Way, check out the tips and ideas on www.top10trails.com/cleveland-way.