

# Glaisdale and Egton Bridge

## Beggar's Bridge

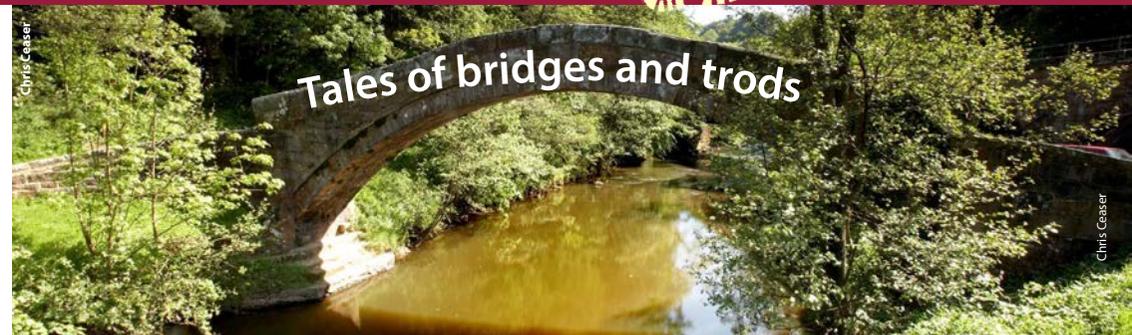
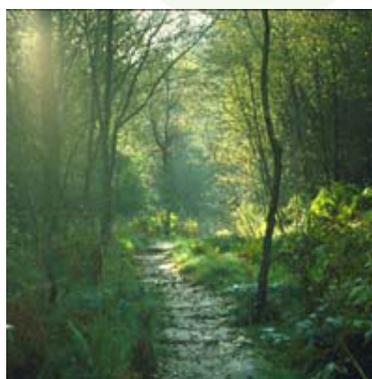
There's a well-known local tale of romance attached to Beggar's Bridge. An inscription on the bridge suggests that it was built in 1619, and the initials TF refer to Thomas Ferries, the son of a moorland farmer. When he was courting he had to ford the Esk to meet his young lady, Agnes, whose father considered Thomas too poor for his daughter. Thomas resolved to seek his fortune at sea but, with the river in flood, was unable to cross to kiss his sweetheart goodbye. Returning later, a wealthy man, Thomas married Agnes and built a handsome bridge on the very spot.



## Ancient routes

Parts of this walk follow ancient pathways paved with stone slabs, known as trods. They are common in the National Park and the oldest may date from medieval times when monks travelled extensively in the area. Most of the routes, however, probably came into being between the 17th and 19th centuries.

There's a particularly fine example of a stone trod on the return route to Glaisdale through East Arncliffe Wood. Known locally as the 'Monks' Trod', this and the stone trod near Egton Bridge could well be part of an ancient path to the site of St Hilda's Church (point 10 on the walk) – the church was dismantled in 1871 and replaced by the present mortuary chapel.



**L**ift your spirits in the stunning Esk Valley countryside on a 5-mile circular walk that runs between Glaisdale and Egton Bridge. There's history and romance in the air, both at beautiful Beggar's Bridge and also along the ancient stone trods, or pathways, that run through the pretty bluebell woods near both settlements. On the upper stretches the high farmland offers some lovely views, while down in the valley the babbling River Esk is never very far away. Why not come by train? Both Glaisdale and Egton Bridge are stops on the Esk Valley Railway, so you can walk the whole route from either station.

### Did you know?

The River Esk is the only river in Yorkshire where salmon and sea trout thrive. The stretch of river known as Limber Gravels is one of the main salmon spawning areas on the river.

### Great for:

riverside rambles, woodland wanders, history buffs, nature nuts

### Length:

5 miles (8km)

### Time:

3 hours 30 minutes

### Start/Finish:

Glaisdale Station

### Grid Reference:

NZ 784 055

### Map:

OS Explorer OL27

### Refreshments:

Glaisdale and Egton Bridge

### Toilets:

Glaisdale



There are no fewer than three pubs on this walk! The Arncliffe Arms is close to Glaisdale Station (turn right out of the station), while by Egton Bridge Station is the Postgate Inn. Following the Rosedale road on the return from Egton Bridge, the walk also passes the Horseshoe Hotel on the River Esk. There are other local inns too, including Ye Horseshoe Inn up the hill at Egton (the 'Top Horseshoe').

# ...tales of bridges and trods ...

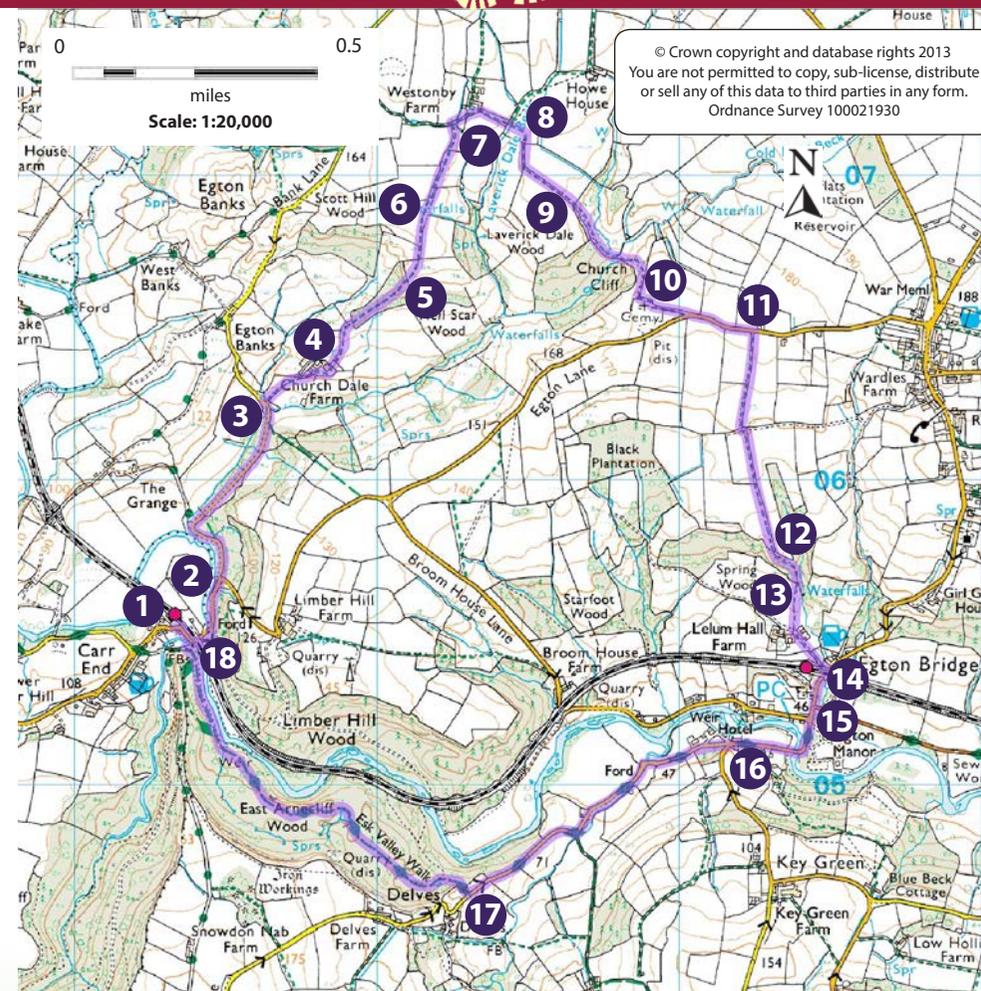
## Route instructions

- 1 From Glaisdale Station, turn left (downhill) and follow the road under the railway and across the river – pausing to admire Beggar's Bridge.
- 2 Just past the 'Limber Hill' sign, bear left and follow the minor road along the river.
- 3 Leave the road and turn right up a stone track into Church Dale Farm.
- 4 Follow the waymarks through the farmyard and continue uphill, through the wood.
- 5 Go through the gate. Continue ahead, with the hedge on your right.
- 6 Follow the path through the scrub (with tall hedging on either side). Cross the stile and head towards the farm, with the fence-line on your left.
- 7 Bear left at a waymark sign, go through the gate and turn right on the track. In front of the farmhouse, turn right and continue straight on through a gate.
- 8 Follow the path round to the right and cross a stile (hedge and fence on your left). Cross another stile on your left and walk down the fields, heading towards the scrub.
- 9 Cross the stile, follow the path downhill towards the woods, then cross the stone bridge and follow the path around and up the side of the hill.
- 10 Turn left at the churchyard through a gate. Walk down a narrow path around the side of Egton Mortuary Chapel, turn left down the track and then turn left along the road.
- 11 Turn right over a stile and walk down through the fields, always keeping the fence on your left.
- 12 Enter the wood and continue downhill, along the trods.
- 13 Go through a gate, head straight down across the field and then turn left, passing farm buildings. Continue on to Egton Station.
- 14 At the road, turn right at the Postgate Inn and follow the road under the railway bridge.
- 15 Keep straight on at the road junction and bear right over the bridge.
- 16 Turn right by the Horseshoe Hotel and follow the minor Rosedale road.
- 17 Turn right at a bridleway sign to Glaisdale and follow the track through the woods.
- 18 Turn right down the steps and cross the footbridge to the railway bridge, and then turn left, uphill, for Glaisdale Station.

### Like this walk?

Use the North Yorkshire Moors Railway instead and try our walks in Newtondale or at Mallyan Spout and Beck Hole.

**!** You will need OS Explorer OL27 map for this walk.



The walk mainly follows field paths and woodland tracks – take care on the stone trods, which can be slippery under foot. There's a steep climb out of the valley between points 3 and 5 and also at point 9, and there are several stiles en route. There is also 1¼ miles (2.8km) of walking on minor roads – please take care.



Farm animals are commonly encountered on this walk – please keep dogs on a short lead. You may also meet cyclists or horseriders on the return through East Arncliffe Wood – it's safer to keep your dog on a lead at these times.