

YORKSHIRE DALES

Outstanding Circular Walks

Pathfinder® Guides 



Britain's
best-loved
walking
guides

Keymap



Introduction to the Yorkshire Dales

An alternative name for the Yorkshire Dales could be the Middle Pennines. To the north, extending through Cumbria, Durham and Northumberland, lies the wild and remote country of the North Pennines, while to the south, eventually merging almost imperceptibly with the Peak District, are the bare gritstone moorlands of the South Pennines. The most distinctive feature of the Yorkshire Dales, which lie between them, is the magnificent limestone landscape that encompasses a major proportion of the

area, and around which the National Park is largely based.

Within that area is some of the most attractive countryside in Britain, offering infinite enjoyment and variety to those who are prepared to explore on foot. On the high, exposed moorlands, often buffeted by wind and rain, lonely, austere and dramatic countryside will be found. The valleys, however, present a striking contrast: a gentle scene with small woods, riverside meadows and neat green fields separated by miles of drystone

walk 19

 **Start**

Horton-in-Ribblesdale

 **Distance**

6 miles (9.5km)

 **Height gain**

1,610 feet (490m)

 **Approximate time**

3½ hours

 **Route terrain**

Good tracks and upland paths, mainly across limestone





 **Parking**

Horton-in-Ribblesdale (Pay and Display)

 **OS maps**

Landranger 98 (Wensleydale & Upper Wharfedale), Explorer OL2 (Yorkshire Dales – Southern & Western areas)

 **GPS waypoints**


-  SD 807 726
-  A SD 823 743
-  B SD 836 727
-  C SD 816 722

Pen-y-ghent

Like an ancient galleon, Pen-y-ghent's two-tiered prow sails purposefully across the surrounding countryside, drawing thousands to its summit each year. The hill is the lowest of the Yorkshire 'Three Peaks', but makes up for it by being the only one to entertain the Pennine Way. It lies barely two miles (3.2km) by crow from the valley of the Ribble which it overlooks, and its ascent need occupy little more than half a day.

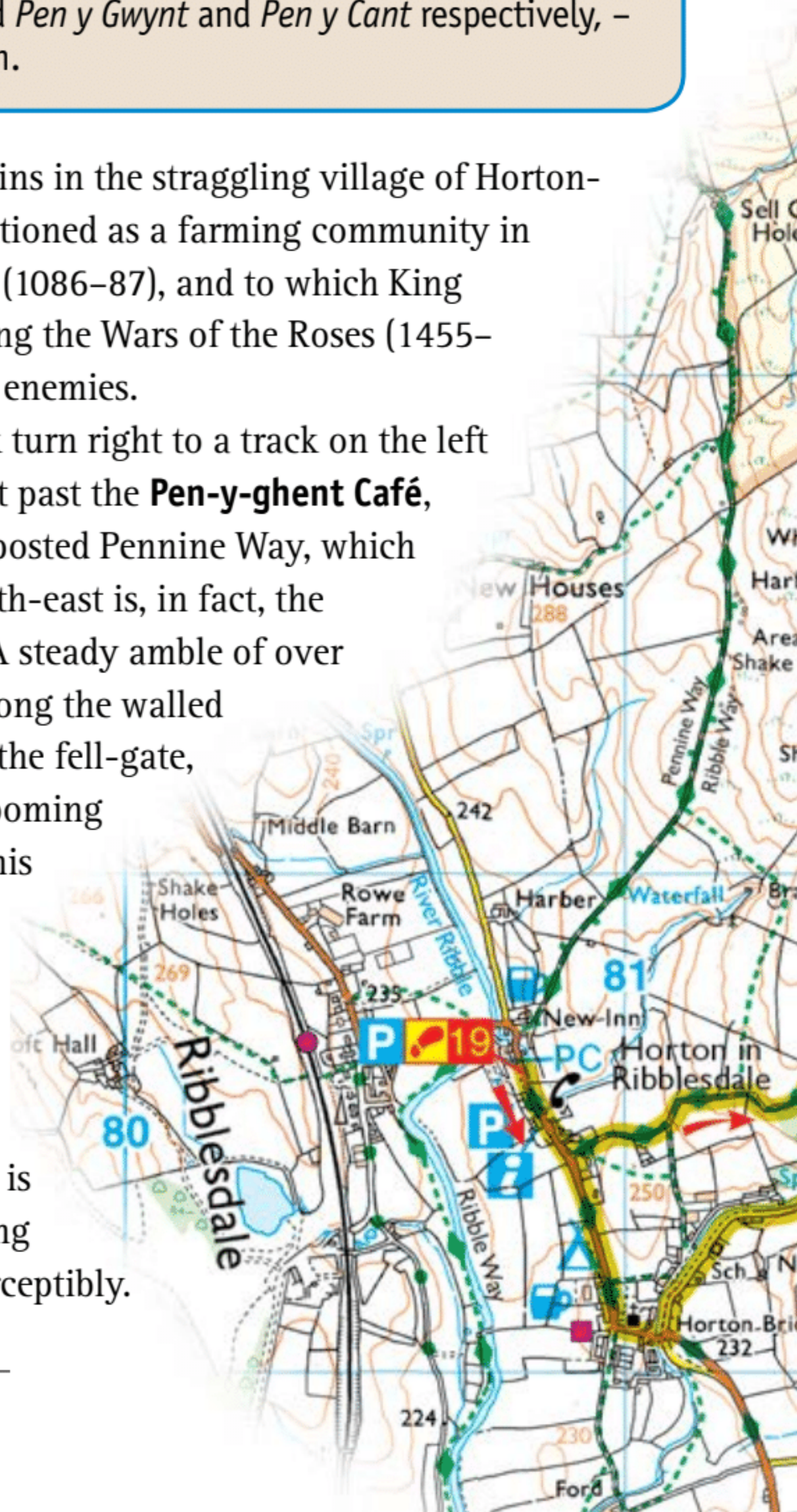
Pen-y-ghent

Opinions differ as to the meaning and origin of the name, Pen-y-ghent, which despite a once strong Norman influence in the valley below, must derive from the Celtic, from the Kingdom of Brigantia and the tribes forced into what were then remote regions by Roman and Teutonic settlers. Generally thought to mean 'Hill of the Winds', but believed by others to mean 'Hill of the Border Country', its name unquestionably comes from the Welsh language, rendered *Pen y Gwynt* and *Pen y Cant* respectively, – cant meaning a rim.

 The walk begins in the straggling village of Horton-in-Ribblesdale, mentioned as a farming community in the *Domesday Book* (1086–87), and to which King Henry VI came during the Wars of the Roses (1455–85) to hide from his enemies.

From the car park turn right to a track on the left leaving the road just past the **Pen-y-ghent Café**, and follow the signposted Pennine Way, which despite heading north-east is, in fact, the southbound route. A steady amble of over 1½ miles (2.4km) along the walled path leads easily to the fell-gate, with Pen-y-ghent looming large to the right. This route, Horton Scar Lane, is part of an ancient packhorse road once used to cross to Littondale.

Horton Scar Lane is easy walking, gaining height almost imperceptibly.





Barbon Beck from the wooden footbridge, waypoint B

the lane turns north to run up to Barbon Manor, leave it at a branching bridleway **A** that soon enters mixed woodland of blue spruce, sycamore, European larch and a scattering of rhododendron, to the sound of running water.

The woodland trail soon descends to run alongside Barbon Beck, and, after an obvious and sturdy bridge (ignore this), climbs left a little, further into the woodland from which it finally emerges at a gate.

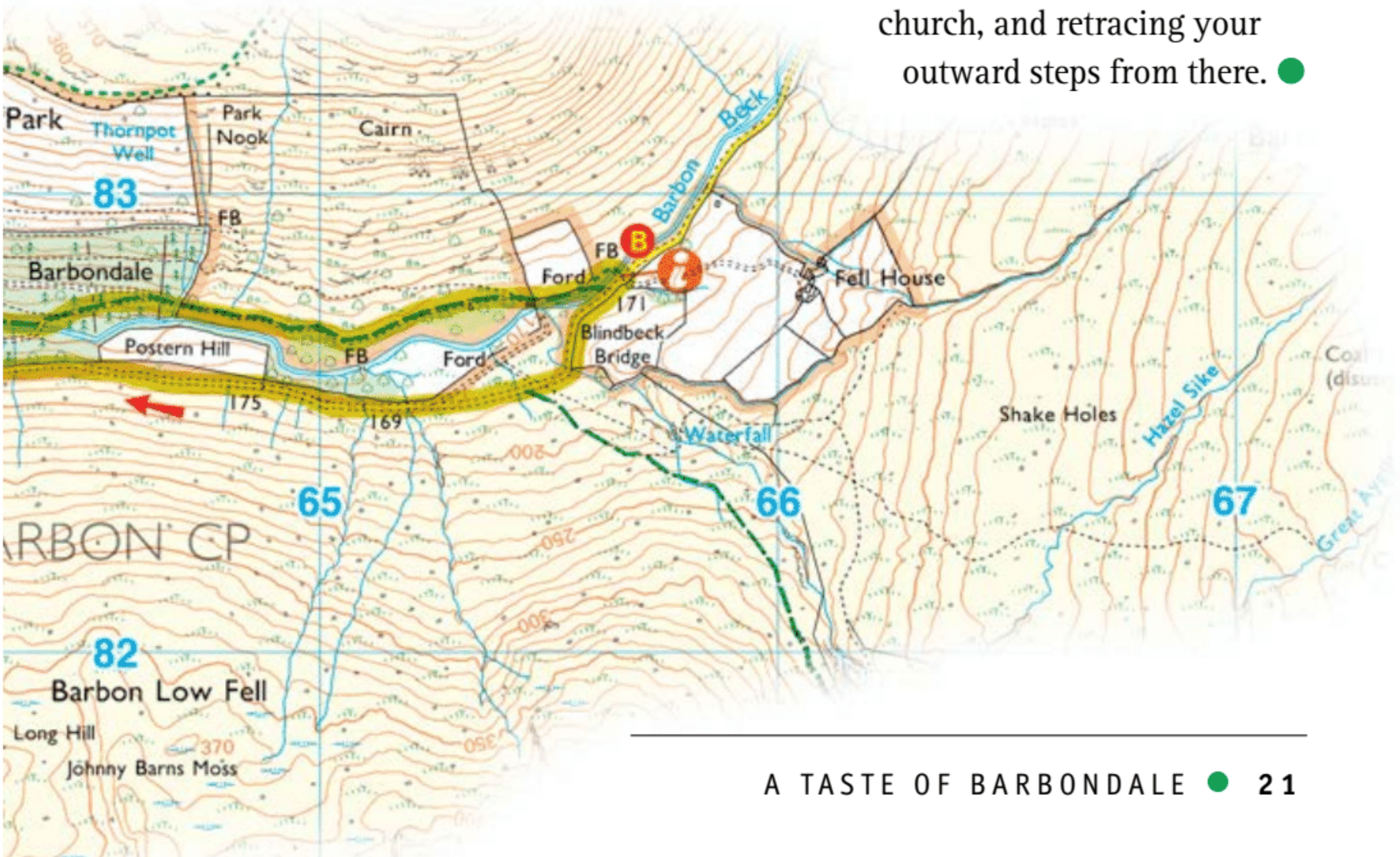
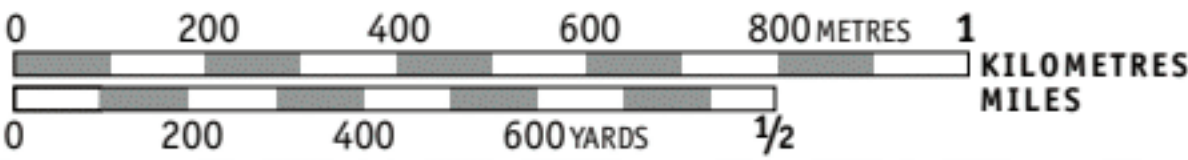
A most pleasant track now runs on

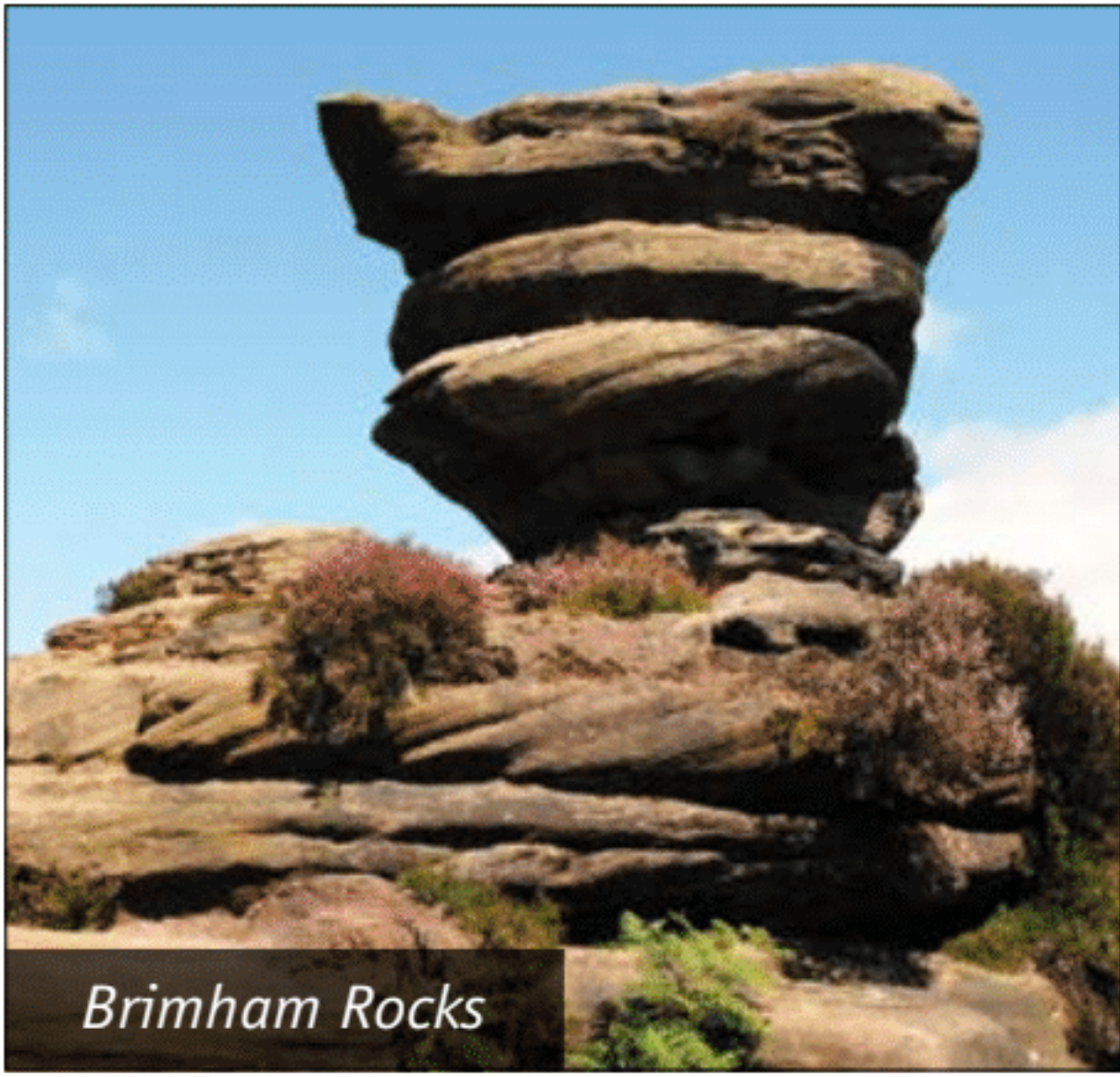
for 1/2 mile (800m) or so, until it reaches a ford and wooden pedestrian footbridge **B** nearby. Over the bridge, turn right onto the valley road, soon crossing Blindbeck Bridge and then continuing easily and very agreeably along the road, back towards Barbon. Along the way there is a view of Barbon Manor, tucked among the trees, and built in the style of an Italianate villa.

The flanking fellsides are well populated by pheasant and red grouse, while autumnal fieldfare, and summertime warblers fill the air.

When the road divides **C**, stay right to descend steadily into Barbon, re-joining the village at the church, and retracing your outward steps from there. ●

SCALE 1:25000 or 2½ INCHES to 1 MILE 4CM to 1KM





Brimham Rocks

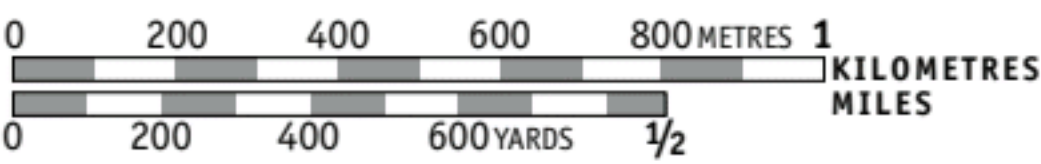
Walk. A surfaced path climbs between walls, with steadily improving views across the dale, until it reaches a road at Bishopdale House. Here, keep left, still climbing between walls to another junction, where road surfacing begins. Keep forward, now descending gently, the route signposted for Blazefield.

As the road bends right 110 yards farther on, leave it by branching left onto a vehicle track (signposted as the Nidderdale Way). After passing a cottage the track deteriorates to an overgrown path. When it forks, bear right, descending and eventually emerging at a road. Turn left and walk

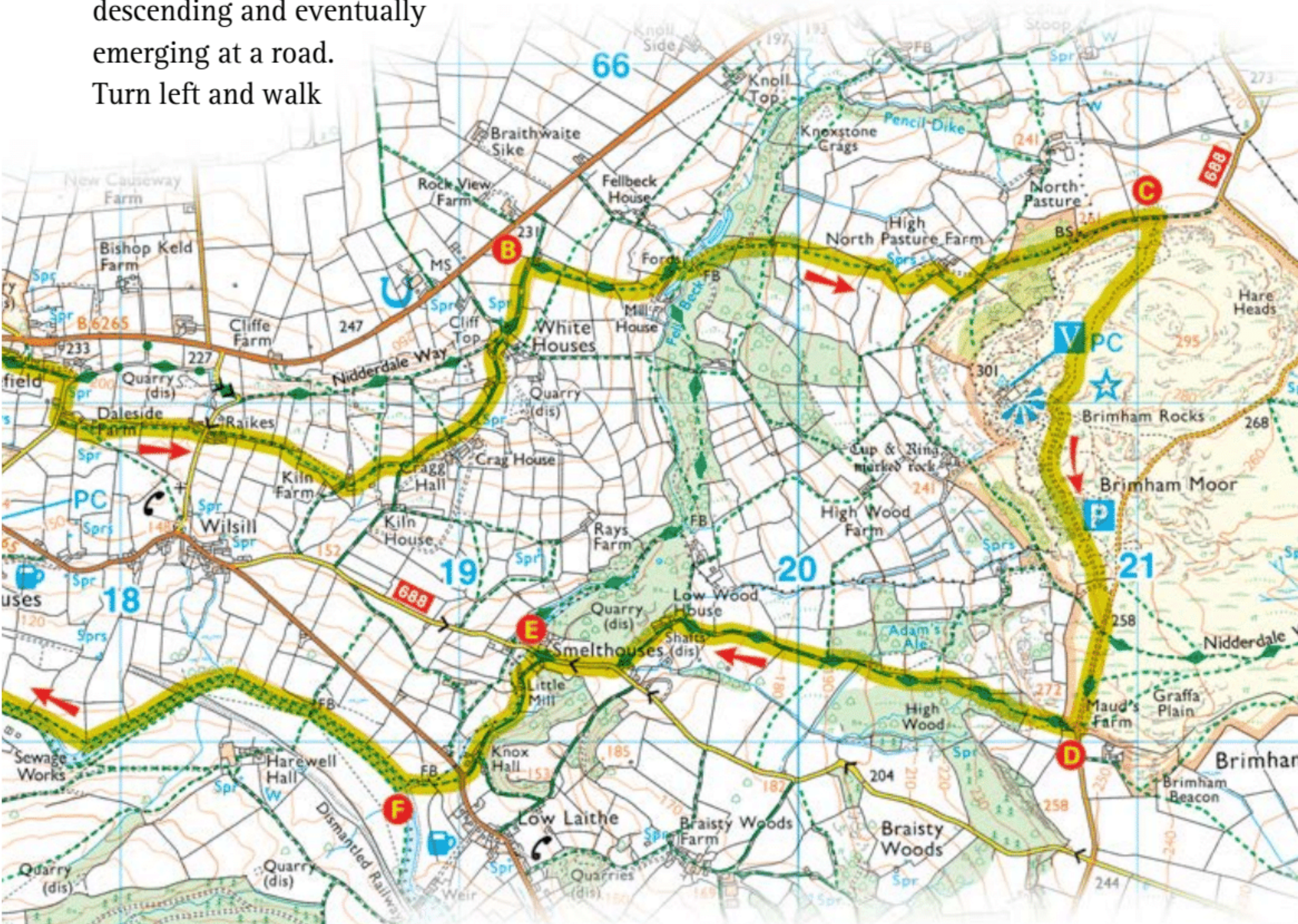
up towards the terraced houses of Blazefield.

After about 220 yards, as the first houses are reached, leave the road by branching right onto a continuation of the Nidderdale Way **A**, which runs along the terrace, and then starts to descend as a rough vehicle track. With the added height gain since leaving Pateley Bridge, the view across the dale is even better.

At a minor road, turn right, leaving the Nidderdale Way and descending for about 110 yards to a signposted path on the left for Wilsill. Turn left here, through two metal gates and then from a third gate keep forward across a grassy slope, and later bearing left to a wooden gate in a field corner. Through the gate keep forward through another and along the top edge of two sloping pastures, walking beside a wall to a final gate giving onto a lane at Raikes.



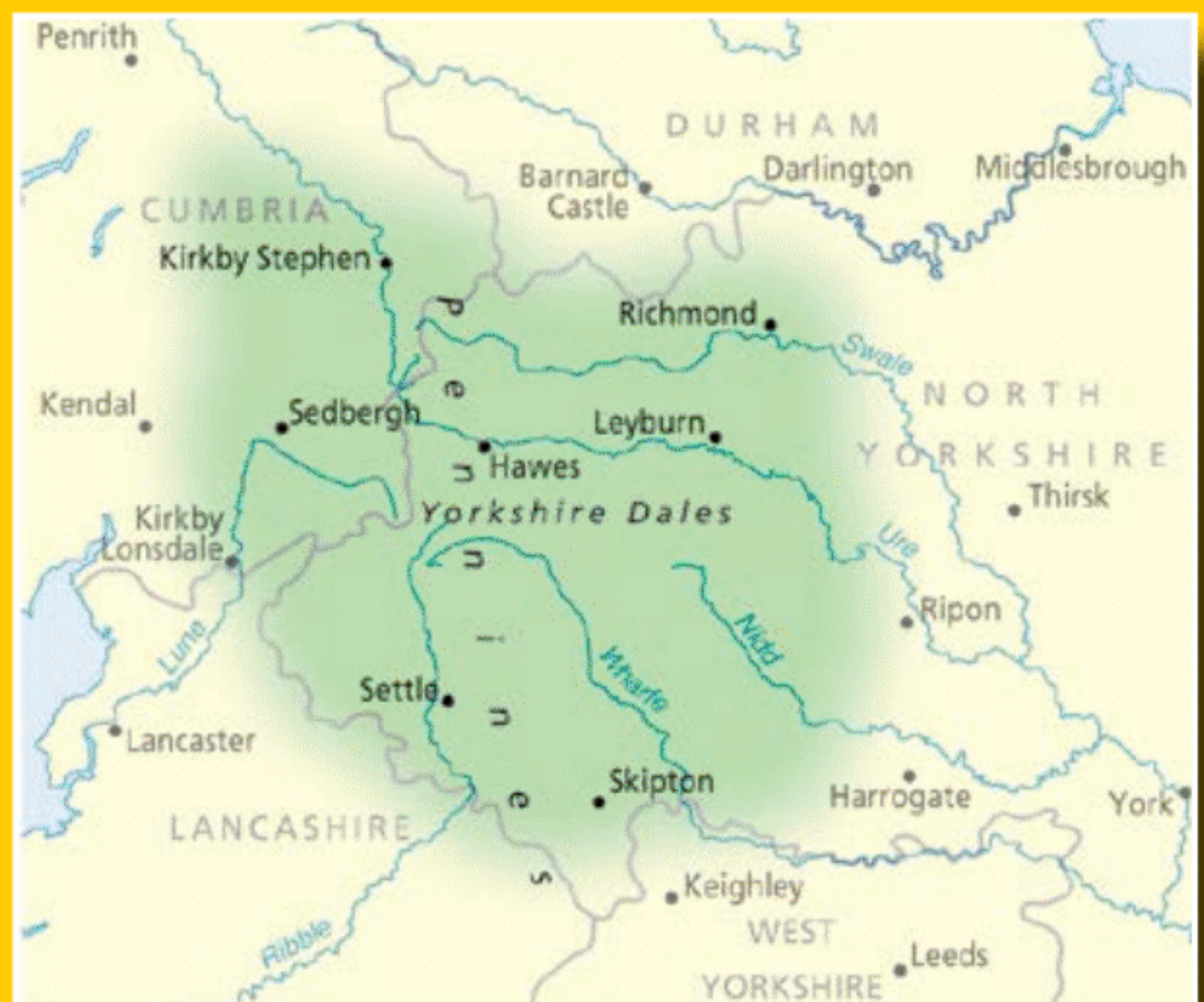
SCALE 1:29 412 or 2 1/2 INCHES to 1 MILE 3.4CM to 1KM



Outstanding Circular Walks in the **YORKSHIRE DALES**

185 miles of infinite walking enjoyment and beauty across the Yorkshire Dales National Park from the austere moorland at Nine Standards Rigg, through the woodland paradise at Grassington to the lush riverside meadows at Burnsall. Explore the very best of Wharfedale, Nidderdale, Swaledale, Wensleydale, Dentdale and Ribblesdale, visit historic Richmond and Bolton Abbey, and climb Ingleborough and Pen-y-ghent.

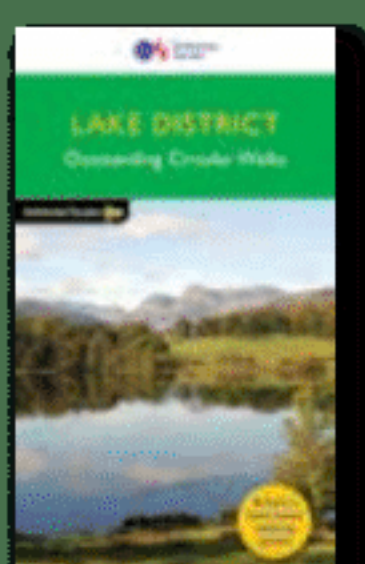
Pathfinder® Guides



- ▶ **28 great country walks from 4 to 11 miles**
- ▶ **Clear, large scale Ordnance Survey route maps**
- ▶ **GPS references for all route waypoints**
- ▶ **Where to park, good pubs and places of interest en route**

www.pathfinderwalks.co.uk

OS maps and walking guides for the surrounding area



£12.99