



Arncliffe, Great Close & Cote Gill

A demanding walk on ancient paths and byways over upland pastures, mostly across limestone with an abundance of fascinating features

Essential Facts

- Route distance: 16.3 km (10.2 miles)
- Approximate time: 5 hours 30 mins
- Approx. total ascent: 480 metres
- Start point Grid Ref: SD 931 718
- GPS Ref: SD 93140 71828
- Recommended O.S. Map: OL 2
- Toughness Rating: Yorkshire Dales 4

Please see the notes on Toughness Ratings at the end of this report

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CHALLENGE ?

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A Team Effort

Full Info from the Great Walks web site

THE ROUTE

The walk starts in Arncliffe, in the central Dales country.

There is roadside parking in Arncliffe, and the route starts just across the green outside the Falcon Inn, S. From here walk along the track to the left of the inn signposted 'FP Malham Tarn 4 ml'. Reaching a gate on the right, A, signposted 'FP to Malham', follow the clear path diagonally up and across the hillside – this is the Monks Trod (or Path).

As the path rises you have splendid views back to Arncliffe and around Littondale, with the mine spoil heaps showing across the dale at Coldstreak and on Hawkswick Moor. After several gates, as the gradient starts to ease at around the 350 metre contour, pass through a gate, B, and look down, to your right, into the deep valley of Cowside Beck. Then at a stile, C, enter the National Trust's Malham Tarn Estate.

This area has a long history of human occupation, and shortly after the stile, C, to the right, is Dew Bottoms, where you will see the remains of an Iron Age settlement. All around there are the features typical of limestone areas, including small-scale pavements. The route is across upland pastures and soon you will see the cluster of trees that surrounds the deserted farmstead of Middle House, D, which you can walk straight past, or go through the gate and wonder who 'HK' was – on the lintel.

The route follows the wall to the left, and a stunning vista opens up to the south, though Great Close Hill to your right hides Malham Tarn from view, and will continue to do so. Climb the ladder stile, E; the other side is fine place for a break, and to enjoy the scenery. Middle House Farm is just down to the left, with the Great Close spread before it with the little tarns glinting in the middle distance, and the gash of Goredale Beck behind.

Head down the slope in front of you, and cross the farm road, and aim for the gate in the corner to your left, then to a ladder stile which leads onto the Great Close, a pasture studded with limestone boulders. Follow the track right. It follows the line of the wall but gradually distances itself to come to a footpath crossroads at F, where you turn left, gradually uphill to pass through a gate, G. The path remains clear ahead, passing through a couple of gates and a signpost saying '2½ miles to Arncliffe Cote', and it soon comes to another gate, H.

It is tempting to say it is all downhill from here – well it is, almost! The views ahead are of Buckden Pike, with Great Whernside to the right. As you descend, pass a limekiln to your left, catching glimpses down Cote Gill of Hawkswick in the valley below, and possibly seeing ravens enjoying thermals and occasionally tumbling distinctively through the air. Before long you find yourself at Arncliffe Cote, a lovely old Dales farmhouse – note the old well on the left just beyond the farm – and then come to a road, at I.

Turn right here, and follow the road to the next left, Outgang Lane, and follow it down towards the river. Opposite a barn on your right, is a path leading to the River Skirfare and a footbridge. Do not cross the bridge, but turn left through a stile, J, and follow the river (on your right) upstream. The path, across fields, is never very far from this attractive river all the way back to Arncliffe. As you enter the village, pass the lych gate, K. The church is usually open and is worth a visit. The start point, S, is just round the corner, left and then right.



Arncliffe Village Green



Middle House



Arncliffe Church

Refreshment

Falcon Inn	Tennant Arms
Public House	Public House
Arncliffe	Kilnsey
Tel: 01756 770205	Tel: 01756 752301
Pub with food	Meals and snacks

Queens Arms
Public House
Litton
Tel: 01756 770208
Ales, meals and snacks

LOCAL INFO

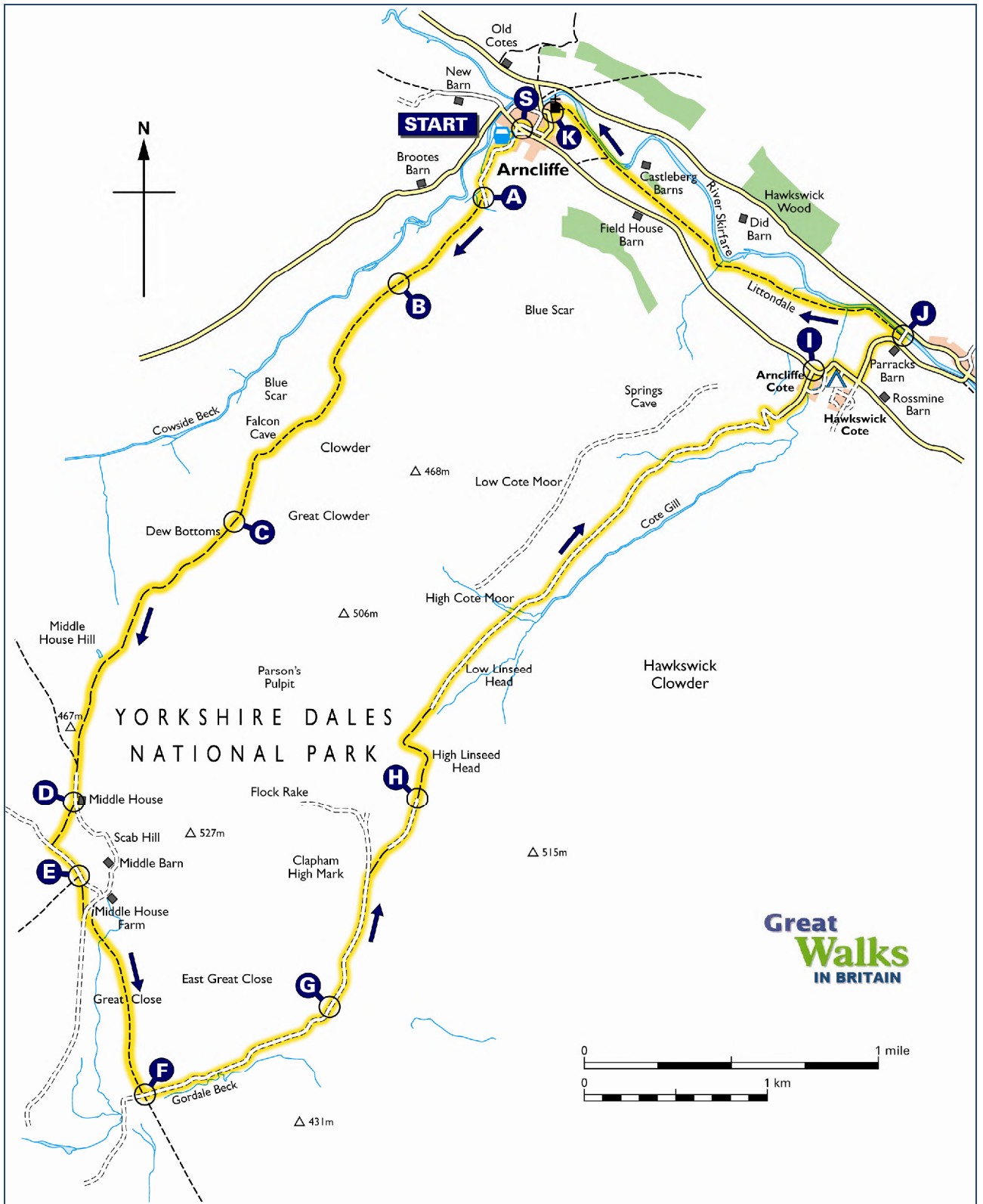
Arncliffe was the original setting for the village of 'Beckindale' in the T.V. soap opera initially called *Emmerdale Farm*.

Great Close was once a great pasture, later divided by a wall. There are more walls now, but not so many that you cannot visualise what its many hundreds of acres must have looked like in the eighteenth century. On this area huge fairs, or markets, selling thousands of cattle, sheep and horses were held. The stock was driven there over the network of 'drove roads', often from Scotland, to be sold to dealers supplying animals for butchers in the towns further south. As the railway system developed in the nineteenth century so the pattern of this trade changed to auction marts close to railways and to the areas of production.

Malham Tarn is one of the relatively few stretches of open water in the Dales and is a natural lake. Apparently movement in the North Craven Fault raised impervious slate to the surface which prevents the water seeping away, and a glacial moraine formed a dam at the southern end. It is renowned amongst fly fishermen for the quality of its brown trout.

ARNCLIFFE, GREAT CLOSE & COTE GILL G.P.S. WAYPOINTS

WAYPOINT NAME	MAP REF	CO-ORDINATES	ELEVATION: Metres
AGC S	S	SD 93140 71828	226
AGC A	A	SD 92927 71486	236
AGC B	B	SD 92475 70982	355
AGC C	C	SD 91565 69675	436
AGC D	D	SD 90684 68135	461
AGC E	E	SD 90717 67766	450
AGC F	F	SD 91084 66529	384
AGC G	G	SD 92090 67027	462
AGC H	H	SD 92567 68177	506
AGC I	I	SD 94741 70503	223
AGC J	J	SD 95226 70695	201
AGC K	K	SD 93303 71942	225



MAP LEGEND					
	Great Walks route		Church with tower		Spot height - metres
	M6 Motorway		Church with spire		Information centre
	A23 Main road		Other place of worship		Parking
	B2116 Secondary road		Cathedral / Abbey		Public convenience
	Minor road		Building		Public house
	Other road		Built up area		Picnic site
	Track		Woodland		Camp site
	Footpath		Sand, shingle or mud		Major tourist feature
	Bridleway		Water feature		Other tourist feature
	National trail				
	Railway				

Safety First

Safety should always be your first priority in planning and undertaking a walk, whether on your own or leading a group. Please read these Safety First and Walking Our Routes notes.

Lead a group of other walkers only if you have leadership and navigational experience adequate for the 'worst case' conditions which may be encountered on the particular walk, bearing in mind the terrain, possible weather and navigational demands.

Weigh up the capabilities of your party, in terms of fitness and walking speed. Adjust your time expectations accordingly.

Ensure all your party are adequately clothed for the weather and conditions. Footwear is particularly important. Clothing must protect against cold, wet or strong sun according to the time of year.

Emergencies are quite rare, but it is essential to think ahead about what to do if someone in your party sustains an injury. Will you have a First Aid kit? Is there a qualified First Aider in the party? How could help be summoned in a serious eventuality?

Refreshment, particularly water, can be vital. Dehydration in hot summer conditions can be rapid, and frequent intake of fluids is essential.

On tougher walks it is a good idea to tell someone where you are planning to go – and when you expect to be back. Remember - mobile phones often lose reception in mountainous or isolated areas.

All our walks use legitimate routes: Public Rights of Way, Public Footpaths, Bridleways, Permissive Paths, Access Land, Byways and Roads.

Road walking calls for particular care. When there is no defined footpath or verge wide enough for safe walking it is usually best to walk on the right – facing oncoming traffic. An exception may be a tight bend, where walkers would be more visible on the left.

Occasionally you may find a public footpath blocked or unuseable. It is perfectly in order to take the shortest available diversion without damaging crops, perhaps around a field margin.

It is courteous to close gates after passing through, sometimes even if the gate was open when you arrived – particularly if it is obvious livestock may escape.

Mutual respect for farm animals is to be encouraged! Don't frighten or annoy them, but equally don't put your party members in danger or discomfort. You certainly wouldn't be the first walkers to go round the outside of a field of frisky bullocks.

Dogs should always be kept on a lead anywhere near farm animals, and under close supervision elsewhere in the countryside.

Walking Our Routes

Our walks are designed to be negotiated using the route directions in conjunction with the map section provided. We suggest walkers also take the Ordnance Survey Explorer or Outdoor Leisure map recommended for each walk.

On mountain, moorland and open heathland walks it is **ESSENTIAL** to have navigational expertise and tools, including the recommended Ordnance Survey map(s).

Take care to observe any cautions in the route description; exposed paths, areas liable to flooding etc.

Consider conditions before setting off. Will heavy rain have made a water meadow impassable? Will frost or snow make a path slippery?

When navigating the route look for clues to confirm you are in the right place. Are map features where you would expect on the ground? Are features mentioned in the text where expected? If you suspect you may have taken a wrong turn, take action sooner rather than later. It is better to re-trace to a known point rather than carry on regardless with the possibility of becoming increasingly confused.

All our routes are carefully checked before publication, but features can change on the ground – sometimes surprisingly quickly. Footpaths may be re-routed, buildings can appear or change significantly and these days pub names seem to change frequently.

The approximate time given for each walk is based on an average walking speed of 2.5 miles per hour (4 km/hour), plus an allowance for ascent, descent and any difficult terrain.

Total ascent is the approximate total ascent over the whole walk.

GPS users can enter in the waypoints provided in each of our walk reports. It is important to read our guide **Introducing GPS for Walkers**, available as a PDF file from the Great Walks in Britain web site.

Remember that GPS is a great navigational tool, but only one of those available to the navigator. Never dispense with conventional map and compass – and the training and skills to use them, especially on mountain, moorland or open heathland walks.

TOUGHNESS RATINGS

Most of our **Yorkshire Dales** routes can be undertaken by reasonably fit walkers able to utilise the map segments and our recommended Ordnance Survey maps, together with the route guidance notes.

The toughest walks should be undertaken or led only by experienced mountain walkers with navigational expertise. Always consider recent and forecast weather.

Each walk has been allocated a **Toughness Rating**:

1. Easier walks with modest ascent and generally on well defined paths. There may be stiles or narrow gateways to negotiate.
2. Routes which are more demanding. They may include more ascent and possibly paths which are looser or more difficult underfoot.
3. More strenuous walks. There may be prolonged steep ascents, and perhaps several ascents over the whole walk. Conditions may be challenging underfoot.
4. The toughest walks, requiring considerable fitness and navigational experience. There may be prolonged steep ascents. The ability to navigate by compass may be essential.

Toughness Ratings are allocated in the context of the terrain in the edition area. For example a walk rated as demanding in Cambridgeshire may be equivalent to an easier or moderate route in the Yorkshire Dales..