THE YORKSHIRE DALES

Great Walks IN BRITAIN

Boss Moor and Bordley

A demanding ramble across upland Dales pastures and moorland, using green lanes, field and moorland paths with some magnificent views

Essential Facts

Route distance:	11.9 km (7.4 miles)
Approximate time:	3 hours 45 mins
Optional shorter route:	10.0 km (6.3 miles)
Approx. total ascent:	287 metres
Start point Grid Ref:	SD 955 619
GPS Ref:	SD 95554 61923
Recommended O.S. Map:	Explorer OL 2
Toughness Rating	Yorkshire Dales 4

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

Up For A CHALLENGE ?
Take a Great Walk and HELP your favourite charity with
A Donation
An Individual Walk
A Team Effort
Full Info from the Great Walks web site

THE ROUTE

The walk starts from an old quarry car parking area, off Boss Moor Lane, about 4 kilometres from Rylstone village. From the start, S, you turn right and walk along Boss Moor Lane for about a kilometre to the first T-junction, where you turn right. Soon you come to another junction, just before Lainger House, where you can pause to view the old bridge over Lainger Beck.

Turning left you now walk downhill, across Bordley Beck, A, and immediately on the right cross a stile, with fingerpost, partly hidden by bushes, and follow the path right. This leads to a gate; the path then rises, leaving the beck to meander in the valley bottom. After crossing an area of rushes, you step across a small beck to a stile in the field corner. Bordley Hall can be seen ahead.

Crossing the stile the wallside path leads to a couple of fingerposts, the second indicating ‘Bordley Town ½ ml’ across the ford of Heber Beck, B. There is a footbridge to provide an alternative dry crossing of the beck. Head through the farm gate, and take the path left, still following signs for ‘Bordley Town’, across several fields through gates and gaps in broken walls. Looking back, you can take in the splendid view down the dale with Rough Haw and Sharp Haw in the middle distance.

The path now follows a tractor track to a gate overlooking Bordley. Walking down to the hamlet you will see a barn on the left with a tilting weathercock. The path goes left in front of the barn and through a yard gate, and you go left to follow the fingerpost, C, to Malham.

You could turn right here to reduce the overall length of the walk by 2 kilometres – follow the farm road to the crossroads of bridleways at F.

The main route goes up the track towards Malham, through a gate, and winds to a fork, where you go right. This path leads across the pasture, with Kealcup Plantation on the left, and on the right you will see a series of earth ridges, crossing field boundaries, which are probably all that remains of an outlying grange of Fountains Abbey.

Continuing across the pasture you come to Mastiles Lane at D. Here you turn right towards Kilnsey, arriving at Mastiles Gate, E, noting the substantial signs designed to keep 4X4s off this ancient route! Without going through Mastiles Gate, take the bridleway right, and proceed to a crossroads of bridleways at F, where you turn left towards 'Threshfield, 3 ml'. As the track crosses a pasture, you can walk over a faint path to the right to a dip in the wall, where you can see, but not access, Bordley Stone Circle, an ancient burial cairn of which three stones remain. Having had your fill of this Bronze Age relic, follow the wall left to rejoin the route at the gate ahead, across the track, which is now a public road.

The road rises, but then soon descends, with newly rebuilt dry stone walls to your left, and views of Simon’s Seat ahead, across Wharfedale. At the fingerposts guarding both sides of the road, G, take the bridleway right, signed 'Boss Moor, 2ml'. The route leads to a gate onto a green lane, and soon you come to a footpath and bridleway crossroads, near a field barn. To the right you can see a well-preserved old limekiln, which utilises the scarp of the Craven Fault.

Following the sign straight ahead for 'Boss Moor', pass through two gates in quick succession, which lead onto the well-defined path across open moorland. Rylstone Edge to the left, and Pendle Hill in the distance to the right, are now your constant companions.

An Ancient Lime Kilin

Bordley ‘Town’

The Beck Neat Lainger House

The path is eventually joined by a wall from the right, and at the gate, H, you pass onto the green lane signed 'Boss Moor'. At gate, I, the path leads onto the expanse of Boss Moor, enjoying the panorama of views to the south, and back to the car park, **S.**

Refreshment

The Angel at Hetton
Bar, Brasserie and Restaurant
Hetton, Skipton
Tel: 01756 730263
Restaurant and bar meals

Jacksons Farm Shop & Tea Room
Tea Room, Ice Cream Parlour and Farm Shop
Grassington Road, Cracoe
Tel: 01756 730269
Meals and snacks

Cracoe Café
Café
Grassington Road, Cracoe
Tel: 01756 730228
Lunches, snacks, high teas

Devonshire Arms
Public House
Grassington Road, Cracoe
Tel: 01756 730237
Real ales and pub food

The Angel Inn

LOCAL INFO

Bordley ‘Town’ is now something of an exaggeration for it is a hamlet of only two or three households, but in the early nineteenth century it might have been a settlement of perhaps two hundred inhabitants!

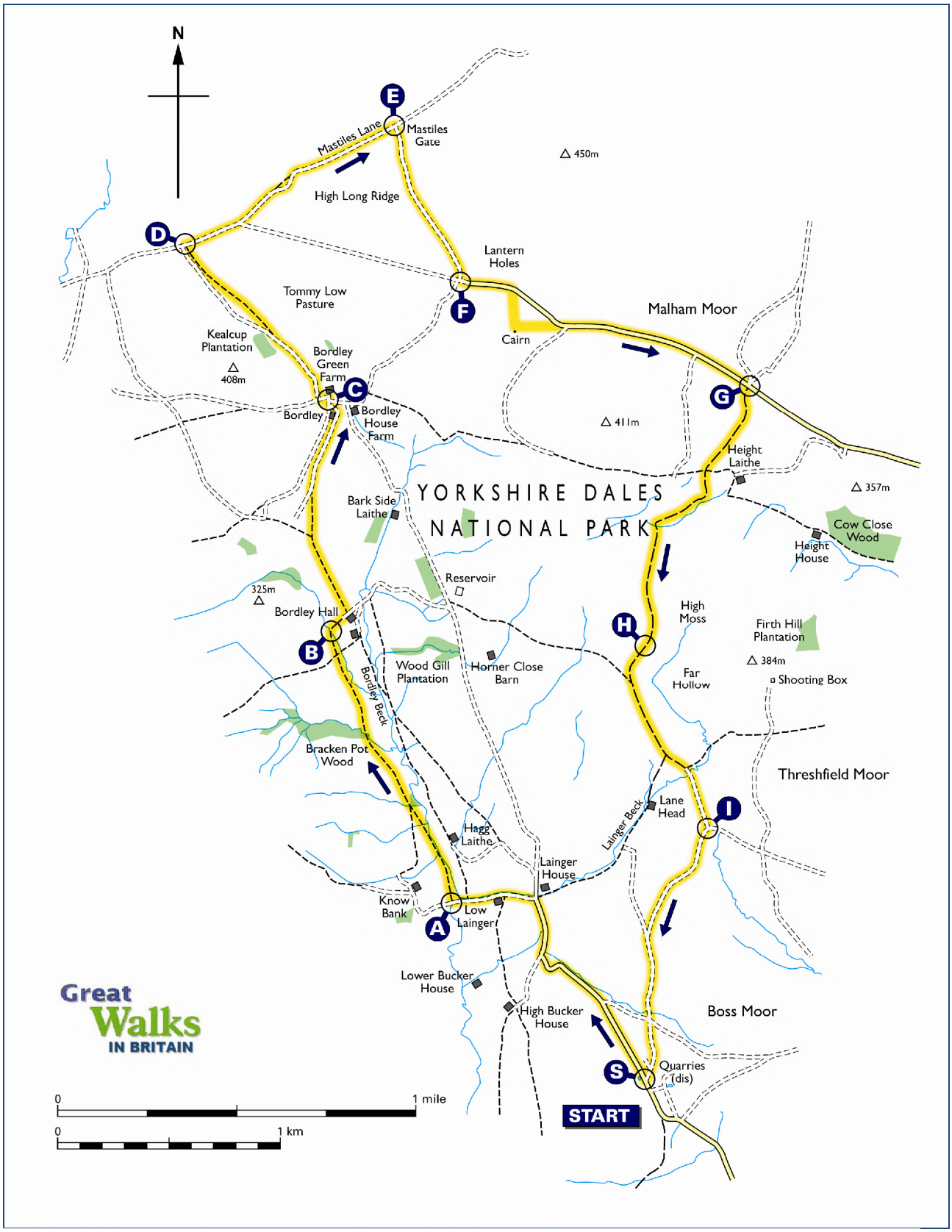
The ‘Craven Heifer’ was an extraordinary, outsize, heifer bred locally in Wharfedale, by the Reverend William Carr of Bolton Abbey in the early years of the nineteenth century, and remembered in countless pub names in the southern Dales.

The moorlands crossed on this walk are the breeding habitat of several ground nesting birds, particularly curlews, which can be seen and heard from April to August. The curlew is easily recognized by its size, its long down-curved bill, and distinctive call.

Mastiles Lane was part of a medieval ‘super highway’ that linked Fountains Abbey, near Ripon, with Malham and its lands to the west.

BOSS MOOR & BORDLEY
G.P.S. WAYPOINTS

WAYPOINT NAME	MAP REF		CO-ORDINATES		ELEVATION: Metres
BMB S	S	SD	95554	61923	320
BMB A	A	SD	94677	62705	235
BMB B	B	SD	94118	63923	265
BMB C	C	SD	94116	64920	335
BMB D	D	SD	93447	65654	380
BMB E	E	SD	94413	66179	385
BMB F	F	SD	94675	65487	355
BMB G	G	SD	95994	65014	350
BMB H	H	SD	95558	63858	365
BMB I	I	SD	95824	63014	345



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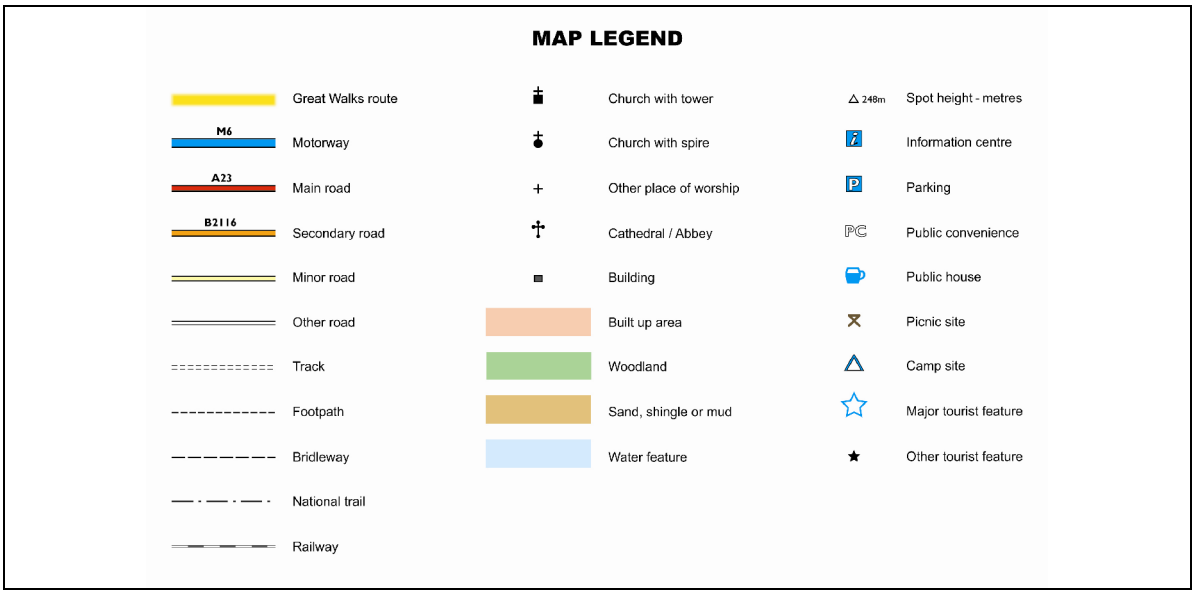

Safety First

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..