

Grassington Grass Wood

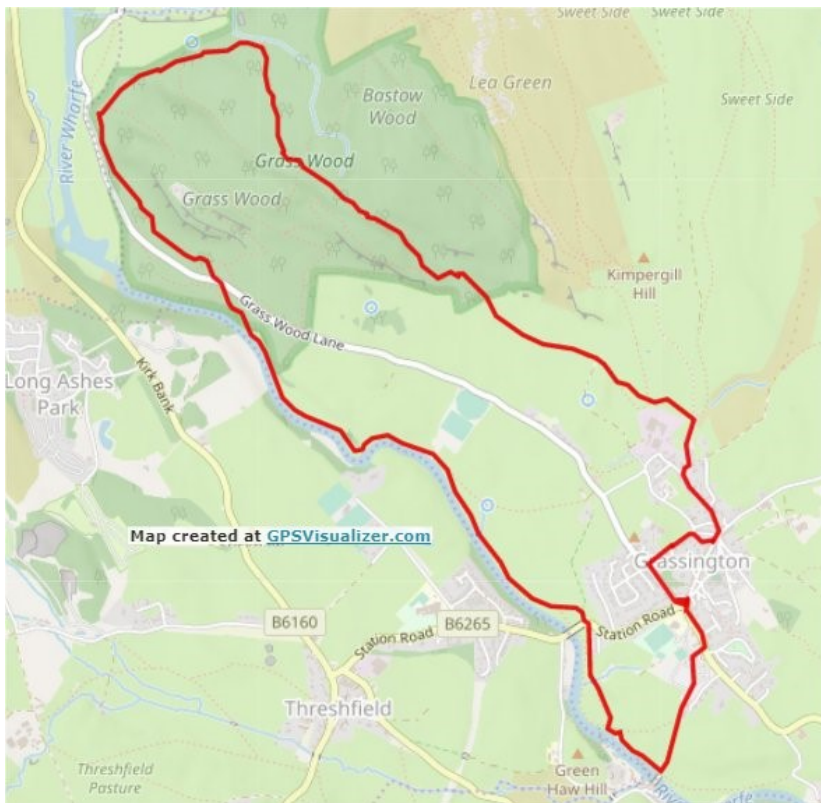
This is a 5.2 mile walk with an overall ascent of 400 ft albeit no steep ascents (but an unfortunate incline back to car park). This is a well known and oft described walk though those that were checked contained notable errors due to changes on the ground and were rather brief.

The walk initially weaves its way from Grassington to the Grass Wood, then travels about 70% of the way around the wood before dropping down to the river and following it back to Grassington.

The paths are all reasonable to good with occasional more muddy stretches.

The walk starts from the Yorkshire Dale National Park car park in Grassington which has an information office and toilets. It's Pay & Display, £4-50 for more than 2 hours. SE 003637 BD23 5LB.

There are buses from Skipton to the car park, albeit not so many in winter, .



It is important to always be appropriately dressed for the conditions and carry, and know how to use, a suitable map for the walk.

This description can be used/printed/shared for personal use, or to lead a walk but not for commercial use without the author's written consent. 2-June-2016



1: SE 003637 Exit the car park to the left of the toilets. Cross the road and turn left towards the town.



2: SE 002640 In 170yds(150m) the main road bears left and the Main Street goes right. Turn right up the Main St. for 310 yds(280m) passing a Spar and a Post Office. Just beyond a street on the left that is cobbled, find another street bearing left called Chapel St.



3: SE 004642 Continue along Chapel Street and in 260yds(235m) find a street Bank Lane to the right.



4: SE 002644 Turn up Bank Lane which starts on an incline and then bears left onto a level stretch. In 220yds(200m) where the lane bears right there is a metal gate ahead and a separate pedestrian gate on the left.

5: SE 003646 Go through the pedestrian gate, across the little footbridge and head for the stile in the wall ahead. Cross that stile and bear half left downhill to another nearby wall stile.



6: SE 000647 Go across the stile, do NOT follow the signpost. Rather go down to the (new) road the pedestrian access to the road, almost directly opposite is another wall stile into a field. The formal footpath goes half right down and across this awkward field but people appear to go right along the wall and then left down the hill to a stile.



7: SD 999648 This corner stile leads to a farm track going left or ahead. Continue ahead to pass to the left of a couple of barns. In 255yds(230m) find a pair of metal gates. Go through the RIGHT hand gate and continue across this field to an opening in the next wall.



8: SD 995650 Through the opening turn half right (N) and head to the stile at the next wall. This is the entrance to Grass Wood.





9: SD 995651 There is an information board immediately in the wood. The wood is suffering from an Ash tree virus so you will see lots of trees marked with orange due for attention. There is an obvious path through the wood and lots of side paths. There is only one turning that can easily be missed (see **Point 12** ahead). There is a protected prehistoric site at SD 994651



10: SD 993651 The path climbs up for quite a distance. At one point it veers left around a hill (the map shows it going right around the hill) and at a Y junction a sign shows to go right. The path is quite wide for much of the distance.



11: SD 988655 At a four way crossing stay directly ahead.

Fairly soon after this (161yds/150m) is the easily missed turning point so time to focus.



12: SD 987656 This is the junction that is easily missed. The left hand path is NOT on the map. You must take the RIGHT hand narrower path. (the wider left hand path meets this one later.). Follow this path which in due course bears left and comes close to the North side of the wood. In 2/3 rds mile(1Km) an exit gate from the wood is reached. (DON'T take it).

13: SD 981657 A few yds before the gate on the left is a (less than obvious) path. Take this path which climbs a bit and angles slightly away from the road on the right. Ignore side paths and favour left if in doubt. After 620yds/1/3rd mile (560m) watch for a tempting path to the right by a fence.



14: SD 984652 Do NOT bear right (even if you can see a gate). Continue with the fence as it curves left and then descends. In a short distance another junction is reached.



15: SD 984652 Take this path to the right which soon reaches a gate out of the wood onto a road. Go through the gate and look slightly left across the road for an opening in the wall.



16: SD 98651 Go through the opening and bear left. Take paths that lead down (while heading leftish) towards the river to reach a path right beside the river, possibly via a final flight of steps.





17: SD 986650 Whether via these steps or otherwise continue left along the riverside path. There are various gates and stretches of grassy areas. In due course a limestone outcrop is reached.



18: SD 990645 Climb onto the outcrop (various paths). Shortly after that Ghaistrill's Strid is reached. A gorge with rapids through it.



19: SD 991645 Ghaistrill's Strid



20: SD 991650 There is a set of wooden steps leading up and through a wall to continue on the riverside path. Just continue on this path sometimes beside a wall, with various gates (one a bit flooded), and a wooden footbridge which leads onto a field with a river bridge ahead.

21: SD 997640 The path bears left and up a ramp to the road. There are some seats there. The road to the left returns to Grassington but this walk continues across the road and through a gate.



22: SD 999639 Go down to the riverside again and follow it for 1/3rd mile(500m) to a large footbridge over the river but notice the substantial weir and unusual building.



23: SD 000635 Linton Falls Hydro is a hydroelectric generating power station located on the Linton Falls Weir of the River Wharfe, near Grassington. The power station is located on the same site as a hydroelectric scheme that was first opened in 1909, but had closed by 1948. The new scheme, which opened in March 2012, uses the original building which is now a scheduled monument.



24: SD 001634 On reaching the bridge go through the gate and turn left uphill.





25: SD 001634 Follow this narrow path uphill to reach the car park in under $\frac{1}{4}$ mile(400m).

26: SD 002634 Access to car park.



Eric Crichton
30-102019