

# GRASSINGTON AND HEBDEN GHYLL THREE WAYS

Leaving Grassington square head up Main Street. In approximately 300 metres we arrive at a crossroads with the town hall directly in front of us, continue ahead keeping the town hall to our right. We pass a small children's play area and the town hall car park as we leave Grassington behind and continue the half mile uphill climb of Moor Lane. After the road levels out we continue for another half mile or so where the road peters out, this is Yarnbury and the buildings on the left are left over from Grassington's lead mining heydays. On the right is a cattle grid which we cross and continue along the limestone track until a long sweeping left hand bend is reached. At the apex of the bend another track continues to our right heading slightly downhill toward a gate hole in the wall. As you look to the distance you will see a building on the opposite hillside and directly in line with this is gate in another wall, this is the gate we are heading too. When passing through the gate the path continues left and downhill zigzagging its way to the beck below. Continue on this path following the beck downstream and keeping the beck to our left. The path eventually gives way to a 100 metres or so of rocky pathway which after rain can be a little slippery, after which we return to a decent path which continues to a gate. Pass through the gate and in a 100 metres or so look out for stepping stones, cross the beck and turn immediately right leading to a track which we continue to follow passing through a number of gates and keeping the beck to our right. Along the beck can be seen dippers, pied and yellow wagtails, kingfishers and herons, in the skies on the opposite side are the hunter's kestrels, buzzards and red kite along with the moorland curlew, lapwing and skylark.

The path eventually crosses a small bridge opposite which is a conveniently placed picnic bench. Along from the bridge we pass through the final gate besides some holiday cottages, now continue along the tarmac lane all the way to the busy (for these parts) Grassington to Pateley Bridge road the B6265. At this point we have a choice of three return routes

1. Turn right, follow the road to footpath on the right (not the one named Edge Lane) just past the bus/lorry depot, this will take us back to Grassington via High Lane, possibly with a stop at the Clarendon for a recharge. This path initially climbs gently crosses through a couple of fields before levelling and entering a small wood, crossing a hay meadow passing by what used to be the old hospital and passing through another small wood, crossing the odd lane and more fields eventually joining a lane proper with walls either side of us, leading us back into Grassington.
2. Cross the road and continue into Hebden turn right into either Chapel Lane or Church Lane onto Back Lane and look for the footpath sign into the fields heading back to Grassington. This path remains quite level for most of the route with a wall to our left but for a couple of short sections, crossing several fields and stiles running parallel with the river below and the road above. On approaching Halfway House Farm the path crosses a track and the path heads left and down to pass below the farm after which it joins a distinct limestone track leading down to the river and the stepping stones or the gate to our right following the Dales Way back to Grassington
3. Cross the road and continue into Hebden turning left immediately after the Old School tearooms (worth a visit if in need of refreshments) follow the path down and along the beck past the trout farm and crossing a small clapper bridge keeping ahead and to the right entering a small wood via a gate. Following the beck end emerging amongst houses then onto the road turn right and in a short distance will be footpath to our left heading down to the river and the old suspension bridge. To continue, do not cross the bridge but follow the riverbank to our right the footpath follows the Dales Way back to Grassington.