

Tales from DalesRail Great walks from Garsdale (2) John Barnes

DalesRail may not be operating in 2020 but that doesn't stop us sharing our many interesting experiences about our journeys. We hope you will share your interesting stories, favourite walks, fascinating anecdotes and pictures about DalesRail. Please send them to richard.watts.crl@gmail.com or Simon Clarke at simon.clarke.crl@gmail.com.

A walk around Grisedale

Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer OL`19 – Howgill Fells & Upper Eden Valley

Standing by Garsdale Station the prominent hill looking west is Baugh Fell with the cairns of Grisedale Pike visible at the near end. Below Grisedale Pike to the north is Grisedale, a remote valley lying beneath the heights of Swarth Fell. Grisedale featured in a Yorkshire documentary 'The Dale That Died' in 1975, a book to accompany the programme was produced by Barry Cockcroft. The Clough River has its source in Grisedale. Tributaries on Swarth Fell and Baugh Fell are collected into Grisedale Beck which continues as Clough River running through Grisedale Head and down Garsdale to join the River Rawthey near Gardsale Bridge. Some of the old farms in Grisedale have been refurbished and are lived in; many are in ruins such as Rowantree, East Scale where there is a Quaker burial ground, West Scale and Round Ing.

Here is an easy walk of 8.5 miles which includes an exploration of Grisedale and continues further by How Beck Bridge to follow the River Ure and on to Garsdale Station.



150906(1) Garsdale Station.

The start of the walk at the very attractive Garsdale Station

We begin at Garsdale Station and going north to Garsdale Head, cross the road and continue to Blake Mire. Going on to Rowantree we cross the road at Moor Rigg and continue by Grisedale Beck to Reachey and so on to East Scale. Continuing by West Scale we come to Round Ing and go east to Flust, Fea Fow and East House. Blake Mire, Moor Rigg and Reachey are occupied as are Flea Fow and East House but East and West Scale are ruins and very little remains of Round Ing. At East House we have completed our perambulation of Grisedale and now go north across Grisedale Common by Rowantree Side to High Shaw Paddock. Just beyond High Shaw Paddock we take the footpath east crossing the railway to Shaw Paddock and come to the River Ure at How Beck Bridge. Going east now to Low West End we continue south by footpath to Beck side, Blades, Ure Force Rigg, the Moorcock Inn for refreshments and Garsdale station for the train home. A lovely walk with plenty of interest along the way.



Lunch break at Grisedale Pike

For the more strenuous walker a circuit of Baugh Fell will prove most rewarding. Some climbing and rough ground is involved but the views all round make the journey worthwhile. To the south look across Garsdale to Rise Hill and Aye Gill Pike, westwards we have superb views across the Rawthey valley to the Howgill Fells, north are Swarth Fell and Wild Boar Fell and eastwards Mallerstang Edge, enough to whet the appetite for further exploration? The following route is 14 miles and includes a walk up the impressive Rawthey Gill waterfalls from Needle House Bridge, worth a visit in their own right, but can be shortened to 11 miles if we drop down to Rawthey Gill Foot from West Baugh Fell Tarn.



Walking party at Rawthey Gill.

Opposite the exit to the North bound platform of Garsdale Station we take the footpath south to High Scale, cross the A684 at Low Scale and continue by Knudmanning on to Grisedale Road and Riggs. At Riggs we take the footpath west by the wall side and start the climb to East Baugh Fell and Grisedale Pike where we pass several cairns of different sizes, an ideal lunch stop. Continuing westwards by Tarn Hill we bypass East Tarns and come to Knoutberry Haw at SD731919, O.S. Triangulation Pillar No S5662. We now go north to West Baugh Fell Tarn and continue over rough ground to Rawthey Gill at Needle House Bridge. All the way are views of Cautley Spout and the eastern Howgills. Going south eastwards and keeping to the south side of Rawthey Gill we pass an impressive series of waterfalls and come to Rawthey Gill Foot. It is possible to cross the river here, continue along the marked path around Holmes Moss and on via Dover Gill into Grisedale at Flust. From Flust we continue eastwards across Grisedale Common to South Lunds Pasture, cross the railway at Grisedale Crossing and go on by road to the Moorcock Inn, take the Pennine Bridleway to Garsdale Station and the train home.



DalesRail waking party at Flust on the way back to Garsdale Station