

Walk 4 FARMING MATTERS

A PIVOTAL ROLE

One of the most stunning dales in the North York Moors, Glaisdale is a world apart. Centuries of farming have moulded this landscape. Generations of farmers have planted hedges, built stone walls, created pastureland and cared for woods - creating the landscape you see today.

Imagine how different the scene would be if the patchwork of irregular fields didn't exist or if the network of isolated farmsteads had never been built? How much of the character of this corner of England would be lost if hill farming became a thing of the past?

Several farms in Glaisdale are members of the National Park's Farm Scheme. Since 1990 this

initiative has been rewarding farmers for looking after the land in a sensitive way. As you pass through the dale you can readily see examples of the crucial work funded by the scheme. As you walk between directions 12 and 13 have a look at the hedges and you will notice that many gaps have been replanted and fenced to ward off the attentions of nibbling sheep and cattle. This work would probably not have been possible without grant aid through the Farm Scheme.

The modern economics of hill farming are such that there is little time and money available for maintaining the fabric of the countryside which we all enjoy. Farmers need a helping hand if we are to retain the wonderful scenery in Glaisdale and indeed throughout the National Park.



BUILT TO LAST

Throughout this walk one feature of the landscape is never far away - traditionally built stone walls. Constructed from locally quarried sandstone blocks, the walls snaking across the landscape are an integral component of the National Park's uniqueness.

The sandstone blocks which make up the walls are a visible link to a time long ago when the whole of the North York Moors was a vast swampy delta. Over millions of years huge quantities of sand gradually accumulated on the bottom of a myriad of



meandering channels. Over time the layers of sand were compressed, eventually forming the sandstone you see used in stone walls and houses in this part of the Park.

Building drystone walls is a very skilled job and a good wall, if maintained, should last up to 150 years! Please treat these 'old timers' of the landscape with the respect they deserve by using stiles and gates.

THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY

Cattle grazing lazily in the fields. The River Esk making its eternal journey to Whitby. Roadside verges bursting with wildflowers. A mosaic of trees and woods making up the glorious whole. This is the Esk Valley.

The train journey at the end of this walk gives you the opportunity to see views of the Esk Valley reserved only for the train passenger. Revel in the fleeting glimpses of the tumbling river as you clatter over bridges.



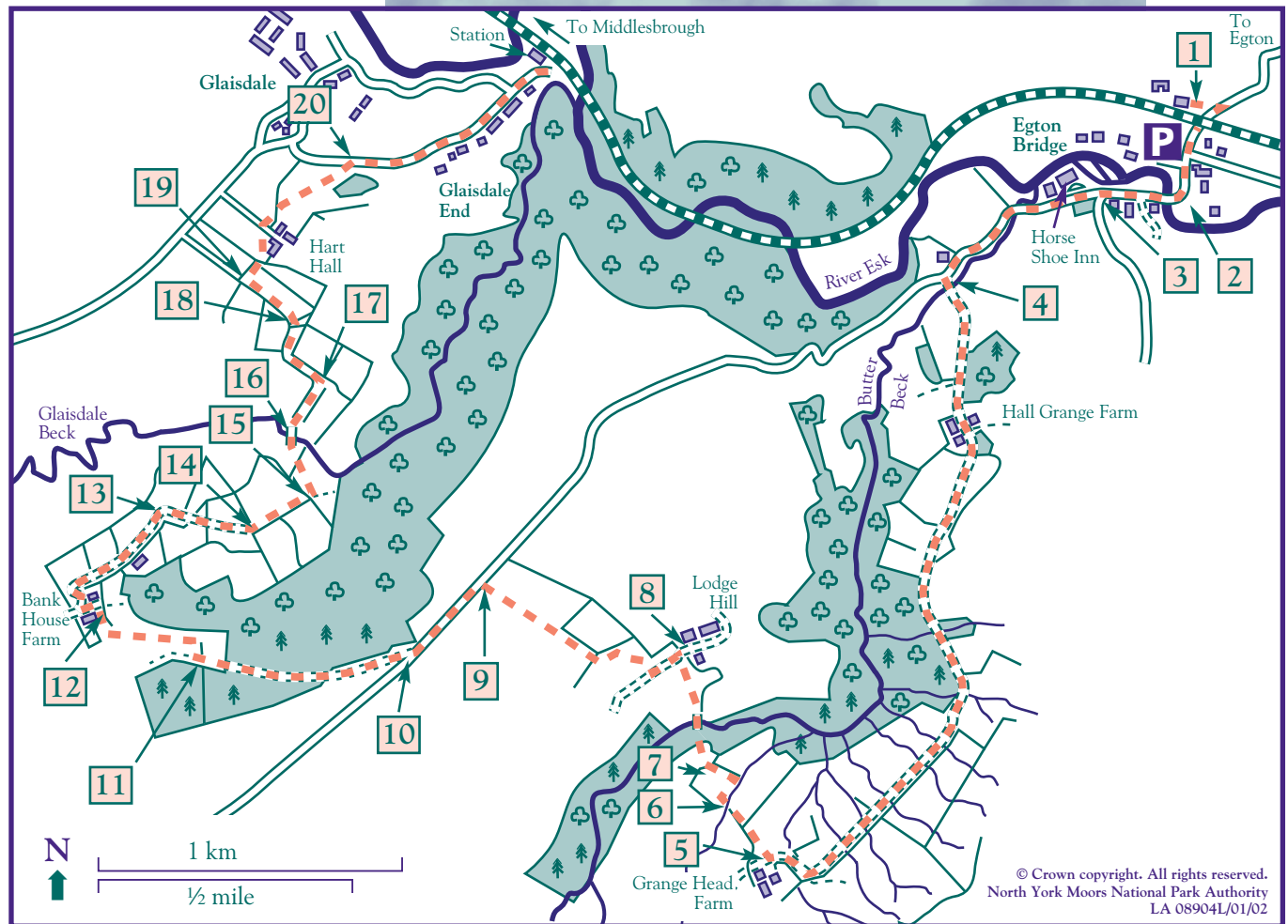
Imagine the views from isolated cottages overlooking the river. Breathe in the atmosphere of the Esk and reap the rewards of this special place.

Walk 4

Glaisdale

This linear walk introduces you to the picturesque, secluded valley of Glaisdale.

Time	5 hours
Length	6 miles (10km)
Start	Egton Bridge Station
Finish	Glaisdale Station
Terrain	After a relatively gentle climb up to Grange Head Farm the route crosses over the tops before it descends into Glaisdale



1. Leave the station. Turn right, under the bridge.
2. Follow the road as it turns sharply to the right.
3. At the junction continue ahead, signed *Rosedale* 8.
4. Turn left on the bridleway and follow the track uphill.
5. At Grange Head Farm turn right on the footpath, keeping the fence on your left.
6. Cross the stream and turn right, keeping the stream on your right. At the fence turn left.
7. Go through the gate and cross the corner of the field. Cross the bridge and follow the uphill path to the farm.

8. At the farm turn left onto the grassy track. After about 30m bear right, uphill.
9. Turn left at the road.
10. Just after the cattle grid bear right onto the footpath. Go through the gate and then downhill on the forest track.
11. At the gate turn right downhill. After 50m turn left and continue following the downhill path.

12. Turn left and go through the farmyard. Just before the cattle grid turn right and follow the track downhill.
13. Continue following the track.
14. Go through the gate and continue ahead, keeping the fence on your right.
15. At the junction turn sharp left and cross the field. Go through the gate and continue ahead.

16. Cross the wooden bridge and follow the uphill path between the fence and hedge.
17. Turn left.
18. Turn left, keeping the fence on your left.
19. Just before the fieldgate turn right on the footpath. Cross two stiles, the access road for Hart Hall and continue ahead.
20. At the road turn right and follow to the station.