

Hutton le Hole and Lavingham

Hutton le Hole

"An ill-planned and untidy village" was how the Victorians described Hutton le Hole. How times change – today it's regarded as one of the most attractive villages in the National Park. That said, earlier complaints were probably justified. The attractive stone cottages in the village were once the overcrowded homes of weavers, smallholders and labourers, who grazed their geese, ducks, hens, horses and donkeys on the green. Manure was piled everywhere and the beck was the common sewer for all the village waste. Nowadays, wandering sheep on the pristine green are the only reminder of more pungent, unkempt days – and the clear waters of the beck, the little bridges and the white fences all form the backdrop to picturesque photographs.

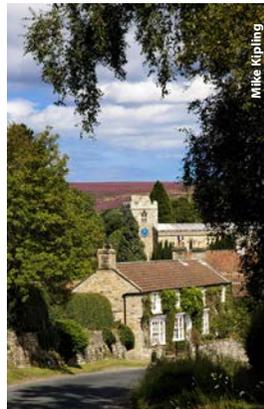


Ryedale Folk Museum

For a closer look at the local history, heritage and culture, step into the open-air grounds of the Ryedale Folk Museum, which you pass on the way to or from Hutton le Hole car park. Authentic buildings from across the region have been re-erected here – from Iron Age roundhouse to Tudor manor house, and village shop to working smithy. Tools, furniture and contents bring to life the lives of ordinary people – a theme that's also explored in the amazing Harrison Collection of everyday antiques and rare curiosities.

St Mary's Lavingham

Any walk through Lavingham should include the short detour to see the beautiful church of St Mary's – standing on the site of an important early Christian outpost. As far back as the seventh century AD there was a monastery here, whose first abbot, the Anglo-Saxon monk Cedd of Lindisfarne (later St Cedd), died of the plague in 664. The wooden monastery was replaced by a stone one and Cedd was laid to rest inside, while in 1078 the monastery was rebuilt again – the crypt probably dates from the same year. There's a palpable sense of history as you descend the stone steps into the half-light beneath the present-day church. St Cedd is still remembered here, amid the crypt's ancient carved stone crosses.



Enjoy quiet fields, country lanes and moorland tracks on a charming 4½ mile circular walk connecting the two moorland villages of Hutton le Hole and Lavingham. You return across the Spaunton escarpment for some lovely sweeping views. This walk can easily become a full day out since each village also has an inspiring attraction – namely the fascinating open-air Ryedale Folk Museum in Hutton and Lavingham's St Mary's church, with its atmospheric eleventh-century crypt

Did you know?

There was no piped water supply to Hutton le Hole until 1892. And electricity didn't arrive until 1949.

Great for:

history buffs, family walks, big-sky views

Length:

4 miles (6.4km)

Time:

2 hours 30 minutes

Start/Finish:

Hutton le Hole car park

Grid Reference:

SE 705 902

Map:

OS Explorer OL 26

Refreshments:

Hutton le Hole and Lavingham

Toilets:

Start/Finish of walk



There are several cafés in Hutton le Hole, while the Crown Inn pub is next to the Ryedale Folk Museum. Lavingham has the Blacksmiths' Arms pub, opposite the church, while the walk also passes Lavingham Grange Country House Hotel and Restaurant.

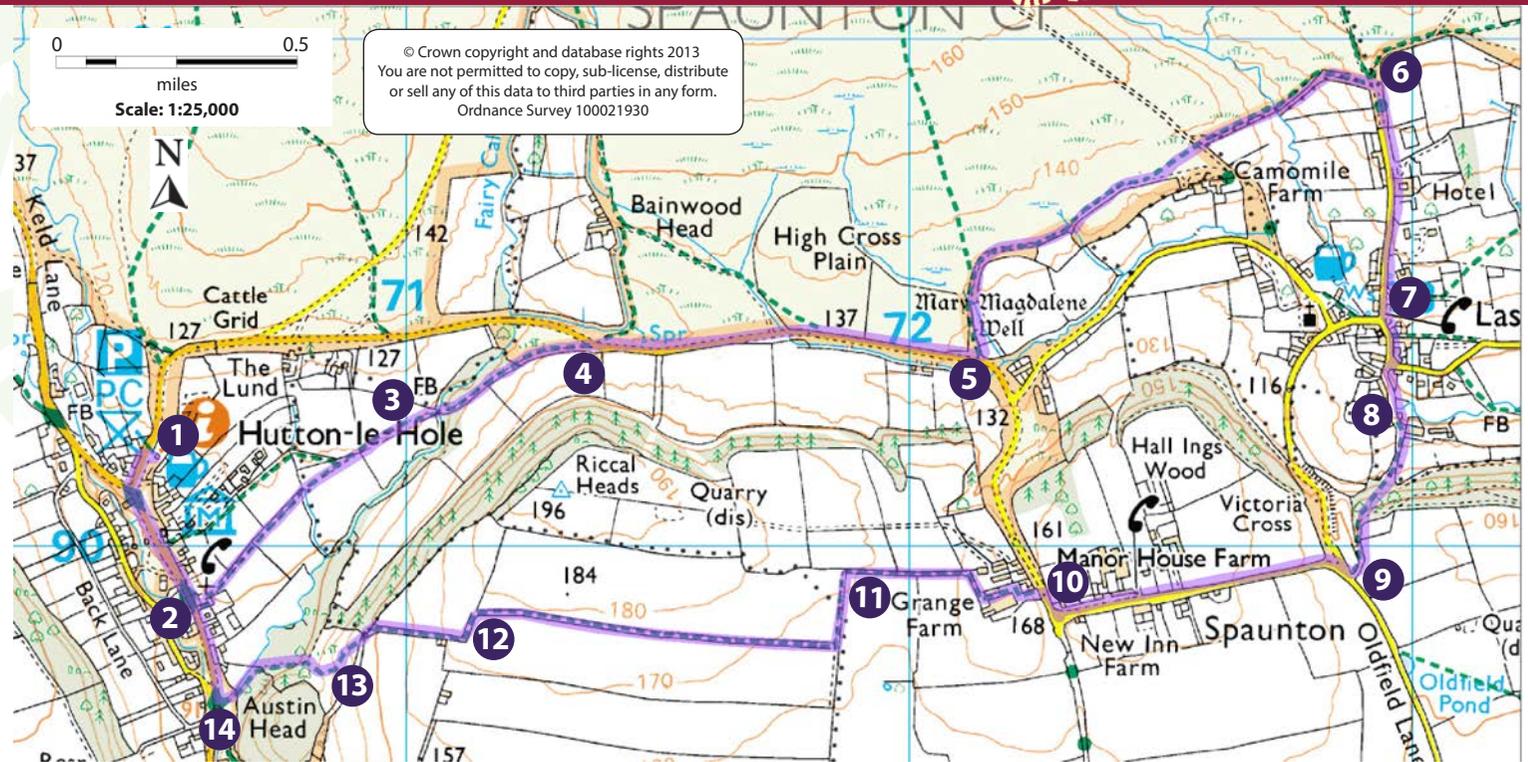


National Park Information Point in Ryedale Folk Museum, Hutton le Hole.

...field ramble, folk museum and curious crypt...

Route instructions

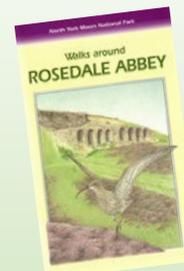
- 1 Turn left out of the car park and left again into Hutton le Hole.
- 2 After the church (opposite the Village Hall), go through the gate on the left, signposted 'Public Footpath'. Turning left, then right, follow the path into the field and continue ahead on a broad grassy path.
- 3 Enter the woodland through a gate, cross the bridge and continue ahead on a clear path through the wood.
- 4 Turn right along the road.
- 5 Just before the bridge, turn left on to the footpath and follow it around to the right, continuing along the moorland track – hedging, stone wall and then a fence on your right, moorland always on your left.
- 6 At the crossroads-path signpost, turn right for Lastingham. Walk down the track and then follow the road into the village, passing Lastingham Grange Country House Hotel.
- 7 At the junction turn right to see St Mary's church. To continue the walk turn left instead, then turn immediately right at the next junction. Cross the bridge and follow the road along the stream.
- 8 Just before the farm turn right on to the footpath. Continue up through a gate into the woods.
- 9 Emerge from the woods at a road junction. Cross over and follow the road to Spaunton.
- 10 Follow the road round to the right, then turn left on to the footpath up through Grange Farm. Follow the stone track through the farm, which turns right in front of the barn, then left.
- 11 At the barns, turn left and then turn right at a yellow waymarked post – walk along the track with the stone wall on your right.
- 12 At the signposts, follow the path round to the left, then right, and continue down the path. Pass a ruined stone building and descend between trees.
- 13 Just past a yellow waymarker, turn right towards a wire fence and gate, and then turn left and walk down the side of the fence. Go through the gate and follow the path down into the gully, bearing right and then left alongside the stream.
- 14 Turn right along the road and return through the village to the car park.



The walk follows field paths and moorland tracks, and also has some woodland sections (one with a fairly steep ascent) which can be muddy and slippery after rain. A short section of the route follows the minor moorland road to Lastingham – please be aware of traffic on this road. There are gates on the route but no stiles.



Please keep your dog under control at all times, and always on a short lead near livestock and game birds, including pheasants. In the moorland sections of the walk dogs must stay on the public right of way and be kept on a short lead or to heel at all times.



Like this walk?

Nearby Rosedale has more fabulous moorland walks – follow the routes and discover the history in the 'Walks around Rosedale Abbey' guide, available from our online shop.