

White Horse Walk

Kilburn White Horse

Kilburn White Horse is the most northerly turf-cut figure in Britain and one of the most famous landmarks in North Yorkshire. At 314 feet long and 228 feet high it's easily visible from the south, below Sutton Bank, and while it's difficult to get a sense of its scale from the path on the escarpment edge above, there are steps down the side which give a closer view. It dates from 1857, when the outline of the horse was marked out by the Kilburn village schoolmaster and his pupils. The horse was then cut into the limestone underneath – to make it more visible today, chalk chippings are added at intervals.



Yorkshire Gliding Club

Members of the Yorkshire Gliding Club have flocked to Sutton Bank since 1933 to take advantage of the air rising up and over the escarpment edge. In fact the shape of the land is so suitable for gliding that the Club altitude record stands at over 33,000 feet. As you follow the escarpment edge you might see gliders taking off and landing on the grassy land to the east of the path. It is never safe to walk on to this land. Gliders approach the field from any direction and they are silent, so you will have no warning to get out of the way.



Iconic white horse and wonderful views

The classic walk from Sutton Bank National Park Centre takes you to the famous turf-cut hillside landmark, the White Horse of Kilburn. It's a 3-mile route that follows the dramatic escarpment edge for magnificent views, then drops down on woodland paths beneath the cliffs before climbing back up beside the horse itself. The finest view in England, thought local author James Herriott – what do you think?

Did you know?

The White Horse is 314 feet (96 metres) long and 228 feet (70 metres) high. In fact, 24 people could sit on the patch of grass which forms the horse's eye (though please don't – you should keep off the horse to avoid eroding the hillside).

Great for:	big-sky views, list-tickers
Length:	3 miles (4.8km)
Time:	2 hours
Start/Finish:	Sutton Bank National Park Centre car park
Grid Reference:	SE 516 830
Map:	OS Explorer OL26
Refreshments:	Sutton Bank National Park Centre
Toilets:	Start/Finish of walk

 There's a café at the National Park Centre. Nearest pub is the Forresters' Arms in Kilburn (5 miles/8km south, travelling via Sutton Bank).

 Sutton Bank National Park Centre.

... iconic white horse and wonderful views ...

Route instructions

- 1 From the National Park Centre, make your way across the top car park to the main A170 road.
- 2 Cross the main road (take care!) and walk down the signposted path marked 'Cleveland Way, White Horse, 1m'.
- 3 Turn left along the footpath and follow the escarpment edge.
- 4 Opposite the gliding information panel follow the path on the right, diagonally down the scarp edge.
- 5 At the bottom (just past the bench), bear left at the junction, along the woodland path. Continue ahead, under the escarpment edge.
- 6 Bear uphill and to the left (red waymarker). Continue straight on to reach the White Horse car park and then climb the steps by the side of the White Horse to the top of the escarpment edge.
- 7 Turn left and follow the path back to the National Park Centre.

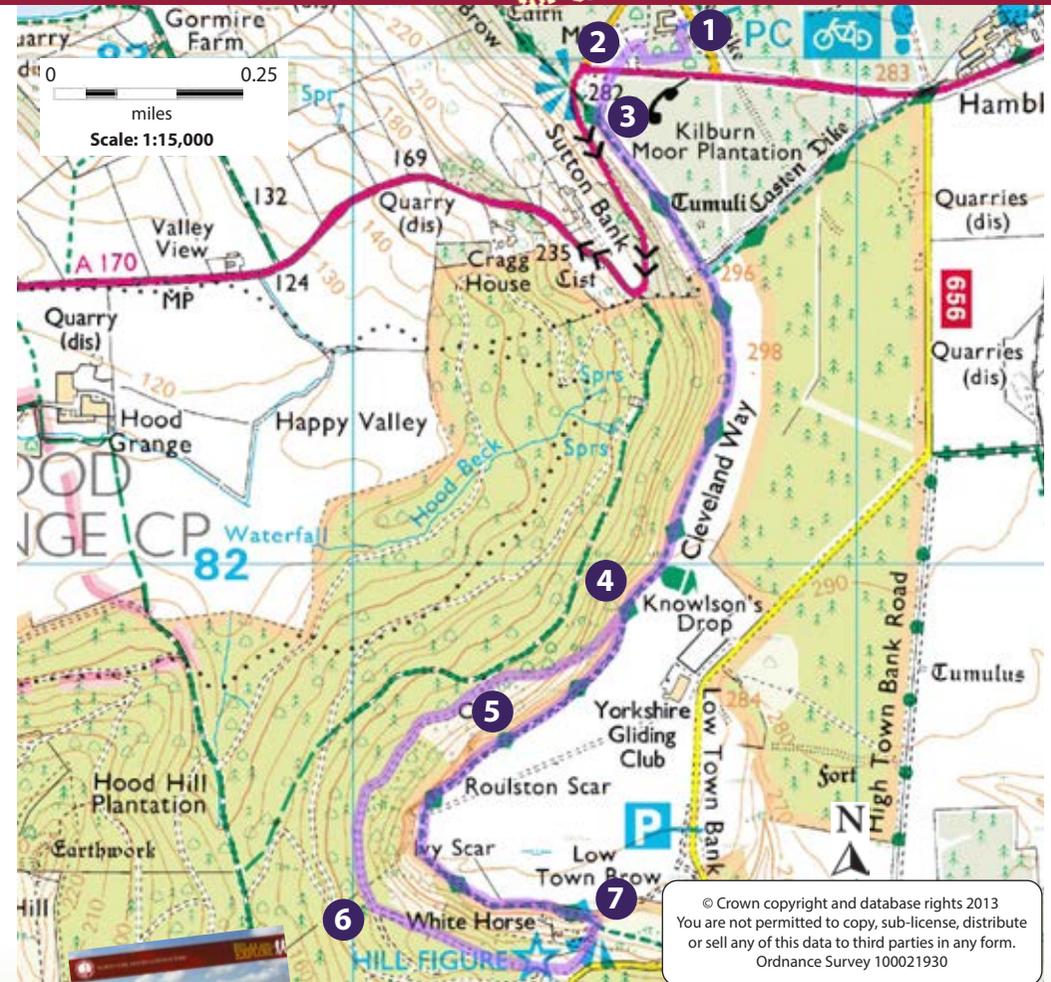


The start of the walk involves crossing a busy main road – take great care. The route out and back along the escarpment edge follows a hard, compacted, level path, with no gates or stiles. The descent into the woods can be muddy and slippery when wet. There's also a steep ascent, up stone steps, by the side of the White Horse.



The route along the escarpment follows an unfenced cliff edge and runs beside the gliding club landing area – please keep your dog on a lead at all times on this path.

Please consider other walkers and clean up after your dog!



Like this walk?

For other great walks in the area buy the 'Walks Around Sutton Bank' guide from our National Park Centres.