

Cold Moor and the Wainstones



This is a moderately strenuous hill walk following easy clear paths up the hills but can be muddy descending through the woods and returning through fields to Hill Road

6 miles (7.4 miles including Hasty Bank extension) 430m height gained. Time 2hrs 30mins

The views are superb and the walk along the ridge is considered one of the highlights of the several national trails which follow the route over the crests.

Starting from the Black Swan, the first mile takes you along Hill Road to the gate giving entry to the Pybus Scout camp. The path ahead is an ancient trod, see the Kirkby Heritage Trail, marked by stone flags ascending the hill ahead.

Climb up past the scout HQ following the trod. Through a gate and follow the wide track up to the col, Raisedale, between Cold Moor and Cringle Moor.

Go straight ahead through the gate and follow the stone wall on your left, turning at the corner to head up the obvious flank of Cold Moor. The climb is easy but well worth taking slowly to take in the expanding view back towards Cringle Moor and the plain below.

Once the top of Cold Moor is gained, you will see a track joining from its spine to your right. This is a route for another day, leading to Chop Gate and Bilsdale.

Carry on over the top of Cold Moor and suddenly the Wainstones, a haven for rock climbers, appear in the distance. The path descends the side of Cold Moor to a gate at Garfitts Gap.

Again there is cross roads of footpaths. Our return will take us to the left towards the woods along the front of the escarpment. But first, the ascent of the Wainstones, the western end of Hasty Bank. The route is clear through old shale heaps from earlier alum workings. The jumble of rocks is easily navigated and the view from the top is simply stunning and not to be rushed.

An easy extension to the walk, 1.4 miles in its entirety, is to walk along the flat top of Hasty Bank until the path descends steeply to Clay Bank at its eastern end. Follow the edge for the views but take care and don't stray too close.

From the Wainstones return by the same route to Garfitts Gap and turn right towards the woods. Go through a gate on to wide track and see the clear path descending through the straight ahead of you.

This descent can be very wet with sticky clay accumulating on your boots - you have been warned. Keep eyes open for a footpath which branches off to the left. Look at the plan above

and consult your map. The footpath crosses another forest road and continues downhill becoming a sunken road shortly before it joins the top of Bank Lane.

Turn left on to the tarmac lane which runs along the foot of the Hills linking a series of farms.

At Broughton Banks farm, after passing the farm buildings, turn right through a gate into a field and turn left to follow the field boundary on your right. The land drops ahead of you but a gate and a clear track beyond soon come into view.

Follow the track along the field margin to join the top of Hill Road.

Turn right and head back to the Black Swan, 1 mile distant.