

## BLACK SHEEP PUB WALKS

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### The Inn Way...to Black Sheep Pubs

*By Mark Reid*

#### WALK TWO - LANGSTROTHDALE CHASE

##### WALK INFORMATION

Distance	7 miles
Time	3 hours
Maps	Ordnance Survey OL30 (1:25,000) 'Yorkshire Dales Northern & Central'
Start	Dales Countryside Museum (National Park Centre), Hawes, Wensleydale.
Parking	Large car park at Buckden
How to get there	Buckden lies along the B6160 at the head of Wharfedale, between Aysgarth and Kettlewell. For Public Transport call 0870 602 608.
Terrain	A clear track (Buckden Rake) climbs quite steeply up across the flanks of Buckden Pike then a field-path drops steeply down to the hamlet of Cray. From Cray, a level walk crosses the flanks of Yockenthwaite Moor with wonderful views down Wharfedale then drops down through woodland along a rocky path to reach Yockenthwaite. The return leg follows a clear riverside path through Hubberholme and back to Buckden.
Black Sheep Pubs:	White Lion, Cray; Tel: 01756 760262 George Inn, Hubberholme; Tel: 01756 760223 Buck Inn, Buckden; Tel 01756 760228
Close by...	Fox & Hounds, Starbotton; Tel: 01756760269

##### POINTS OF INTEREST

The upper reaches of Wharfedale are delightful with its trio of villages and spectacular scenery. The wild valley of Langstrothdale cuts a meandering 'V' through the high fells bringing the infant River Wharfe down to join the waters of Cray Gill - it is at this point that 'Wharfedale' begins. Buckden was once a forest village within the Norman hunting forest of Langstrothdale Chase. This was the hunting preserve of the Earls of Northumberland governed by its own laws, courts and privileges; the forest officials would have lived at Buckden. From Buckden a stony track slants up through Rakes Wood across the lower flanks of Buckden Pike. This track is known as Buckden Rake and leads across the flat shelf of moorland above Cray before joining the track across Stake Moss towards Bainbridge in Wensleydale - this once formed part of the Roman road between the forts at Ilkley and Bainbridge. From Cray, a superb path leads across a flat shelf of land above Hubberholme Wood with superlative views down the length of Wharfedale. The hamlets of Langstrothdale are named after the Viking settlers who came here in the 9th Century - Yockenthwaite was 'Eogan's clearing'. The hamlet later became a lodge in the Norman hunting forest and today consists of one or two ancient farmsteads. A delightful riverside path leads down to Hubberholme. Over 1,000 years ago a Viking chieftain called Hubba settled here and

consequently gave his name to this hamlet. The 12<sup>th</sup> Century church at Hubberholme, dedicated to St Michael and All Angels, was originally a chapel within the Norman hunting forest and was subsequently given to the monks of Coverham Abbey in 1241. It boasts a wealth of interesting features in particular a very rare Rood Loft. Across the river is the George Inn, famed for its annual land-letting ceremony known as the Hubberholme Parliament, a tradition that dates back over 1,000 years.

## THE WALK

1. Leave Buckden along the stony track at the top end of the large car park (signpost 'Buckden Pike & Cray High Bridge'), and follow this clear track (known as Buckden Rake) climbing steeply up through Rakes Wood, with wonderful views down to your left. The track leads up to a gate across your path, after which the track bends round to the right and levels out slightly - where the track divides, continue straight on along the clear grassy track along the flat shelf of land (ignore the track to the right) on to another gate. Continue straight on along the grassy flat track ahead, with steep drops and good views down to your left, on to reach a gate across your path. Head through this gate (with a stone wall once again on your left), then after about 100 yards take the path to the left through this wall (signpost 'Cray') and drop down the clear path to quickly join a stone wall on your right that leads down (steep in places) over a ford / stepping stones across Cray Gill then over the road to reach the White Lion at Cray.
2. Walk to the right of the White Lion and follow the track round to the left behind the pub (signpost); the track soon divides - follow the right-hand branch bearing up through a gate to the right of the barn. Head straight on along the clear stony track through the farmyard, over one or two small fords passing above the buildings of Cray and on to a gate that leads out onto open pastures. Follow the clear path ahead, passing to the left of a stone barn then down to a footbridge across Crook Gill.
3. After the footbridge, turn left alongside the fence and follow the path across the grassy shelf of land above a steep wooded slope with superlative views down Wharfedale. Follow this shelf of land as it gently curves round to the right and on over limestone outcrops to reach a rough stony track above Scar House Farm (signpost).
4. Head straight on along the stony track passing above the farm (do not head down to Scar House), however, after a short distance forsake the track (which turns up to the right) and head on to reach a wall-gate ahead beside a larger gate. After the wall-gate, head straight on along a clear path across the flat shelf of land on to reach a wall-gate that leads into woodland. Head straight on to quickly reach a footbridge that leads out of the woods, after which follow the path down to the left then straight on along a flat shelf of land again over a succession of wall-stiles, with fine views across Langstrothdale to your left. Continue straight on along this path then, just after a derelict stone barn up to your right, follow the clear path to the left through a stone wall (signpost) which drops steeply down along stony path across the sparsely wooded slopes towards Yockenthwaite in the distance. The path soon levels out and heads across the side of the hill to join a clear stony track above Yockenthwaite. Turn left down along this track into the heart of this hamlet to reach the farm track that runs parallel to the River Wharfe towards the stone bridge.
5. Turn left along this track - do not head towards the stone bridge - through a gate beside a farmhouse with two large red doors (signpost). Head straight on across a rough track through a large gate then a smaller gate, after which head to the right down over a wall-stile (just after the stone barn on your right). This leads down to a very clear riverside path - follow this path, keeping close to the River Wharfe all the way, for one and a half miles to reach a track beside Hubberholme Church. Follow

this track round to the right passing between the farm buildings and the church to join the road at the bridge across the River Wharfe.

6. Cross over the bridge to reach the George Inn and turn left along the road. Walk along this narrow road (enclosed by stone walls) for just under half a mile passing Grange Farm and then a stone barn on your left, then head through a gate to your left (signpost 'Buckden') and follow the clear track straight on to quickly join a riverside path along the banks of the Wharfe. This clear path leads on to re-join the road again beside the bridge just below Buckden. Turn left over the bridge back up into Buckden.

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