



## CAM HEAD and MOOR END FELL

FROM KETTLEWELL 6½ MILES (10.5KM)

**S**tarting from the picturesque village of Kettlewell, this moderate hill walk follows former packhorse and drovers' routes. There are excellent views of the valley on both outward and return journeys.

Kettlewell is situated at the foot of Great Whernside which, at 2310 feet (704m), is Wharfedale's highest mountain. According to some authorities the scenery and contour of the mountains around Kettlewell are a near facsimile of the Valley of Jehoshaphat in Palestine. The village was granted a market charter in 1320 and became a thriving centre for the upper dale, attracting traders from great distances. At one time it had five inns, a beerhouse, a cotton mill, three schools, three blacksmiths and a surgeon.

The manor of Kettlewell was once owned by Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, known

as 'the Kingmaker'. After his death at the Battle of Barnet in 1471, his estates were confiscated by the Crown for supporting the enemies of Edward IV. In 1656, the manor was bought by eight trustees for the freeholders of Kettlewell who came to be known as the 'Trust Lords'. Successive lords have since played a major role in the social and economic life of the village, specifically through controlling and managing common grazing and mineral rights.

In recent years Kettlewell has been inundated by the arrival of some very strange residents! During the first few weeks of August the village holds its annual scarecrow festival, with almost every household in the community taking part. Hundreds of 'scarecrow residents' are dotted about the village in a wide variety of poses and disguises including

burglars, musicians, fishermen and joggers. A few years ago, some visitors were shocked when one scarecrow, with a 'real life resident' hiding inside, spoke to them!

From the village we follow a former packhorse route, the Top Mere Road, climbing steeply to Cam Head. During our ascent there are wonderful views of the valley, including Kilnsey Crag with its dramatic overhang.

This ancient track passes the site of the chimney and flue which served the Kettlewell Smelt Mill. The mill started work towards the end of the seventeenth century. It was rebuilt in 1868 when a long flue was constructed to a high chimney on the side of Cam Pasture. The mill closed in 1887 and was in good condition until it was demolished by the army in 1942 to test a new type of explosive. However, the chimney had blown down during a gale in 1893.

At Cam Head we join the Starbotton Road, an ancient drovers' track which linked Coverdale and Malhamdale. Above the hill to the right of the track are the remains of a medieval boundary marker called the Shorn Cross. This is sited on the top of a Bronze Age round barrow and may have once marked a point on the boundary of the Coverham Abbey estate at Kettlewell. It consists of the base of a stone cross with the broken shaft lying nearby.

During our descent to Starbotton there are sweeping views across the valley to Old Cote Moor and Moor End Fell.

Despite being sited on a busy main road, Starbotton has managed to retain a peaceful outlook. Much of the village was rebuilt after the disastrous flood of 1686. Its name is of Norse origin meaning 'the valley where the stakes were cut'. The Fox and Hounds Inn, dating from the seventeenth century, remains a welcome oasis for weary travellers.

After crossing the river Wharfe we climb steeply through a wood and emerge onto the shoulder of Moor End Fell. From here the steep sides and U-shaped valley floor, which are typical of glacial action, can be seen to best advantage.

Moor End Farm, now used as an Outward Bound Centre, was built for the manager of the nearby leadmines in the early eighteenth century. The Moor End mines were heavily worked between 1731 and 1879. A shaft was sunk to a depth of 210 feet (64m) and one level was worked horizontally for 2000 feet (610m). Most of the ore was sent to the Cupola Smelt Mill at Starbotton.

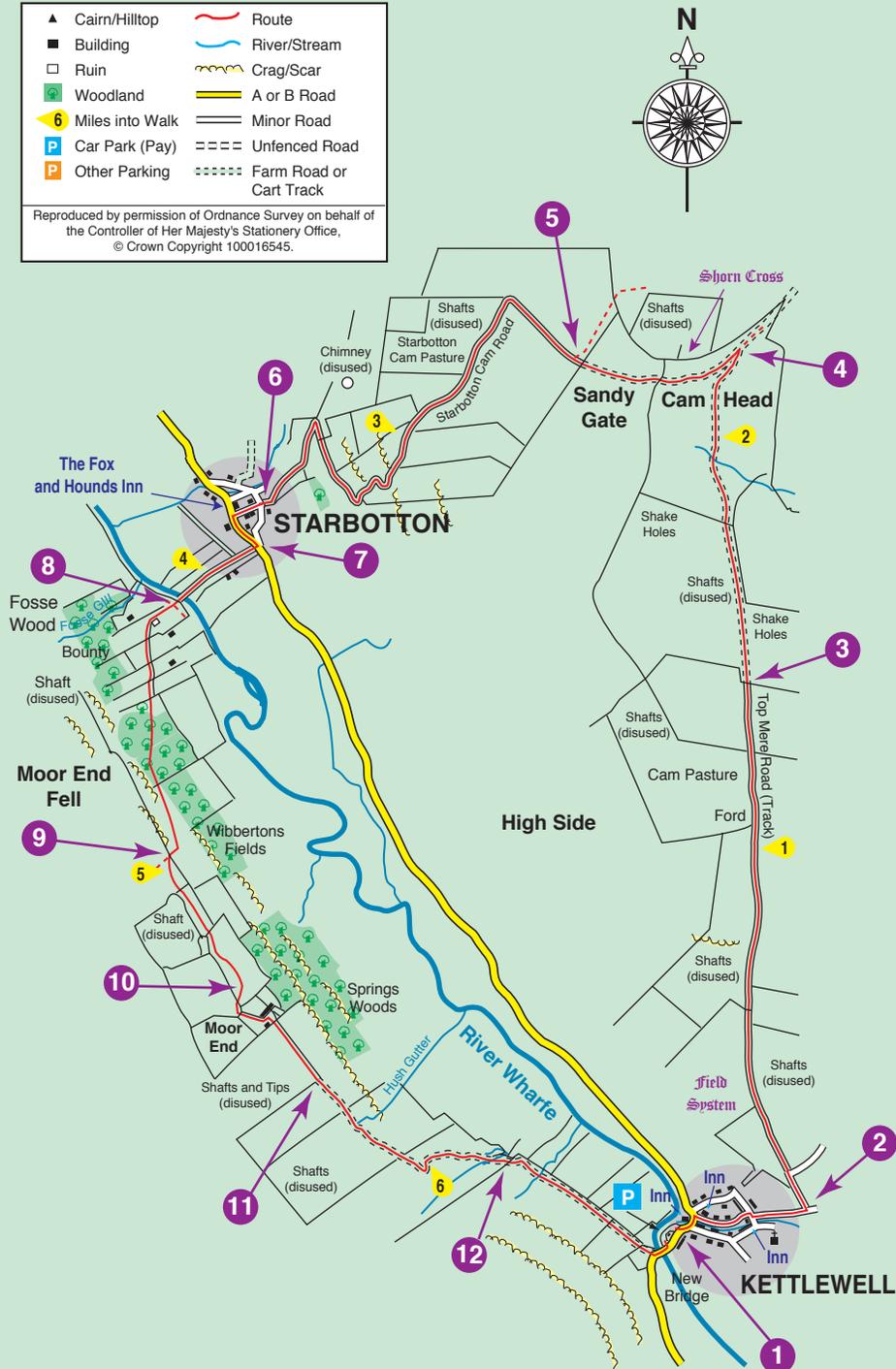
From Moor End our path descends gently and returns us to Kettlewell. Across the river, on the lower slopes, strip-lynchets are visible when the sun is low.

<b>Start/Parking:</b>	National Park car park at Kettlewell.
<b>Location:</b>	Kettlewell is situated on the B6160 14 miles (22.5km) north of Skipton.
<b>Grid Ref:</b>	SD 968 723. Postcode: BD23 5QZ.
<b>Distance:</b>	6½ miles (10.5km) circular. Allow 3¼ hrs walking time.
<b>Total Ascent:</b>	1811 feet (552m) Maximum Elevation: 1706 feet (520m).
<b>OS Maps:</b>	Explorer OL30 (1:25,000) or Landranger 98 (1:50,000).
<b>Refreshments:</b>	The Bluebell Hotel, The Racehorses, The King's Head and several tea rooms at Kettlewell. The Fox and Hounds Inn at Starbotton.
<b>Public Toilets:</b>	Kettlewell near the exit to the car park.
<b>Bus Service:</b>	From Ilkley and Skipton, more information from <a href="http://www.dalesbus.org">www.dalesbus.org</a> .
<b>Other:</b>	Post Office, telephone, shops.

## CAM HEAD AND MOOR END FELL

▲ Cairn/Hilltop	— Route
■ Building	— River/Stream
□ Ruin	— Crag/Scar
■ Woodland	— A or B Road
6 Miles into Walk	— Minor Road
P Car Park (Pay)	- - - - - Unfenced Road
P Other Parking	- · - · - · Farm Road or Cart Track

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- 1 (GR 968 723) From the car park turn left and follow the road over the river bridge. Turn right and continue to the junction near the post office. Cross the junction and take the Leyburn road out of the village. Follow this to the first part of a double bend.
- 2 (GR 973 724) Turn left (*sign Leyburn Gradient 1:4*) and follow the road uphill. At the next bend leave the road to join an enclosed stone track (*SP Bridleway Starbotton*). Begin the steep ascent to Cam Head passing through two gated stiles.
- 3 (GR 971 742) From this stile the track becomes unenclosed. Continue climbing and go through a gate. Stay on the track to a signpost.
- 4 (GR 970 753) Turn left onto a clear track (*SP Starbotton*). From this point the track begins to level out and traverses the hillside. At the next gate the track descends through Sandy Gate pasture.
- 5 (GR 965 753) Go through the gate to join the Starbotton Cam Road. This enclosed track leads all the way down to Starbotton via two gates.
- 6 (GR 954 748) Cross to the lane opposite and follow it to the main road. Turn left and continue on the road towards Kettlewell.
- 7 (GR 954 747) Leave the road via the gate on the right (*SP Kettlewell 2*) and follow a walled lane to the river. Cross the footbridge and go through a gate.
- 8 (GR 951 745) Continue straight ahead (*SP Arncliffe*), follow a tree lined path between broken walls to a ruined barn. Bear left and begin a steady climb, keeping to the wall side. Go through two gates and continue climbing through a small wood. Leave the wood via a gate at the top and follow the path to another gate.
- 9 (GR 951 735) Go through the gate and bear left (*SP Bridleway*). Continue through two gates heading towards Moor End Farm.
- 10 (GR 953 732) Bear right (*SP Bridleway*) and climb up to go through the gate in the corner of the right wall. Follow the left wall round and go through another gate. Keep close to the left wall and pass in front of the farmhouse. Turn right and go through a gate to the left of a barn. Stay with the left wall and continue on a broad path to an open gateway.
- 11 (GR 956 728) From this point the path changes into a rough stone track. Stay on the track and descend steadily through the next two pastures. Now descend steeply to go through a gate at the bottom of the field.
- 12 (GR 962 725) Stay close to the wall and continue via two gates emerging onto the main road near New Bridge. Turn left and follow the road over the river bridge returning to the car park.



Starbotton and Cam Gill.