**INTRODUCTION**

Malhamdale offers some of the best walking among some of the finest scenery in the British Isles. The terrain, however, must not be taken for granted and walks must be adequately prepared, and, in particular, must be properly shod. Proper walking boots giving adequate ankle support are essential for this area, as almost all the most popular paths are now surfaced almost to centre standards, most paths are uneven if not actually rough. Trainers, for example, are not adequate for most of the walking in the area. It should also be noted that the limestone of which the spectacular scenery of Malhamdale is composed can be a testing surface on which to walk, and great care must be taken especially when the limestone is wet or has a rain of mud on it when it becomes very slippery.

That having been said, the delights of the walking in Malham are self-evident. A pause for breath at almost any point on any of the walks described here will give the opportunity to look around at some of the most outstanding scenery you are ever likely to see.

The backbone of walking in Malhamdale is the Pennine Way, the yorkshire dales National Park Authority car park in Malham.

**SELECTIONS WELL IN MALHAMDALE**

**WALK 1**

MALHAM LANDSCAPE SPECTACULAR

7.125 kms (4.5 miles)

Turn left out of the YDNPA Car Park and follow the road through to the right hand hairpin bend. At the bottom of this bend turn left onto a footpath (signed to Sheepwash Farm). After 250 metres you will arrive at a stile beside Sheepwash Farm. Cross this and follow the road uphill to the right, and turn right onto the footpath at the bend (signed to Malham Head). Walk through the valley, taking in the spectacular views on your left and your right towards Malham village and cliff. At the footpath finger-post beside a field gate, turn left through the field gate and follow the Pennine Way, again heading downhill. After about 350 metres you will arrive at a stone stile. Cross this and follow the path up to the right through the field gate, on to a broad, well defined track which you should follow to the right, immediately past the first of three gates.

As you come back into the village, turn left out of the car park onto Malham Head Road. At the bottom of this road, turn left onto the Pennine Way, again heading downhill. After about 500 metres you will arrive at a stone stile. Cross this and follow the path for another 500 metres to the right, on your left hand side, an attractive waterfall. Continue your walk downhill to a road junction, where turn left again and go downhill to Kirkby Malham. At the commencement of the village houses turn right to follow the road to the main road, heading left to Kirkby Malham. At the crossroads, turn left onto the main road, following it to the right-hand hairpin bend where turn rightonto the footpath to the left of the church (known as ‘the cathedral of the dales’), known as the valley of Malhamdale. Rejoin the Pennine Way at Hanlith Bridge. Continue along the Pennine Way uphill to the right-hand hard arm bend. At the apex of this bend turn right onto the footpath to ‘Calton Head’. Continue along the Pennine Way and cross the stone bridge. At the start of this walk. Continue along the Pennine Way and cross the stone bridge. At the start of this walk. Continue along the Pennine Way and cross the stone bridge. At the start of this walk. Continue along the Pennine Way and cross the stone bridge.

**WALK 2**

MALHAM COVE, DRY VALLEY.

225 kms (7 miles)

Follow the route of Walk 1 as far as the top of Malham Cove indicated by the signpost. After crossing the limestone pavement, turn left and cross three times you walk up to the stone wall. At the top of this footpath, turn right across a field, by the footpath signpost and out. At the top of this field, follow the path to the right, on your left hand side, an attractive waterfall. Continue your walk downhill to a road junction, where turn left again and go downhill to Kirkby Malham. At the commencement of the village houses turn right to follow the road to the main road, heading left to Kirkby Malham. At the crossroads, turn left onto the main road, following it to the right-hand hairpin bend where turn right onto the footpath to the left of the church (known as ‘the cathedral of the dales’), known as the valley of Malhamdale. Rejoin the Pennine Way at Hanlith Bridge. Continue along the Pennine Way uphill to the right-hand hard arm bend. At the apex of this bend turn right onto the footpath to ‘Calton Head’. Continue along the Pennine Way and cross the stone bridge. At the start of this walk. Continue along the Pennine Way and cross the stone bridge. At the start of this walk. Continue along the Pennine Way and cross the stone bridge. At the start of this walk. Continue along the Pennine Way and cross the stone bridge.

**WALK 3**

JANET’S FOSS, WEETS TOP, CALTON, AIRTON

9 kms (5.6 miles)

Turn left out of the YDNPA car park, and walk up the road for 320 metres until you cross a stile on your right. This stile leads into the tree line of the Pennine Way. After passing through this stile, turn right onto the footpath (signed to Sheepwash Farm). After 250 metres you will arrive at a stile beside Sheepwash Farm. Cross this and follow the road uphill to the right, and turn right onto the footpath at the bend (signed to Malham Head). Walk through the valley, taking in the spectacular views on your left and your right towards Malham village and cliff. At the footpath finger-post beside a field gate, turn left through the field gate and follow the Pennine Way, again heading downhill. After about 350 metres you will arrive at a stone stile. Cross this and follow the path up to the right through the field gate, on to a broad, well defined track which you should follow to the right, immediately past the first of three gates.

As you come back into the village, turn left out of the car park onto Malham Head Road. At the bottom of this road, turn left onto the Pennine Way, again heading downhill. After about 500 metres you will arrive at a stone stile. Cross this and follow the path for another 500 metres to the right, on your left hand side, an attractive waterfall. Continue your walk downhill to a road junction, where turn left again and go downhill to Kirkby Malham. At the commencement of the village houses turn right to follow the road to the main road, heading left to Kirkby Malham. At the crossroads, turn left onto the main road, following it to the right-hand hairpin bend where turn rightonto the footpath to the left of the church (known as ‘the cathedral of the dales’), known as the valley of Malhamdale. Rejoin the Pennine Way at Hanlith Bridge. Continue along the Pennine Way uphill to the right-hand hard arm bend. At the apex of this bend turn right onto the footpath to ‘Calton Head’. Continue along the Pennine Way and cross the stone bridge. At the start of this walk. Continue along the Pennine Way and cross the stone bridge. At the start of this walk. Continue along the Pennine Way and cross the stone bridge. At the start of this walk. Continue along the Pennine Way and cross the stone bridge.

**WALK 4**

MALHAM, Kirrby, Malham, AIRTON, HANLITH

9 kms (5.6 miles)

Turn left out of the YDNPA car park, and walk up the road for 320 metres until you cross a stile on your right. This stile leads into the tree line of the Pennine Way. After passing through this stile, turn right onto the footpath (signed to Sheepwash Farm). After 250 metres you will arrive at a stile beside Sheepwash Farm. Cross this and follow the road uphill to the right, and turn right onto the footpath at the bend (signed to Malham Head). Walk through the valley, taking in the spectacular views on your left and your right towards Malham village and cliff. At the footpath finger-post beside a field gate, turn left through the field gate and follow the Pennine Way, again heading downhill. After about 350 metres you will arrive at a stone stile. Cross this and follow the path up to the right through the field gate, on to a broad, well defined track which you should follow to the right, immediately past the first of three gates.

As you come back into the village, turn left out of the car park onto Malham Head Road. At the bottom of this road, turn left onto the Pennine Way, again heading downhill. After about 500 metres you will arrive at a stone stile. Cross this and follow the path for another 500 metres to the right, on your left hand side, an attractive waterfall. Continue your walk downhill to a road junction, where turn left again and go downhill to Kirkby Malham. At the commencement of the village houses turn right to follow the road to the main road, heading left to Kirkby Malham. At the crossroads, turn left onto the main road, following it to the right-hand hairpin bend where turn rightonto the footpath to the left of the church (known as ‘the cathedral of the dales’), known as the valley of Malhamdale. Rejoin the Pennine Way at Hanlith Bridge. Continue along the Pennine Way uphill to the right-hand hard arm bend. At the apex of this bend turn right onto the footpath to ‘Calton Head’. Continue along the Pennine Way and cross the stone bridge. At the start of this walk. Continue along the Pennine Way and cross the stone bridge. At the start of this walk. Continue along the Pennine Way and cross the stone bridge. At the start of this walk. Continue along the Pennine Way and cross the stone bridge.

**WALK 5**

MALHAM, HANLITH, KIRKBY MALHAM, ACCRAPPLETS, MALHAM.

9 kms (5.6 miles)

Turn left out of the car park, cross the stone clapper bridge and turn right to follow the Pennine Way to Hanlith. On reaching the road to Hanlith, turn right onto the footpath and continue towards Hanlith Bridge. On reaching the footpath, turn left onto the main road, following it to the left of another field gate. Bear left around the bend and through the field gate. After about 350 metres you will arrive at a stone stile. Cross this and follow the path for another 500 metres to the right, on your left hand side, an attractive waterfall. Continue your walk downhill to a road junction, where turn left again and go downhill to Kirkby Malham. At the commencement of the village houses turn right to follow the road to the main road, heading left to Kirkby Malham. At the crossroads, turn left onto the main road, following it to the right-hand hairpin bend where turn rightonto the footpath to the left of the church (known as ‘the cathedral of the dales’), known as the valley of Malhamdale. Rejoin the Pennine Way at Hanlith Bridge. Continue along the Pennine Way uphill to the right-hand hard arm bend. At the apex of this bend turn right onto the footpath to ‘Calton Head’. Continue along the Pennine Way and cross the stone bridge. At the start of this walk. Continue along the Pennine Way and cross the stone bridge.