

## BLACK SHEEP PUB WALKS

These walks are in addition to the 25 that feature in the book *'The Inn Way...to Black Sheep Pubs'*. Please feel free to print out these walks and use them. Due to Ordnance Survey copyright, I have not reproduced any mapping to accompany these walks, so please purchase the appropriate OS map listed. These walks are the copyright of Mark Reid 2002 and must only be used for personal leisure purposes. They must not be copied or reproduced in any format whatsoever without the written permission of the copyright holder.

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

By Mark Reid

#### WALK ONE – KETTLEWELL & GREAT WHERNSIDE

##### WALK INFORMATION

Distance	9 miles
Time	4 hours
Maps	OS Explorer Map OL30 'Yorkshire Dales Northern & Central'
Start:	Main Car Park in the centre of Kettlewell.
Parking	Large 'pay & display' car park near the bridge across the River Wharfe.
How to get there:	Kettlewell lies midway between Grassington and Buckden on the B6160. For details of public transport call 0870 608 2 608.
Terrain	This is a strenuous walk up to the summit of Great Whernside at 704 metres. Much of this walk is across exposed moorland with little shelter from the elements. Please ensure that you have suitable outdoor clothing and good footwear. Check the weather forecast before setting out.
Black Sheep Pubs:	The Racehorses, Kettlewell; Tel: 01756 760233 The Kings Head, Kettlewell; Tel: 01756 760242
Close by...	Tennant Arms, Kilnsey; Tel: 01756 752301 Fox & Hounds, Starbotton; Tel: 01756 760269

##### POINTS OF INTEREST

Great Whernside dominates Upper Wharfedale, an immense mountainous shoulder of land towering above Kettlewell that forms a very physical boundary between Wharfedale and Nidderdale, indeed the River Nidd is born on its eastern flanks. From the flat, rocky plateau 704 metres above sea level there are incredible views across Wharfedale towards Kilnsey Crag, down along the length of Coverdale towards Leyburn and across the reservoirs of Upper Nidderdale. Great Whernside is capped by a huge shelf of gritstone, which sits on the underlying limestone strata – it is this gritstone that gave the mountain its name for Whernside means 'the hillside where millstones were got'.

It was 'Ketel', a Norse-Irish chieftain who first settled in the sheltered valley at the confluence of Cam Gill Beck and the River Wharfe back in about the 9th Century, however the village grew in size mainly due to its location. The Roman Road from Ilkley to Bainbridge came this way, as did the monastic route through to Coverham Abbey, the stagecoach route from London as well as numerous packhorse trails – it also lay on the edge of the Norman hunting forest of Langstrothdale Chase, and the monks of Coverham Abbey, Fountains Abbey and Bolton Priory held lands nearby. Kettlewell quickly developed as a trading centre and gained its market charter in the 13th Century. Lead mining in the hills behind Kettlewell and textiles brought prosperity to the village during the height of this industrial activity in the 18th and 19th Centuries. The old tracks, miner's paths and roads that radiate from the village in every direction make Kettlewell an excellent centre for walking and its three remaining inns are busy with a mixture of locals and walkers.

## THE WALK

1. From the car park beside the bridge across the River Wharfe, turn left along the main road into the centre of Kettlewell, over the stone bridge across Cam Gill Beck then turn right at the Blue Bell Inn and the Racehorses Hotel and follow the lane up through the village to reach a junction with the General Stores on the corner. Turn right here, over another bridge then immediately left along a lane (Kings Head on your right). Follow this lane alongside Cam Gill Beck up to reach a small stone bridge on the edge of the village. Do not cross this bridge, but continue straight on along what is now a rough track (still with the stream on your left) to reach another stone bridge where the track divides.
2. Bear left along the rough track over the bridge and follow the walled track climbing steadily up the steep valley side (with Cam Gill Beck down to your left) to eventually reach two gates at a junction of tracks. Turn right through the gate (signpost) – ignore the track straight on towards Hay Tonge Farm. Follow this rough track up across several pastures winding its way up to eventually reach the isolated buildings of Hag Dyke (which only come into view as you approach them).
3. Walk through the gate into the yard (signpost ‘Coverdale Road via Great Whernside’) then follow the path immediately to the right of the old farm buildings through a small gate, then head left passing behind the old farmhouse along a distinct path climbing quickly but steeply up a rocky outcrop onto a flat plateau (surmounted by a line of stone cairns). Head straight on along the clearly waymarked path (marker posts) as it meanders across the gently rising boggy moorland – the rocky, boulder-strewn summit of Great Whernside is directly ahead of you. As you approach the summit there is a final steep climb up onto the rocky plateau of Great Whernside with its large cairn and trig point.
4. At the trig point on the summit turn left and walk along clear path across the flat plateau of Great Whernside keeping close to the rocky ridge on your left. The path soon divides with a waymarked path slanting off to the left – our route continues straight on along the top of the rocky ridge passing a large stone cairn, then a stone shelter and on to reach the conspicuous outcrop of Blackfell Crag. Continue straight on, bearing slightly to the left, dropping gradually down across the shoulder of land to reach the corner of a stone wall ahead. Cross the stile in the corner of this stone wall and head down the hillside with the wall on your left. You soon come to a stile on your left and a well-worn path – follow this to the right slanting steeply down the hillside, then across some boggy flat ground and on over a stile across a stone wall to reach the road just to the right of the cattle grid.
5. Turn right along the unfenced road for about 500 yards then, just after the tumbledown walls which once enclosed the road end, take the grassy track to the left back on yourself (signpost ‘Kettlewell’) heading across the moor gradually bearing away from the road. After a while, the grassy track swings round to the right (another track joins it from the left) and runs alongside a stone wall (Tor Dike on the other side of the wall) to reach a gate. Continue on along the clear, undulating track skirting around the valley head, through another gate and on to reach a junction of tracks (Starbotton Road and Top Mere Road).
6. At this junction, bear left (signpost ‘Kettlewell’) and follow the clear green lane across grassy moorland back down towards Wharfedale. This track becomes a walled stony lane known as Top Mere Road, and then joins the metalled road that drops down to the right back into Kettlewell village.

7. © Mark Reid 2003.

‘The Inn Way’ is a Registered Trademark of Mark Reid [www.innway.co.uk](http://www.innway.co.uk)