



# DEVONSHIRE ARMS HOTEL & SPA

BOLTON ABBEY ESTATE

## Walks from The Devonshire Arms Hotel & Spa

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## **Introduction**

This guide has been written to give you our guests, an insight into the delightful surrounding countryside and provide a taste of the Duke of Devonshire's Bolton Abbey Estate. The Estate covers some 30,000 acres, of which 15,000 acres are devoted to the Grouse moors, 15,000 acres are leased to tenant farmers and the remainder is made up of 7 miles of the prime fly fishing river Wharfe, ancient and new forests and a couple of reservoirs. The Estate boasts 5 sites that have been designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest, 64 grade 2 listed and 4 grade 1 listed buildings and numerous conservation areas. So it is important that whilst out walking that you respect the fragile nature of the Estate and understand that contravening some of the warning signs/countryside code could have a devastating effect to nature, buildings and the geology.

Although you are never too far from anywhere, you could find yourself caught out if you are not aware of the changing weather patterns and forecasts and of the onset of nightfall. The river can swell and become fast following in a very short space of time, therefore great care must be taken when alongside or in the river.

Order and timing of walks:

These 6 walks are all circular; approximate distances and timings are given. The latter, of course is affected by the elements and the wishes of the walker who may choose to rest by the river and picnic or to explore in more detail, a particular point of interest.

## **Clothing and Equipment**

Waterproof clothing is a must in Yorkshire, as are comfortable walking boots with thick socks. Stout shoes or Wellingtons boots are OK for the short/easy walks but prolonged use could cause rubbing and blisters. A rucksack to carry a snack, water/hot drink in flask, waterproofs, spare dry and warm clothing and a hat is recommended. An OS map of the area, a compass and torch are also important along with your mobile phone on the longer/Hard Walks.

Remember there is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing!

## **Country Code**

Please observe the Country code whilst out walking. Don't leave litter, close all gates and if you have a dog, keep it on a lead and close control, particularly where there are animals/livestock in the fields.

Remember leave nothing but footprints, take nothing but photos and kill nothing but time!

## WALK 1 - EASY - Devonshire Arms to the Priory and Back

**Distance:** 1.8 miles/3km

**Walking time:** 50mins to 1hour

**Type of walk:** Easy walking paved and grassed paths.

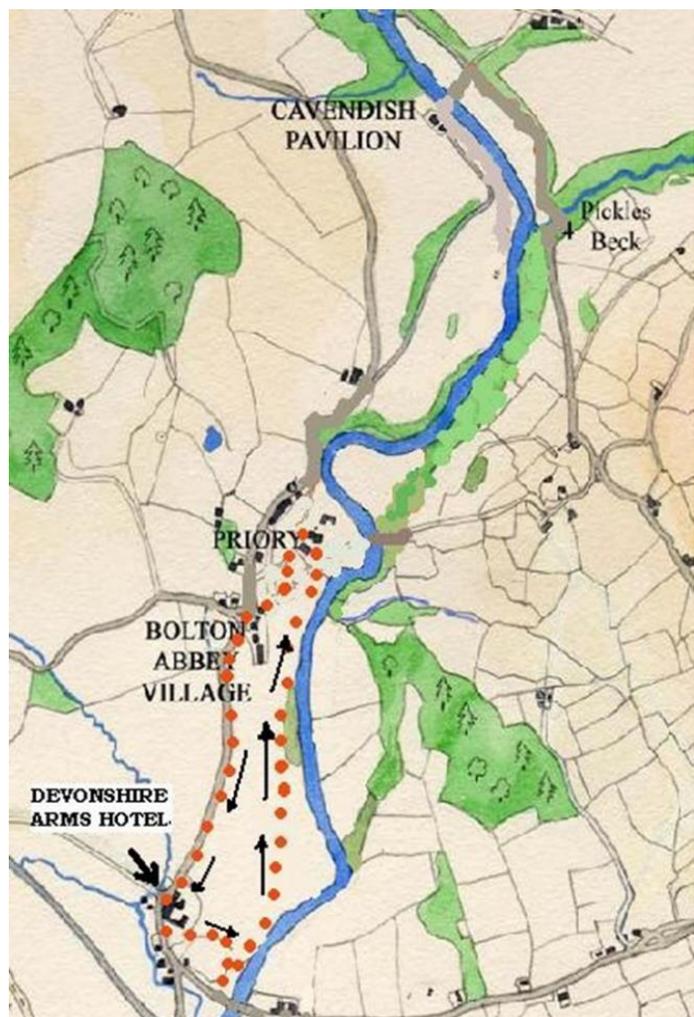
**Start/Finish:** Devonshire Arms Hotel

**Gid Ref:** 070532 **Dogs:** On lead **Pushchairs:** Yes

After leaving reception, turn left and head to the edge of the car park. From this point follow the mown in path parallel with the metal fence, towards the river. At the river, keep to the path through the kissing gate in the metal fence, at which point the Priory can be seen clearly. Walk towards the Priory and eventually a hard standing path will be underfoot. Keep going until the Priory ruins are reached.

Feel free to roam the grounds and take in the history, noting Bolton Hall, and the former Boyle & Petyt School as well as the remaining nave, left to be Bolton Abbey parish church to this day. The Priory is open to the public free of charge (although a donation box is situated near to the back of the church).

After an exploration of the grounds, follow the gravel path away from the priory, towards the archway in the wall. Through this, the Bolton Abbey Tea Cottage will be visible on the left as will the Grove Antique Book Shop and Tithe Barn. The roadside footpath that passes these buildings is the one to follow back to the Devonshire Arms, where a pot of Yorkshire tea can be enjoyed in one of the lounges.



## WALK 2 – EASY - Hotel to Priory and back along far side of river

**Distance:** 2 miles/3.2km

**Walking time:** 50mins to 1hour

**Type of walk:** Easy walking grassed paths.

**Start/Finish:** Devonshire Arms Hotel

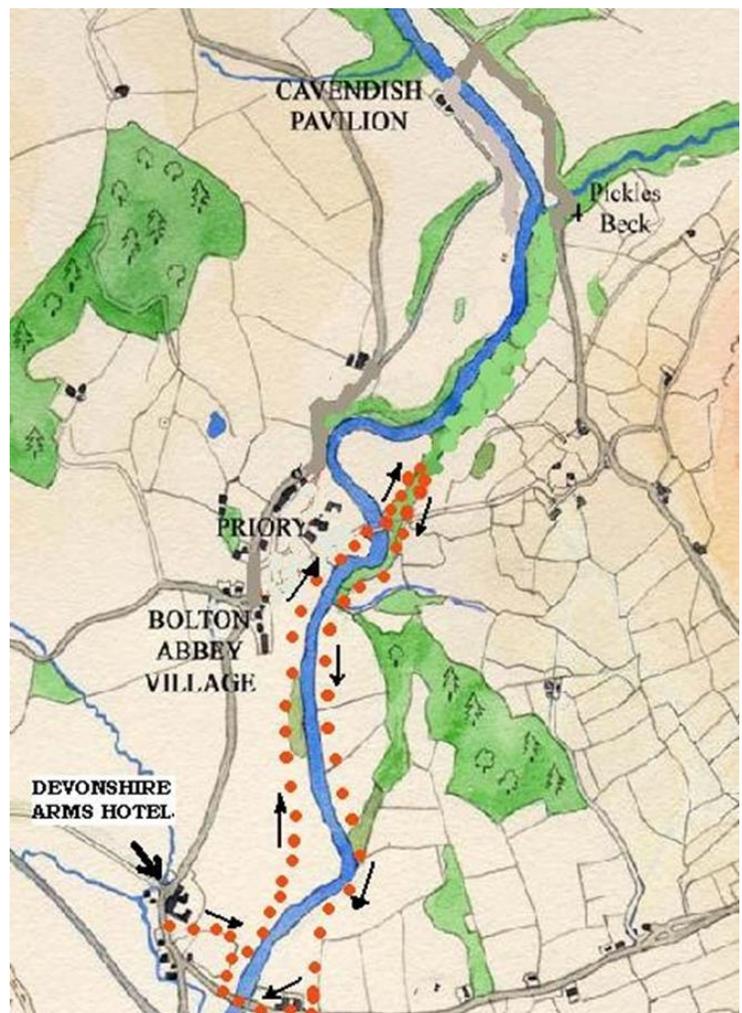
**Gid Ref:** 070532

**Dogs:** On lead

After leaving reception, turn left and head to the edge of the car park. From this point follow the mown path parallel with the metal fence, towards the river. At the river, keep to the path through the kissing gate in the metal fence, at which point the Priory can be seen clearly. Walk towards the Priory and eventually a hard standing path will be underfoot. Keep going until the Priory ruins are reached.

Feel free to roam the grounds and take in the history, noting Bolton Hall, and the former Boyle & Petyt School as well as the remaining nave, left to be Bolton Abbey parish church to this day.

After an exploration of the grounds cross the river at the bridge opposite the Priory and continue upstream, the path rises quite steeply and after about 30 metres take a sharp uphill right and follow the top path signposted Bolton Bridge. Follow the track through the field and up a small hill until you eventually come out onto the old road at Red Lion Farm and Rose Cottages, turn right here and walk over the bridge turn right through the kissing gate and pick up the grass path that leads straight back to the hotel.



## WALK 3 - MODERATE – Hotel to Hare Head and Barden Bridge and back to the hotel

**Distance:** 9 miles/15km

**Walking time:** 4 to 5 hours

**Type of walk:** Moderate walking road, paved and grassed paths.

**Start/Finish:** Devonshire Arms Hotel

**Gid Ref:** 070532 **Dogs:** On lead **Pushchairs:** No

Walk out of the hotel car park gate and turn right and continue through village and go under the aqueduct archway. After 90m turn left and up through a gate and follow the track up to the next gate. Continue with the fishponds on your left and go through a field leading up to a gate into the wood. Follow the signs through the wood.

On leaving the wood the way marked bridleway goes uphill over open fields and onto the moors.

On reaching the road turn right and continue downhill until you reach the Barden road.

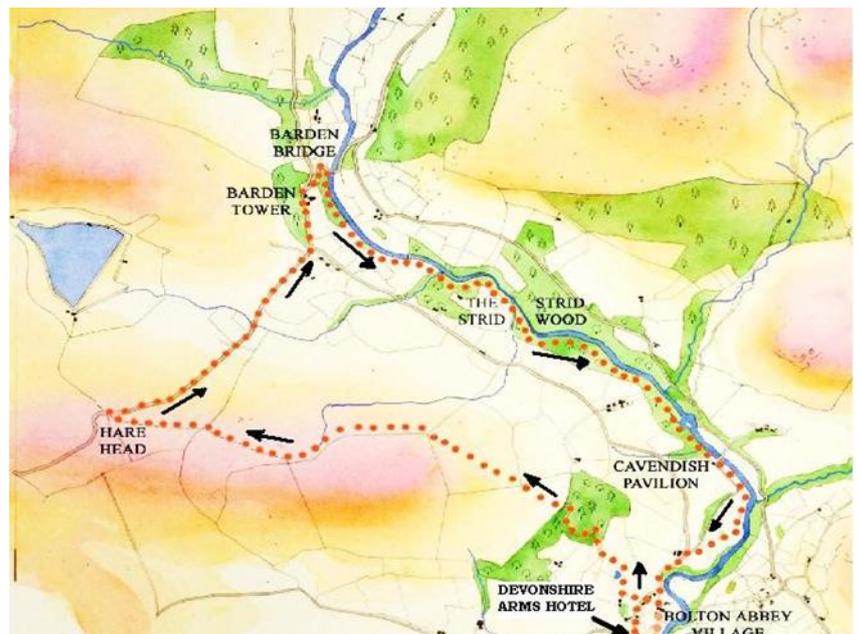
Turn left and visit Barden Tower where the Tea Terrace at the Priest's House may be open. Bear right after the tower and follow the road down to Barden Bridge, built in 1659.

Immediately before the bridge turn right over the stile and take the riverside path into Strid Wood.

Pass the Strid and continue straight on until you reach the Cavendish Pavilion, also highly recommended as a place for refreshment.

Continue along by the river and then head up the path to the Memorial Fountain. A path leads back to the Priory.

Follow the drive and up through the village or take the grassed path by the river back to the Hotel.



## WALK 4 - MODERATE – Hotel to Barden Bridge and back down

**Distance:** 7.5 miles/12km

**Walking time:** 2.5 to 3 hours

**Type of walk:** Moderate walking paved and grassed paths.

**Start/Finish:** Devonshire Arms Hotel

**Gid Ref:** 070532

**Dogs:** On lead

**Pushchairs:** Possible, however may get feet wet at Pickles beck ford as the bridge is only a narrow single plank bridge.

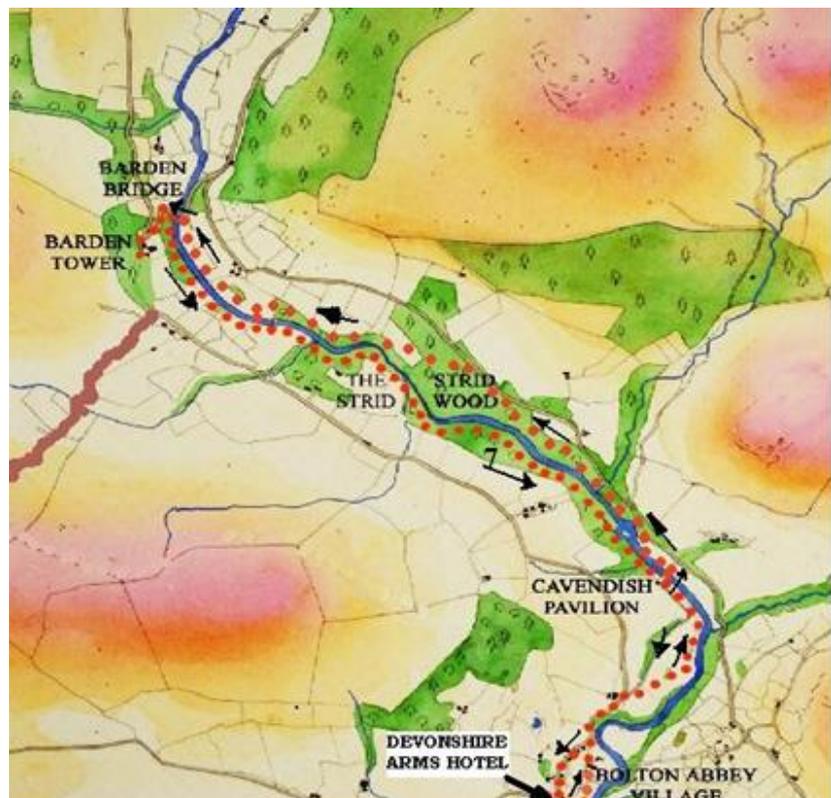
From hotel car park locate the grassed path along the left hand side of the cricket pitch and proceed to the river Wharfe.

Turn left at the river and follow the track upstream to the Priory.

Follow the path past the Priory. Cross the footbridge adjacent to the Stepping Stones. Turn left and follow the riverside path across the meadow, or for views of the Priory and Barden, follow the incline up the hill and left into woodland. The two paths meet before the ford at Pickles Beck.

The footpath continues beside the beck to a small bridge and leads back to the river Wharfe, continue up river to the Wooden Bridge at the Cavendish Pavilion. Either cross the river here to visit the Cavendish Pavilion which provides refreshments, lavatories and a gift shop or continue up river past the Aqueduct Bridge and onto Barden Bridge and back along the other side. If you choose to cross to the Cavendish Pavilion side of the River follow the river upstream past the Strid and onto the Aqueduct bridge, cross the river here and continue upstream to Barden bridge, cross the river and walk up the road to visit Barden Tower itself.

Then retrace your steps back to Barden bridge and turn right downstream along the west bank back



to the AQUEDUCT BRIDGE CROSS OVER TO THE OVER SIDE TURN RIGHT AND CONTINUE DOWNSTREAM UNTILL YOU COME TO THE WOODEN BRIDGE AT THE CAVENDISH PAVILION, CROSS HERE.

The footpath continues left (down stream) on the riverside returning to Bolton Abbey.

Keep an eye open for herons, dippers and kingfishers.

Take the path up to the Memorial Fountain, commemorating Lord Frederick Cavendish who, in 1882 was assassinated in Ireland, 10 hours after arriving to take up his post as Secretary to Ireland.

A path leads back to the Priory grounds. The Priory, part of which is used as a parish church, is open all the year.

## **WALK 5 - HARD – Hotel to Simons Seat and back**

**Distance:** 12miles/19km or 8.25 miles/13.25 km

**Walking time:** 5.5 hours from the Hotel or 4.5 hours from the Cavendish car park

**Type of walk:** Hard walking paved and grassed paths.

**Start/Finish:** Devonshire Arms Hotel or Cavendish Pavilion car park

**Gid Ref:** 070532

**Dogs:** Strictly not allowed

**Pushchairs:** No

**OS Map recommended.**

**Please note the moor will be closed on certain days for shooting between August and December. For dates see notices at Access Points.**

From hotel car park locate the grassed path along the left hand side of the cricket pitch and proceed to the river Wharfe.

Turn left at the river and follow the track upstream to the Priory. Follow the path past the Priory. Cross the footbridge adjacent to the Stepping Stones. Turn left and follow the riverside path across the meadow, or for views of the Priory and Barden. Follow the incline up the hill and left into woodland. The two paths meet before the ford at Pickles Beck. The footpath continues beside the beck to a small bridge and leads back to the river. Continue upstream along the river to the wooden bridge opposite the Cavendish Pavilion and continue upstream along the path.

If you started at the Cavendish Pavilion then cross the wooden bridge and follow the path upstream. Go through the gate and turn right until you reach the road where you turn left.

Follow the road to Waterfall Cottage. Turn right through the gate and follow the track uphill. You soon reach a track down to the left which leads to a waterfall. Cross the bridge and follow the path to the upper waterfall. From the upper waterfall retrace your steps to rejoin the path from the wooden footbridge.

Turn right up the ladder stile in the wall. Follow the path up through the woods. On leaving the trees carry straight on up a well defined path across the moor to the summit of Simon's Seat (not well signposted at the junction of paths look right and take the path leading to the rocky outcrop/Simon's Seat). From the Trig point at

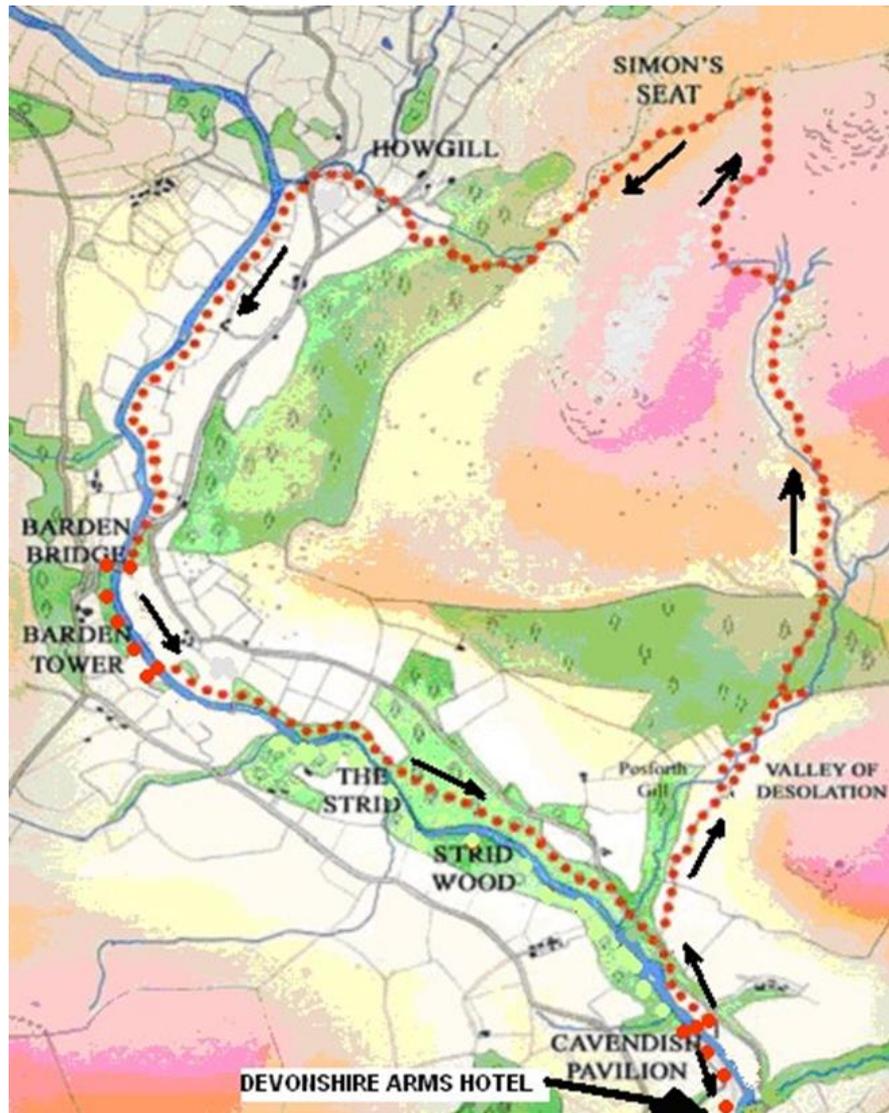
485m retrace your steps for a short distance to where the path splits. Instead of taking the path off to the left that you came up, carry straight on down towards the plantations.

A track descends steeply through the plantations and goes straight across Howgill Lane and on down the main road.

Cross the road. Follow the track by the beck to the river and turn left downstream to Barden Bridge.

Cross the river here and follow the path to the aqueduct bridge and cross and continue down river.

After crossing Posforth Gill you reach a path taking you out of the wood. This leads through a field to the wooden bridge at the Cavendish Pavilion. Follow the path by the river back to the Hotel.



## **WALK 6 - HARD – Hotel to Beamsley Beacon via Storiths and back**

**Distance:** 5miles/8km

**Walking time:** 2.5 to 3.5 hours

**Height gain:** 310 metres

**Type of walk:** Hard walking, road, paved and grassed paths. It can be very muddy by Kex Beck for a short while if wet weather and the cattle are out.

**Start/Finish:** Devonshire Arms Hotel

**Gid Ref:** 070532 **Dogs:** On a Lead **Pushchairs:** No

**OS Map recommended.**

Beamsley Beacon is an excellent vantage point, is on of a chain of beacons used throughout England to warn of disasters or invasions. The hill is more properly called Howber Hill.

Leave the hotel car park and follow the grassed path alongside the cricket pitch then at the river turn right at the river and follow to Bolton Bridge, although still intact, has now been replaced by a 1993 version, but there has been a bridge at this point of the river since 1318. Before then the river would have been crossed by ferry. Go left across the old bridge and after about 60m take the signed (Proiry) footpath leading off left just before Red Lion Farm. This takes you to the top path opposite the Priory. Take a right up the Bridleway (signed Storiths). Make sure you keep looking back to take in the views as you ascend this steep narrow single tracked walled path.

At a farms cattle shed you may find the gate looks closed, just unhook and open then close behind you. As you walk around the farm cottage take the track over the dry stone style to your right and follow through several fields until you get to New Hall Farm, (the track through the fields can sometimes be obscured by the long grass). Walk to the left of New Hall Farm and join the driveway down to the cottages on the A59. As you go through to the front of the cottages take to side path right, down to the Alms houses and cross the A59 here,taking the signed path down to Kex Beck.

Follow the beck downstream and cross the narrow footbridge and continue along the path until you get to the road. Turn left and follow the road uphill towards Langbar. After crossing the cattle grid take the signed footpath off to the right and uphill which eventually brings out onto the road again, you will see a sign for Beamsley Beacon directing you to follow a wall to meet the main track across the hill. Or you can go further up the road and turn left between two houses on a sign posted track leading to the beacon trig pillar. Having appreciated the extensive view, go back to the lane and retrace your steps all the way to Beamsley village, turn right at the junction and follow the road all the way back to the A59. Here turn left and follow the Bridle way all the way to the River Wharfe go right under the A59

underpass which brings you to the old road alongside Bridge Cottages. Go left and over the Bolton Bridge to retrace your steps back to the Hotel.

