

This extensive pasture was until relatively recently heather moor. It was called 'Grime Moor', Grime being a corruption of Graeme, a local landowner.

5. Cross the stile to the right of the pond into scrubland turning left over a small stream then continue up hill with the fence on your left. On reaching a forest road turn right. Walk down the road with the forest on your left for a good half mile. Soon after the track begins to curve slightly look for a slight track through scrubland on the right. Continue on this path eventually through heather. On reaching a well laid stone track turn right towards the High Bridestones. (Left is to Low Bridestones.)

The Bridestones were formed over 150 million years ago. As the Jurassic sea advanced and retreated rocks of differing densities were formed. The soft sandstone under the harder gritstone weathered more easily resulting in these strangely shaped stones. The probable origin of the name is disappointingly unromantic. It is believed to originate from an Old Norse word meaning 'brink' (referring to the rocks' site above the steep Dovedale Griff).

6. After exploring the various strange sandstone outcrops formed by wind erosion turn left along a sandy track. As the track begins to drop steeply into Dovedale, the surface is cobbled, the work of National Trust volunteers. Cross the bridge at the bottom of the hill and continue along Dovedale by the meandering beck. Go by a kissing gate into open pasture, keeping close to the beck, and in about 100 yards join a well defined track. Turn right on the track over stepping stones and continue towards Low Staindale Cottage. Keep in front of the house and turn right up an access track and through a gate.

The Bridestones, Dovedale, Low Staindale and Low Pasture Farm all now belong to the National Trust. When Low Staindale was sold in 1877 it was said to be situated in 'one of the most picturesque valleys in the North Riding'.

7. At the top of the hill the track passes through Low Pasture Farm buildings and reaches a T junction. Turn left and follow the concrete track, then where the track turns left (to Low Pasture Villa) turn right through a farm gate.

This little valley ahead is aptly called Greendale. The bank on the left was once quarried for limestone. Typical lime-loving flowers still grow here including cowslips and orchids.

The grassy track goes diagonally through pasture and woodland, over a bridge, then continues uphill, turns right and eventually meets the Whitby – Pickering road. Cross carefully (fast moving traffic and motorbikes) and continue straight ahead into Lockton and your starting point.

Maps and profiles researched and drawn by Mary Wellburn. Text by Ruth Strong.

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LOCKTON and HIGH BRIDESTONES

Circular walk from Lockton Cemetery

DISTANCE - Approx 6 miles

START - Lockton Cemetery at east end of village.

Grid Reference 847889

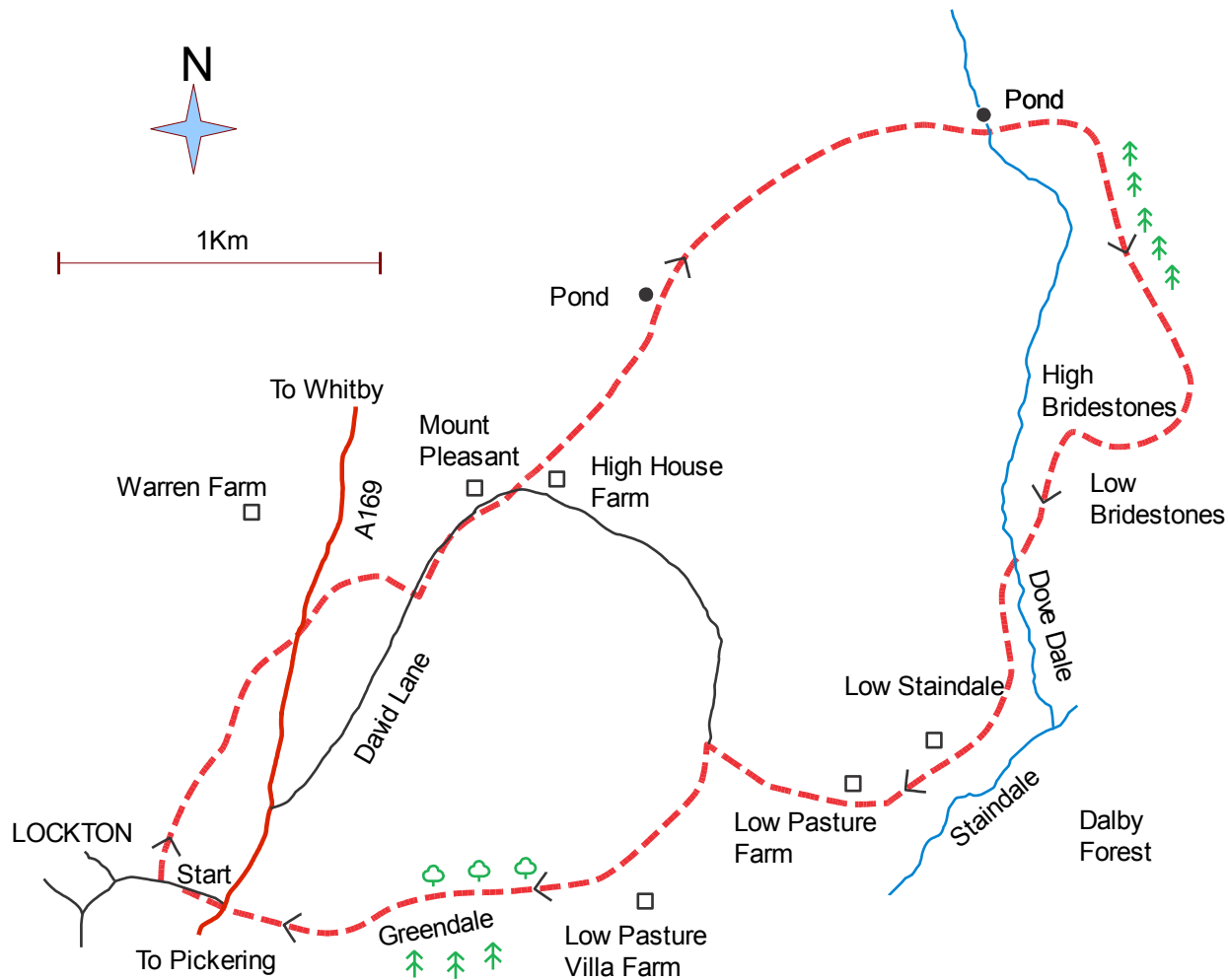
PARKING - on the verge opposite the cemetery

Notes on the Walk

1. With your back to the Cemetery take the way-marked path through the nearest farm gate.

This district is called 'Wedlands', a name dating back to the 13th century. The bumps on the hillside on the left as you leave the road result from the old village mortar pit.

Follow the track along the hillside and through a gate. Continue for about ½ mile until the track reaches the main Whitby–Pickering road (A169).



The drop from High Bridestones into Dovedale is quite steep, but short.

The track down Greendale to the A169 is gradually down, then gently up and finally flat - not difficult

2. Turn left and walk on the roadside verge for about 100 yards to the access drive to Warren Farm. Here carefully cross the road to a stile by a footpath sign. On entering the pasture make for a farm track and follow it to the left towards a farm gate.

The little valley you enter is called 'Whitedale', presumably named for the light coloured limestone which has been extensively quarried here. Notice the well-preserved remains of an old lime kiln. The production of lime was once very important locally.

Before the gate turn sharp right up the wall side then through another gate, over a stile and turn left along David Lane.

3. The lane continues past Mount Pleasant Farm. Just before High House Farm, where the lane turns sharp right, continue straight ahead onto a way-marked footpath which goes between the farm buildings. Beyond the buildings take the left of two farm gates and continue along a clear farm track, ignoring one to the left.

Much of the land on this (east) side of the Whitby-Pickering road was once moorland.

4. At the top, where there is a pond on the left, go through a gate. Rather than continuing on the grassy track ahead, bear slightly right, making for a stile in the far fence, just to the left of a field gate, where the fence turns slightly. Keeping on the same contour cross another pasture, soon the tip of Blakey Topping can be seen on the horizon to the left. On reaching a stile in the far fence, cross another pasture to yet another stile. Here bear right, downhill to a gate in the bottom corner. This opens into a farm track leading to a small pond.