




Open Access areas are shown on Ordnance Survey maps, and on the ground by the 'brown person' symbol. Look out for this symbol which shows land is open for public access on foot or by wheelchair away from public rights of way. From time to time, access may be restricted in some areas to protect wildlife, farm livestock or yourself. Please take notice of any signs showing land to be closed. Access rights for other activities may also apply.

From a gentle stroll to an outdoor adventure, the countryside offers lots of opportunities. Help look after this special place, please follow the Countryside Code:

- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under effective control
- Consider other people.

 Open Access areas
 Yorkshire Dales National Park boundary



Useful contacts at a glance

For more information about Open Access and the Countryside Code call 0845 100 3298 or visit www.openaccess.gov.uk

For more information about the Yorkshire Dales National Park visit www.yorkshiredales.org.uk or contact us on 0300 456 0030, or info@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Information on Open Access walks, shorter walking opportunities and long distance routes in the Yorkshire Dales National Park can be found by visiting www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/walking



Use your phone app to scan the barcode to find out more about walking in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.



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YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park

Open Access

in the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Respect • Protect • Enjoy



one of Britain's breathing spaces



Open Access

in the Yorkshire Dales National Park

The vast majority of the fells, moorlands and upland areas of the Yorkshire Dales are Open Access areas. This means that you have the right to walk freely on these areas without keeping to public paths for activities like walking, bird-watching, running and climbing.

These extensive areas link in with existing roads, the rights of way network, permissive routes and other public places to give plenty of scope for enjoyable walks to suit everyone.

You don't have to be a rugged walker to take

advantage of being able to walk freely. Maybe you want to investigate something that looks interesting away from the path, or take a photograph from a different angle, or just see a new view.

Respect

Away from the fells and moorland you can walk on public rights of way, but there is no 'right to roam' through fields, gardens, active quarries and around buildings. Most access land is privately owned,

grazed by sheep and cattle, or managed for grouse.

The National Park Authority has information on its website to help you walk safely and responsibly on Open Access land. There are some suggested walks

if you are looking to take a first step away from clearly marked rights of way. The website shows details of where all the wall/boundary crossing points are located, and details of any restrictions that apply.



A special place

You can walk with your dog along rights of way and in some Open Access areas. The Yorkshire Dales National Park is of international importance for its habitats, archaeology, wildlife and ground nesting birds like grouse, curlew and lapwing. Although your dog may mean no harm, nesting birds may see it as a threat and flee the nest. You can help to minimise disturbance to birds during the bird breeding season from March to the end of July, by keeping your dog on a two metre lead.

Walk safely

Remember to wear suitable clothing and footwear when walking in upland areas. Weather conditions in the hills can change quickly so you will need to be prepared. It is always worth checking weather forecasts before setting out by visiting: www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/weather

Mobile phone coverage is patchy across the National Park so it is safer to tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return and never walk alone if you are inexperienced. Take particular care of hazards such as old mineshafts, sink-holes and peat bogs, which can be found in Open Access areas. Cattle may not be used to



walkers. In most cases they will ignore you, but, in the presence of dogs, they may become protective of calves. Walk around cattle rather than amongst them, and, if cattle approach you, let go of your dog straightaway.

Fire risk

Moorland fires can happen at any time of the year, especially during periods of sunny, dry weather; they can spread very quickly and can be devastating to the landscape and its wildlife. Weather conditions are constantly monitored by the Met Office and when the Fire Severity Index reaches 'Exceptional', its highest

rating, it automatically triggers closures of Open Access Land. If Open Access Land is closed due to fire risk, it means that walkers are asked only to use public rights of way (footpaths, bridleways and byways) and are not able to leave these routes and enjoy the access areas. Please abide by any advisory or warning signs you come across and in particular avoid lighting fires, using portable barbeques or camping stoves; do not discard cigarettes or matches and be aware that glass bottles left on the ground can cause fires to start. If you come across a fire while you are out and about, please dial 999 immediately and inform the fire service.