

Blakey, East Mines & Kilns and Rosedale Abbey

5 1/2 miles, allow 3 hours.

Transport **M3, M6, ME1**

Map 1:25,000 OL26 or 1:50,000 Whitby & Esk Dale 94

Start

Lion Inn, Blakey

Points of interest

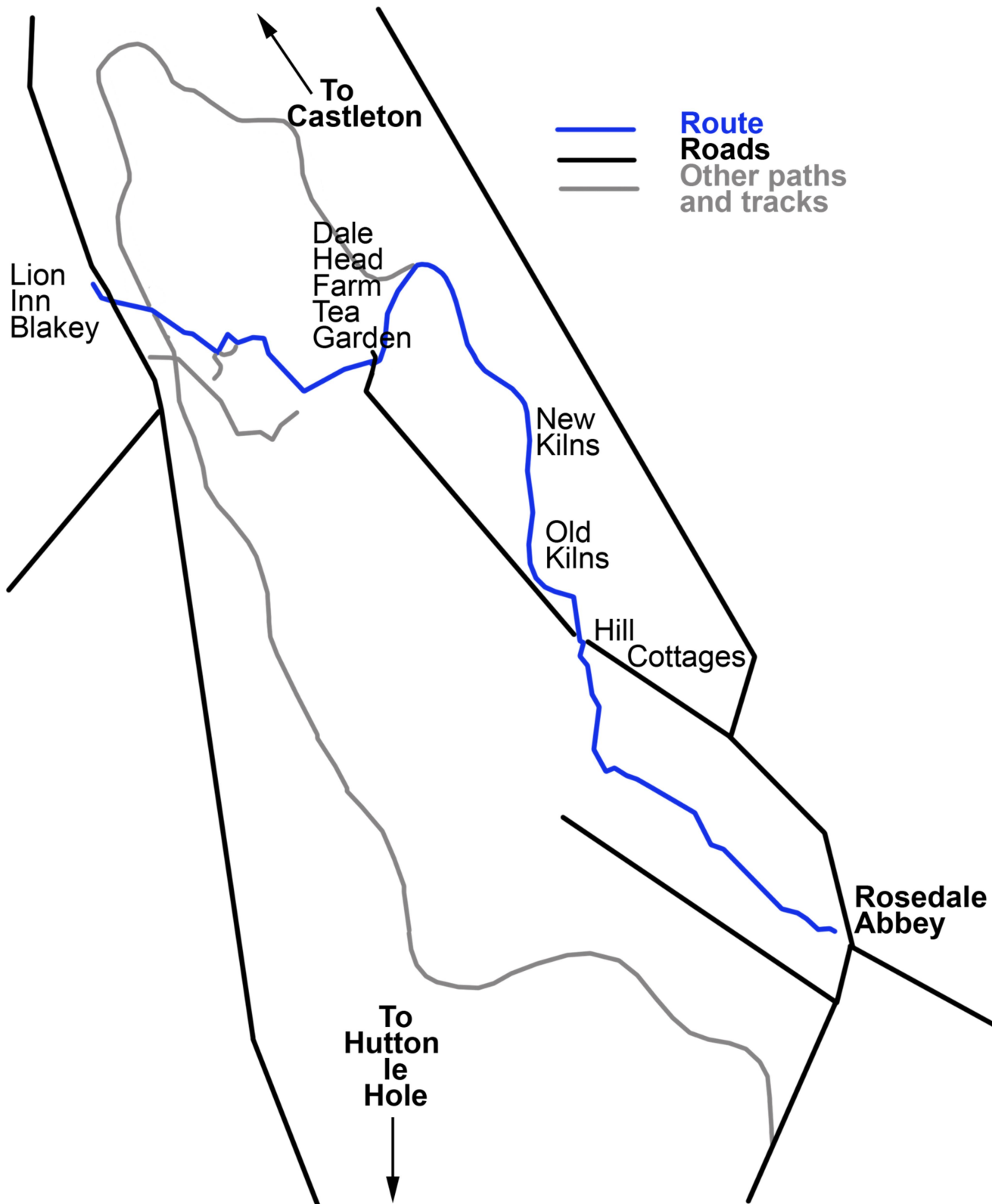
This walk offers unrivalled views across and into Rosedale, with a mixture of heather moorland, upland pastures and some remarkable Industrial Archaeology.

The Rosedale Railway is a marvel of Victorian engineering, built between 1861 and 1865 to serve the Rosedale Ironstone Mines, transporting iron ore to Durham and Teesside. The section between Battersby and Chimney Bank Top was built in just 15 months. Dalehead Farm Tea Garden is difficult to pass by, with magnificent views of Rosedale and legendary home-made cakes and scones. You soon come to two great stone kilns where vast quantities of ironstone mined under the moorland to the east was calcined (roasted), then loaded into lines of waiting waggons to be transported to the blast furnaces. The industry was at its height in mid to late Victorian times, a period when the population of Rosedale and surrounding village grew from 558 to 2398 in just 20 years and for many years this became a highly industrialised environment – the story of which forms the core of the Land of Iron project. It is worth visiting the little church at Rosedale Abbey. The remains of a turret and staircase just to the west of the church together with an ancient stone seat inside it are the only surviving remaining parts of the Abbey, founded in 1154 as a small Benedictine Priory and dissolved in 1536.

Route

50 metres south of the Inn the wall curves to the left. Follow the footpath sign taking you down into Rosedale. Cross the line of the old railway diagonally and head down a well-defined, sunken path which narrows to a few inches wide and, after nearly ¼ mile, eventually meeting a well defined crossing track. Follow this left, downhill, as it zigzags down to a farm. Go through the farm, turn right onto the track heading down the dale. At the next farm turn left at the footpath sign and head down the field to a footbridge over the beck. Cross it and climb towards the wooden pylon, beyond which is a gate. Cross the next field to the gate then turn left up the lane to Dalehead Farm. From Dalehead follow the signed bridlepath behind the barn, up the hillside, eventually joining the Rosedale Railway. Turn right. Pass the two sets of kilns to reach the end of the railway and the former goods depot building. Go through the gate down the track to Hill Cottages. Cross the road and take the track straight ahead to the side of the cottages and follow it downhill left behind the houses. Where it ends, follow the signed path right, down a grassy track alongside the hedge. After the path swings left take the signed path to the right, down across a field, passing over a stile and footbridge. Keep straight ahead with waymarks to a second footbridge, but take the path to the left here instead. Follow the hedge as it curves slightly right and uphill. Head for the pedestrian gate you will see ahead. Turn left here and cross the stream at a broad stone bridge, taking the lower path which curves right before climbing to a metal gate. This leads into a long field with the stream below left. Head for a

pedestrian gate which you will see at the end of the field. Keep in the same direction to where the path reaches a narrow gate and wooden boardwalk across a stream, and then ascends behind woodland. This becomes a clear, well used path above the caravan park. Eventually the path enters a long drive serving the caravan park. Enter the park but before a notice that says "No public right of way", look for the grass path to the left with a footpath sign which brings you out in Rosedale Abbey. The M6 Moorsbus stops opposite the Abbey Tea Rooms.



With thanks to Colin Speakman.