

Blakey Junction to Battersby 10.5 miles, approximately 5 hours.

Transport **M3**, **Esk Valley Railway**

Map 1:25,000 OL26 or 1:50,000 Whitby & Esk Dale 94 and Middlesbrough 93

Start

Blakey Junction car park.

Points of interest

A superb walk which follows the course of the Rosedale Mineral Railway, with its excellent hard surface, as it winds its way across the watershed of much of the North York Moors. Starting at what was Blakey Bridge – the wall alongside the start of the road down into Farndale was one of the railway bridge abutments - you'll walk past the heads of Farndale and Westerdale on this incredible railway built across the roof of the Moors. As you leave Farndale behind you come to Bloworth Crossing where the ancient moor top road between Kirkbymoorside and Stokesley crossed the line. It is hard to believe that several railway employees and their families once lived in a row of cottages in this now desolate place. Shortly afterwards the track bends right, emerges from a short cutting and reveals a stunning view of both the North York Moors and the northern Yorkshire Dales. Here was the remarkable rope worked railway incline where the laden ironstone wagons were lowered down and those full of coal, pit props, etc. were brought up. Unfortunately the huge building that straddled the top of the incline here, containing the mechanism that (usually) managed to make all this happen without catastrophe, was demolished in a military exercise in World War II. Not far from the bottom of the incline a few railway houses survive, a bit incongruously, in a forest planted after mining ended. Battersby Junction has even more incongruous long curving rows of terraced North Eastern Railway houses. Join your train to Danby here and enjoy the ride along the beautiful Esk Valley back to Danby Station and the M3 to Blakey.

Route

Cross the main road – with care – to the Farndale road. Turn right on to the formation of the old railway track just after the bridge abutment ends. Follow the track all the way to Bloworth Junction and keep straight on. Drop down the incline and follow the track at the bottom as it turns right and heads towards Battersby. At Bank Foot Farm the railway heads off across the fields and you need to follow the minor road to your left. Arriving at a T junction, turn right and you'll soon be at Battersby. Turn left down the access road and follow the signs to the station.

