

Great Ayton to Stokesley 3 miles, allow 1 1/4 hours.

Transport **M4**, Arriva 81

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

Start

Stone Bridge bus stop at Great Ayton.

Points of interest

Great Ayton has both the pretty River Leven and High Green with its fine frontage of the former Quaker School. This is something of a honeypot village though, and the walk can be a peaceful relief. After a mile, refreshment can be had at the G and Tea cafe, part of a new development of cabins. The river quickly becomes a very attractive one. A bit further on you see the 'cut' going off left, part of Stokesley's flood defence scheme of about 30 years ago. Soon afterwards if you look left, you can see some concrete that marks the place where the mill race went off to Fidlers Mill. The Co-op now occupies the position of the mill, which was, sadly, demolished in 1983. Its mill wheel survives opposite the garage where you enter the town. Stokesley has one of the largest one day agricultural shows in the north of England. Levenside is a beautiful riverside street boasting an original entrance way complete with packhorse bridge. The White Swan at the end of Levenside brews its own beer in the back yard, and the High Street is a wonderful traditional market place, remarkably unaltered. A fitting end to the walk.

Route

Cross the bridge and walk up Bridge Street in front of you. After 100 yards turn right in to Race Terrace which becomes Mill Terrace then Greenacre Close. At the end cross the road then the white footbridge. Turn left and in 200yds find a gate into a field marked Permissive Path on your left. Follow this to the right and from there the path is quite obvious and well walked. It passes Ayton Grange then follows the river Leven on its northern side. Just before reaching Stokesley cross the bypass with care and continue on a track/path alongside the former mill race with the showground behind the hedge on your left. Continue past the Co-op car park, crossing at the roundabout, head to the left of the garage then along Manor Close, go left across the bridge over the river to walk along Levenside, cross the last of 5 bridges and turn left on the other side. Levenside ends just a hundred yards further on as you emerge at the White Swan. Turn right along West Green, then the High Street, with the bus stop just 400 yards away.



With thanks to Wendy Smith