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Pinhaw Beacon

Starting point and OS Grid reference	Triangular parking area on road at east end of Lothersdale (SD 961460)
Ordnance Survey map	OL 21 South Pennines
Distance	3.4 miles
Traffic light rating	

Introduction: This is a shortened version of the “Lothersdale Loop” walk, ideal for a couple of hours walk to Pinhaw Beacon and back, where, for a modest climb to 388 metres, the views on a clear day are probably some of the best in the area. I did the walk in the hope of securing some better photos than on the Loop walk with moderate success.

The walk is easy enough.

Lothersdale is one of those places that is almost a myth. It is not somewhere you go through on the way to anywhere else and the chances are that if you arrive in Lothersdale, that’s where you are going. It is not that easy to find. It is a tranquil untouched by time sort of place. According to the oracle of Wikipedia, no house in the village is connected to mains water. This has had the effect of limiting the amount of development that has taken place.

The most straightforward way to get to Lothersdale is from the A629 Keighley to Skipton Road. Turn off at the roundabout on to the B6172. At the A6068 Colne Road turn right. Pass all the shops than at a mini roundabout, turn right on to Wheatlands Lane. A “through traffic” sign further on directs you on to Park Road. This becomes Lothersdale Road. Follow the road signs to Lothersdale.

As you descend into the village just after a left hand bend, look out for a large triangular shaped lay-by with a bench. This is the best place to park.

Refreshment is available at the Hare and Hounds pub in Lothersdale after the walk.

Start: Walk down towards the village and just past the village hall, look out for a finger post on the right indicating Public Footpath Pennine Way, White Hill Lane $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile (SD 959460). Take this path which leads via a walled lane to a gateway and turn left signed Pennine Way. You in fact follow the Pennine Way until just after Pinhaw Beacon.

Follow the fence line up the hill and then a wall on the left crossing a small stile on the way. Continue following the Pennine Way signs crossing a minor road (SD 957469) on to a concrete farm track. Where this bends left, continue straight on through a gate.

Follow the wall on your left on to open moorland passing some grouse butts. At the junction of paths on the moor where there is a wooden post with a "dogs not permitted" sign, follow the main track straight ahead to the trig point at Pinhaw Beacon (SD 944472).

From the trig point, take one of the paths ahead (they meet a few yards on). At the corner of a wall with Pennine Way signs, follow the direction which just says "FP", effectively leaving the Pennine Way (SD 943470).

Arrive at a stile (3 steps over the wall), turn right. Go over a small wooden stile after a few yards and turn left indicated by a white arrow.

Over another stile, keep straight ahead following the fingerpost for Lothersdale. The footpath leads down to a tarmac track, which is the drive to Calf Edge Farm. Turn left here (SD 948466). Follow the drive along and at the junction turn right.

On reaching the road, turn left (SD 951465).

After rounding a bend in the road and going down a slight dip, turn right on the public footpath for "The Fold ¼ mile" and "Rook Street ½ mile", just before Knott Farm (or Knott Barn, depending on which map you are using) (SD 953465). As the walled lane enters the field, follow its left hand boundary. You will soon be looking down on the village of Lotherdale.

Go through one gateway. At the next gateway, follow the wall round to the right, without going through the gateway. You should now be heading downhill towards a row of terraced houses.

Go over a stone step stile in the bottom left hand corner of the field, next to a gate, then turn left through another gate (or you could use the gate instead of the stile) (SD 957460). Follow the left hand boundary of the field.

After 50 yards or so, go left through a gateway and immediately right to follow the right hand boundary of the field. Turn right through the next gate walking behind a mill building conversion. Follow the track as it curves right down to the road. Turn left along the road back to the car.

Pinhaw Beacon

