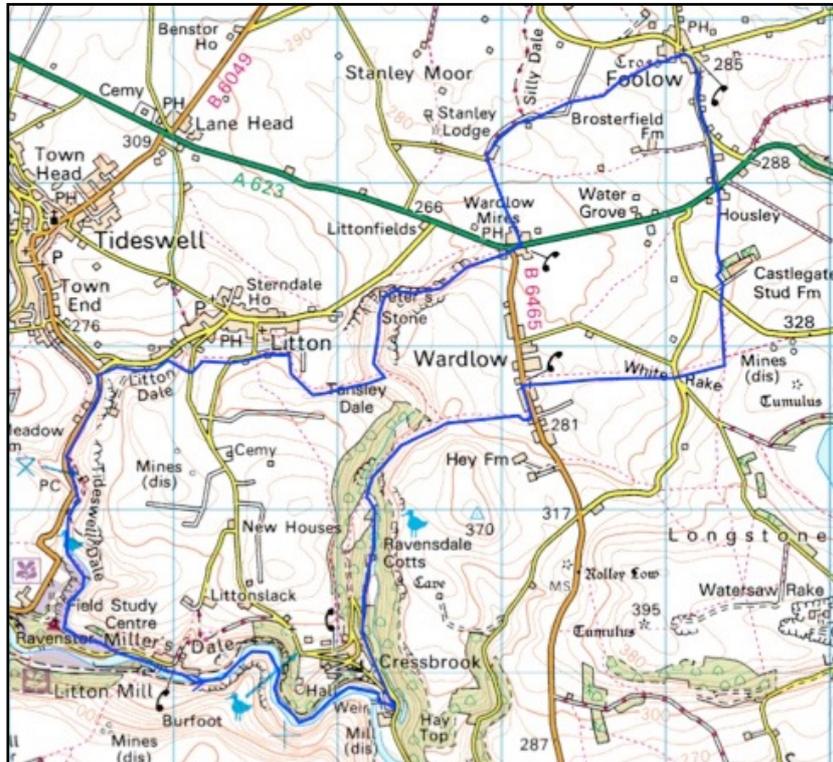


11. Foolow - Litton - Tideswell Dale - Water Cum Jolly - Ravensdale - Foolow
 10.5 miles



From the door of the Bulls Head turn right and cross onto the green. Walking towards the duck pond a footpath is seen next to the entrance to The Manor House with a signpost "Silly Dale." Follow path through a narrow alley to a gateway leading into the fields.

At the gate the path turns right and walks diagonally left across the field to a "kissing gate." From here the path is obvious crossing 7 further fields to a junction with a green lane. Cross straight over the lane and follow the path through 3 further fields until the lane is joined again. This is the bottom of Silly Dale. Turn right following the lane for 50m where there is a junction with another green lane. Turn left towards the Farmhouse, Stanley House.

At the far side of Stanley House, the track bears right. Ignore this and cross the stile on the left. Turn right and follow the path diagonally left downhill to a gateway into the next field. Walk along the stone wall on the right through a further 2 fields and down the right of the

agricultural building into the farmyard. After the gate, turn left through the farmyard and out to the main road on the right.

Turn right passing the Three Stags Heads (a pub serving good ale, food and welcoming to dogs).

Cross the main road immediately after the Turning on the left (for Wardlow) and turn right in front of the house, towards the gate into Cressbrook Dale.

Follow the bottom of Cressbrook Dale past St Peter's Stone to the "stepping stones" used by a path that crosses the Dale. (If you do this walk in summer or a dry winter you'll wonder why they are here!) The Dale on the right is Tansley dale and leads up to Litton. Walk up Tansley Dale passing the spoil heaps of fluorspar and calcite. As the dale starts to level, the path turns right beside a wall and leads up to a stile on the left. Cross the stile and walk diagonally right until a stile is crossed onto a track. Turn left.

Follow the track. After about 20 yds a stile is passed to your right. (This is the path to Litton for those who wish to visit). Further along the track comes to a road. Turn left along the road. After about 150m the road bends sharp left. Leave the path here and take the footpath on the right through 3 fields. In the 4th field the path crosses diagonally left to a road. Cross the road and follow the path downhill to a stile leading to another road. Turn left and follow the road until a T junction is reached. This is Tideswell Dale.

Turn left into Tideswell Dale and after a few yards a stile on the left allows you to walk through the field parallel to the road. This brings you to a car park (with W.C.'s) into Tideswell Dale "proper." Continue through Tideswell Dale until it's junction with Miller's dale.

Turn left along the road into Litton Mill.

Continue along the road through Litton Mill; the road ends at a barrier just beyond the mill (now apartments). After the mill, the path continues along the left bank of the river Wye through "Water Cum Jolly" to

Cressbrook Mill. Keep to the left through the mill complex, until the road is reached.

Turn left onto the road and immediately take the right fork. The road is followed for approx. half a mile until a small road on the right is reached, signposted Ravensdale. Walk down into Ravensdale, passing the cottages and follow the obvious path. After another half mile (approx.) a small bridge is crossed into Cressbrook Dale nature reserve (interpretation board). Continue on this path ignoring the path off to the left (unless you want to return via the Three Stags Heads!). The path now rises steadily uphill. When the path comes out of the woodland and levels off, there is a stone stile beside another interpretation board.

From the stile follow the walled in track through another stile to the road. Turn left along the road passing the Bulls Head until a footpath is reached just beyond the church. The path leads across a rough field slightly leftwards towards the wooden pylon and to a stile. Follow the path along the wall through a gap in the wall ahead and continue along the wall on the left. A small field is crossed and a large field full of old mine workings is entered.

Here the path is not well defined but the stile out of it is in the top left hand corner beside the gate. This brings you to a road.

Cross the road to a stile into the field and walk diagonally left to another stile. In the next field walk diagonally right, the stile onwards is about 25yds right of the large tree. Cross the stile and walk diagonally left through 2 fields to another road.

The stile opposite leads into a small field, which is crossed diagonally left to the farm track. Cross the track into the field, which is followed, rightwards to the end of the walled plantation. Take the stile between the 2 gates and cross the field slightly rightwards to another stile.

Diagonally right now through the field to a stile beside the gate. 2 further fields lead to the main road where the road from Foolow joins. Straight across the main road, it is now 10 minutes walk back to Foolow.