



# 18 NORTH YORKSHIRE BLAKEY TOPPING

▶ Distance: 7½ miles/12.2km ▶ Time: 4½ hours ▶ Grade: Moderate



SEE  
FEATURE  
ON PAGE 68

The portly outline of  
Blakey Topping.



PHOTO: TOM BAILEY



CHOSEN BY...

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Many walkers know  
and love Roseberry

Topping, but there's another elegant Topping in the North York Moors, and here it is. Blakey Topping is a prominent little peak rising to the north of Dalby Forest. Legend says it was created after being scooped out of the ground by a giant to throw at his wife (also creating the nearby Hole of Horcum in the process). The hill is far less well known than Roseberry, partly because it was only opened to walkers by access legislation in 2000, but its views are magnificent. As well as climbing Blakey Topping, this fine walk also explores the top edge of the

forest, plus the breathtaking and enigmatic rock formations of the Bridestones.

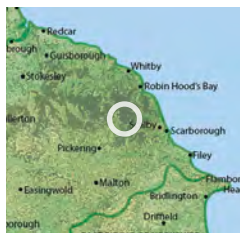
## 1 Start

Leave car park through double gateway, signed Great Crosscliff View Trail. Pass through woods to reach Crosscliff viewpoint – note Blakey Topping to north-west and Fylingdales early warning station beyond. Turn R to reach crossroads of forest tracks, then very sharp L to take path descending Crosscliff Brow. At bottom, emerge from woodland and reach distinct fork of tracks. Take L track and follow to reach ford.

## 2 1 mile/1.6km

Cross ford and climb on far

## PLAN YOUR WALK



## ROUTE

**Start/parking** Crosscliff View car park, grid ref SE895913. NB: Access is via Forestry Commission Dalby Forest Scenic Drive (charge)

**Is it for me?** A mix of forest tracks and open heathland. Paths on the latter occasionally indistinct and unmarked on OS maps, hence good navigational skills required. Short but steep climb and descent on Blakey Topping

**Stiles** 6

## PLANNING

**Nearest town** Pickering, Goathland

**Refreshments** None

**Public toilets** None

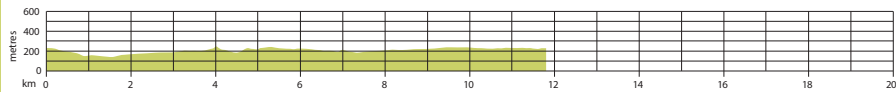
**Public transport** None

**Maps** OS Explorer OL27, Landranger 94 & 101

side, passing farm cottage R. Pass through gate and continue onto open moorland, ignoring



## GRADIENT PROFILE



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► OS Explorer map OL27 ► Buy maps at: [ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop](http://ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop)

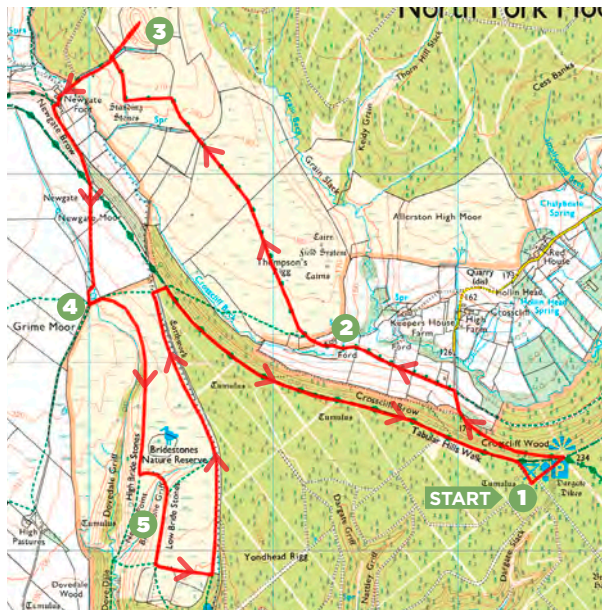
branching footpath L. Track continue across Thompson's Rigg, climbing steadily. Eventually reach gate/stile. Cross stile and continue towards Blakey Topping. Track veers L, passing through gateway in fenceline to reach standing stones. Turn R and follow fenceline (R) to reach gate. Turn R through gate and continue to stile. Cross stile, passing NT sign for Blakey Topping, and follow clear path up the hill to reach summit of Blakey Topping.

## 3 2½ miles/4km

Retrace steps down the hill back to stile. Cross, then turn R through gate onto farm track. Turn R on track and continue downhill, heading towards Newgate Foot farm. Go through gate and climb through farm compound to join track looping through farm. Shortly after leaving farm, turn L on footpath climbing to the top of Newgate Brow. At top, cross main track and continue ahead on footpath heading directly south. Cross two fields (stiles) to pass R of dewpond.

## 4 3¾ miles/5.9km

Just after pond, turn L across stile. Climb steadily up bank of clough, then take first rough path R across heathery ground (this path does not appear on OS maps). Continue ahead, eventually joining fenceline, to reach the first of the Bridestones (High Bride



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Stones on OS Explorer map). Pass a series of rock formations to reach viewpoint. Where path forks, take L path skirting top edge of Bridestone Griff. Descend to cross stream and climb steps on far side. Take first path R, and follow pleasant green terrace leading to Low Bride Stones.

## 5 4¾ miles/7.6km

Having passed several formations (including an impressively top-heavy one), follow path towards brow of plateau. At a conspicuous pair of rock formations, take branching path L. Ignore branching paths and follow main path, which eventually

swings L (north) with fence R. Continue north for just under a mile until reaching a small marker post with yellow arrows. Turn R on this path, through woods, crossing stile then emerging on main track (Tabular Hills Walk). Turn R on track for just under 1½ miles. Shortly before the Crosscliff Viewpoint, turn R on footpath leading back to car park. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON  
OS MAPS ONLINE:

[lfto.com/cwroutes](http://lfto.com/cwroutes)

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



Ordnance  
Survey

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DATE WALKED


TIME TAKEN


YOUR RATING