Walk 1

The White House and Otley Chevin

Highlights: **The superb hillside - 'the Chevin' - that dominates the town, and the White House that can be seen from the Jubilee Clock. The walk can be extended to reach the summit of the Chevin.**

Distance and duration: **2miles (3.2km) - 1 hour**

Grade: **Good underfoot, but steep for short sections.**

The route: Walk up Kirkgate, and then Station Road. Cross the footbridge at the top, and continue on the footpath. Cross a road (Birdcage Walk) to a footpath directly opposite. This path emerges onto a tarmac lane (Johnny Lane). To your right there are two steel gates. Take the path through the left hand gate. It curves uphill to the White House. Pass between the buildings and onward for 20m and take the left hand fork in the track. A further 50m brings you to a junction with a cobbled, stepped path. To extend your walk, turn right here and continue up the stepped path, and then up a short section of moor, to reach Surprise View - the summit of the Chevin. Return the way you came, back to the White House junction. Go downhill on the stepped path to the junction with Johnny Lane. Turn right and descend to the junction at the bottom. Turn right, and next left into East Chevin Road. Cross the bridge over the bypass. Turn immediately left into an unmade yard, past a large corrugated iron shed. Go straight ahead (along the bed of the old railway) for 200m, until you reach the top of Station Road. Turn right and return to Market Square.

Walk 2

Wharfe Meadows Park and Gallows Hill Nature Reserve

Highlights: **The medieval bridge across the River Wharfe, riverside views, the nature reserve at Gallows Hill.**

Distance and duration: **3.5miles (5.6km) - 1.5 hours**

Grade: **easy-going - level and generally sound underfoot.**

The route: Cross Market Place and walk into Manor Square. Follow round to the right, past the statue of Thomas Chippendale, into Clapgate. Turn left into Bridge Street, which leads down to the river. Cross the bridge and turn right into Wharfe Meadows Park. Follow the path downstream along the riverside for 800m until you reach a footbridge. Cross the bridge, turn immediately left, under a pipe, and continue downstream, close alongside the river, all the way to the end of the nature reserve. Just before you meet a stone stile leading into a field, turn right and follow the path that follows the perimeter fence of the nature reserve. Just past a small pond, turn left. 20m further on, turn right up onto a slightly raised path that runs straight across the reserve to a car park. Keeping the car park on your left, walk back to the river, turn left and retrace your steps into Otley.

Walk 3

The old railway track

Highlights: **The track of the railway line that once connected Otley with Ilkley and Menston, the old textile mills and the Victorian housing characteristic of Otley. Fine views of Ilkley Moor.**

Distance and duration: **5miles (8km) - 2.5 hours**

Grade: **Mostly flat, but with one sharp uphill section.**

The route: Cross Kirkgate to the traffic lights. Turn left into Westgate. Stay on the left hand pavement for 500m. Bear left into Piper Lane and continue to a major roundabout. Carefully cross the A660. Find the concealed path signed 'Pedestrian Access' through the Rhododendrons. This path mounts to the old railway line. Turn right and follow the track for 800m. The route briefly climbs to the right and immediately drops back to the railway line. Continue on through double wooden gates and under a stone bridge. Climb the steps to your right and follow the path back over the bridge. Take the signed footpath on the left, crossing a stile. This footpath climbs the side of the hill in a south easterly direction, passing over two stiles, until it reaches Cuckoo Wood Cottage.

Take the stile on the right hand side of the cottage. Pass in front of the house and climb to meet West Chevin Road. Turn right. Take the next right hand footpath, through a stone wall. Cross two fields and then walk down the grassy track. Cross a stile, and keep descending, with a wall to your right, down to the Bradford Road at Ellar Ghyll. Taking care, cross the road diagonally to the left, and pick up the public footpath.

This path leads you past another waste site, right hand side, and across Gill Beck by a small, ancient bridge. Go up the steps beyond, and through a wooden gate to a horse-riding school. Take the left hand of the two stiles ahead of you and cross the riding school paddock. Keep the large barn on your right. Search out a stile just to the right hand side of the large oak tree ahead. Cross this and continue with the field boundary to your right and walk on till you see houses to your left. Here you should follow the path through the holly bushes, over a stile, and across a dip. Pass through the iron kissing gate at the graveyard. 20m after this, look out for stone steps to your right hand side. These take you back up to the old railway line.

Turn right and follow the track for 500m. A distinct path then leaves the track and descends left to the golf course. Check that it is safe to cross the fairway. Cross, bearing half right to the right hand end of a line of conifers. Then turn right towards a small stone hut. Continue onward, passing across the car park at right hand side of the club house. Walk down the access road to the golf course entrance, turn left into West Busk Lane, and continue to its end, where it becomes a path that takes you under the New Ilkley Road. Pick up the Old Ilkley Road at Otley Mill, turn right, and walk back into town with the riverside mills to your left.

Walk 4

Across the fields to Pool Bank and up onto the Chevin Ridge

Highlights: **One of Otley town's conservation areas, the fields and meadows of Lower Wharfedale, the crags and woodlands of the Chevin Ridge - with panoramic views across Wharfedale and its surrounding moorland.**

Distance and duration: **6.5miles (10.4km) - 4 hours.**

Grade: **Easy-going through the town and across the fields, but strenuous when ascending the Chevin Ridge.**

The route: Take the A659 toward Pool. Stay on the main road for 700m. Turn right into St Clair Road and then left into Danefield Terrace. At the end, turn right for 150m along an unmade lane. Cross the stile on your left hand side. Follow the field edge, keeping near the fence on your right. Cross two stiles and, still keeping the field edge to your right, cross a field and emerge onto a tarmac lane (East Busk Lane). Turn right. Just before the lane reaches houses, bear right along the narrow overgrown lane. When you reach a fork in the paths, bear left, and then, at a large ash tree, keep left again. Cross a stile and immediately turn right, under a bridge, and then immediately across a stile on your left hand side.

Turn left and walk parallel to the old railway line. Cross a stile and the next field, heading for gates in the far right hand corner. Cross a stile next to the right hand gate and bear left, keeping the field edge on your left. This takes you to a stone stile. Cross it and bear half left, across a small field to the gate and stile opposite. Cross the lane and take the narrow iron stile into a field. Stay close to the fenced-off woodland on your right.

Cross the next stile in the fence on your right, walk across a small field, through a gap-stile, and into the farmyard. Walk through the farmyard, keeping the large barn on your left hand side and the farmhouse on your right. Go up the farm track that rises gently ahead of you. Continue uphill, keeping another barn on your right hand side, until you reach a footpath sign. Then make your way, half right, up the steep slope, heading for the row of houses at the crest. After 300m the path follows the line of telegraph poles up towards the houses, at Pool Bank. Leave the field by a small stile at the top, where Leeds Road meets Old Pool Bank.

Carefully cross Leeds Road and walk down towards Otley as far as a bus stop on left hand side. Turn left along Quarry Road, passing an old stone house on your right. Continue along this lane until it becomes a path with a wooden fence on your left. The path rises gently onto the Chevin Ridge, and then into the Chevin Forest Park via a stile next to a gate. Continue in the same direction following the broad Ebor Way path, which joins the Dalesway Link and undulates through the woods, crossing a wooden bridge over a stream and ending at a small car park. Just before the car park, turn right, and immediately fork left onto a path that winds through the woods to emerge on East Chevin Road, directly opposite a track (Miller Lane). Follow this track uphill until you reach signs, a gate and stile on your right hand side. Cross the stile and walk along the broad ridge path, to Surprise View.

Continue onward to the rocky summit of the Chevin and beyond onto the path that follows the boundary wall. Keeping this boundary wall to your left, take the highest path along the ridge. After 500m, the path starts to descend through beech woods. Keep to the highest path, close to the left hand boundary and thread through a collection of large boulders. The path reaches a stile in the boundary wall. Do not cross it, but turn sharp right, downhill. You will pass a marker post after 50m. Continue downhill through the woods, watch out for another marker post near to a junction of paths. There, bear right down a steep, partly-stepped path. The path emerges onto West Chevin Road. Very carefully cross the road and turn right. Cross the bypass bridge, then right into Burras Lane and all the way to the parish church. Walk through the churchyard, and finally turn left along Kirkgate to the Jubilee Clock.