

Follow in Turner's footsteps to the spectacular...

Aysgarth Falls & West Burton Falls



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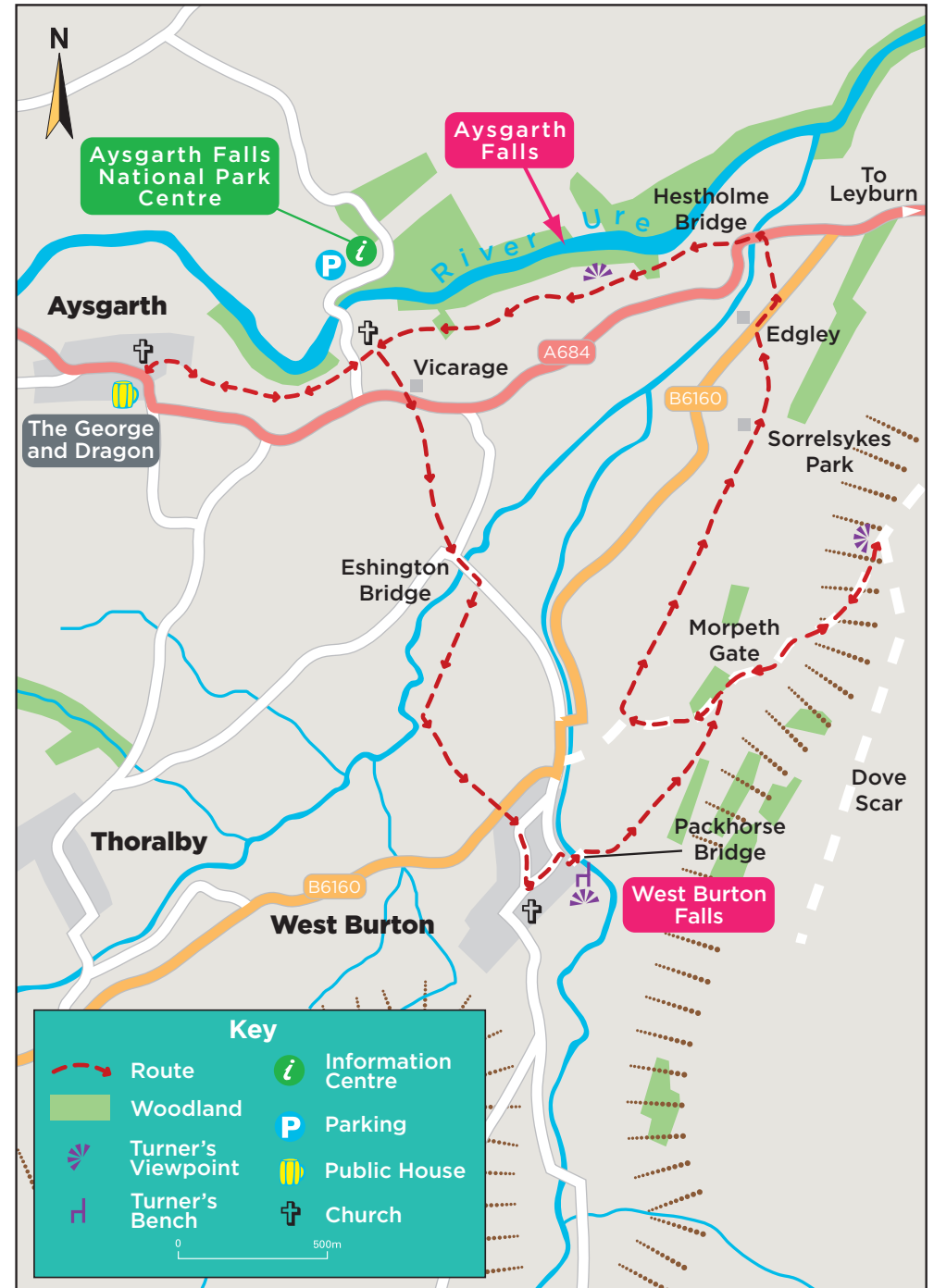


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Turner sketched both waterfalls during one July day in 1816 on his extensive tour of Yorkshire to sketch views for Whitaker's *A General History of the County of York* series. You can follow his route and see his views with this self-guided trail. You will also discover a carved screen rescued from a medieval abbey and even a stone space rocket.

Start and finish: Begin in Aysgarth village on the A684 Leyburn to Hawes road (SE004884). Alternatively you can begin at Aysgarth Falls National Park Centre pay and display car park (SE012888).

This map is not meant to replace the appropriate O.S. map for navigation. Please use O.S. Explorer Map OL30. Please wear appropriate walking boots and outdoor clothing. Take particular care when walking along roads.

Difficulty: A moderate walk with a few steep bits and plenty of stiles to negotiate. 6 miles. Approximately 3 hours.

Transport: For public transport times please visit www.yorkshiretravel.net or call Traveline Yorkshire on 0871 2002233.

If coming by car, there is a small lay-by in the village. Otherwise you can park in the pay and display car park at Aysgarth Falls National Park Centre and pick-up the walk at point 2.

Information: Aysgarth Falls National Park Centre, Aysgarth, North Yorkshire DL8 3TH. T: 01969 662910.



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01

To start this Turner Trail...

Set off from the centre of Aysgarth village, walk down the lane that passes the triangular green with the War Memorial, passing the Methodist Chapel.

At the end of the lane, opposite Field House, go through a stile in the wall and then bear right to walk through another stile and onto a walled footpath. Cross several meadows through stiles in the wall.

02

You are walking through a Turner view! He sketched right from the path you're on now.

He drew the scene you can see down Wensleydale towards Bolton Castle in the distance. Turner sketched at the castle the day after he visited Aysgarth and West Burton Falls.

Look out too for the rounded posts on the stiles. These were made so that ladies didn't tear their Sunday best clothes while walking to church.

Cross the minor road at the end of the meadows and continue into Aysgarth churchyard.

If you are starting the walk at Aysgarth Falls National Park Centre, walk through the car park, cross the bridge over the River Ure and climb the steps by Yore Mill. Continue towards Aysgarth Church.

03

Have a look inside the church for the rood screen.

This is the ornately carved wooden screen along one side of the church. It originally divided the pews from the altar in Jervaulx Abbey. You can only see it today because of a strong act of bravery 500 years ago. Twenty men carried it 14 miles from the Abbey to Aysgarth to save it from destruction during King Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries.

Continued...

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Coming out of the church, walk ahead on a footpath through the churchyard out onto the Leyburn road (A684). Cross the road, taking care of traffic, and go through the stile in the wall opposite.

Continue through the fields, passing through gap stiles in the walls until you reach Eshington Bridge. Cross the bridge and then go over the stile on the right to follow the footpath through the meadows. Carefully cross the Bishopdale road and go up the steps to West Burton village. Turn right into the centre of the village. Go left over the green and right by the old mill.

04

There is a Turner Trails bench behind the mill.

It overlooks the beck which runs from the waterfall.

Walk down past the old mill and continue the short distance to the bottom of the falls.

05

Turner visited the falls on Sunday 28th July 1816, having come from the Green Dragon Inn at Hardraw.

He drew a beautiful pencil sketch of the picturesque waterfall that was clearly intended for a watercolour. The site is amazingly unchanged in nearly 200 years and the accuracy of Turner's drawing can be appreciated.

Cross the packhorse bridge by the falls, just as Turner did in 1816. Walk up the hill and take the left hand path to reach a lane called Morpeth Gate. Turn right to follow the lane until you reach another track approaching down the hill from your right. You are directly below Dove Scar.

06

Turner walked up the lane until he reached the edge of the huge limestone escarpment known as Dove Scar.

The summit here offers a grandstand view of one of the finest and widest panoramas of all Wensleydale. Turner took out his sketchbook and recorded the view all the way round from the vale of West Burton to the left, over Aysgarth in the middle distance to upper Wensleydale beyond, round nearly to West Witton to the right.

Retrace your steps and continue down Morpeth Gate until you see a sign on your right to Edgley. Turn right here and follow the footpath, keeping the strangely shaped follies high above you on your right.

07

The workers of Sorrelsykes Park built these follies in the 19th century.

You can see why the follies are known locally as the Rocket and Pepper Pot.

Pass the buildings of Sorrelsykes Park on your left. Just after the buildings look for a stile on the left, which brings you out onto the West Burton road at Edgley.

Cross the road and take the footpath opposite going right. This brings you out at Hestholme Bridge. Cross the bridge and turn right straight after the bridge to cross the fields to Lower and Middle Aysgarth Falls.

Continued...

08

You have followed in Turner's footsteps from West Burton to Aysgarth Falls.

This is the place where Turner first saw Aysgarth Falls. It is thought that he probably forded the lower falls on his horse.

The River Ure drops over three major falls in less than one mile. Turner drew various sketches, turning the classic view of the more famous Lower Falls into an atmospheric watercolour.

Continue past the Falls back to Aysgarth Church. Retrace your steps through the churchyard, across the road and through the meadows to Aysgarth village.

If you started at Aysgarth Falls National Park Centre, turn right after the church and return down the steps to the car park.



Aysgarth Force, Richmondshire. Image reproduced by permission of the Indianapolis Museum of Art, bequest of Kurt F. Pantzer, Sr.

INFO

This walk was originally written and walked by...

Diana Jolland for the Leyburn Walkers are Welcome Turner Trail Festival.



WALKERS ARE WELCOME

We hope you have enjoyed your Turner Trails walk.

There are more walks in the area to download from yorkshire.com/turner

You can also visit Mossdale Falls & Bolton Castle nearby.