

# WALK N<sup>o</sup> 4 ARNCLIFFE WOODS & EGTON BRIDGE

Distance Approximately 4 Miles

From the front door of the pub turn right and walk down the road passed the garage and the railway station. On reaching the railway bridge turn right before it (Beggars Bridge is on the far side) and over the footbridge crossing the stream, continue straight ahead up the steps and turn left along the path through East Arncliffe Wood. At the far end of the wood the road at Delves is reached, turn left until reaching a brideway to the right (signed as Grange Head Farm) approx 200 mtrs,

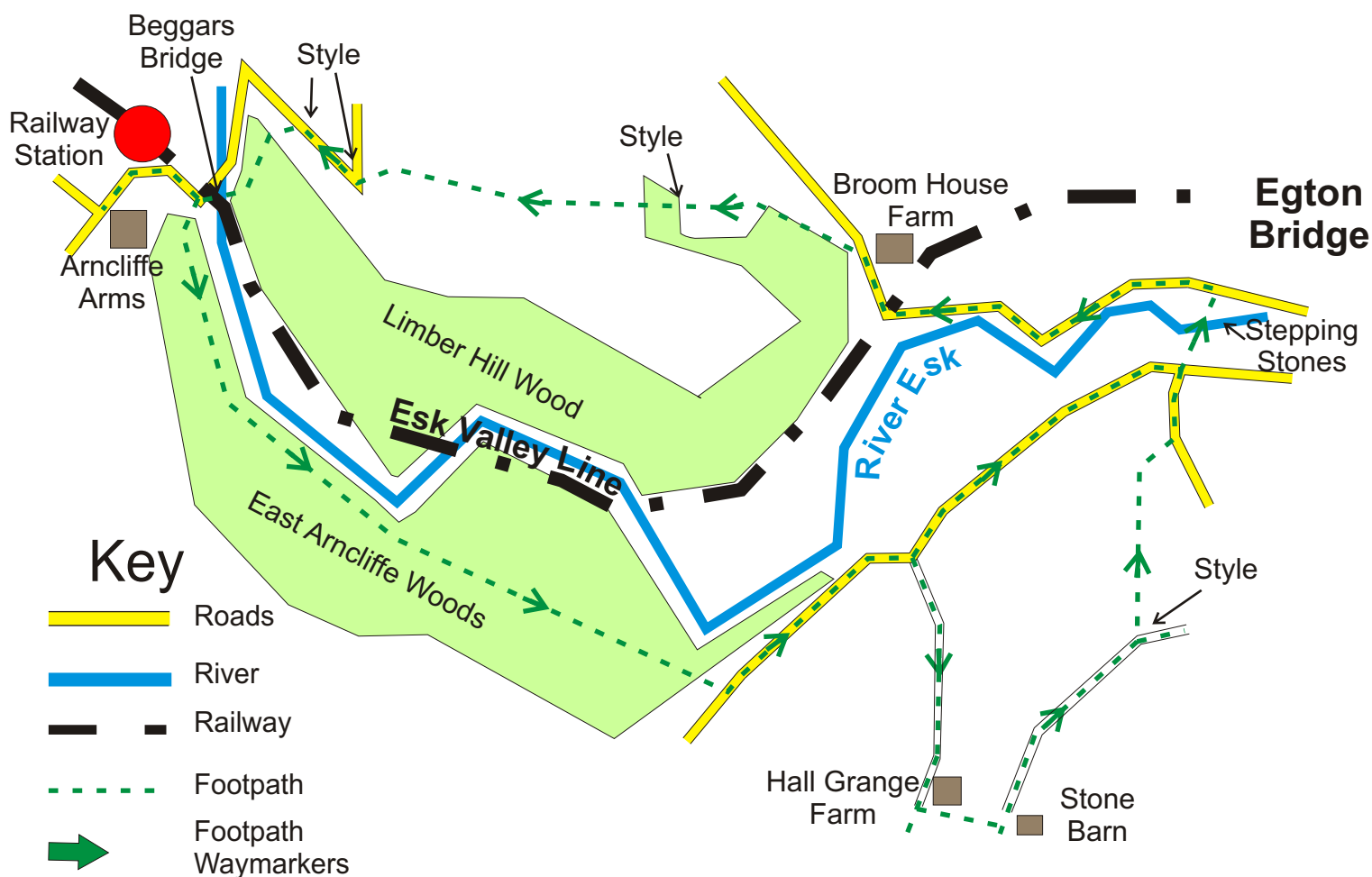
*This walk can be shortened at this point if so wished. Simply follow the insert at the end of these instructions.*

Turn right onto the brideway to Hall Grange Farm and in the farm yard turn left just past the farmhouse and walk uphill to a stone barn, turn left here on a track until reaching a style and footpath to the left (approx 300 mtrs). Take this path downhill as it bends right to the Goathland road. At the road turn left towards Egton Bridge. As the Rosedale road joins from the, left leave the road by walking straight ahead down the path to the stepping stones.

**\*Cross the stepping stones** first to the island and then to the far side of the weir. The path now bears right and emerges from between the houses and on to the road. Turn left, following the river and passing under the railway bridge. Just after Broom House a path goes to the left, take the path as it follows the tree line and after approx 200mtrs in a dip it turns left and crosses a stream. The path now bears right uphill to a style in the tree line, pass through the trees to the fields. Keep to the hedge as the path crosses the field and then straight forward on the farm track. Approx. 30mtrs before the farm turn left to follow the field boundary to a gate, through the gate turn immediate right to the top of Limber Hill.

Turn left down the hill for approx 100mtrs to a path to the left, follow this path as it bears right to a style and down through the trees to Beggars Bridge. Cross the bridge and turn left to follow the road under the railway bridge and back to the pub.

**Insert:** Continue down the road to Egton Bridge. As the Goathland road joins from the right, turn left down the footpath to the stepping stones. Now continue with the walk from **\*"Cross the stepping stones"**



## **Egton Bridge**

Egton Bridge is known as “the village that the reformation forgot”. This is due to it keeping its strong catholic faith when all others were being forced to turn away from Rome and towards the Church of England.

Nicholas Postgate the catholic martyr was born in Egton Bridge in 1596 and although he was ordained in France he felt the calling to “minister on the moors”. He kept his identity hidden by travelling as an itinerant gardener and eluded capture for many years until he was betrayed for a reward of £20. He was tried at York and sentenced to be hung, drawn and quartered.

In August every year Egton Bridge holds one of the only two Gooseberry fairs still held in the country and there is still great competition and rivalry to produce the largest specimens

## **Beggars Bridge**

A first impression of the bridge along with the initials TF (Tom Ferris) and the date 1619 would appear to give credence to the bridge being built at that time. However the style and construction would imply that it is in keeping with much older bridges in the area and that it was actually “rebuilt” in 1619.

The bridges notoriety with affairs of the heart are due to the legend of Tom Ferris, a local lad made good. Tom was a farm hand who was madly in love with his childhood sweetheart Agnes Richardson, but her father strongly disapproved of their relationship and swore he would not let her marry a “beggar”. Squire Richardson did however say that if Tom could make his fortune he would consider the matter.

Tom was forbidden from meeting his fair Agnes so they arranged secret liaisons. There being no direct road between Glaisdale and Egton at this time he was forced to ford the Esk and on one occasion nearly drowned when the river was in flood. This near death experience gave rise to him vowing to bridge the river so that no other prospective lover should have to endure such hardships.

Tom gave up the plough and went to sea to seek his fortune, he had many adventures and these included fighting alongside Drake against the Spanish Armada. As was the norm at the time this may have included the plundering of the captured Spanish galleons and may have given rise to his wealth and his supposed links with piracy.

Tom was warmly welcomed on his return by Squire Richardson and presumably even more so by Agnes, whom he married in Glaisdale. As good as his word Tom built his bridge and later moved to Hull where he became a renowned citizen and Mayor of the town.

“The rover came back from a distant land,  
and claimed from the maiden her long promised hand,  
but he built, ere he won her, the bridge of his vow,  
and the lovers of Egton pass over it now”.

That’s the story and ever fascinated with “affairs romantic” many variations of the above tale have been written. There is however another explanation for the bridge’s unusual name, an anglian interpretation of the word means berry (as in fruit) and it could quite simply be the “bridge where the berries grow”. A visit during the summer months and a glance at the trees and bushes will certainly give validity to this.

The reader is left to form his own conclusions.