

A circular loop from Orton to Appleby, making use of the L&DL

Leave the centre of Orton in a southerly direction on the B6260, taking the first L on the edge of the village, onto the B6261, signed 'Raisebeck'. After around 3 km, just beyond the hamlet of Raisebeck, bear L where the road forks, signed 'Asby'. This delightful road climbs fairly gently up and across the limestone pavement of Little Asby Common, well worth a visit to see Springtime flowers, or the heather in Autumn. After descending from the Common, turn L at the x-roads, signed 'Great Asby'. In around 2 km, following a nice swoop downhill, turn L where the road bends sharp R, signed 'Great Asby'. This picturesque village deserves a little detour. Just beyond the Three Greyhounds pub bear R across a narrow stone bridge, which traverses Asby Gill. At the far side turn R, signed 'Burrells'. Follow this road for around 5 km, with the main point of interest afforded by an opportunity to take a small detour to view Rutter Force (waterfall) 250m off to the L after 4 km. Turn L at the next T-jct, signed 'Appleby'. Then R at the next, onto the B6260, again signed 'Appleby', following this road into the centre of that town. For the return journey, from Appleby Tourist Information Centre head south up Boroughgate, following the B6260. Towards the edge of the town, turn R into Colby Lane, signed 'Colby'. Follow this minor road for around 2 km into Colby, where you turn L, signed 'Kings Meaburn'. This little road, known as Chitty Hill, twists and turns as it climbs over into the adjacent valley of the River Lyvennet, affording lovely views of the Pennines to the north-east as it goes. Turn R at the T-jct after about 3.5 km, signed 'Kings Meaburn'. Then sharp L in around 1.5 km, signed 'Littlebeck'. There follows a good romp southward down the Lyvennet river valley, taking in the attractive villages of Maulds Meaburn and Crosby Ravensworth along the way. The only real navigation decision is ensuring you turn L at the T-jct opposite Meaburn Hall, signed 'Maulds Meaburn'. Continue south out of Crosby Ravensworth, following signs for 'Orton', to climb steadily for the next 5 km onto open moorland. Turn R at the T-jct with the B6260, signed 'Orton' to enjoy an exhilarating descent down Orton Scar, back into the village of that name.