“Where did it all go wrong, George?”

Those readers of a certain age will recognise the above quotation. Uttered by the waiter on room service, as he entered George Best’s hotel bedroom, to see him in bed with Miss World with thousands of pounds of notes scattered on the bed covers.

So, where could or did it all go wrong for you on your Dales Way walk?

The Dales Way footpath is not like the Appellation Trail, where getting lost could end up with you getting drowned, starving to death or eaten by a grizzly bear. It could however cause you and the persons’ backyard you are straying into, inconvenience and maybe a spot of bother.

Sifting through letters and emails, all of the items illustrated are where walkers have reported straying off the path. As with all these incidents, the path is there to follow if you have the map, the guide book and are paying attention, but. . . . . !

This may be the most useful sheet of paper you carry on your next walk.

Last year I had a letter from the Convenor, of the Friends of Farfield Friends’ Meeting House who had tried to persuade a leader of a group of walkers not to walk down the B6160 dangerous road, but to follow the footpath through the grounds. To no avail. Waymarks had been removed from within the grounds, which were replaced.
Cross the road and go through the gate.

Turn right. Follow the way mark.

The Right of Way [which used to be a permissive path], behind the wall alongside the B6160, leading back onto the road after 700 metres sounds simple enough, except some walkers decided to turn left at the 5 bar gate GR 071 5235 and head up to Lob Wood and the old railway line. An arrow is now on the gate to guide walkers back to the road.

Turn right onto the B6160

Grassington was described as “difficult to get out of.” by one gentleman. To enter you can turn up the green lane after Linton Falls and carry on to meet the main road into town. Or, carry on and either turn
right up to the town centre or cross over to a stile and bear right up to the centre. The essential is to go up past the market square and turn left at Chapel Street. [New way mark.] Turn right at Bank Lane. At the top of the lane, the finger post directs you left, through the gate, to the way marked footpath onto Lea Green. A lot of walkers carry on up Bank Lane, which leads out onto the moor, to join the footpath, avoiding the stiles.

One finger on the post takes you to the left over several stone stiles, but going through the metal gate on the right is an easier and very pleasant walk. This route is recommended in Colin Speakmans latest guide.
Compliments of the YDNPA across Lea Green

Until YDNPA erected this finger post beyond the last stile onto the moor at Lea Green, this was the place where we had more complaints about walkers getting lost, than on the whole of the Dales Way.

Opening Kettlewell by either the river route, the stile and gate route or along the road, you have to cross the bridge over the River Wharfe and turn right [west] in order to continue on the Dales Way footpath.

Over the bridge turn right at the low waymark. This path has now been upgraded by the YDNPA to allow wheelchair access to the riverbank. Follow the appropriate signs.
Yockenthwaite, Deepdale and Beckermonds “need better way marking” said a few, but common sense and the map will guide you through.

After leaving the walled lane leading out of Camm Farm, you need to head for the sky line as the trees have now gone. Take the track to the right to a new fingerpost. This way mark/sign has been replaced with a new Finger post. Poor picture below.
Many walkers used to get lost in Cam forest.
. . . . walkers used to get lost in the trees. . . . . the solution was rather dramatic . . . .

A fallen finger post after Barth Bridge at GR 6835 8850 caused some grief years ago. The post has now been restored. Turn sharp left and cross the stile onto the minor road.
Millthorp is a small hamlet. You join the main [only] street as you come off the moor. After 100 metres there is a turning left which is the Dales Way, but there is also a road straight ahead which some walkers decide to take. It is not possible to mark the turn off, so a small diagram has been affixed to the finger post at the foot of the track.

*Turn right then first left.*
The way marked finger post on the Sedbergh to Kirkby Lonsdale road at GR 631 911 is in the hedge on the right. Stay alert.

After leaving High Oaks, continue up the green lane heading for Luneside. As you enter the field you must head for the northwest corner of the field to another green lane GR 627 915, ignoring the stile and finger post in the corner of the field to your right. See below.

The waymark directs you to the correct corner of the field.
After leaving **Lune Side Farm GR 6295 918**, you should strike **half left** across the field for the stile in the fence. A new finger post has now replaced the broken one.

*Strike half left to stile in the fence.*

*Stile. Marked West to East.*
Some walkers sometimes ask for “better way marking between . . . ?” Such a section is between Lincoln’s Inn Bridge and Beck Foot. This is a difficult section to way mark, but apart from the right turn over the bridge after Hole House, follow your nose and look at the map and the guide.

Leaving Beck Foot, at the top of the track you enter a field at GR 613 9625. Exit the field by a wood step stile in the top left hand corner of the field, [as you face West] after 450 metres at GR 609 961.

Walkers who have not entered or left the field at these points say they got lost, which they have.

After 200 metres, bear left up to the stile in the corner of the field.
Lambrigg Head to Grayrigg Foot. A lot of walkers complain about getting lost around here, way
The following may help.

**The cattle bridge** over the M6 GR 600 957 leads to **Lambrigg Head Farm**. Turn sharp left before entering this large farm. The Dales Way is along **the farm road**, diverted some years ago from the field.

*Turn left.*

*After 100 metres turn right off the minor road down the steps.*

After the barn conversion at **Moresdale Barn**, GR 5865 9600 go over the bridge and **turn right**, then
left up the new steps. There is a finger post and waymarks.

After crossing the Bridge, do not turn left up the minor road. This is a private drive. After turning right, do not go through the gate into Moresdale Hall.

... turn left up the steps.

New diverted footpath avoiding the road walking along the Hardrigg to Thatchmoor Head and Beck Foot road.
Cross the minor road at Hardrigg, which leads to Thatchmoor Head and the bridge over the railway. Continue over the stile

After gaining the road at GR 5795 9590 go over the railway bridge, and keep the railway on your left for 410 metres to reach the way marked finger post to direct you 90 degrees to the right to follow the footpath. The waymarks pictured have been removed by CCC as unnecessary.

Follow the fence for 410 metres. If you cut across the field you will be in [wet] trouble, and have to retrace your steps.
Turn right. The stone posts are part of the gated, unmanned level crossing, where the Dales Way footpath used to cross the railway line, before the line was upgraded about 15 years ago and was deemed too dangerous to cross.

Burton House adjacent to the A6 has had the Right of Way through its grounds diverted in April 2014. The footpath now follows the West side of the house.

If your Guide Book is published before 2014 the new diverted footpath will not be shown.
The gate on the left, shown below, has a “Footpath” way mark on the inside post. There are no Dales Way way marks on the new footpath. The new footpath is the black dotted line. The old footpath is the red line.
Now back onto the Dales Way on the other side of the beck.

See our web page, News for further details and map.

When you reach the minor road at GR 5195 9600 turn right, this is Oakbank Cottages, and enter the field on the left, way marked. The footpath crosses the stonewall halfway down the field, now way marked. There could be a bull in this field at times with his harem.

Cross the stile in the wall and turn left at the bottom of the wall.
The Dale Way footpath now approaches Sprint Mill Cottages and Sprint Road. In 2014 the Dales Way was moved from the dangerous Sprint Road to the right of way through Sprint Mill Cottages to exit onto the minor Garnett Bridge Road which leads into Burneside.

Turn right at the telegraph pole and follow the waymarks.
The junction, where the footpath joins the BOAT [byway open to all traffic] at GR 422 971 used to be a favourite place for walkers to lose their sense of direction. Turn Left. There is a 3 way fingerpost to help you.

New in 2011 thanks to the Lake District National Park. The DWA contributed.
200 metres before you meet this junction the path becomes a stream when it is wet. To the left, as you walk, a track is visible between the wire fence and the trees. This is a short cut but is not a right of way. It emerges onto the BOAT but there are no way marks, purposely, to guide you on your way.

Do not take the small track to the left.

Enjoy your walking, and if you find that inexplicitly you have wandered off the footpath let the Dales Way Association know what happened.

If you find any obstructions along the footpath during your walk, as well as informing the Dales Way Association, you should also contact the local Authority. If you or any member of your party are threatened by an aggressive dog, you should report the incident to the local police and the appropriate Authority or Council. The possibility of this is very remote.

See our news page for more information

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. info@yorkshiredales.org.uk

This covers the area from Bolton Abbey to Crook of Lune Bridge.

Cumbria County Council. info@cumbriacc.gov.uk

This covers the area from Crook of Lune Bridge to just past Cockshott Wood. [Between Burneside and Staveley.]

Lake District National Park Authority. info@lake-district.gov.uk

From Cockshott Wood to Bowness in Windermere.

Our DVD, *A Taste of the Dales Way* will familiarise you with the route if this is your first time walk. If you have completed the walk, it will bring back fond memories. See DVD section.

Alex McManus. Footpaths. April 2017