

Sled Shoe Reservoir and Blakey 2 miles, allow 1 ½ hours.

Transport [M6](#), [ME1](#)

Map 1:25,000 OL26 or 1:50,000 Whitby & Esk Dale 94

Start

One and a half miles south of the Lion Inn at Blakey and 5 miles north of Hutton le Hole. Look for two green footpath signs, one on either side of the road.

Points of interest

The walk starts on a moor path which passes between the very old bell pits that were the first mines, in this case for coal, in this part of the Moors. Next comes Sled Shoe reservoir on the right and a ruined building on the left. The reservoir is a small, beautifully built brick lined one, built to provide water for Sheriff's Pit and has turned into a superb environment for dragon flies. As with the Sheriff's Pit walk you'll now – if you've chosen a decent day – enjoy some lovely views of the dale and its fast healing mine and railway remains. Little Blakey or Blakey Junction, next, was a row of seven railway cottages, the last occupants leaving in 1955. Here was the cutting and former bridge that carried the Hutton to Castleton road over the line. This was one of the many notorious snow traps on the line. The branch railway to East Mines and Kilns leaves here and this is your route for the last part of the walk. End the walk by climbing up from the railway over another bell pit – one of the hundreds of tiny collieries that once dotted the Moors, each usually worked by just two people. The other side of the road is the Lion Inn, an excellent place to satisfy the hunger and thirst that you've worked up before flagging down your bus home outside the Inn.

Route

Follow the slightly indistinct path away from the road heading east towards Rosedale, pass between the bell pits and after ¼ mile as you cross a shooting track you'll see the ruins near Sled Shoe reservoir. Less than a quarter of a mile further on you'll drop down on to the railway track bed. Turn left – north – for just under 1 mile to Little Blakey with its railway cutting on the left. Carry on along the rail bed which curves to the right, though, and has now become the East Mines branch. Half a mile from Little Blakey follow the footpath signposted up the valley side on your left and round the edge of the former bell pit to reach the main road and the Lion Inn.

