

Lord Stones Walk

Lords, stones and ancient ways

Lord Stones Country Park – owned by the Urra Estate – sits on land with an ancient pedigree, where a set of prehistoric stones forms part of a spectacular moorland panorama. The familiar local name – Lord Stones – tells a slightly misleading story, for although there are several stones here, the tale is actually of several lords and one significant stone, the so-called ‘Three Lords’ Stone’.



It's typical of the ancient waymarkers and boundary stones found across the North York Moors, and the name is said to derive from three landowning lords whose estate boundaries met at this point on Carlton Bank. Marked with prehistoric carvings (cupmarks), the stone itself is one of a number of large kerbstones defining the perimeter of a Bronze Age burial mound – part of a small cemetery in a place where traditional boundaries, routes and meeting places have been established for many thousands of years. Indeed, before the nearby café was developed, the hillside used to be covered in numerous ‘hollow-ways’ – ancient routes worn down into deep, roughly parallel, trenches by the passage of countless of feet and hooves over the centuries.

Mining days

The landscape in this area has been dramatically affected by mining for jet. The only place it's found in the UK is in the North York Moors and Cleveland Hills, with significant deposits particularly along the coast near Whitby, which has been a centre for jet carving since Victorian times.

Large-scale mining only began in the 19th century when jet jewellery was all the fashion. Jet carvers from the Yorkshire coast appeared at the 1851 Great Exhibition in London, and the jewellery was popularly used during mourning following the death of Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert. When the demand eventually died down after the 1870s, the industry here died here too, but you can still find the evidence. The word ‘Tips’ on the OS map denotes the presence of old spoil heaps below the now collapsed entrances to the mines. The undulating outward track on this walk runs over some of these.



It might only be a shade under 3 miles, but this is a real adventure walk for all the family, with some awe-inspiring views into the bargain. There's a striking panorama of Middlesbrough, the Cleveland plain, Roseberry Topping and Cook's Monument, and you'll get amazing views both on the outward leg and then – after a stiff, stepped climb – on the return section that follows the Cleveland Way National Trail across Cringle Moor. The start of the trail is in the privately owned Lord Stones Country Park, where there's access to the ancient stone that gives the walk its name – as well as parking, a café-restaurant and local produce shop.

Did you know?

Jet is hard fossilised wood (from the Araucaria, or monkey-puzzle tree) that can be intricately carved and polished to a soft sheen. It has been used for making ornaments since the Bronze Age.

Great for:	big-sky views, family walks, list-tickers, rock-hounds
Length:	2¾ miles (4.4km)
Time:	2 hours
Start/Finish:	Lord Stones Country Park
Grid Reference:	NZ 524 030
Map:	OS Explorer OL26
Refreshments:	Lord Stones cafe
Toilets:	Start/Finish of the walk



The Lord Stones Café at the country park is open daily from 9am, and is a favourite stop for walkers on the Cleveland Way National Trail as well as the Coast to Coast walk. There's a shop and deli too, for snacks, drinks, ice cream and picnic food.

... Breathtaking views and a glimpse of the past ...

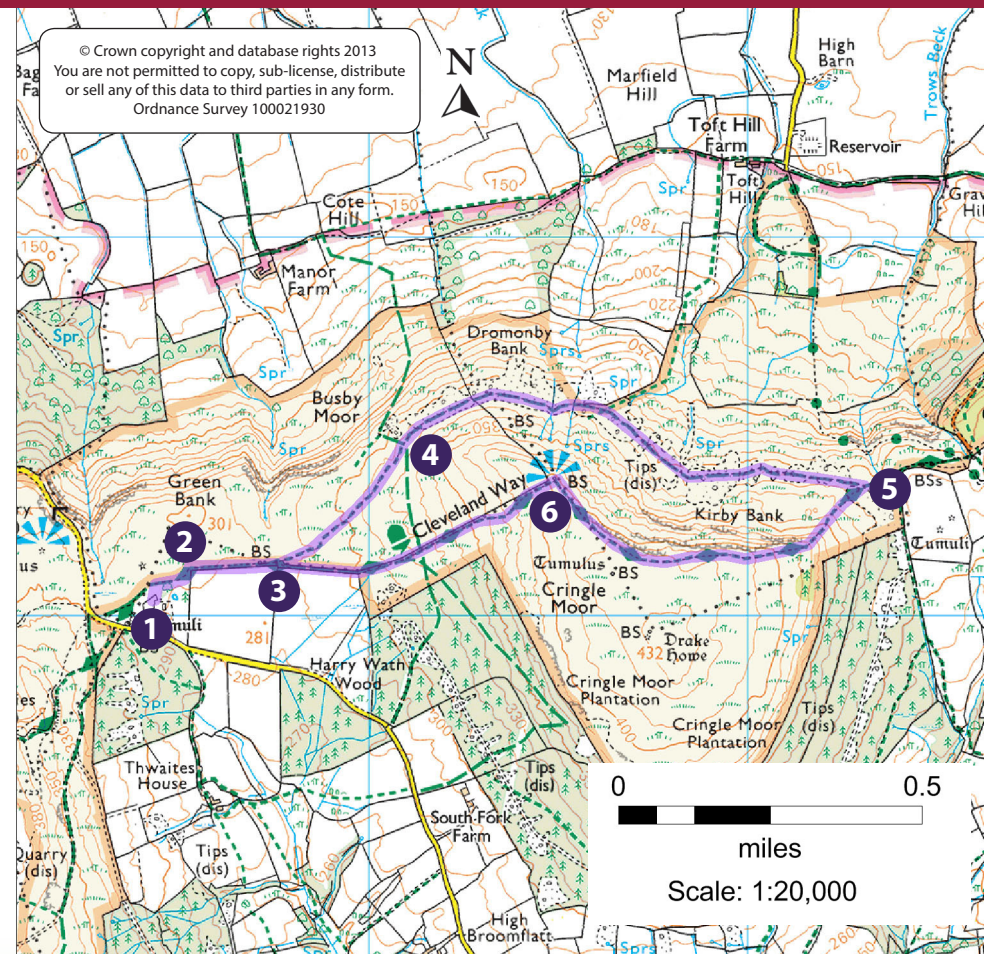
Route instructions

- 1 From the café and outdoor seating area, follow the signs for 'Additional Parking' and turn right at the tree in the turning circle. Keep alongside the small plantation (with a wire fence on your right) and walk towards the righthand wooden barrier (with a blue bridleway arrow).
- 2 Go through the barrier and continue straight along the track (the Cleveland Way).
- 3 Turn left at a footpath signpost by a stone wall, leaving the Cleveland Way. Continue ahead along a track, through trees, gradually ascending.
- 4 At a 4-way signpost, at a crossing of tracks, continue straight ahead, following the contour path around Cringle Moor.
- 5 Turn sharp right before the stream and climb up the steep bank on the Cleveland Way. Walk along the top of Cringle Moor.
- 6 Turn left at the viewing seat, and follow the path down the hillside. Continue past the signpost at point 3 and retrace your steps to the café and car park.



Like this walk?

If you've enjoyed the panoramic views but want a tougher challenge, try the nearby Wainstones Walk, an 8-mile moorland circuit to some magnificent stone crags.



The going is good all the way round, on well-maintained paths with no stiles or gates en route.



Please keep your dog on a short, fixed lead at all times.

The only challenging section is the steep climb up the cliff edge to the top of the moor, but this is on a clear, stepped, stone path. Take care in wet or icy weather, as the path is exposed – adults should pay particular attention to any children in their party.

There are severe drops from the stepped path and the moorland edge, so caution is advised.