

Wildflowers in Lothersdale



Common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*)
Flowers : July-September
Size: 15-100cm
Large stout, hairy plant with thistle-like, dark purplish flowers. Source of nectar for many butterfly species.



Cowslip (*Primula veris*)
Flowers: April-May / Size: to 30cm
Cluster of cup-shaped yellow petalled flowers. Leaves grouped at base of stem. Name derived from 'cowslups', meaning 'cowpat'.



Common spotted orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*)
Flowers: June to August / Size: 15-60cm
Pale to reddish purple flower head, darkly spotted, upward facing leaves.



Great burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis*)
Flowers: June to September / Size: to 100cm
Dull, crimson, oblong flower heads on tall stems. Burnet derives from old French for 'dark brown' and similar to 'brunette'.



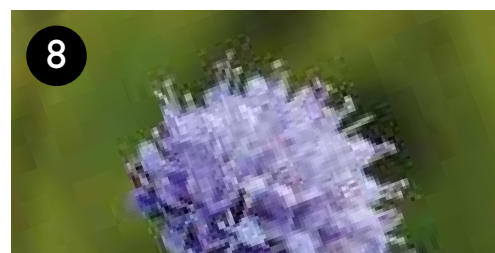
Ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)
Flowers: May- September
Size: 50-80cm
Large daisy-like flowers, lower leave spoon-shaped. Also known as 'moon daisy' or 'dog daisy'.



Red clover (*Trifolium pratense*)
Flowers: May-September / Size: 20-40 cm
Deep pink flowerheads, leaflets in three, white markings on leaf surface. Important nectar source for bumblebees.



Yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*)
Flowers: May-August / Size: to 50cm
Yellow hooded flowers, protruding from upright stem. Seeds rattle in capsules when ripe. Known as 'meadow maker'.



Devil's bit scabious (*Succisa pratensis*)
Flowers: June-October / Size: 50-100cm
Rounded, pin cushion-like, violet-blue flowerheads on long stems. Important nectar source for butterflies and bees.



Water avens (*Geum rivale*)
Flowers: May-September
Size: to 50cm
Attractive, drooping bell-shaped peach and red-purple flowers. Important nectar source for bumblebees.



Ragged robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*)
Flowers: May-August / Size: 20-50cm
Bright pink flowers with narrow petals deeply dividing into lobes, giving an untidy, ragged appearance.



Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*)
Flowers: June-September / Size: to 200cm
Tall spires of pinkish-purple pouch-like flowers, spotted inside throat. Important source of nectar for bumblebees.



Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*)
Flowers: June-September
Size: to 120cm
Fragrant, frothy creamy flowers. Leaves traditionally strewn across medieval house and church floors.

Thanks to Marianne Von Tucka, Ingleton and Rachel Benson, Broadrake (<http://broadrake.co.uk/>) for donation of wildflower seed.

Wild About Lothersdale is a voluntary group aiming to help residents and visitors to the village to enjoy and understand the local flora and fauna. The production of this leaflet has been supported by Lothersdale Parish Council and United Benefice of Sutton, Cowling & Lothersdale. More local wildlife information can be found at www.lothersdaleparishcouncil.gov.uk.

When visiting Lothersdale, please remember to keep to footpaths, leave gates as you find them and respect village residents' property, parking, land, livestock and machinery. All dogs must be kept under control at all times, especially during Spring, with lambing and ground-nesting birds.

Please take litter home.

Parking - Limited parking outside Christ Church and bottom of Tow Top bridal path. Please do not block resident or farm entrances.

Thank you.

WILD about Lothersdale!



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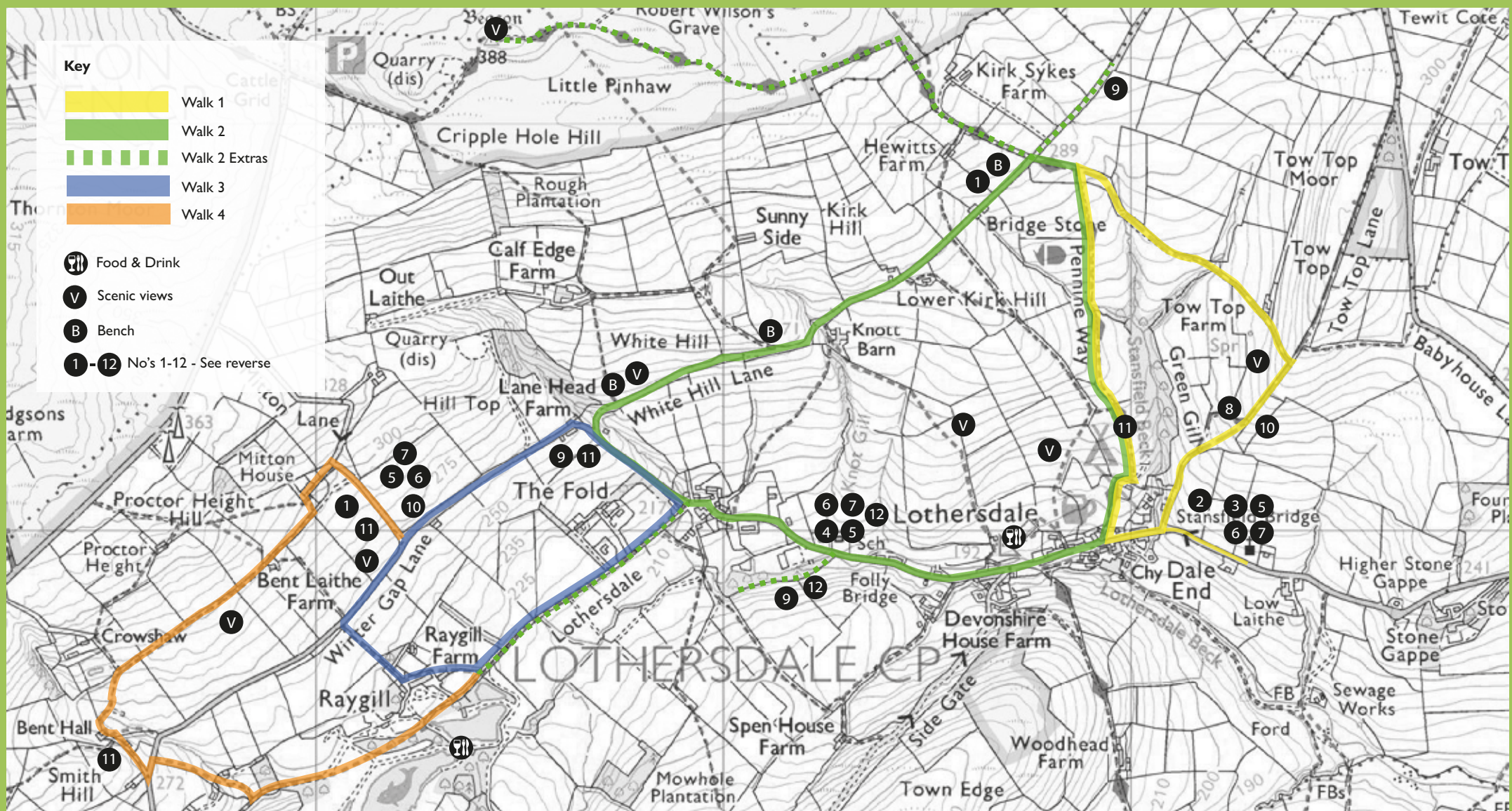
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Wildflower Walks in Lothersdale

The best time to see wildflowers is April-July, but these walks are equally enjoyable at other times of the year.



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Wildflower Walk Around Lothersdale 1

A 2 mile circular walk, with wonderful views of Lothersdale.

- Start at Christ Church, built in 1838. Spot the carved mouse on the oak entrance doors, indicating it was made by Robert Thompson of Kilburn. The eastern side of graveyard is a wildflower meadow containing cowslips, common spotted orchid, ox-eye daisy, red clover and yellow rattle. Snowdrops and primrose provide early colour.

- From the Christ Church gate, turn right and walk down to where the road widens. At the signpost for "Tow Top Moor", turn right. Go up this narrow (and often muddy) bridleway track, pausing before barn to look over the left hand wall, on unimproved pasture land called 'Betty's Hill'.

- Continue up the bridleway. After the gate, into a

diamond-shaped field and site of the former old quarry. Cross diagonally up and on your right, damp marsh land containing ragged robin, devil's-bit scabious and knapweed. Continue up the narrow walled section to gate.

- Turn right down steep concrete road, past Tow Top Farm, down a grassy lane, over stream and stile. Walk over another stream and continue along a sometimes boggy Stonyfirch lane.

- At field gate, turn left and head down 2 fields crossing wooden stile towards the village. Keep the wall/hedge to your right.

- Through gate, follow along the walled lane, until you reach the village road. There is an option here to turn right to visit The Hare & Hounds pub or turn left and go back up to Christ Church.

Wildflower Walk Around Lothersdale 2

A 3 mile circular walk (with option of 2 mile return walk to Pinhaw Beacon), with wonderful views of Lothersdale.

- From The Hare & Hounds pub, keep the pub on your left and walk until the Pennine Way Sign. Turn left and you're now on the famous Pennine Way, a 270 mile walk from Edale in Derbyshire, to the Scottish borders. Follow the walled track lined with foxgloves, to field gate. Then keeping the hedge/wall on left, walk uphill for 1/2 mile, through two fields, with a wooden stile in between.

- At the sign post "PW" turn left, climbing over the walled stile and head up field. Through the next field gate, you are on White Hill Lane.

- If good weather, an option here to cross the road and continue another mile along Pennine Way, through moorland and the resident grouse, up to local highest peak, Pinhaw Beacon. Here you can tick off Trawden, Pendle Hill, Ingleborough, Wherside (just), Malham Cove, Pen-y-Ghent, Buckden Pike, Great Wherside and Simon's Seat.

- If sticking to the wildflower walk, turn left on White Hill Lane. This is a quiet lane with a number of benches looking onto scenic views of the village below. Although most of the village valley sides and floor are formed of millstone grit, there are

crops of limestone. Goat's beard, marsh marigold, water avens and willowherb species abound. Continue walking until after a sharp bend and steep incline up, you reach Lane End.

- Turn left down hill on Calf Wood Lane, into the village. There is an option here to turn right and follow signs to Raygill Fisheries and Lakeside bar. This is also the start of walks 3 and 4.

- Carry on through village until you see imposing Bethel Methodist Chapel on your left. Now under private ownership, so please continue another 50 metres until you see the graveyard entrance on left. Bethel Chapel is a fine example of how wildlife can thrive in a 'working' graveyard. You will see common knapweed, great burnet, ox-eye daisy, red clover, yellow rattle, northern marsh orchid and meadowsweet.

- Opposite Bethel Chapel entrance, you will see village recreational park. If you walk along and behind the football pitch, you will see 'Woodland Area'. Here and along beck-side bank, you will see water avens, butterbur and meadowsweet.

- Back on the road, head east back through the village. Pass High Dam which provided the head of water for the village mill, until you are back at The Hare & Hounds pub.

Wildflower Walk Around Lothersdale 3

A 1.5 mile circular walk, with wonderful views of across upper Lothersdale.

- Start at The Fold, and head south west along Quarry Road towards Raygill Fisheries. The fields on either side are occasionally left to develop a meadow hay crop so look for meadow buttercup and cuckoo flower. Dandelion and lesser celandine line the drystone walls.

- Underneath some of the mature beech and ash trees there are more shade tolerant species to be found: ramsons, bluebell, dog's mercury, and violet.

- Just past the entrance to Raygill Fisheries (a good place for light refreshments), a footpath leads up a farm lane to the right (alternatively carry straight on for Walk 4). Wend your way between the buildings staying on the track. Some mature hawthorns sport tremendous blooms and are abuzz with bees and hawthorn flies in late April / May.

- On reaching a wooden gate at the top of the field, turn right onto the road. The verges here are awash with sweet cicely, meadow cranesbill, willowherb and cow parsley.

- Mitton Lane stretches uphill to the left (and is the return route of Walk 4). The banks of Mitton Lane are heavily planted with ornate daffodils but knapweed, foxglove and cuckoo flower take over later in the year.

- Mitton Lane Triangle is under Wild About Lothersdale stewardship and hosts primrose, viper's bugloss, yellow rattle, meadow buttercup, meadow cranesbill, white and red clover, and red bartsia amongst others. A real treasure trove. The views

toward the village and over the quarry are spectacular from here.

- Immediately past Mitton Lane Triangle, on the lefthand side, a strip of woodland contains ground ivy, bluebell, primrose, stitchwort, ramsons and various willowherb species. Gullies with ephemeral water and damper patches contain yellow flag, ragged robin and marsh marigold.

- Opposite the woodland strip, the garden of Winter Gap (private residence) is one of the Wild About Lothersdale wildflower nurseries. Cowslip, primrose, red and bladder campion, meadow cranesbill, white dead nettle, woundwort, marsh woundwort, betony, ox-eye daisy, nettle-leaved bell flower and various knapweed and scabious species all flourish here. Take a respectful peek over the wall to the west of the house – beware of the guinea fowl!

- Continue along Winter Gap Lane. Lesser celandine, and dense stands of garlic mustard and greater willowherb follow the wall line.

- On reaching Lane Head Farm, follow the road around to the right. White Hill Lane branches off to the left and Walks 1 & 2 can be linked to from here. The shady start of White Hill Lane boasts primrose, bluebell, stitchwort, lesser celandine and ramsons in profusion.

- Otherwise, to stay on the walk and return to the starting point in The Fold, descend along Calf Wood Lane. The shadier parts are more interesting, with wood avens, water avens, meadow cranesbill and meadowsweet on the banks.

Wildflower Walk Around Lothersdale 4

A 1.5 mile loop extending Walk 3.

- With the entrance to Raygill Fisheries behind you, head left along the shady track past Raygill House and other dwellings. The track rises and skirts old quarry workings.

- Crossing the Lothersdale Beck (warning – can be muddy here), the track enters mixed woodland.

- As the woodland peters out, there should be a signpost for the footpath on the right passing through a garden and skirting the house. Keep to the field boundary and skirting to a stile in the wall at the road.

- Turn left on the road and almost immediately right at the footpath sign at the brow leading to Bent Hall. Marsh marigold and meadowsweet are common along the beck.

- Proceed to the field boundary, and keep heading north east, parallel to Winter Gap Lane. Views down the dale to the village are impressive.

- At Bent Laithe Farm, wiggle past Mitton House via the driveway and onto Mitton Lane.

- Turning left will take you up to Old Skipton Road and Pinhaw Beacon. The lane banks host self-heal, daisy, cuckoo flower, bilberry, coltsfoot and early purple orchid.

- Turning right will take you back to Walk 3. Descend towards Mitton Lane Triangle. The banks of Mitton Lane are heavily planted with ornate daffodils but knapweed, foxglove and cuckoo flower take over later in the year. There are some interesting ferns on the steeper banks, plus dog rose, bird cherry, rowan and guelder rose – all important flowering trees for pollinators.



Refreshments: There are two great options in the village. Lakeside Bar at Raygill Fisheries (www.raygillfisheries.co.uk) and Hare and Hounds pub (www.hareandhoundslothersdale.com) Check websites for opening times and menus.