

Sheriff's Pit and Blakey 3 1/2 miles

Transport **M3**, **ME1**

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

Start

At the lay-by three miles south of the Lion Inn at Blakey and 3 ½ miles north of Hutton le Hole.

Points of interest

A short but very interesting walk. First comes a moorland track giving easy walking over to the Rosedale Mineral Railway. You soon reach the remains of the ironstone mine with its 120ft deep shaft and prominent ruin that was once the manager's house. An easy walk along the railway trackbed high above Rosedale then gives some superb views of the dale as well as the former railway, ironstone calcining kilns and ruined buildings on the opposite side. Little Blakey or Blakey Junction, next, was a very exposed row of railway cottages, long gone, next to the cutting and former bridge that carried the Hutton to Castleton road over the line. This is the point at which the branch railway to East Mines headed off towards the head of the Dale before looping back to serve the mines and kilns. The walk ends by climbing up from the railway over a much earlier mine – one of the hundreds of tiny collieries that once dotted the Moors, each usually worked by just two people. This brings you to the ancient Lion Inn at Blakey and a good place to wait for your bus home.

Route

Follow the shooting track that winds its way over to Rosedale from the southern end of the lay-by. After ¾ of a mile you will meet the Rosedale Mineral Railway. Turn left to reach Sheriff's Pit after another ¼ mile. Walk along the railway trackbed for just under 2 miles to reach what was Little Blakey with its railway cutting on the left. Carry on along the rail bed which curves to the right and has now become the East Mines branch. Half a mile further on follow the well trodden footpath signposted up the valley side to your left and round the edge of the former coal bell pit to reach the main road and the Lion Inn.

