

## Goldilocks Walking Group April Report

On Wednesday 19 April, 13 members of the group assembled promptly at 10:00 at the village hall car park in Bowes. After only a short delay the person who was supposed to be leading the walk also turned up(!) and the group set off west along the Pennine Way, past the ruins of Bowes Castle, heading for the charmingly named God's Bridge (a natural limestone feature crossing the river Greta). This leg of the walk took us through farmland well stocked with spring lambs. After a brief coffee break at God's Bridge, we turned north, passed under the A66 and continued over the rough open moorland north of the road for a couple of kilometres, dropping down into the quiet valley of Sled Dale where we stopped for a luxury lunch – luxury because the local grouse shooting fraternity kindly, if unintentionally, provided us with chairs! After lunch we headed east along the shooting track that runs the length of Sled Dale. At this point the fresh breeze blew away the grey clouds that had accompanied us on the first part of the walk, the sun came out and it suddenly felt properly springlike. Arriving at West Stoney Keld we joined a minor road that turned south and took us through the interesting and slightly troubling remains of RAF Bowes Moor, before dropping us back down into Bowes. If you want to know why I think it is interesting and troubling, look up [RAF Bowes Moor](#) on Wikipedia. A really enjoyable walk taking in a good range of landscapes with fine views and some historical interest thrown in.

