

Walk: Thirsk & Sowerby with views of the Hambleton Hills



ST MARY'S, THIRSK: The medieval parish church stands on a hill above the low-lying flood plain

1. From the Market Place, take the public footpath down the side of the Golden Fleece, through the car park, and emerge onto Chapel Street.

Thirsk market place used to connect the castle and Old Thirsk. Old Thirsk around St James's Green was owned by William the Conqueror in 1080 but the manor of New Thirsk was owned by Hugh, son of Baldric.

2. Turn left (L), and then cross over the road (please take care when crossing this road and others later in the walk). Turn right (R) down an alleyway and then bear L.

3. Follow the path across Sowerby Flatts, passing the bowling green and play area to your R, emerging onto Sowerby Road.

4. Turn L and cross the road (please take care when crossing), before turning R along Green Lane East.

5. At the end of Green Lane East cross straight over Topcliffe Road into Green Lane West, continue straight on, leaving the houses behind and following the now hedged Green Lane.

6. Just before the railway line, the path turns R along a field edge, crossing an old railway line and passing through a kissing gate to continue along the field edge. Next, pass through a kissing gate before diagonally crossing a field and finally emerging at the Old Red House pub car park.

7. Cross over the main road into the railway station car park and turn R (before the bridge) through a gap in the fence, before bearing L along an enclosed path.

Thirsk railway station used to be at the site which is now Tesco, but was moved to Carlton Miniott when the racecourse was built.

8. The path turns R, away from the railway. Follow the field

boundaries before eventually emerging onto Westfield Lane, then continue to the junction with Newsham Road.

9. Turn R along Newsham Road for a short distance (please take care) and then turn L down Cemetery Lane. Towards the end of the lane bear R, then L, then R again, bringing St Mary's Church into view. *Much of the Thirsk area is low-lying but the huge medieval St Mary's parish church, dating to about 1430, stands on a hill above the flood plain.*

10. At the junction with Kirkgate, turn R and return to Thirsk town centre.

Did you know?

Thirsk comes from an ancient British name meaning "the town by the river or brook".

The walk: A 3.5-mile (5.5 km) circular walk starting from the market town of Thirsk.

Difficulty rating: Level ground with a stile and kissing gates. The going can be muddy at times. You will need OS Explorer Map No.302 (Northallerton and Thirsk).

Parking: Car parking is available in Thirsk.



Public transport: Thirsk is well-served by public transport, including by rail.

traveline
public transport info
0871 200 22 33

Calls from landlines cost 10p a minute

Please check times by visiting www.northyorks.gov.uk/businfo or by telephoning traveline on 0871 2002233 (calls from landlines cost 10p per minute).

Local facilities: *Pubs:* Fauconberg Arms - Main Street, Coxwold, Thirsk; The Buck Inn - Maunby, Thirsk, (12-2pm and 5pm-close); The Crosby Village Inn - Thornton-le-Beans, Northallerton. *Shops:* River Swale Organic Vegetables - Home Farm, Newby Wiske, Northallerton; Spilman and Spilman - Church Farm, Sessay, Thirsk; Fine Foods of Yorkshire - 107 Long Street, Easingwold; Richard's Produce - Unit D, Alanbrooke Industrial Park, Station Road, Topcliffe; The Smithy Farm Shop - Baldersby, Thirsk.

Please remember to keep to marked footpaths and treat the countryside and farmland with respect.

