

Take a stroll around Herriot's Darrowby

THIRSK is an old-fashioned market town in the vale of Mowbray. It is also the fictional Darrowby of James Herriot, the late vet and author Alf Wight.

This five-mile (8km) circular walk starts in Sowerby village, travels through Thirsk to South Kilvington and returns. Ascent: 66ft (20m). OS Explorer Map No. 302 (Northallerton and Thirsk). Grid reference: SE430813

- 1 Walk down Front Street in Sowerby, heading away from Thirsk. Just past the Methodist Church on the L, go L down Blakey Lane. After the bridge, turn L through the kissing gate. Go through four kissing gates to reach the footbridge.
- 2 Continue along the path, with stream on L, to the stile. Go through two gates to car park, keeping ahead to the road. Cross it and take the path that turns L then R to the bridge.
- 3 Cross and continue beside houses, going L at top of green. Cross



- 4 Cross bridge, go through two metal gates and curve L to follow beck to gate by bridge. Go ahead (not over bridge). Go over fields, veering slightly R to stile on R.
- 5 Go over stile, follow stream, crossing another two stiles to pass

- 6 Cross road, go through signed gate opposite, to another gate beside wood. At open space, past wood, turn L through gap in hedge, opposite waymark to R.

- 7 Walk down field with hedge on L. In second field, go L over stile. Continue with hedge on R to another stile. Bear L to meet path that crosses field and becomes grassy lane between hedges, then track.
- 8 At metalled road, keep ahead, bearing L then R past church tower. Turn R, walk into town centre. In market place, head half L

towards the Three Tuns Inn then down signed passageway to dry cleaners.

- 9 Cross road diagonally R, go towards swimming pool entrance. Turn L, bend round pool building to gate. Proceed to gate alongside beck. At bridge, turn R across field on grassy track to gate onto lane. Keep ahead to return to Sowerby.



Getting there

There are several bus services operating to Sowerby from Thirsk Market Place - check times by visiting www.yorkshiretravel.net or by calling traveline on 0870 608 2 608.

Produced by Countryside Services

If you encounter any problems with this walk, please report them to countryside@northyorks.gov.uk

