


How to get there...


By Car: From A1 and A19 follow signs to Thirsk Town Centre. Market Place postcode - YO7 1LEY


Parking: Pay and display on Marage Road SE 4287 8227.


Train: Nearest station - Thirsk (1 mile) - National Rail Enquiries: 08457 484950. Walk passes the train station so could be done with an alternative starting point.



 **Public footpath** can be used by walkers. Waymarked with a yellow arrow.

 **Public bridleway** can be used by walkers, horse riders and cyclists. Waymarked with a blue arrow.

 **Restricted byway** can be used by walkers, horseriders, cyclists and non motorised vehicles. Waymarked with a purple arrow.

 **Byway open to all traffic (BOAT)** can be used by walkers, horse riders, cyclists and motor vehicles. Waymarked with a red arrow.

Always follow *The Countryside Code*

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Keep dogs under close control
- Prevent uncontrolled moorland fires
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Consider other people

Walk your way to a healthier lifestyle.

Walking one mile burns virtually the same number of calories as jogging a mile, it just takes a little longer!

Walking is FREE and requires no special equipment or clothing.

Regular walking helps reduce the risk of heart disease, strokes, diabetes and high blood pressure.

Contact us

North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8AD

Our Customer Service Centre is open Monday to Friday 8.00am - 5.30pm (closed weekends and bank holidays). Tel: **01609 780 780**

email: paths@northyorks.gov.uk

www.northyorks.gov.uk/paths or you can

access all North Yorkshire County Council information online at: www.northyorks.gov.uk

If you would like this information in another language or format such as Braille, large print or audio, please ask us. Tel: 01609 780780 Email: communications@northyorks.gov.uk



North Yorkshire walks

Thirsk circular to Sowerby with views of the Hambleton Hills

About the walk

An easy afternoons stroll around the outskirts of Thirsk. The wide views of the Hambleton Hills provide a stunning backdrop to a gentle walk along marked footpaths. The walk passes some hidden historical and natural sites.



Walk overview

Distance: 3.5 miles (5.5 km)

Time: Allow 2 hours

Gates: 4

Terrain: Mostly flat, surfaced tracks with some uneven surfaces

Map: OS Explorer Map No.302

Local facilities: Toilets, shops and pubs in Thirsk.

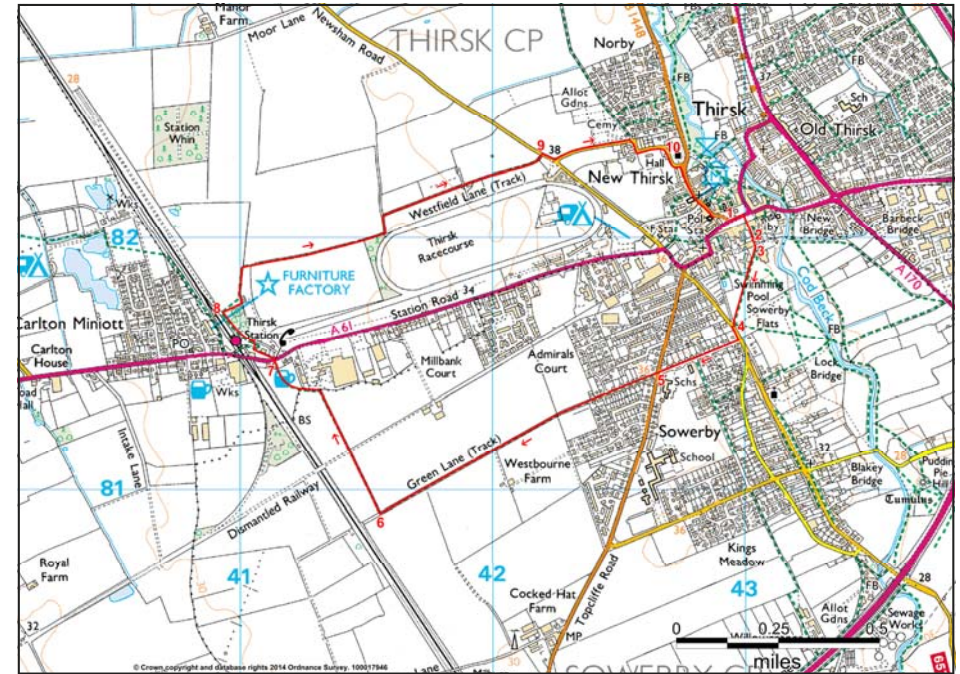
Points of interest

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.

This circular walk is produced by North Yorkshire County Council. Find more walks and rides on our website www.northyorks.gov.uk/walking. We welcome any feedback about this walk, contact details can be found on the back page.

Route description

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.
2. **Beware of traffic.** Turn left, and then cross over the road. Turn right down an alleyway and then bear right.
3. Follow the path across Sowerby Flatts, passing the bowling green and play area to your right, emerging onto Sowerby Road.
4. Turn left and cross the road before turning right 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 right through a kissing gate, along a field edge, crossing an old railway line and passing through another kissing gate to continue along the field edge. The path passes through a third kissing gate before diagonally crossing a field and emerge, through a fourth, at the Old Red House pub car park.
7. Cross over the main road into the railway station car park and turn right (before the bridge) through a gap in the fence, before bearing left along an enclosed path.
8. The path turns right, away from the railway. Follow the field boundaries before eventually emerging onto Westfield Lane, then continue to the junction with Newsham Road.



Route description continued

9. **Take care on roads.** Turn right along Newsham Road for a short distance and then turn left down Cemetery Lane. Towards the end of the lane bear right, then left, then right again, bringing St Mary's Church into view.
10. At the junction with Kirkgate, turn right and return to Thirsk town centre.

Points of interest continued

Much of the Thirsk area is low-lying but the huge medieval Parish Church St Mary's, dating to about 1430, stands on a hill above the flood plain.

Thirsk is mentioned in the Domesday book as Tresche. The name Thirsk comes from an ancient British name meaning "the town by the river or brook".