

Walking with THE WANDERER

Leavening and Burythorpe Time: 2½ hours | Distance: 4¼ miles

IS THIS WALK FOR ME?

While short, this is a walk with a few challenges. The route is undulating with one long, but not especially steep climb towards the end. There are a couple of stiles and a field where cattle graze (pasture at end of Point 5). While footpaths are reasonably well signed or obvious, there are a few sections where care is needed. Parts of the route, at Points 2 and 3, can be a little overgrown. There can also be mud, especially approaching the pasture at Point 5.

GETTING THERE

The recommended starting point is the centre of Leavening, where there's limited roadside parking near the crossroads and pub. Leavening is 15 miles from York via the A64. Turn off towards Harton, then continue through the village on Malton Lane to the T-junction with High Lane. Here, go right, continuing ahead at a crossroads to Leavening. Alternative starting points are Burythorpe and the secluded carpark at the top of Leavening Brow. If using the latter, continue through Leavening up

the hill to the carpark on the right beyond the T-junction. Turn left out of the carpark to pick up the route at Point 7. There are no viable public transport options.

WHAT TO SEE

Both Leavening and Burythorpe have a mix of old and new buildings. Burythorpe's church, on its hilltop outside the village, is a Gothic Victorian construction. On the hillside promontory to the left of the track ascending Leavening Brow is a motte-and-bailey earthwork, the site of a medieval timber castle. The track climbing

Leavening Brow has a varied flora. There are extensive views at several points on the walk, especially on the ascent from Burythorpe, but also towards the end of Point 2 and near the church.

REFRESHMENTS

The two options are the Jolly Farmers pub in Leavening and the Bay Horse in Burythorpe. The former is only open 4-11pm on weekdays (closed Tuesday) and 12.30-11pm on weekends. The Bay Horse is open 11am-11pm daily except Mondays, with food available from 12.30.

Directions

2/ Go over the stile (not the more obvious wooden barrier) partly hidden in the field corner. Walk along the edge of the wood, with a hedge to the left. Approaching the end of the wood, stay near the hedge, heading towards a farm building ahead (bales of straw nearby at the time of writing). Find the stile and go over. Turn left with the building to your right, towards a footpath sign near a food hopper. Here, turn right as signed along the field edge. At the corner, turn right. At the next corner, do not go through the gap but turn left (footpath sign obscured by a bush) along the field edge with a hedge to the right. At the next field corner, find a gate in bushes. Go through it and walk on the enclosed path to another gate. From this, join the access track to the buildings on the left, continuing ahead downhill to a road.

3/ Turn right. Now, walk on this very quiet road for about 900 metres to a T-junction. Here, turn left, but in 40 metres, opposite a telegraph pole, look for an easily missed gate on the right in a hedgerow gap.

4/ Go through the gate and follow the edge of the field near the hedge to the right, heading towards the church on the hillock. At the field corner turn left, but in a few paces, take an indistinct path heading diagonally right up the grassy bank. At the top, keep left on the field edge (church to the left). Reaching the church access road, go ahead on it downhill. Continue to houses and the main street of Burythorpe.

5/ Turn right to walk through the village, passing the Bay Horse pub on the left. At a sharp right bend, keep ahead on a road marked 'unsuitable for motors'. Soon cross a stream on a makeshift bridge beside the ford. Continue on what is now a rough track, keeping ahead where another track joins from the left. Where the track divides, keep right between hedges to a gate. Go through this and follow the right edge of the large pasture heading towards another gate.

1/ Starting from the crossroads in the centre of Leavening near the pub, take York Road (signed Howsham and York). Soon after the houses end, and just before a speed limit sign, go through a gate on the right by a public footpath sign. Walk a few paces left, then go between a hedge to the left and the railed paddocks to the right. Now continue ahead with the hedge to your left, passing through two kissing gates. Keep alongside the hedge, kinking left at one point, to reach the left edge of the wood ahead.

7/ Here, turn right downhill on the road towards Leavening (if you started from the Leavening Brow car park, turn left after the gate to return to your vehicle). Stay ahead on the road into the village to arrive back at the pub and crossroads starting point.

6/ Once through this gate, the route is obvious on a mostly enclosed track which ascends the hillside. Continue upwards, a little steeply nearing the top, to reach an open area and a gate. Go through this to a road at a T-junction.

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Walking with THE WANDERER

Poppleton, Red House and the Ouse Time: 3½ hours | Distance: 8 miles

IS THIS WALK FOR ME?

Although relatively long, this is an easy walk. There are no hills or stiles, and much of the route is on tracks or lanes with hard surfaces, making it suitable for any time of year. If the river is in flood, the route may be impassable between Red House and Poppleton.

GETTING THERE

The recommended starting point is the green in Upper Poppleton, where considerate roadside parking is available. Bus no.10 runs regularly

to Upper Poppleton - alight at The Green stop. An alternative public transport option is to take a train to Poppleton and walk 400 metres on Station Road to the start point. If driving, it is also possible to start near the river at Nether Poppleton (parking area at Direction Point 6), or close to the entrance to Red House (Direction Point 4, very limited parking spaces).

REFRESHMENTS

Upper Poppleton has two pubs. The Lord Collingwood is open daily,

but not until 4pm on Mondays to Wednesdays. The White Horse is also open daily except Monday (4pm opening on Tuesdays). The popular Poppleton Social in the Poppleton Centre has an extensive menu and is open every day, but closes at 4pm on Sundays and Mondays.

WHAT TO SEE

Despite the suburban development, Upper Poppleton retains a village feel in the area around the green. The 20-metre-high maypole was

This walk explores the countryside west of Poppleton, between the Ouse and the A59. With just a few farms and scattered houses, this is one of the quietest and least frequented areas close to the city. About a third of the route is alongside the river, with most of the rest over farmland, mainly on tracks and lanes.

erected in 1961, the fifth to have stood on the green since the first was recorded in 1830. Red House has a long history, and the chapel is open for public viewing. Slightly upriver is the waterworks lagoon, a good bird-watching site. On the riverside, a range of wildlife may be encountered. Sand martins nest on this section of the Ouse. The entire area has a mix of wildlife - reed buntings were spotted by the river, and curlew were calling and seen at Direction Point 3.

Directions

1/ Starting from Upper Poppleton, and with the Nisa store and White Horse pub behind you, take the road opposite (Hodgson Lane), keeping the maypole left. Walk on the right-hand pavement, pass the Lord Collingwood and in about 200 metres, and where the pavement ends, turn right into Westfield Lane. Continue, soon leaving the houses, on the narrow tarmac road, eventually reaching a crossroads.

2/ Go straight over, still on tarmac. Pass a telecoms mast continuing ahead. Keep going over a dip/beck, but 200 metres beyond this, fork off right on a stoned track with a wooded area to the left. In a further 700 metres, with a house/farm buildings to the right, do not take the signed footpath right, but go through the wooden gate ahead into a grass field.

3/ Keep to the field's right edge. At the corner, turn left with a fence to the right until you reach a metal gate. Go through and continue to a tarmac drive. Take this for a short distance, but where this goes left, be sure to take the earth track to the right (yellow arrow). Follow this, soon going between hedges and bending left to return to the drive. Turn right and continue on the drive for just over a kilometre to a T-junction.

4/ Turn right (not ahead through an enticing gate opposite) on the

hedged lane. Go under pylons, ignoring all turnings off. In about 800 metres, pass the Park Farm complex, soon after which the lane bends right with woodland to the left. Where the tarmac splits, keep ahead into Red House Estate on its access drive. As the drive bends right, look for a 'Permissive Footpath To River' sign on the left. Take this, soon going through a gate. Where the path forks, keep right on a raised bank near trees/bushes to the right. Continue to a path junction in a small grassy open area.

5/ Turn right, passing between gateposts with paddocks and the buildings of Red House to the right and the river to the left. (To view the water treatment works lagoon, turn left for 100 metres, then retrace your steps). Now, continue beside the river, soon passing through a gate, then with youngish trees to the right. Beyond this, the path trends slightly away from the water onto a bank with a field at the right. It then enters a slightly overgrown area to arrive at a wooden footbridge over a beck.

6/ Cross the bridge and keep going on the obvious

path, which returns closer to the river. After nearly 1,500 metres of riverside walking, reach an open grassy area surrounded by trees, at the end of which the path splits. Here, take the main path to the right, going through trees to arrive at a parking area and road.

7/ Turn right on the road. Pass a bus stop on the left (return bus to the city centre), staying with the road as it bends right. Pass the Poppleton Centre and school to the right. Keep going, soon with part of the green to the right, to reach the starting point.



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