Walking with THE WANDERER

York's Eastern Byways

Time: 2¾ hours | Distance: 5¾ miles

This route meanders through some of the lesser-known green areas on the eastern side of the city. It includes a park, wooded paths, a newish route across Kimberlow Hill, a little-used bridleway connecting Osbaldwick and Burnholme, and underappreciated paths beside Tang Hall Beck.

IS THIS WALK FOR ME?
This is an easy route. Much of it is on hard surfaces, but some of the earth paths can be muddy in winter. There is comparatively little walking beside busy roads and most road crossings are at traffic lights with pedestrian phasing. The area at the end of Outgang Road can be a little disconcerting due to debris and obstacles. Horses may also be grazing.

GETTING THERE
The recommended starting point is the entrance to Hull Road Park at the junction of Melrosegate and Alcuin Avenue. If driving, park considerately nearby. Bus no. 6 runs every 15 minutes (every 30 minutes on Sundays) from the Theatre Royal and Stonebow to the start. It would also be possible to begin the walk at other points, including Heslington Church (buses U1 and U2) and Grimston Bar Park and Ride (bus no.8).

WHAT TO SEE
The walk reveals the surprising amount of green space on this side of the city. Hull Road Park is a ribbon of green alongside the rewilded Osbaldwick Beck. The Heslington East Campus and Kimberlow Hill provide open and wooded areas with views from the hilltop. Tang Hall Beck and Heworth Holme support a good range of wildlife, as does St Nicholas Fields local nature reserve.

REFRESHMENTS
There are no pubs or cafes directly on route, but minor deviations into Heworth and Heslington will provide refreshment opportunities. Choose 2 Café in Hull Road Park is open until 2.30pm on Monday to Friday.

Directions

9/ Turn left on the road (Melrosegate) continuing to St Aelred's Church. Here, do not go over the bridge but take the path left to the cycle track. Turn right under the bridge (for a shortcut to the start point, continue over the bridge on Melrosegate). Remain on the cycle track until a blue barrier and signboard, at which turn left into St Nicholas Fields.

10/ Follow the tarmac path, going left at a seat, then right. After a play area, turn left. Pass through a blue barrier, turning right to a yellow post by a street light. Five metres beyond this, go left on a narrow earth path (green plastic fence left). Cross a plank bridge and pass a seat. Ascend steps and continue to emerge on Melrosegate directly opposite the entrance to Hull Road Park.

1/ Starting from the park entrance, keep to the right, walking alongside a short hedge bordering trees to a signboard. Keep ahead, ignoring a bridge on the right, beside a low blue fence. Stay with the fence until exiting the park at a gate beyond a play area. Turn right on the road (Tang Hall Lane), continuing for 500 metres to traffic lights.

2/ Cross over the main (Hull) road. Do not take the cycle route, but curve right for a few metres, then go left on a narrow earth path into trees. Continue on this wooded path for 750 metres, keeping ahead at crossing paths/tracks, then curving right at a wooden fence to reach a road. Cross and take the tarmac path opposite to the churchyard wall. Turn left at the wall corner, enter the churchyard, keep the building left and exit through the metal car park gate.

3/ Turn left on the road (bus stop for Heslington start). Cross at the traffic lights and enter the university campus on a pathway. After about 150 metres, look for a low marker post (YorActiveTrail) on the far (left) side of the parallel road. Follow this gravel path over grass between clumps of trees to a road and roundabout.

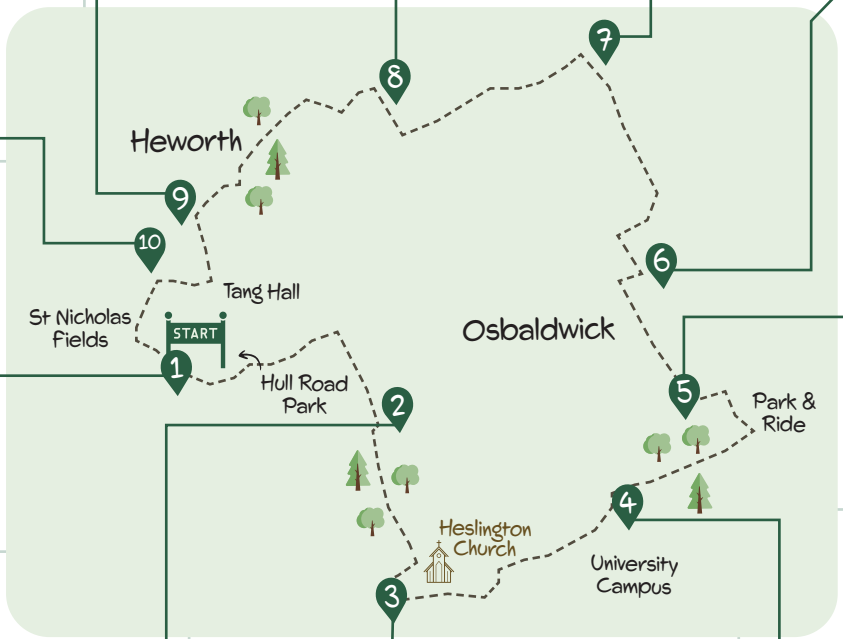
4/ Cross to the road opposite (signed medical centre). Go left with it towards new houses, before which take a gravel path right (YorActiveTrail marker). Now follow this path as it heads over grass and between new woodland. Where the gravel ends, keep ahead to reach a roadside path. Turn left, continuing ahead at the roundabout (park and ride site buses right) to traffic lights at the main (Hull) road.

5/ Go over and turn left on the far pavement. At the next junction, cross the joining road and turn right on the pavement (B & Q left). Just beyond a bus shelter, take the signed footpath left. This curves right and continues under pylons to pass several reedy areas and cross an access road. At the end, go through the gate and turn right to continue ahead (left) at the corner junction for about 100 metres to Outgang Road on the left.

6/ Follow this road, bending sharp right just beyond Brew York. Stay with it as it then bends left, after which the tarmac ends. Here, keep ahead under the power lines, on a path that may be bordered by debris, soon passing an isolated stable. Keep going under the power lines with a large field left and bushes right. At the field end, continue on a narrower enclosed path between hedges to reach a wider track at a T-junction.

7/ Turn left following the track, passing metal barriers, after which it widens and becomes tarmacked. After about 1000 metres, reach houses on the right. Ignore the first road to the right (Bramley Garth), but at the second turn right (Stray Road).

8/ About 300 metres along, just before a double bend by a bus stop, take a tarmac path left, signed Heworth Village alongside a beck. Cross a bridge, continuing with the beck now to your left. Ignore paths off to pass Hempland Allotments to reach a road. Cross and turn left over the bridge, immediately after which, go through a gap in metal railings on the right. Through, take the right-hand path, then go left at a seat to walk on a short boardwalk. Reaching a road, turn right and right again in a few metres to cross over to an electricity substation. On the far (right) side of this, turn left on a path that runs through trees for 150 metres to a gate and a road.



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