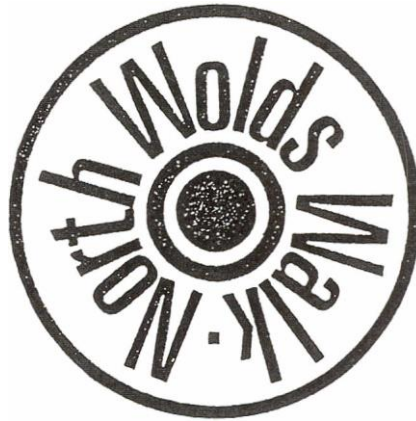


North Wolds Walk

NORTH WOLDS WALK

The North Yorkshire Wolds is an area of chalky uplands north of the Humber, reaching a height of some 800 ft. The area is bounded on the west by the Vale of York, on the north by the Vale of Pickering, on the east by the North Sea and on the south and east by the Plain of Holderness.



This 20 mile circular walk on public rights of way passes through Millington, Great Givendale, Bishop Wilton, Kirby Underdale and Thixendale. It offers a variety of contrasting scenery from the typical grassy Wolds valleys to picturesque villages and affords impressive views from high vantage points. An average time for the walk is around eight hours.

The route can be started from many places, e.g., the lay-by on the A166 at 835567 or Bishop Wilton at 798549, however for the purposes of this route description the assumption is for the route starting at 830519. From this relatively small car park in the scenic village of Millington (home of the 'Ramblers Rest') head NW up-hill on the Minster Way for 0.4 miles on the small road and cross a bigger road at 827524 to attain the track.

Continue along the track for nearly 0.6 miles and through a farm yard until you reach a gate at 823533. Go through the gate and head across the field in a north westerly direction to the corner of a small wood and next to a particularly large tree at the top of a steep descent. Follow the line of the wood down the steep hill to a gate at the bottom and cross the bridge at Whitekeld beck (822534). Continue along clear trail upwards keeping the stream on your left through fields to Great Givendale and alongside St Ethelburga's church attain and cross the road directly opposite at 812538.

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The church of St Ethelburga's on the left is worth a visit. It is in an excellent setting overlooking a small lake at the head of the dale. The church which dates from the 12th century was almost totally rebuilt in 1849 by W H Dykes using original materials.

Follow road through Great Givendale and take the right hand footpath after 330 yards.

Take path through the gate and leftwards to another gate before following the Minster way along the hillside next to wire fences and after some zig-zags following obvious paths across top of field before descending to road at 799547. Take the road right to the centre of Bishop Wilton turning right and NEE opposite the Fleece Inn (797551).

Bishop Wilton is a picturesque village, spaciouly developed on either side of the stream. The church of St Edith's is worth visiting. It has a fine Norman south doorway which is ornamented with carving of animals and faces. The church was restored in 1858 - 9 when much of the old stone work was retained.

Here the route diverges from the Minster Way. Follow the road for approx. 330 yards and then right and easterly as the road turns sharply left go through the gate and cross fields steeply up to gates at the top of the field at 806553. Follow the path across the top of the hillside (Look out for the wishing tree before the bench) and through a gate at 808556 before heading due north across field to field corner.

Turn SSW through gate (The Wolds 13 miler turns right up the hill here) and after some 30 yards northerly along the path and fence line until the small lane and turn rightwards up through Worsendale to reach the A166 after 400 yards.

Cross the A166 and proceed northwards along a track through gates and after half a mile descending into Kirkby Underdale. Turn right along the road when you reach it and just after the church of All Saints (808586); All Saints is an interesting church, in a superb wooded setting, dating back to the 11th century. It was restored by G E Street in 1871. Remains of the windows of the earlier structure can be seen above the arches of the north aisle. Along the path at the bottom of the grave yard and through the gate heading NE across 2 streams and northwards to the road where you should turn left and after 30 yards right northwards along the track towards Woodley farm. Do not continue to Woodley farm but follow path through

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the gates and then right (807596) and eastward up a steep hill. When you reach the road at the top of the hill turn left and north for about 600 yards to retain the path at 811607 heading NEE passing Thixendale Grange which is on your left at which point turn right through the gate and continue downwards through the valley along the path through some gates for approximately 1.25 miles to Thixendale.

Turn right at the road for approx 880 yards through the village past the church of St Mary, built in 1870 by G E Street (Inside the style is early 14th century), note the 'Cross Keys' on your left for refreshments when open, to a t-junction after a short (50 yard) incline. Turn right at the road (845609) and head SSW along the road for nearly 990 yards at which point you can retain the Wolds Way path (841603) and bear SSE along the valley bottom into Wayrham Dale going through gates to a path and valley junction crossing point at 845589 where you will see some interesting land art. Continue south along the Wolds Way and after nearly 440 yards where the valley and path branches 845586 take the right hand fork and continue SSW along the valley bottom and steadily gain height through the woods of the Forestry Commission plantation, bearing leftwards and SW up through the woods and valley to the A166.

Cross the A166 and down into the picnic area at 835567. Continue past lay-by and Turn right along minor road in a NEE direction and cross a road at 841569 to continue onwards along road until a t-junction is reached at 856568 whereby the route is re-joined as a track south westerly into the wooded 'Great Plantation' area.

Follow track through wood and after a few hundred yards at track/ path junction descend rightwards along the path to a gate and into pasture alongside wood to another gate and the woods again. Along path and where path and track meet leftwards stay on the path/ track through the valley bottom through gates for about a mile until a road is met at 850544.

Cross the road and re-attain the path to ascend steeply and through the gate at the top. Sign posted the Wolds way and continue South over the hill and descend steeply into valley bottom. From there follow path directly opposite and southerly ascend another steep hill to and through a gate at the top. Along the top of the hill following the fence line and path through another gate and descend southerly to valley bottom. Cross the bottom of the valley and steeply up the opposite hillside, through a gate half way up the hill, continue leftwards,

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ignoring the right hand option to top of hill, SSE and along the hill top to pass Warren farm at 840519 and shortly after the farm along the hedge row, through a gate following the Minster Way once again and slightly north of west, down a steep descent along a track.

Towards the bottom of the valley follow the Minster Way sign to the left, off the track where it bends sharply rightwards, slightly south of west, across a farm track, and down to the valley bottom over boards and over a stile in the hedge, along a stream and ascend into Millington along path/ track. Meet road at 831519, turn left onto the road and follow it until there is a right turn after the Ramblers Rest and Gate Inn to return to the Village hall whence registration was taken. Congratulations on finishing the North Wolds Walk!

OS Maps: Sheet 106 1:50 000 Market Weighton; Sheet 100 1:50 000 Malton & Pickering

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Badge Price: £2.0 + SAE

(Cheques , PO's to be made payable to NWW Division Rangers.

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(Any of the villages on route may be used as the start point)