



## Ted's walk 1

A 4 mile flat circular country walk via South Kilvington

### Introduction

This is a circular field walk from Thirsk Town Centre to South Kilvington and back. It starts from Marage Long Stay car park, national grid reference 429823 (nearby postcode for satnav YO7 1AA).

The distance is 3.7 miles (5.9km). Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 302, Northallerton & Thirsk, covers the walk but a map is included here.

The walk grade is Easy – it is flat with a few stiles. Allow up to 2 hours from start to finish.

### The walk

Leave the car park by the kissing gate in the North East corner by the Cod Beck (river) and walk through the small picnic site to the metal footbridge over the Beck.

Cross over the bridge and in a few yards turn sharp left to go through a gate into the playing field. Turn right and head for a kissing gate at the far edge of the field.

Go diagonally left towards another kissing gate about 200 metres away close to the Cod Beck again. Go up



*Path by Whitelass Beck*



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to a path turning right (leaving the weir on your left), walk through some woodland for about 100 metres and turn right down a slight bank. (If you get to a kissing gate you have gone too far).



## Whitelass Beck

**The path then meanders** through some more woodland, crossing and recrossing the Whitelass Beck several times for about 200 metres before climbing slightly up to the busy Stockton Road.

Cross over the road with care, go right, and turn sharp left after a few metres down a farm track over the original road bridge crossing the beck with a derelict bungalow on your right.

## To South Kilvington

**Walk on into some more woodland** with the beck close on your right, winding through a surprising stand of tall bamboo to the next field gate. Keep close to the beck on your right aiming for a stile and footbridge about 300 metres across the field in the far right corner (the field may have horses in it). Cross over the beck and go left to follow the field edge on your left through three fields going north, parallel to the bypass,

for about 1 km till you reach a road on the outskirts of South Kilvington. Turn left into the village till you pass St Wilfrid's Church about 100 metres on your right.

If you have time it is worth going into the church (with clean footwear!). It is always open and has just been fully restored. During the restoration a fragment of an Anglo-Saxon cross headpiece fell out of the south wall. This has taken the history of the church back from being originally a 12<sup>th</sup> century Norman church to the 10<sup>th</sup> century. The cross fragment can now be seen inside in an alcove in the north wall of the chancel. A former rector, Revd. Wm. Towler Kingsley who lived to 101 yrs old (1815 - 1916), carved much of the wooden furniture, was friendly with both Ruskin and Turner and had many other skills – artist, botanist, pioneer photographer and maker of scientific instruments. An explanatory leaflet is available for a donation. The porch is also a good shelter for refreshments and a rest.





Turn right then cross over the main road and pass the Old Oak Tree pub, also good for light refreshments or a lunch stop.

### Back into the countryside

About 50 metres further on the left

is a lane signposted 'Mill Lane' which goes down and right to the renovated Kilmington Mill (not open to the public). Cross the footbridge over the mill race and bear right to cross a field which can be boggy in winter and in summer shoulder high in vegetation.

This brings you to a footbridge over the Cod Beck and a gate into a field which often has cattle in it. About 100 metres directly across the field you will see a gate into a small woodland by the main Thirsk to Northallerton Road (B1448). Go through the gate and small wood to cross diagonally right over this often busy road, then through a farm gate (with an old farm tanker trailer behind it) into a field.

Go up a slightly rising farm track into another field – on the Ordnance Survey map Underwood Plantation is shown on your left but this was felled in 2014. At the next open field boundary is a crossroads of footpaths with distant views of the Dales ahead and the Hambleton Hills behind you.

### **Aim for St. Mary's Church**

**At this crossroads** turn left heading south back to Thirsk alongside a field hedge on your left. The tower of St. Mary's Church comes into view soon front left. Halfway through a second field the path goes left through a kissing gate and diagonally across the field. You are looking for a footbridge in the hedge on the far side of the field where there are several large trees. The footbridge is by the third large tree from the left – the field can be boggy and often has livestock in it. Once across the footbridge follow the footpath diagonally across a large field to a hedge corner. Bear right through the hedge keeping it on your left. Just before the end of the field,



go diagonally right and at the end of the hedge you will see a farm track going between two hedges towards houses and the church. Carry on past the houses with allotments and then the cemetery on your right till you arrive at Cemetery Lane.

This lane goes left to, and around, the Church reaching the Northallerton Road again. Cross the road, go left and then right into the Marage car park where you will be back at your starting point.

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