

COPMANTHORPE Golden Jubilee Walks

5 Country Walks to Celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

The walks around Copmanthorpe vary in distance from 4 to 11 miles and offer easy walking across flat countryside. All walks start and finish at the Royal Oak Pub on Main Street. The No 13 bus known as 'First Bus' comes into the village from York city centre and stops near the Royal Oak pub. It runs from 7am to 6pm every half hour.



Before attempting any of the walks you should equip yourself with a suitable map, as the maps accompanying these walking instructions are intended only as a guide. You should have a map of at least 1:50000 scale, such as the Ordnance Survey Landranger, but better still is the Ordnance Survey Explorer Map (sheet 290) at a scale of 1:25000. You should also ensure that you are properly attired, with suitable footwear, and waterproof clothing if there is a threat of rain.

This guide has been compiled and published by members of the Copmanthorpe Parish Council with the support of the City of York Council's Public Rights of Way Unit and the Countryside Agency. Since coming into being in April 1996 the City of York Council have brought about significant improvements to the rights of way network around York, with many gates, stiles and bridges having been replaced and, with the cooperation of farmers and landowners, paths kept clear of obstructions.

If you would like further information about the rights of way around York, including details of other walk packs, contact the Public Rights of Way Unit on 01904 551374 or visit the City of York Website at www.york.gov.uk.

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Produced by
Copmanthorpe Parish Council

see
amendments
on last page

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A brief history of Copmanthorpe

Mentioned in the Domesday Book, the village origins go back over a thousand years. The name Copmanthorpe is of Viking origin meaning "merchant's settlement". A Roman road that linked York with Tadcaster can be traced through the village along Colton Lane and Top Lane.



Around the time that St. Giles Church was built in 1180, the Order of the Knights Templars founded a settlement at the east end of the village, known as Temple Copmanthorpe. The large quantity of fine stone in the boundary walls along Main Street and Back Lane and in some farm buildings is thought to be from the original Preceptory buildings. Names survive in that part of the village such as Temple Lane, Temple Garth, Temple Hill and Temple Field.

Over the medieval period the settlement developed into an agricultural community and from this period names still survive, e.g. York Field, West Field and Temple Field. The area between the two original village streets, Main Street and Back Lane, was divided up into long thin burgage plots and later expanded west across Back Lane, being worked as crofts and occupied by tenants. Many of the ancient field boundaries have survived. The last remaining croft boundaries with their hedgerows are on the corner of Back Lane and Low Westfield Road. Up until 1839 when the railway opened, the village remained a collection of farms and crofts with a population of about 300 people.

The parish church of St. Giles dates from the late Norman period, and retains a number of original features. It was extended to include its own graveyard in 1750. The brick boundary wall survives today though its iron railings were removed in 1940 and were never replaced. Nearby, the agricultural origins of the village are evident through the farmhouses and cottages.

The centre of our village is the oldest part, around the Norman Church, Station Road and the two small village greens in Low Green and Main Street. It is here that most of the village facilities are located, including a number of shops, post office, library, doctors' surgeries, pub and food outlets. Adjacent to this area is the Primary School and the Recreation Centre, both of which have playing fields that represent the only sizeable open areas left within the village.

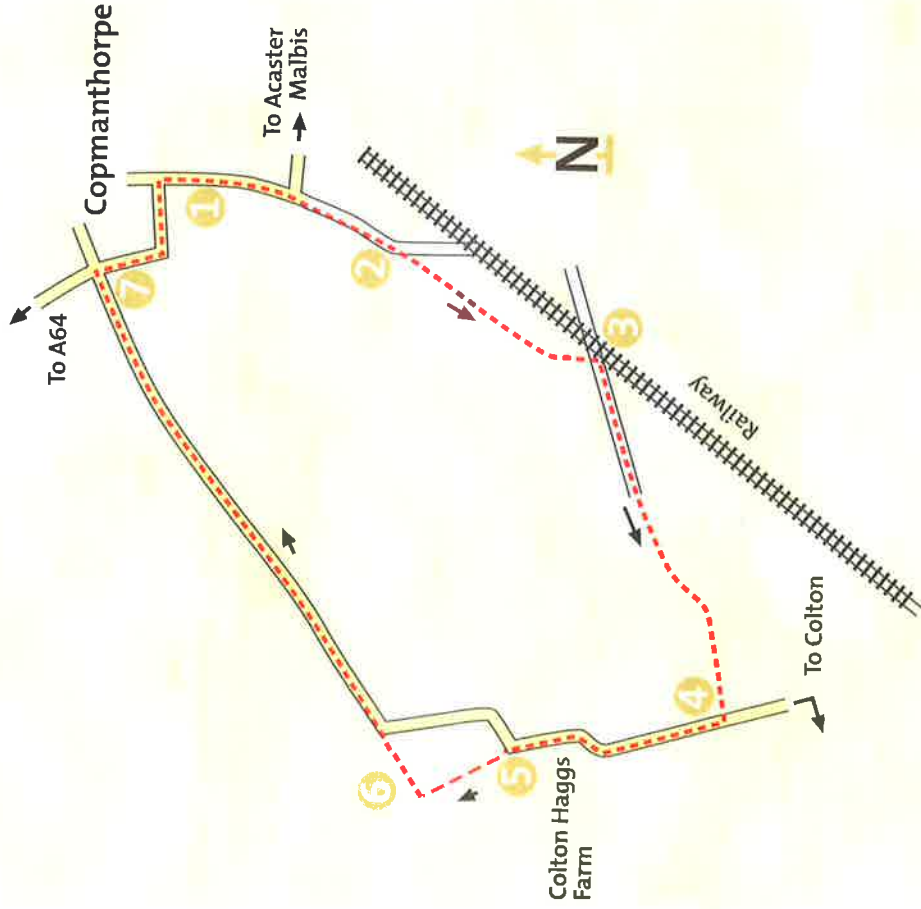


Although Copmanthorpe today possesses just one building of medieval origin in its modest parish church together with a small number of buildings from the 18th and 19th centuries, most of which are along Main Street, it has retained much of its character and charm. This is largely due to the creation of the Conservation Area which includes some Listed Buildings. Unfortunately, prior to the Conservation Area designation, some fine old buildings were demolished.



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Walk 1 – Copmanthorpe to Haggis Farm
About 4 miles – Allow 2hrs

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Walk 1 – Copmanthorpe to Hags Farm

About 4 miles – Allow 2hrs

- 1 Starting at the Royal Oak walk past the Post Office on your right to the junction with Station Rd. The road then becomes Moor Lane, and leads to the burial ground on your right.
- 2 Look for the signpost indicating a Public Footpath and follow this across the field to the corner of a hedgerow where there is a wooden foot bridge. Cross this and keep on following the path to come out in a lane where to the left is a railway level crossing which, if you crossed it, would take you back to Copmanthorpe.
- 3 Turn right and walk along the track for 500yds. This will lead to a field edge path and another footbridge. Continue ahead, across the field to the far left hand corner, until you reach a road. This is Hagg Lane.
- 4 Turn right along this road passing Hags Farm on your left.
- 5 About 150yds past the farm the road bends to the right. Here you should follow the bridleway straight ahead that crosses a field to reach a footbridge.
- 6 Turn right before the foot bridge on to the Ebor Way. In around 250 yards you will re-join the metalled road to Copmanthorpe that you left a little earlier. This is Colton Lane and is the route of the Roman road from York to Tadcaster. After about 1 mile you will reach a cross roads with Manor Heath in Copmanthorpe.
- 7 Turn right and follow Manor Heath round the left hand bend into School Lane. This will bring you back to the centre of Copmanthorpe with the Royal Oak to your right.

4 You are now at Moor End, Acaster Malbis. Follow the road round to the left through 3 bends and at the second footpath sign, on your left, follow this through the caravan park to emerge on Hauling Lane behind the Ship Inn. Cross the road, passing the Ship Inn on your left to a waymarked path alongside the river. Follow this so far as it goes by the river and then turning right to join Mill Lane in Acaster Malbis. Turn left and walk along Mill Lane around the right hand bend, passing Manor Country House on your left and Manor Farm on your right to almost reach Ivy Cottage.

5 Just before Ivy Cottage follow the yellow waymark to the left down the access road to houses, over the stile on the left and on the pathway with the picturesque lake on your right. Arriving at a waymarked stile with a tiny pond beyond continue in a straight line with the hedge on your left to reach the facing waymarked stile; cross this field, still in the straight line, to another waymarked stile; over this and still in a straight line aim for the gap in the hedge with Stub Wood beyond on the very clear pathway. Enter the wood through the waymarked stile and proceed on the clear pathway swinging right through the wood to leave via a stile/gateway on the concreted track of Acaster Airfield. Turning left, follow the concreted track for about 1/2 mile steadily swinging round to the right. You are now at the SW end of the Airfield and there are few if any signs to indicate the way forward. Look to your left to see Hales Hill Farm through the trees, take the farm access road almost going back on yourself; Go down this for about 50 yards to arrive at a hedge, the other side of which is the footpath you must follow.

6 Follow this path with the hedge on your right to the corner at the top right of the field. Follow the track for 30 yards back to the perimeter track of the Airfield, and go left proceeding for about 400 yards 'till you cross the minor road to pick up the access road to Batridding Farm. Skirt to the left of the large barn and follow the track as it swings right until you reach a side track going left towards the farmhouse. Go down this and then left at the farmhouse to the double gates beyond, through these and into a large field with no signs visible. Take a line parallel with the hedge to the right but about 60-70 yards from it and head for the far hedge. Keep a good look out for a yellow waymark on a footbridge that will appear soon. Cross the bridge and follow the pathway with the hedge on your left. Turn right at the end for about 20 yards to the gap in the hedge, through this and turn right for a short distance to cross the ditch and then turn left alongside the ditch and head in a straight line to the minor road which leads into Appleton Roebuck.

7 At the village green you will see the Shoulder of Mutton public house - have a break and a drink here if you want - go down the left hand side of the pub into the car park, cross diagonally to the tennis pavilion and you will see a waymarked stile beyond. Turn right, with the edge of a small plantation on your left for 30/40 yds, turn left at the corner and leave the field over the stile to telegraph poles

some 100 yards ahead. Follow the farm track and the line of telegraph poles, one of which is waymarked, 'till you get to the far end of the plantation on your right. Turn right alongside the plantation for 100 yards to the corner where you turn left alongside the ditch for 1/2 mile 'till you get almost to Woolas Hall Farm.

8 Look across left and in the corner of the field you should spot a yellow waymark with a plank over the ditch and then a stile leading to a very muddy area. Here turn right on to the cart track and follow it away from the farm roughly parallel with the ditch on your right for about 1/2 mile 'till you come to a hedge. In the right hand corner you should spot a yellow waymark with a new metal bridge crossing the ditch. You should now be able to see Copmanthorpe Grange ahead of you. Follow the path keeping parallel with the ditch on your right for about 500 yards. When you are about 100 yards from the hedge at the end of the field you will see a yellow waymark indicating a left turn - follow this and pick up the line of the new barbed wire fence for about 400 yards heading towards the corner of Copmanthorpe Wood with Copmanthorpe Grange now to your direct right. Follow the path with Copmanthorpe Wood on your right.

9 At the north west corner of the wood turn right, still keeping the wood to your right. This will lead into an enclosed cart track which continues beyond the wood and soon turns left to join, after some distance, the metallised Moor Lane at a bend in it. Continue ahead along Moor Lane, heading for Copmanthorpe. You now have the choice of two ways back to the village - the scenic route or the road way, they are equi-distant. To take the scenic route, turn left down the track 200 yards after joining Moor Lane and head for the level crossing.

10 Be careful crossing the railway here, this is the same fast stretch of track you crossed at the start of the walk. Once across, turn right onto the clear path heading towards a hedge with a bridge over the ditch and then follow the path initially with the hedge on your right and then across an open field to arrive in Moor Lane near the Burial Ground. Follow Moor Lane back to Main Street and the Royal Oak where you have earned another drink.

The alternative route before the railway crossing is to continue on Moor Lane and follow it swinging round right with the railway on your left 'till you reach the junction with Temple Lane. Turn left here, over the railway bridge, along Station Road and right into Main Street where you then arrive at the Royal Oak having duly earned your drink.

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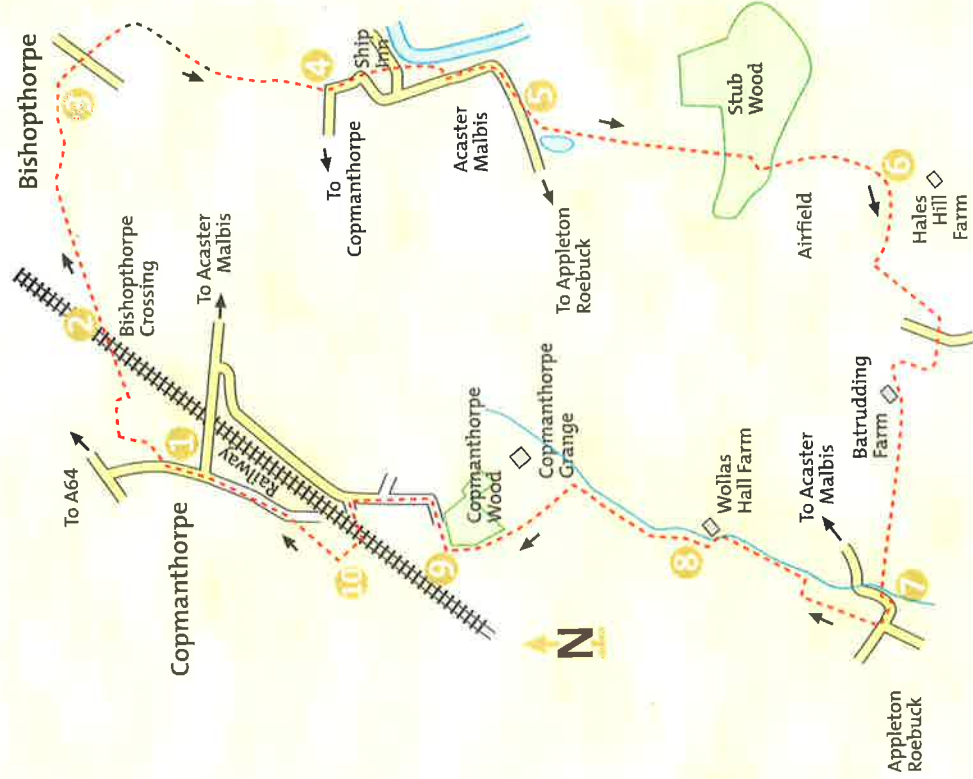
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Walk 2 – Copmanthorpe, Bishopthorpe, Acaster Malbis and Appleton Roebuck Circular About 11 miles – allow 6-6 1/2 hours

- Starting at the Royal Oak, walk down Church Lane, to the left of the pub, into Low Green and pass the schools on your right. Follow the track round to the right which then becomes a 'green' lane called Yorkfield Lane - this is part of the Ebor Way. Follow this to Farmers Way and go across to Loriners Drive, then crossing Farmers Way again before going into Ploughmans Close towards the start of a new housing estate. Take a right turn here along a track towards the railway lines and the level crossing, known as Bishopthorpe Crossing. This is the East Coast Main Line which carries trains at over 100mph, so be very careful before crossing - watch the red/green signals and close the gates.
- With the hedge on your right proceed in a straight line for about 500 yards 'till you see a yellow waymark indicating a left turn for about 20 yards to cross the ditch. You can then see a yellow waymark on a telegraph pole and the path is clearly visible in a straight line towards the trees. You should then reach an information board with details of a local Conservation Walk. To continue the main walk from this point turn right and proceed to the corner of the field, here turn left and walk across the bottom of the garden area of the house which is at the end of the metalled Copmanthorpe Lane. Walk on this quiet road for about a 1/2 mile to reach Appleton Court, Bishopthorpe where there is a metal signpost indicating the York-Selby Cycle Route.
- Turn right on this route and through the houses, under the old railway bridge and along the track with garden nurseries to your right for about 200 yards after the bridge. Watch for a yellow waymark on a tree on your right. This is where you leave the cycleway. Follow the clear pathway along the field edge with a wooded area to your right. After the wood the path crosses an open field to the first of three stiles. Follow this path through the fields, with the dike on your right. At the third stile, near a blue gate, continue with the dike still on your right for about 150 yards 'till you see a footbridge which you cross and head for the footpath sign some 100 yards ahead near the road.



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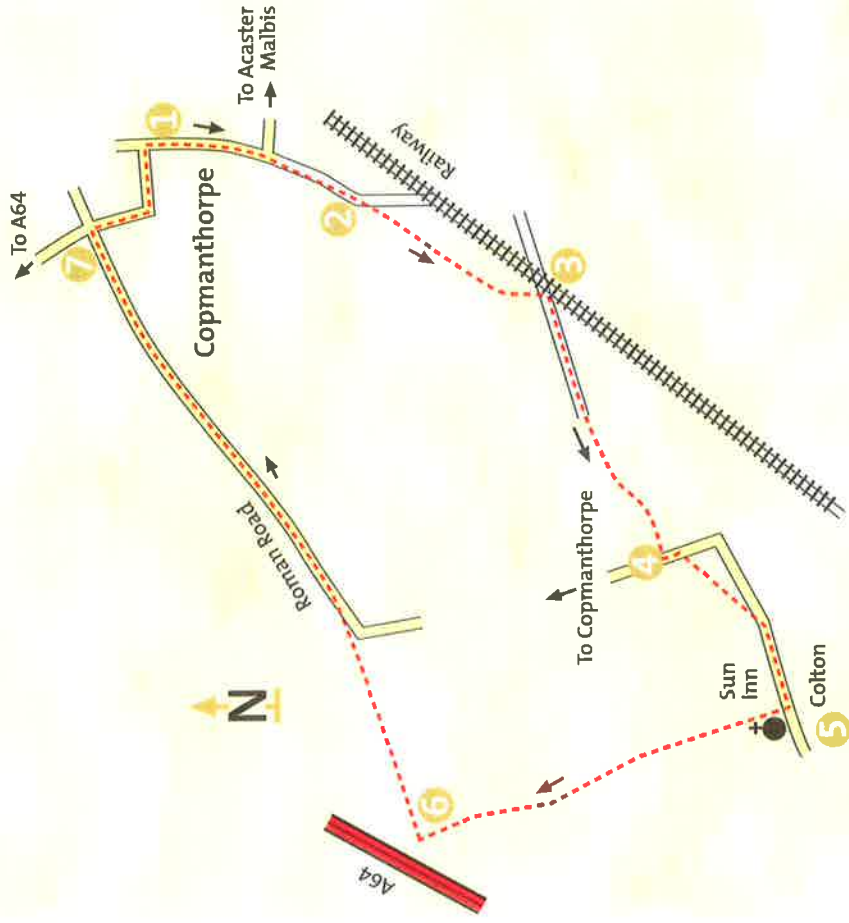
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Walk 3 – Copmanthorpe to Colton and return via Ebor Way About 5 miles – allow 2-2½ hours

- 1 Starting at the Royal Oak walk south down Main Street into Moor Lane until reaching the burial ground on the right hand side.
- 2 Look for the signpost indicating a Public Footpath and follow this across the field to the corner of a hedgerow where there is a wooden foot bridge. Cross this and keep on following the path to come out in a lane where to the left is a railway level crossing which, if you crossed it, would take you back to Copmanthorpe.
- 3 Turn right and walk along the track for 500yds. This will lead to a field edge path and another large open field. Continue ahead, across the field to the far left hand corner, until you reach a road. This is Hagg Lane.
- 4 Cross Hagg Lane (you can see a large detached house slightly right of the footpath sign). With the hedge on your left follow the path for about 150 yards 'till the end of the hedge and you can now see clearly the houses of Colton. Cross the field diagonally towards the far right hand corner (there is little indication of the route in this area). You are now entering Colton. Turn right onto the metalled road and walk up past the Sun Inn, slightly uphill to the Church on your right hand side.
- 5 There is a footpath sign to the right, near the church. Climb over the stile and keep in a straight line over a succession of marked stiles and the field marked "path closed" 'till you can see the buildings at Colton Lane End and the A64 beyond. In the last field before the buildings you must walk towards the telegraph pole at the far left hand corner of the field. (The signs are not very clear around here). You are then on the Ebor Way which runs east-west.
- 6 Turn right here to go east through the fields for $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to join the narrow metalled Colton Lane. After another 1 mile you will reach a cross roads with Manor Heath in Copmanthorpe.
- 7 Turn right and follow Manor Heath round the left hand bend into School Lane. This will bring you back to the centre of Copmanthorpe with the Royal Oak to your right.

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Walk 3 – Copmanthorpe to Colton and return via Ebor Way
About 5 miles – allow 2-2½ hours

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Walk 4 – Copmanthorpe to Bishopthorpe and Acaster Malbis and return About 5 miles – allow 2-2½ hours

Starting at the Royal Oak, walk down Church Lane, to the left of the pub, into Low Green and pass the schools on your right. Follow the track round to the right which then becomes a 'green' lane called Yorkfield Lane - this is part of the Ebor Way. Follow this to Farmers Way and go across to Loriners Drive, then crossing Farmers Way again before going into Ploughmans Close towards the start of a new housing estate. Take a right turn here along a track towards the railway lines and the level crossing, known as Bishopthorpe Crossing. This is the East Coast Main Line which carries trains at over 100mph, so be very careful before crossing - watch the red/green signals and close the gates.

With the hedge on your right proceed in a straight line for about 500 yards 'till you see a yellow waymark indicating a left turn for about 20 yards to cross the ditch. You can then see a yellow waymark on a telegraph pole and the path is clearly visible in a straight line towards the trees. You should then reach an information board with details of a local Conservation Walk. This provides an additional circuit and is worth exploring separately or as part of this walk. To continue the main walk from this point turn right and proceed to the corner of the field (where you will see more details of the Conservation Walk and another route to explore), here turn left and proceed across the bottom of the garden area of the house which is at the end of the metalled Copmanthorpe Lane. Walk on this quiet road for about a ½ mile 'till you get to Appleton Court, Bishopthorpe, where there is a metal signpost indicating the York-Selby Cycle Route.

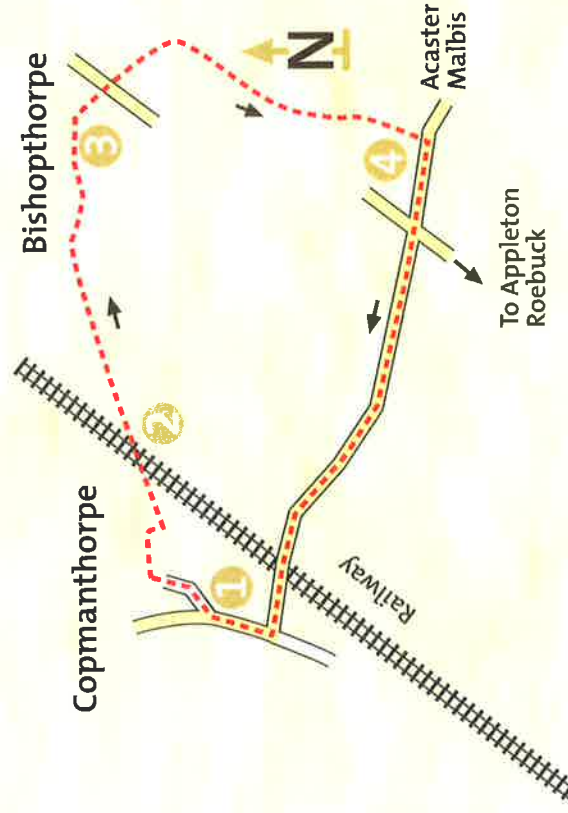
Turn right on this route and through the houses, under the old railway bridge and along the track with garden nurseries to your right for about 200 yards after the bridge. Watch for a yellow waymark on a tree on your right. This is where you leave the cycleway. Follow the clear pathway along the field edge with a wooded area to your right. After the wood the path crosses an open field to the first of three stiles. Follow this path through the fields, with the dike on your right. At the third stile, near a blue gate, continue with the dike still on your right for

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about 150 yards 'till you see a footbridge which you cross and head for the footpath sign some 100 yards ahead near the road. You are now at Moor End, Acaster Malbis.

It is now some two miles by road back to Copmanthorpe. Turning right, walk to the cross roads, straight across and up Temple Lane on a fairly busy road, narrow in parts and without a footpath for stretches. Be careful for the whole route from Acaster Malbis. Continue along Temple Lane, over the railway bridge and along Station Road to reach Main Street. Turn right along Main Street to return to the Royal Oak.



Walk 4 – Copmanthorpe to Bishopthorpe and Acaster Malbis and return
About 5 miles – allow 2-2½ hours

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Walk 5 – A Conservation walk between Copmanthorpe and Bishopthorpe around Bond Hill Ash Farm About 3 miles – a leisurely stroll of 2 hours

What is a Conservation Walk? MAFF (now DEFRA) operate a number of grant schemes which offer payments to farmers and other land managers for work to enhance and conserve English landscapes, their wildlife and history and to help people enjoy them. Conservation Walks are the new access opportunities created under these schemes and they give the public the chance to explore an area of interest which otherwise they would not access. This walk is best enjoyed during Spring and Summer and the access agreement will remain until September 2008. For more information visit the DEFRA website at www.countrywalks.org.uk

1 From the Royal Oak, walk down Church Lane, to the left of the pub, into Low Green and pass the schools on your right. Follow the track round to the right which then becomes a 'green' lane called Yorkfield Lane - this is part of the Ebor Way. Follow this to Farmers Way and go across to Loriners Drive, then crossing Farmers Way again before going into Ploughmans Close towards the start of a new housing estate. Take a right turn here along a track towards the railway lines and the level crossing, known as Bishopthorpe Crossing. This is the East Coast Main Line which carries trains at over 100mph, so be very careful before crossing - watch the red/green signals and close the gates.

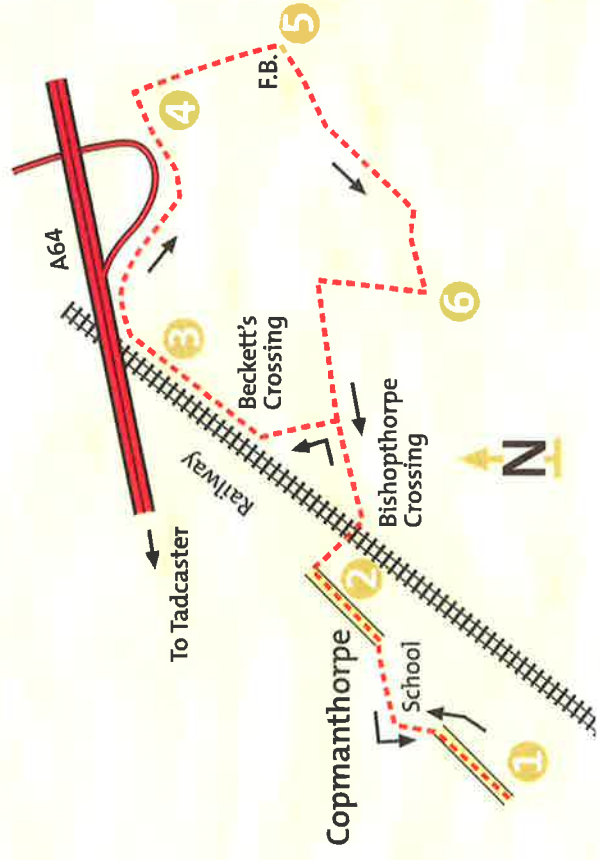
2 Having crossed over pick up the footpath with the hedge on your right hand side. About 300 yards from the railway crossing you come to a hedge going to the left. Look for the Conservation Walk sign just beyond this hedge and follow as indicated up towards the railway line with this hedge to your left. At the stile and gate which is near Becketts Crossing (do not attempt to cross the railway here under any circumstances) turn right to walk parallel with the railway lines 'till you reach the railway tunnel beneath the A64.

3 Turn right here and follow the sign with the hedge on your right, you will see the A64 up above to your left. You will notice a wetland meadow with bullrushes to your right at a lower level than the remainder of the field. A little further down there is a nice sized pond with a tiny island. This area is rich in bird life and wild flowers - the best time to visit is Spring and Summer. Continue with the A64 and the slip road above left 'till you reach a large water tank where you take a brief right and then immediately left as indicated. Proceed in a straight line effectively walking away from the road towards the top end of a small wood.

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- 4 When you reach the wood you have the choice of the path in the wood or the path on the outside of the wood - they run parallel. Continue with the wood to your left 'till you reach a Conservation Walk sign with another one 20 yards beyond near a wooden footbridge.
- 5 This is a point near the end of Copmanthorpe Lane in Bishopthorpe which you can see through the trees. Follow the walk around to the right keeping the dyke on your left 'till you reach a stone bridge. (There is no sign).
- 6 Here you turn right and with the hedge on your left you head for the line of telegraph poles arriving at one with a yellow waymark upon it. Turn left here and cross the (dry) dyke picking up the main footpath which, after about 300 yards, brings you back to the hedge where you earlier turned off up towards the railway line. Follow the main track back to the railway crossing and into Copmanthorpe. Retrace your steps along Ploughmans Close, Loriners Drive and along Yorkfield Lane passing the school into Low Green. Turn right by the Co-op shop and the Royal Oak is on your left.



Walk 5 – A Conservation walk between Copmanthorpe and Bishopthorpe around Bond Hill Ash Farm
About 3 miles – a leisurely stroll of 2 hours



ADMENDMENTS TO WALKS

Walk 4

The 'Local Conservation Walk' referred to in this publication is no longer in existence.

This does not affect the route.

Walk 5

This walk is not possible due to the grant for the Conservation Walks coming to an end.

Please keep to the signed public footpaths only.

If you require further advice please contact the City of York Council's Public Rights of Way Team (01904) 551440

