

BISHOPTHORPE'S ancient history is reflected within its name. "Thorpe" indicates that the village is of Danish origin.

The monks of the Priory of St. Andrew in York built the first church here by the river and dedicated it to their saint. The village became known as Thorpe St. Andrew.

The present name of Bishopthorpe evolved after 1226 when Archbishop de Grey bought land from the Abbot of Kirkstall Abbey. In 1241 he began building a chapel and manor house.

From then, with the exception of Cromwell's time, the Palace at Bishopthorpe has been the residence for the Archbishops of York down to the present day.

Many of the Archbishops who lived here are remembered in our street names.

The early village had two rows of houses flanking a track and ditch leading to the River Ouse. Between these rows of houses was a green space, later incorporated into front gardens. Examples of medieval tofts or garths behind these houses can still be seen as long gardens.

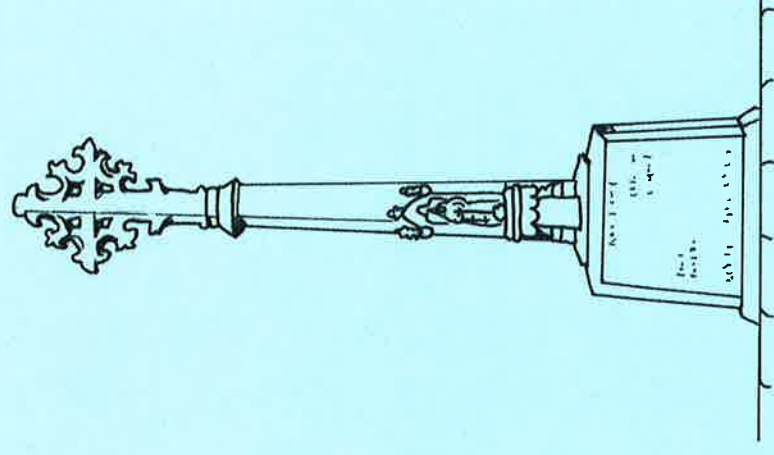
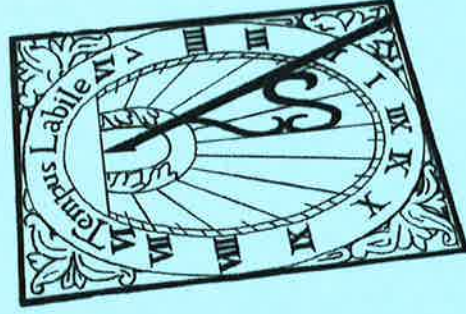
Until the 20th century, most villagers worked in farming or market gardening.

We hope you will enjoy this walk which is about 2½ miles (4Km) in length. It can be combined with our previous trail 'A Walk Through Time in Bishopthorpe' to give a longer walk.

Bishopthorpe is 3 miles south of York and can be reached by First Bus services and by Cycle Route 65, York to Selby, from York City centre.

Facilities include a Post Office, pharmacy, medical practice, dentist, library and shops.

All three public houses provide refreshments.



A Second Walk Through Time in Bishopthorpe

Bishopthorpe
Local History Group

This leaflet was produced in 2011 by:
Bishopthorpe Local History Group
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Email: historygroup@bishopthorpe.net

Visit our web pages on the village
Community website at:
www.bishopthorpe.net/mt/history

1 Bishopthorpe Palace.

A building for the Archbishops of York has stood here since 1241. In the 1760s Archbishop Drummond employed Thomas Atkinson of York to carry out much work on the building including the 'Gothick' frontage.

2 The Gateway was built by Thomas Atkinson in 1763-65.

3 The Stable Block has a frontage in the 'Palladian' style and was built by Peter Atkinson in 1765.

4 The Gardener's House was built for the head gardener at the Palace. A team of men worked with him to maintain the landscaped garden and produce fruit, vegetables and flowers for the Palace.

5 The Walled Garden once stretched as far as the gardener's house. It had rows of greenhouses and the walls gave shelter to fruit trees and early vegetables for the Palace. The gardens are now looked after by Brunswick Organic Nursery, Bishopthorpe.

6 The Landscaped Garden of 15 acres was fashionably landscaped c1700. These 'Pleasure Grounds' contained tree-lined walks, new types of trees and shrubs and an ornamental lake with a tower beside it built like a ruin.

7 York Crematorium. Opened in 1962.

8 Middlethorpe Hall was built for Thomas Barlow in 1698. It passed to the Wilkinson family in 1852. After being used as a house, school and night club it became a hotel in 1980, and is now part of the National Trust.

9 Middlethorpe Farm. The farm and cottages built here belonged to Middlethorpe Hall. The farm was run as a stud farm in the 1880s.

10 Middlethorpe Manor. Built about 1700.

11 Green Lane. This old trackway gave access to the farm lands on the Knavesmire.

12 The Racecourse. Horse racing came to the Knavesmire in 1731. York is now one of the leading horse racing venues in the country.

13 Knavesmire Wood. Shown on maps from 1785. It may have been planted for Archbishop Drummond in the 1760s or by a member of the Barlow family of Middlethorpe Hall.

14 Ascend the steps or turn right here to reach Sim Balk Lane. This road possibly marks a medieval track between land belonging to two different owners.

15 Middlethorpe Grange. At one time a mixed farm with arable land and livestock. Changing times have seen the phasing out of animals and the restructuring of farm buildings for commercial use.

16 The Garth. Built by York architect Walter Brierley for Major Watson in 1908. Major Watson died at Passchendaele in World War 1. His wife and children are buried in Bishopthorpe churchyard. The crosses marking their graves have upward sloping arms.

17 St. Andrew's Church built in 1899. The new Church Hall was dedicated by Archbishop Habgood in 1994. The fine war memorial was designed by Walter Brierley who is buried in the church yard.

