

Dunnington strolls

*Short walks in and around the villages of
Dunnington, Holtby and Murton*

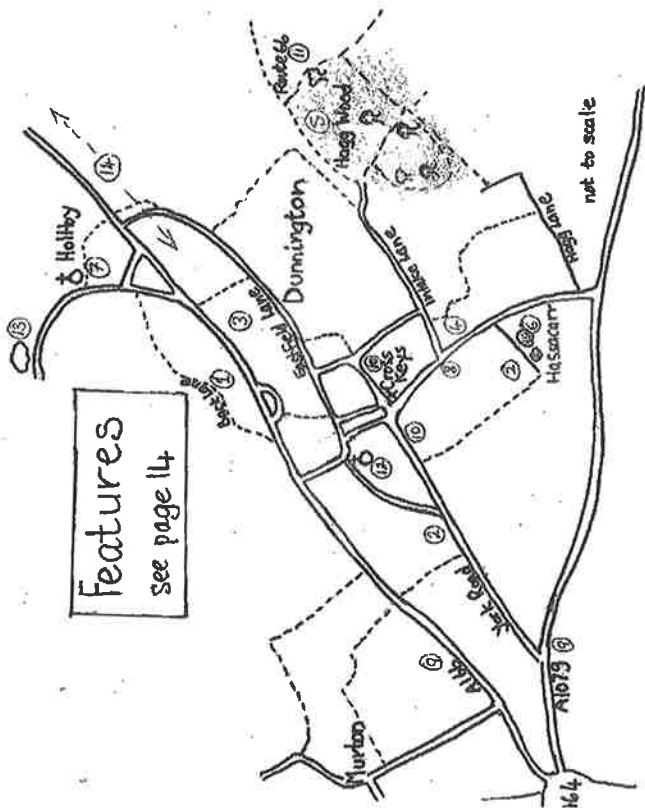


For fresh air, fun and fitness

10 strolls, each of 2-3 miles (1-1½ hours)

Starting from Dunnington centre, and exploring the local countryside.

Suggested contribution
£1.50
to



Produced in partnership with City of York Council



PRINTER PEOPLE
01904 623399

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Why 'strolls'?

The routes described here were first planned by City of York Council (Sport and Active Leisure team) as part of the Walking the Way to Health Initiative.

They are all between 2 and 3 miles long and can be walked by people without great stamina or walking experience in between an hour and an hour and a half.

They are designed for people of all ages who wish to

- explore their local countryside and perhaps discover parts they didn't know
- keep in reasonable physical shape,
- meet other people (in a group, or on the way)
- enjoy themselves.

The stroll notes

All the walks start at Dunnington Cross, outside the Cross Keys pub

- Each walk description consists of
- a brief description of the route
 - a line map
 - features to be looked out for. These are marked by an asterisk (*) in the text and explained at the end of these notes, on page 15.

Short distances are given in metres (roughly the same as yards) and longer distances in miles.

What you'll need

- A sturdy, comfortable pair of shoes or boots
- Warm clothing for cold weather, and a waterproof always (you can't trust the weather).
- A picnic or snack, depending on the timing.
- Optionally, a map. Those interested will find the Ordnance Survey Explorer 290 - York, Selby and Tadcaster - has plenty of local detail.

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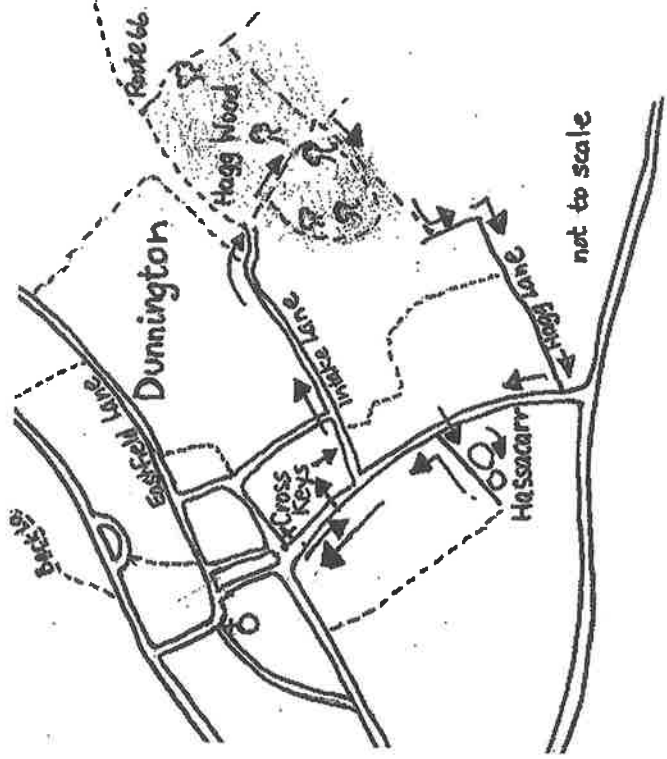
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2 Hagg Wood and Hassacarr Nature Reserve

Combine an ancient wood with a newly created nature reserve.

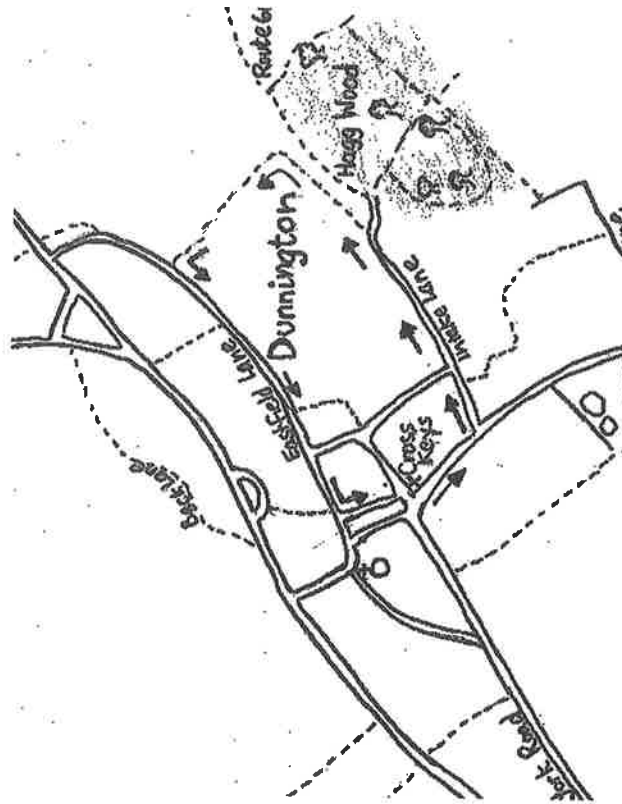
- Head south down Common Lane, and very soon turn left down Water Lane. Pass Pump Cottage on the right, which explains the name of the lane, then take the dog-leg right.
- As Water Lane veers right, turn left along the hedge bordering the allotments, and turn left into Intake Lane. Continue along this road for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, follow Intake Lane round to the right, then take the metal gate on the right into Hagg Wood,* where an information board welcomes and informs the visitor.
- Continue on this path for 500m, and at the T junction turn right.
- After 200m cross a footbridge and continue along the edge of the wood and then along a hedge to the track at the end.
- Turn left along this track and after 200m take the signposted stile on the right onto a wide track. This is Hagg Lane, along which you continue for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to Common Road.
- Turn right and head back towards the village, with the Industrial Estate on your left.
- After $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, as the Industrial Estate ends, turn left along a track.
- 100m on, the notice board welcomes you to Hassacarr Nature Reserve*. Turn left into the reserve, and admire the pond and whatever fauna and flora is visible at the time.
- Go back to Common Road, turn left and head back to the Cross Keys.



1 Intake Lane and Eastfield Lane

A gentle introduction to the area north-east of Dunnington.

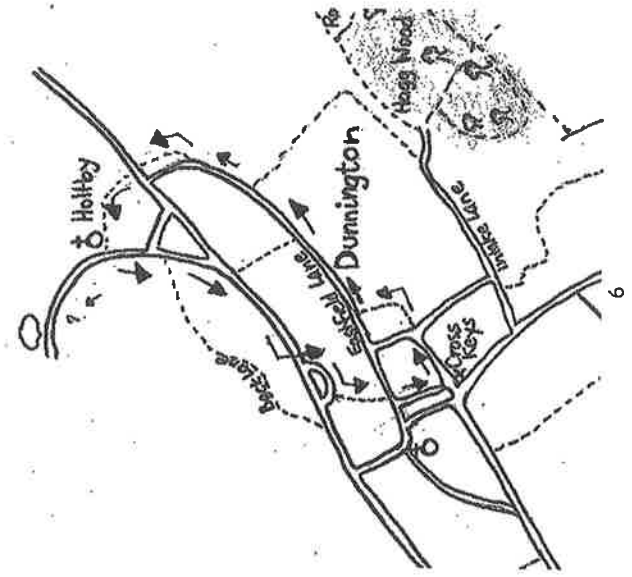
- Head south-east down Common Lane.
- 400m on your right, opposite Intake Lane on the left, is Julia's Garden*.
- Turn left into Intake Lane, skirting the playing fields to your right.
- After nearly a mile, as Intake Lane turns sharp right, go straight through the gate ahead and continue along a rough path, noting the raised land to your left - the York Terminal Moraine*.
- After about 400m, at a T junction with a cinder track, turn left and go $\frac{1}{2}$ mile up to Eastfield Lane.
- Here turn left, walking past Dunnington Hall on the right, and entering the built-up area.
- Go past Holly Tree Lane on your left, and after some 200m turn left down Garden Flats lane, and right at the end into Petercroft Lane.
- And so back to the Cross Keys.



3 Holtby Church and back

A round trip to the village of Holtby, whose parish has a population of some 150 people.

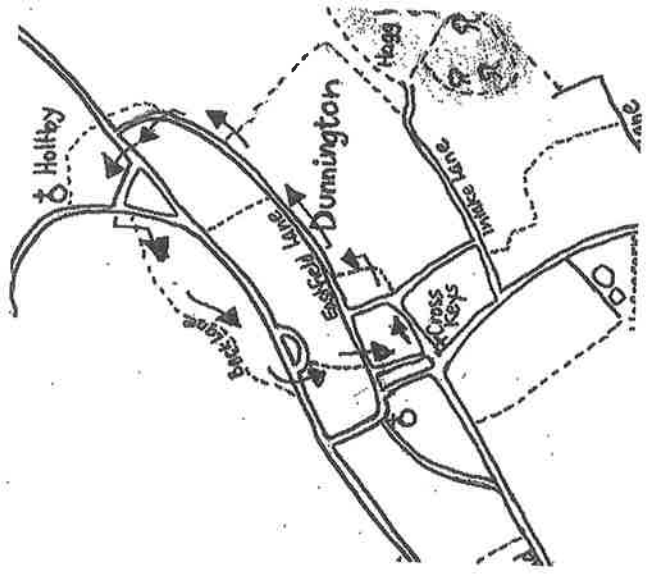
- Go west along Petercroft Lane. After 500m go straight across Holly Tree Lane and enter a narrow footpath opposite.
- Follow this path for 300m, go through two gates in an area which is often muddy, and turn left along a hedge, with open fields to your right. At the top of this path, turn right into Eastfield Lane and follow until after ½ mile you reach a dog-leg left. Ignore this and go straight on through the gap (or over the stile, if replaced), and skirt the right-hand side of the field.
- After 200m a large oak tree is the point to strike diagonally left towards a large gate leading onto the Stamford Bridge Road.
- Cross the road and mount the bank opposite through a stile and into a field belonging to the Old Rectory which often has horses in it. Follow the path about 20m in from the right-hand hedge, and after 200m go through the gate at the far end.
- Cross the next small field, leaving it by another metal gate.
- Follow the grassy path between the Old Rectory and Holtby Parish Church*.
- At the end, pause and consider a visit to the 'village green' and Weir Pond* for a sit and/or a snack. If you decide to go for it, go ½ mile to the right down Main Street, see the village green on the triangle of land opposite, and continue left along Holtby Lane to Weir Pond*. Your way back leads up Main Street which, on leaving the village becomes Straight Lane, lined by oaks and limes.
- At the top of Straight Lane, turn right along the thundering A166.
- 500m along the road, take the old lay-by on the left, and follow it to the stile in the hedge pointing left over the hill. Take this straight, well-maintained path, and at the top of the hill admire the view of the surrounding Vale of York.
- Descend to Eastfield Lane, turn right then left into Garden Flats Lane.
- At the bottom of Garden Flats, turn right into Petercroft Lane, and so back to the Cross Keys.



4 Panman Lane, Holtby and Green Lane

An alternative way of seeing (some of) Holtby. The first part is the same as walk No 3

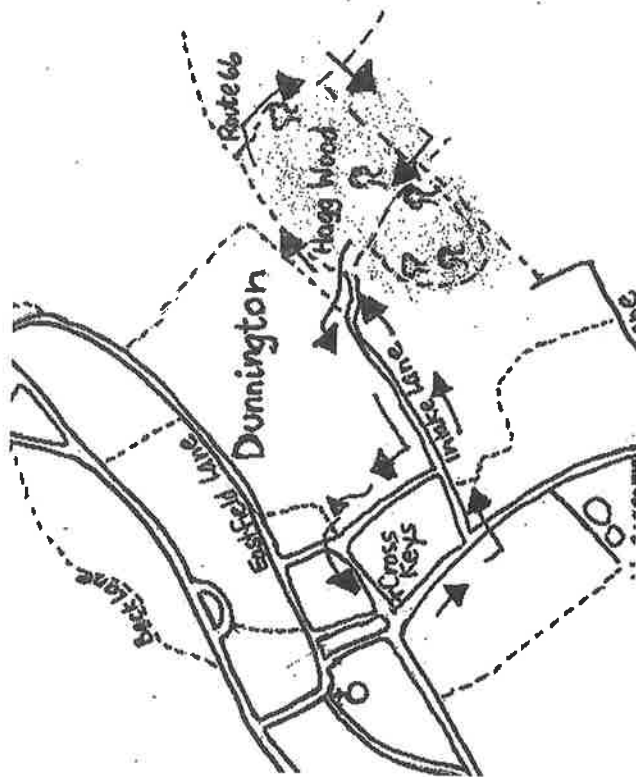
- Go west along Petercroft Lane. After 500m go straight across Holly Tree Lane and enter a narrow footpath opposite.
- Follow this path for 300m, go through two gates in an area which is often muddy, and turn left along a hedge, with open fields to your right. At the top of this path, turn right into Eastfield Lane and follow until after ½ mile you reach a dog-leg left.
- Follow the dog-leg to the top of the hill, where you reach the A166.
- Cross to the other side, turn left and find after 150m the entrance to Panman Lane. This narrow country lane was once a two-way highway from the East Riding to York's northern ring-road, resulting in regular chaos. To everyone's relief, it was closed in 2007.
- At the end of Panman Lane, consider strolling 250m to the right down Main Street to admire Holtby Parish Church*, or even further down to Weir Pond*, another ¼ mile down the road, going straight on at the junction where the main road turns to Warthill.
- From the end of Panman Lane, turn left then soon right into Green Lane, also known as Back Lane.
- This track winds for ¾ mile behind Cockerills potato plant*, emerging onto the A166. Here turn left, cross to the right hand side of the road and enter the old lay-by. Follow this until after 300m you come to a stile in the hedge. Take the path up the hill, and enjoy the view of much of Yorkshire from the top.
- Descend to Eastfield Lane, turn right then left into Garden Flats Lane.
- At the bottom of Garden Flats, turn right into Petercroft Lane, and so back to the Cross Keys.



5 Hagg Wood and Kerver Lane

A walk round the far side of Hagg Wood and back through the centre. Beware of boggy paths in wet weather!

- Head south-east down Common Lane,
- After about 400m turn into Intake Lane, skirting the playing fields to your right.
- After nearly a mile, follow the dog-leg right then left and carry on through the farm, ignoring the entrance to Hagg Wood on your right.
- Pass through a gate with houses on your right and the wood behind them.
- After nearly a mile pass through a gate with a sign for Route 66* of the Sustrans bike network. Turn immediately right along the edge of the wood. After 500m turn right into the wood by a waymarker sign (don't worry if there's no arrow pointing into the wood).
- Follow this woodland track for another ½ mile and where a smaller path comes in from the left, take the clear wide track to the right leading back towards Hagg Farm. Follow this track for another ½ mile and emerge from the wood by an information sign on your right. Carry on through the gate and back onto Intake Lane, following the dog-leg and heading back to the village.
- Instead of going to the end of Intake Lane, turn right after ½ mile up Kerver Lane, the first turning on the right. Go 400m to the top of Kerver Lane, turn left along the footpath and come out onto Holly Tree Lane. Go straight across and continue along Petercroft Lane, 400m back to the Cross Keys.



6 Allotments and Hassacarr Nature Reserve

A rare trip through the allotments and another look at Hassacarr Nature Reserve, returning via the track at the old railway.

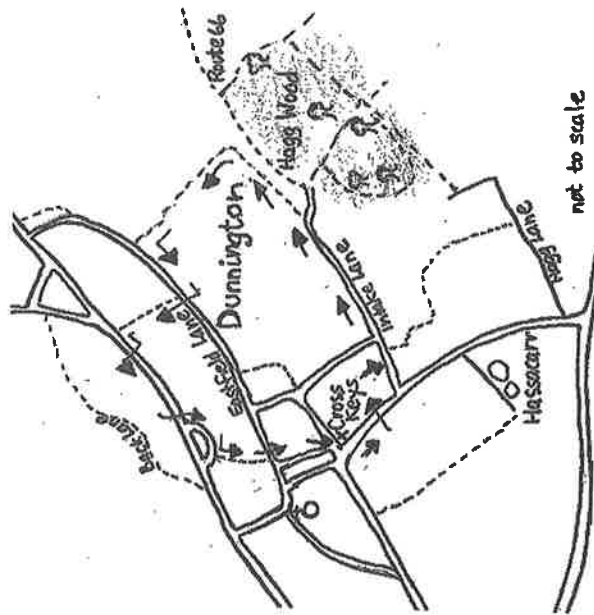
- Head south-east down Common Lane for 100m, turning left into Water Lane. Follow the dog-leg right, and continue down Water Lane. As the road curves to the right at the bottom, turn left along the edge of the small group of allotments, keeping them to your left. At the end, turn into Intake Lane, and very soon follow the waymarked path through the hedge to the right.
- Go straight on for 300m between allotments (left) and playing field (right). Come out and turn left onto a track leading to a white house. Just before the house go right through a gate across a field and through a hedge into another field. Turn right along the edge of this field and soon strike diagonally left towards a large tree. Continue straight across to the corner of the hedge in the next field. Here turn right along the hedge and carry on for 300m, past a small pond and exiting onto Hogg Lane.
- Here turn right and continue ½ mile to the end. Turn right into Common Road and walk nearly ½ mile to the track on the left leading to Hassacarr Nature Reserve*.
- After 100m the board on your left will give some background information. Explore the pond area, then continue down Hassacarr Lane, either through the gate or on the path between the right-hand hedge and the old sewage works, now an education centre..
- You soon cross the old Derwent Valley Light Railway* track, as it loops round the edge of the more recent housing estate to the north.
- After about 200m take the waymarked path to the right.
- Two large trees mark the straight path which goes for ½ mile to the edge of the houses. Follow the narrow winding path between the bushes and houses until it comes out onto York Road.
- Here turn right along York Road and so back to the Cross Keys.



7 Intake Lane and golf course

A glimpse of the private 4-hole golf course at Dunnington Hall and a return over the hill overlooking Dunnington.

- Head south down Common Lane, and very soon turn left down Water Lane, past Pump Cottage on the right, then take the dog-leg right.
- As Water Lane veers right, turn left along the hedge bordering the allotments, and turn left along Intake Lane. After $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, where the road turns right, go through the metal gate facing you.
- Follow the straight path for 400m, admiring the views of the terminal moraine* to your left, until you reach a T junction with another track.
- Turn left along this track, until after $\frac{1}{2}$ mile you reach Eastfield Lane.
- Turn left and after 200m follow a waymarked path through the hedge on the right, skirting on the left the 4-hole private golf course of Dunnington Hall. At the top, turn left along the hedge until you reach the exit. Cross carefully over the busy A166 Stamford Bridge road, turn left along the wide verge until you see an abandoned lay-by on the left hand side of the road.
- Cross the road and follow the lay-by until you reach the waymarked path over a stile to your left. Go up the hill and admire the views from the top before descending to Eastfield Lane over a stile. Turn right and then left down Garden Flats Lane.
- At the bottom turn right back to the Cross Keys.

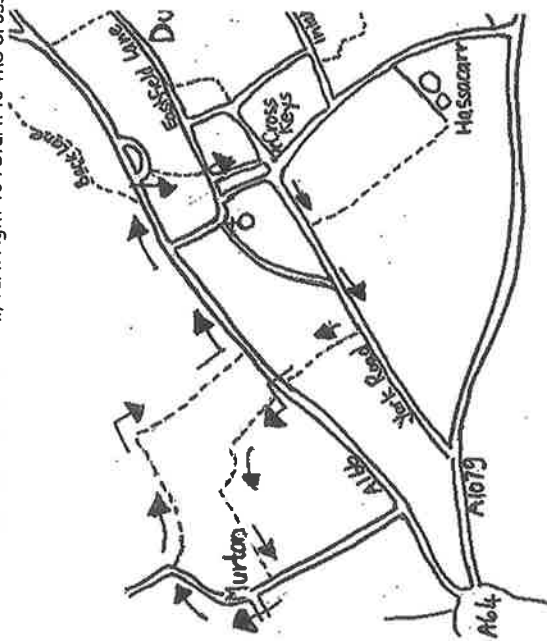


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8 Murton and back

A round trip to Murton, a small village even closer to York than is Dunnington.

- Head out west along York Street, passing between a variety of styles of shops and houses in the old village.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ mile on, cross the bridge over the now dismantled Derwent Valley Light Railway*.
- 400m on, take the sign-posted path over the field on the right. Cross the field to the right-hand hedge where the line of conifers ends. After $\frac{1}{4}$ mile you reach the A166 via a gate. Cross very carefully, turn left and almost immediately take the sign-posted path through the hedge on the right.
- Follow this straight down, with a small industrial site on your left, for about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.
- A bend left then right takes you on to Smaly Lane, which in turn brings you into the village of Murton.
- Turn right along the main road (Murton Lane), past the turning to York on the left, and the Bay Horse pub.
- Follow the road round the dog-leg right, continue for about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile and where the road bends sharp left, go through the gate facing you.
- The track (usually very muddy) bends right, then skirts a hedge on the right for about 600m. Turn sharp right up Vengeance Lane, which continues for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile up to the A166. Notice the plantation of some 2000 trees planted in 2007.
- Turn left at the main road, and follow it for about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, being very aware of what is usually a heavy traffic flow.
- Pass the road back to Dunnington (Church Balk) and continue to the lay-by on the right. Follow it round to the sign-post pointing over the stile on the right. Cross this, and climb up the slope for a wonderful view of much of the Vale of York, the Pennines, and the North York Moors, with York Minster prominent on the horizon to the west.
- Descend to the stile over the hedge, turn right along Eastfield Lane, then immediately left down Garden Flats Lane. At the bottom, turn right to return to the Cross Keys.

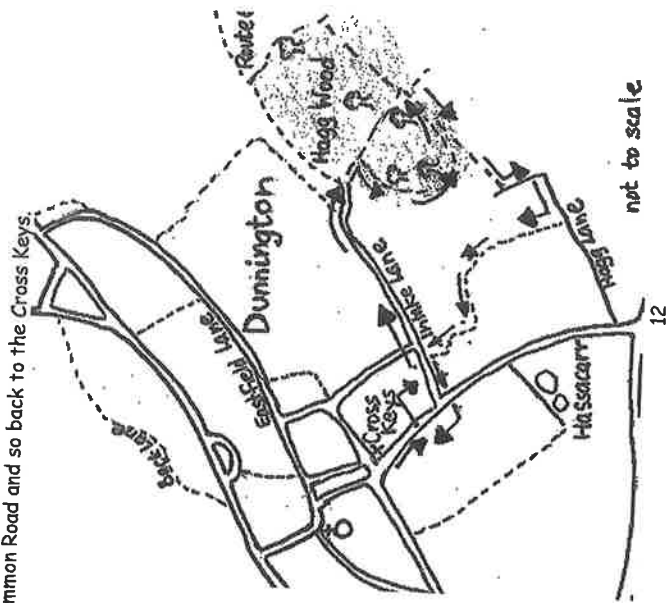


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9 Bluebell path

A walk-for April and May, exploring the southern part of Hagg Wood with its thick carpet of bluebells dotted with wood anemones and primroses.

- Head south down Common Lane, and very soon turn left down Water Lane, past Pump Cottage on the right, then take the dog-leg right.
- After 200m, as Water Lane veers right, turn left along the hedge bordering the allotments, and turn left into Intake Lane. Continue along this road for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, follow Intake Lane round to the right, then take the metal gate on the right into Hagg Wood,* where an information board welcomes and informs the visitor.
- Another 100m on, as the wood extends to the right, turn right along the path and follow the edge of the wood round, observing in season the bluebells and other wild flowers. Follow round in a circle for about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, and come out onto the other end of the track you started on by the notice board. Turn right onto this track, and immediately right again at a T junction. Follow this path over a stile and out of the wood. Turn left at the end. After 150m a stile over the fence on your right leads on to Hagg Lane. Follow this for 300m, then take a waymarked path to your right. Continue round a small pond (can be very full in the wet season!) and 200m on, at the end of the hedge, cut left past a large tree, through the gate and cross the next grassy field for 50m along a fence up to a gate. Go through the gate and cross the next grassy field to another gate. Turn left along the track which leads to the house on the right.
- After 150m take the waymarked path to the right, with the allotments on your right and playing field on the left.
- At the end of the allotments the path turns into a track leading out onto Intake Lane, where you turn left. Go to the end of Intake Lane, where the Green will sometimes have crocuses or daffodils, but always three magnificent trees..
- Turn right up Common Road and so back to the Cross Keys

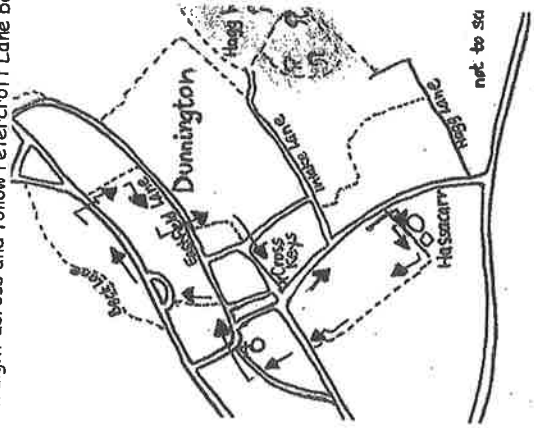


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10 Hassacarr Nature Reserve and Golf Course

A look at the nature reserve, a view from Dunnington's hill (terminal moraine) and a return around Dunnington Hall private golf course.

- Head south down Common Lane.
- 400m on your right, opposite Intake Lane on the left, is Julia's Garden*
- After $\frac{1}{2}$ mile take the lane to the right leading to Hassacarr Nature Reserve.
- After 100m the board on your left will give some background information. Explore the pond area, then continue down Hassacarr Lane, either through the gate or on the path between the right-hand hedge and the old sewage works, now an education centre.
- You soon cross the old Derwent Valley Light Railway* track, as it loops round the edge of the more recent housing estate to the north.
- After about 200m take the waymarked path to the right.
- Two large trees mark the straight path which goes for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the edge of the houses. Follow the narrow winding path between the bushes and houses until it comes out onto York Road.
- Here turn right and almost immediately left up Church Lane. At the top, bear right along what is still Church Lane, until after 300m it reaches Church Street.
- Go straight over into Eastfield Lane, and after 250m watch out for a waymarked stile over the hedge on the left. Cross the stile and head up the hill.
- Admire the views in both directions before descending to a stile in the hedge of the old lay-by.
- Turn right and where the lay-by joins the main road, cross to the other side of the road, which is wider and safer. Pass the entrance to Cockerills potato merchants* and Providence Stud* on your left, and 150m further on, cross the road and go through a waymarked gate which leads to a path going round the Dunnington Hall private golf course* and down the hill to Eastfield Lane.
- Turn right along Eastfield Lane and after 300m take the waymarked path left. The path turns right at the bottom, through two gates (including a muddy patch!) and along a track out on to Holly Tree Lane. Go straight across and follow Petercroft Lane back to the Cross Keys.



13

Features

*to look out for on your walks
See map on back cover*

- 1 **Cockerills potato merchants and Providence Stud**
A major national potato trading organization on the A166, on the same site as Providence Stud, where racehorses are bred.
- 2 **Derwent Valley Light railway**
A railway built in 1912 to link York and adjoining villages and farms with the Selby line, and passing through Murton and Dunnington. Dismantled in 1981. <http://www.dvtr.org.uk/>
- 3 **Dunnington Hall and golf course**
A large Georgian/Victorian residence on the flanks of the terminal moraine, with its own private golf course, round the outside of which a public footpath runs.
- 4 **Dunnington Sports and Social Club**
The clubhouse and fields on Common Lane are home to thriving soccer, cricket, tennis, squash and bowls clubs.
- 5 **Hagg Wood**
Several acres of ancient woodland to the south-east of Dunnington, with footpaths used by many local residents and maintained by Friends of Hagg Wood.
- 6 **Hassacarr Nature Reserve**
A pond and surrounding area set up in 1993 by Dunnington Conservation Association to attract wildlife and be a source of environmental inspiration for young and old alike
- 7 **Holy Trinity Church, Holtby**
A Victorian reconstruction of the original Norman church in the centre of the village. Intimate interior with modern stained glass
- 8 **Julia's garden**
A small secluded garden on Common Road set up in 2007 by Fiona Hogg Flower Designs of Dunnington, in memory of Julia Graves who died in 2006
- 9 **Main roads – the A166 to Bridlington and the A1079 to Hull**
These two major arteries from York to the coast are usually very busy and care should be taken when crossing them on any of the walks.
- 10 **Pubs:** In Dunnington: Cross Keys, Greyhound. In Murton: Bay Horse.
In Holtby – unfortunately – none.
- 11 **Route 66**
Part of the Sustrans national cycle network, this excellent ride runs from York through Dunnington, then through the Scoreby estate to Stamford Bridge.
- 12 **St Nicholes' Church, Dunnington**
Another Victorian reconstruction of an original Norman church, with interesting stained glass. The modern extension has facilities for meetings, playgroups etc.
- 13 **Weir Pond**
An old pond to the north of Holtby village, once used for watering stock. After several years of neglect, it was recently rejuvenated under the auspices of Friends of Weir Pond.
- 14 **York Terminal Moraine**
A strip of high land formed by the retreating glaciers of the last ice age 15,000 years ago. Stretching from York towards Stamford Bridge, it offers spectacular views of the Vale of York and the surrounding hills. Mill Hill, next to the A166, is the highest point in the area of City of York Council, at over 40 metres!

Walker's Log

Strolls I have done so far (tick off)

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10

The stroll I have enjoyed most so far

New things or places I have discovered

People I have met on the way: those I already knew, those I didn't

Improvements I have felt in my physical condition (breathing, flexibility, strength, stamina, general well-being)

Also