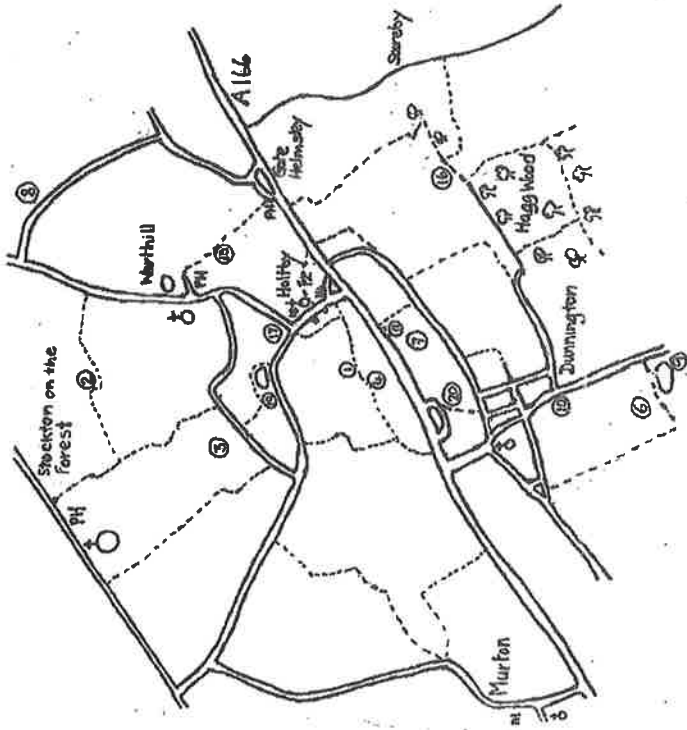


Features

To watch out for on your walks. See page 14



Relax, enjoy, feel fit

10 walks
of 2-5 miles (1-2½ hours)
starting in the village of Holtby
and exploring the local countryside and villages

Suggested contribution
£1.50

Proceeds to



Sponsored by



Contents



Holtby Hikes and you

These hikes - they're really only short walks - follow the pattern of *Dunnington Strolls*, published in July 2009. The Strolls were developed from the *Walking the Way to Health* initiative of the Sport and Active Leisure Team of City of York Council.

The hikes are all between 2 and 5 miles long, and can be done in between an hour and an hour and a half. They require no special stamina or walking experience.

They are designed for people of all ages who wish to

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

page
3

Holtby Hikes and you

Hike notes (distance in miles)

1. Dunnington and back via the Old Rectory (2.7)
2. Farfield Farm and Rudcarr Lane (2.7)
3. Dunnington and Intake Lane (2.9)
4. Warthill and back (3.4)
5. Hassacarr Nature Reserve (4.3)
6. Stockton Circular (4.4)
7. Murton and back via Vengeance Lane (4.5)
8. Hagg Wood, Dunnington (4.6)
9. Gate Helmsley (4.9)
10. Scoreby (5)

Features to look out for

Walker's Log

Map of Holtby and area

The notes

All the walks start outside the Village Hall (Institute) on Main Street, in front of the church.

Each walk has a separate page, containing:

- a brief description of the route;
- a line map;
- local features to look out for. These are marked with an asterisk (*) in the text and explained at the end of these notes, on page 15.

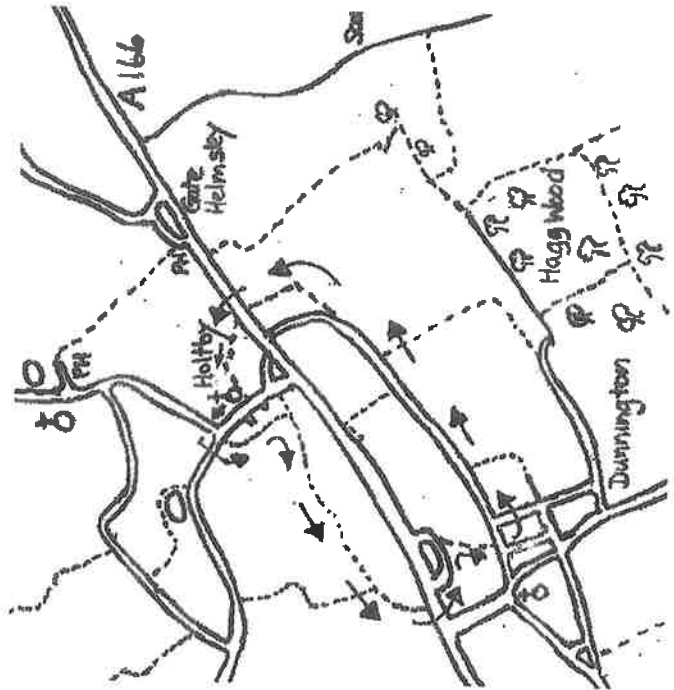
What you'll need

- 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 of the walk.
- Optionally, a map. Those interested will find the Ordnance Survey Explorer 290 - York, Selby and Tadcaster - has plenty of local detail.

1 Dunnington and back via the Old Rectory 2.7 miles

An introduction to the top end of Dunnington, and the little-explored path through the fields of the Old Rectory

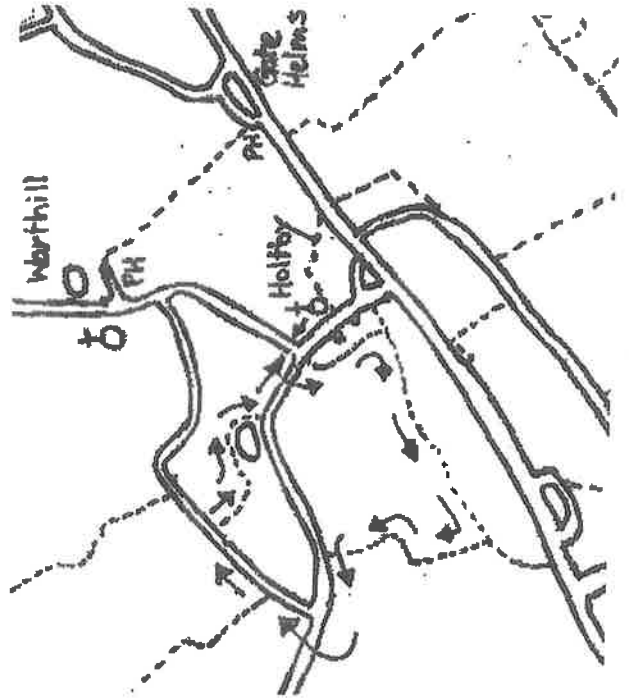
- Go right, down Main Street, take the left fork at the bottom, and immediately take the sign-posted lane on the left, between 2 cottages. Go through the gate, cross the stile opposite, next to the owl box, and turn left behind the houses
- Follow the path up to Back Lane*, and turn right. Follow the track for almost a mile, passing behind Cockerillis Potatoes*. As you emerge on to the A166 Bridlington road, turn left and cross over to the old lay-by on the other side.
- Follow the lay-by until after about 300m you see a sign-post in the hedge on the right. Cross the stile and follow the path through the field until the top of the rise. Here admire the views of the Wolds, Dales and North York Moors, as well as much of the Vale of York.
- Descend into Eastfield Lane, turn left and follow the lane for nearly a mile, until it turns sharply to the left back towards Holtby. Instead of staying on the road, go straight ahead along the edge of the field, with an old hedge on your right.
- At a large oak tree after 150m, veer left across the field to a wide gate and opening. Cross the A166 again, and directly opposite climb the bank over a stile into the field of the Old Rectory*. Holtby. Follow the indistinct trail about 15m in from the right-hand hedge, leave the field by a metal gate, and leave the next field by another metal gate.
- The path threads between the Old Rectory and the Church, emerging back onto Main Street by the Village Institute.



2 Farfield Farm and Rudcarr Lane 2.7 miles

The old Rudcarr Lane links Back Lane and the farm-track of Farfield Farm to Mount Pleasant Farm, Weir Pond and the village green.

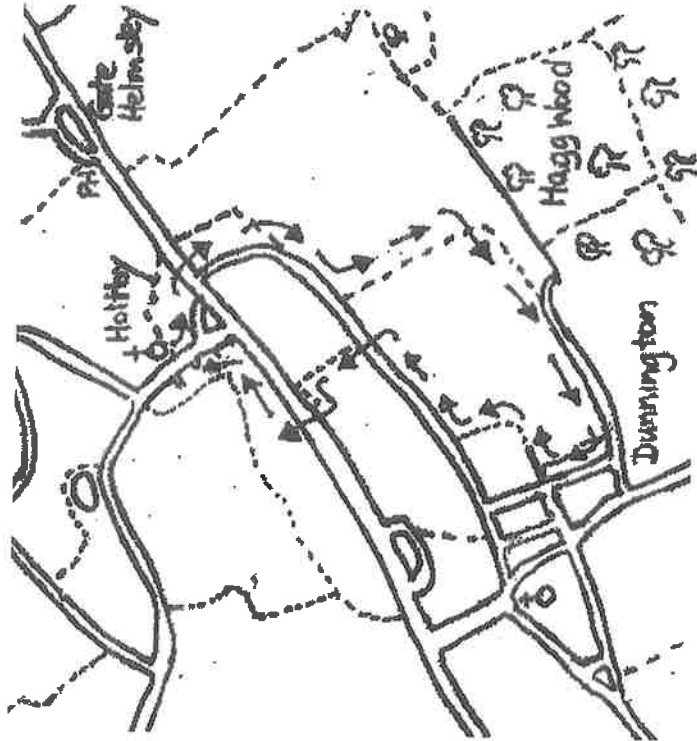
- Go right, down Main Street, to the junction at the bottom. Take the left-hand fork towards Stockton, and immediately turn left along a broad grass track sign-posted to Back Lane*. Go through the gate and across the field to a stile by the owl box.
- Turn left behind the houses, go to the top of the rise, and turn right along Back Lane. After ½ mile pass behind Cockerillis* and after another 300m a finger post by a large tree marks a path to the right across the field.
- Follow this for 300m and turn right then left along the hedge. After 400m meet the track leading to Farfield Farm (*Fairfield* on the map) and turn right to meet Holtby Lane. Here turn left and after Red Carr Cottage on the right take Rudcarr Lane on the right leading to Warthill.
- After about ½ mile follow the finger post on the right towards Mount Pleasant Farm. Just before you reach the farm take a gap in the hedge on the right, and turn immediately left by the side of the house. Just after the house go through a gap in the hedge and right between the hedge and a high fence.
- Follow the hedge-side across a field and through a rough stile, then slant left across another field towards Weir Pond House. Come out on to Holtby Lane, with Weir Pond* on the right, turn left and proceed carefully over the junction back to the Institute.



3 Dunnington and Intake Lane 2.9 miles

Another visit to the outskirts of Dunnington, with a good view of Hagg Wood.

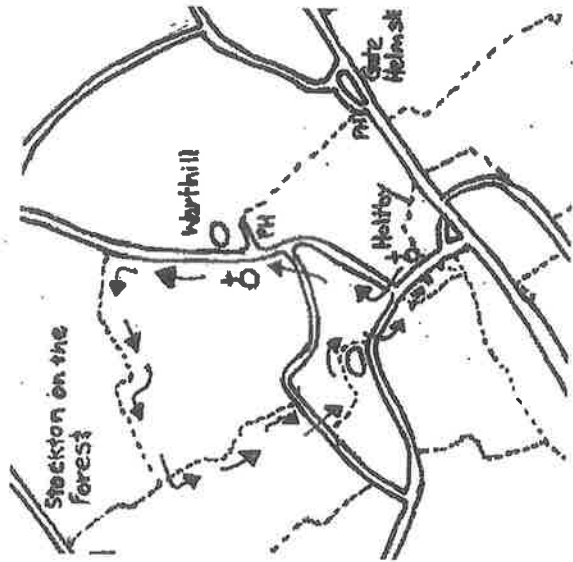
- Go left up Main Street, and after 300m turn left up Panman Lane*. At the A166 Bridlington Rd, turn left, carefully cross and turn right into Eastfield Lane. At the bottom of the slope, follow the dog-leg right and after about 400m take the rough track signposted left towards the wood.
- After nearly half a mile, some 100m before the gate, a not very clearly signposted track leads right, parallel to the hedge and to Hagg Wood*.
- Follow this to the gate at the end, then go through another gate and continue along the tarmacked Intake Lane.
- After $\frac{1}{4}$ turn right up Kerver Lane, and wind up to the top. Here turn right along a track, go through a gate and cross a narrow field to another gate. Turn left and follow the hedge up to Eastfield Lane, and there turn right.
- Pass in front of Dunnington Hall*, and 200m further on, follow the signposted track left up the slope, eventually running parallel to the private golf course of the Hall. Follow the dogleg left at the top of the slope, and exit carefully through the gate on to the A166 Bridlington Rd.
- Cross this carefully, turn right then left down Straight Lane back to Holtby.



4 Warthill and back 3.4 miles

A walk through Warthill and a return taking in Brockfield hall.

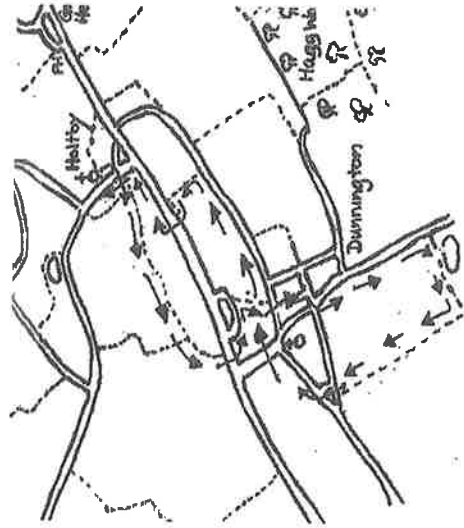
- Turn right down Main Street and at the bottom carefully negotiate the junction, turning right towards Warthill. Follow this road for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile into Warthill. Pass the Agar Arms on the right and proceed along the main street.
- After about 400m and a slight right bend in the road, find on the left a narrow sign-posted track between the houses. Cross the footbridge and emerge onto a rectangular field. The way out is through a stile across this field at 10 o'clock. The next field is easier: cross it to exit by a stile in the far corner. Negotiate what is in winter a muddy corner and bear left along a rough track skirting the fence. After 300m turn right through Brecks Wood*. At the end of the wood angle left along the hedge. After another 300m this track joins the one coming from Stockton on the right. Bear left and wend your way towards Holtby for $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, passing Brockfield Hall* on the right. Emerge on to Rudcarr Lane between Warthill and Holtby Lane.
- Turn right, then after 300m left towards Mount Pleasant Farm. Just before you reach the farm take a gap in the hedge on the right, and turn immediately left by the side of the house. Just after the house go through a gap in the hedge and right between the hedge and a high fence.
- Continue with the hedge on your right across a field and through a rough stile, then slant left across another field towards Weir Pond House. Come out on to Holtby Lane, with Weir Pond* on the right, turn left and proceed carefully over the junction back to the Institute.



5 Hassacarr Nature Reserve 4.3 miles

A trip through the centre of Dunnington and a glimpse of an intriguing nature reserve.

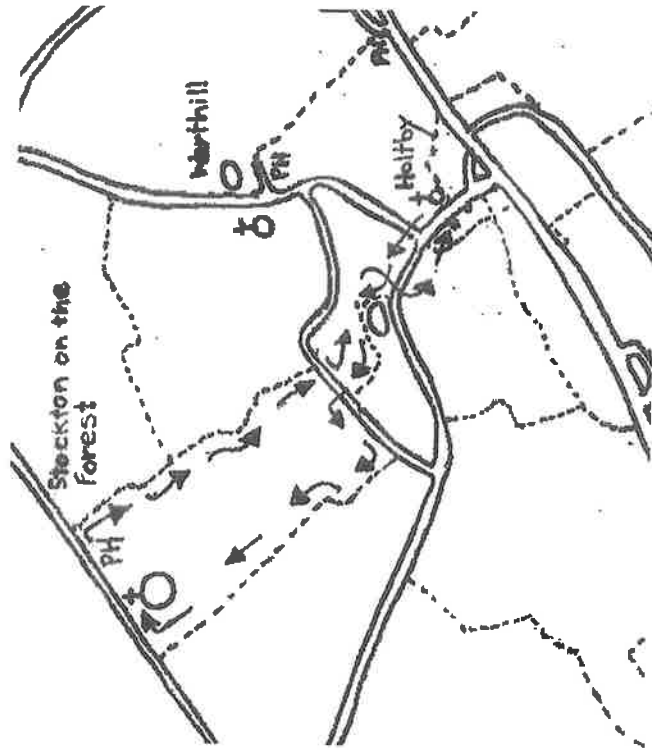
- Go left up Main Street to the last house on the right. Turn right up Back Lane* and continue to its end on the A166, passing behind Cockerills*. At the A166, turn left for a few yards, then cross carefully to join the abandoned lay-by.
- Continue up the lay-by for 300m and cross a stile in the hedge on the right. The path leads to magnificent views over much of Yorkshire.
- Descend to the stile and turn right along Eastfield Lane. After 100m, turn left down Garden Flats Lane, and right at the bottom along Petercroft Rd. At Dunnington Cross turn left down Common Lane past the Cross Keys. On the way out of the village, see the fine trees on the Village Green (left) and visit Julia's Garden* on the right just afterwards.
- Another 300m brings you to a track on the right, signposted to Hassacarr Nature Reserve*. The entrance to the reserve, with a useful information board, is 200m down the track on the left. Explore the pond and woodland then continue along the track. If the large gate is closed, take the other side of the hedge on the right, passing the old pumping station, now an education centre.
- After 200m turn right up another very straight path, going past a large oak tree. To the right is the abandoned track of the Derwent Valley Light Railway*.
- After 600m the path plunges into the vegetation and gardens where the old line ran, and continues up to York Street. Here turn right and almost immediately left up Church Lane. At the top, bear right with the primary school on your left. Go straight across the crossroads into Eastfield Lane.
- Half a mile on, after Dunnington Hall*, a signpost on the left shows a path up along the hedge, on to the side of the golf course. At the top go sharp left and exit on to the A166. Cross this carefully, turn right and then left down Straight Lane to Holtby.



6 Stockton circular 4.4 miles

A visit to Stockton via two parallel tracks with excellent views.

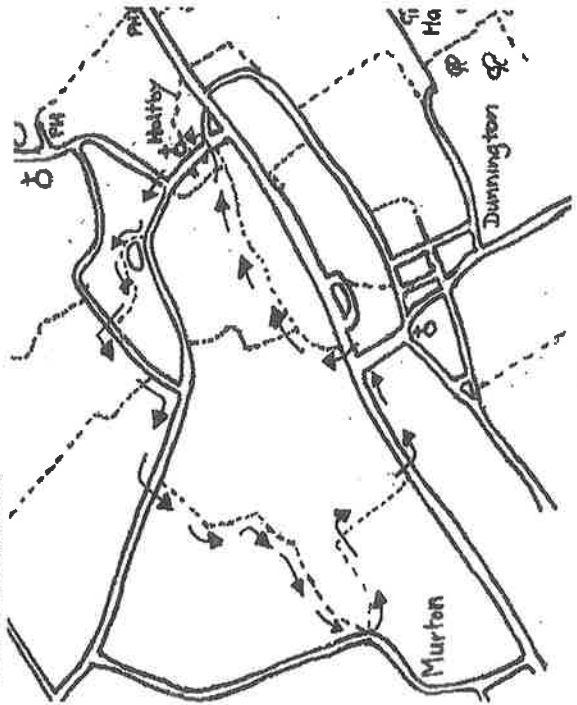
- Turn right down Main Street and carefully negotiate the junction at the bottom, going straight on with the village green* on your right, towards Stockton-on-the-Forest. At the dogleg left, visit Weir Pond* then follow the footpath to its right through a stile. Cross the first field and ditch, then climb the stile in the next field to follow the hedge towards Mount Pleasant Farm.
- The path follows close to the left of the farm, after which it cuts right, through the hedge, to join the track leading away from the farm. At the end of this track, turn left along Rudcarr Lane. After $\frac{1}{2}$ m a sign post on the right leads to a wide green lane.
- Keep left along the hedge for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, then cross another stile and turn right to follow the hedge round the corner of a field. After almost a mile, enter Stockton-on-the-Forest and turn right along the main street.
- Pass Holy Trinity church* and The Fox on the right, and after $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, turn right by an old garage into Carrbank Lane. Follow this with a few zig-zags for about a mile, passing Brockfield Hall* on the right, and emerging back onto Rudcarr Lane. Here turn right, then left back up the approach to Mount Pleasant, and retrace your steps round the farm, past Weir Pond* and the village green* to the Village Institute.



7 Murton and back via Vengeance Lane 4.6 miles

A little-used field path affords a glimpse of Murton and a recently-planted wood.

- Turn right down Main Street, and at the junction keep straight on with the village green* on the right until you reach Weir Pond* at the dogleg left.
- Here take the footpath to the right, go through the stile and diagonally left across two fields to reach a stile in the corner.
- Cross the stile and follow the hedge on your left, cut through the hedge to go along the left hand side of Mount Pleasant farm. After the farm the path cuts back through the hedge, then turns left along the track away from the farm, reaching the road after 200m.
- Turn left and follow the road to the T junction with Holtby Lane. Turn right and after 150m take the signposted path over the stile on the left. Go straight across the field with Brownhills Farm on the right. Cross the track leading from the farm, continue along the right hand side of the hedge, into the corner of the field, to cross the end of Piker Thorn Lane. Continue along the hedge side, then cut through, still on the path, to join a rough track which after 400m comes out on the road to Murton.
- If time allows, explore Murton, returning to where you joined the road, and take the path through the gate just to the right of your previous exit. Veer right then left — it can be muddy — and follow the track along the left hand side of the hedge for ¼ mile. The track - now Vengeance Lane - turns sharply right and goes for 600m up to the A166 Stamford Bridge road, passing a newly-planted wood (2006) of broadleaf trees.
- At the main road, turn left and cross over. Pass the turning to Dunnington on the right, and 300m further on, cross back to the left hand side and turn left down Back Lane*. Follow this past Cockerills Potatoes* on the right, to the end. At the end, turn left down Main Street to the Institute.

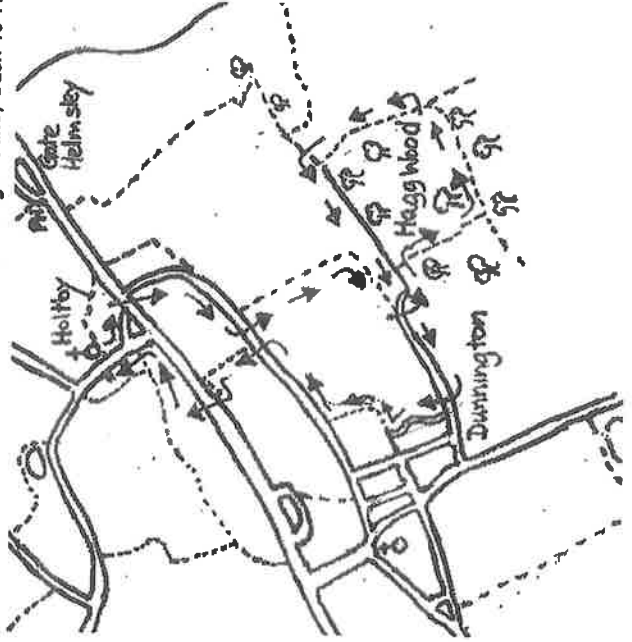


10

8 Hagg Wood, Dunnington 4.6 miles

A spin through an ancient woodland well maintained by local residents.

- Go left up Main Street, and after 200m turn left up Panman Lane*. At the A166, turn left, cross the road carefully, and turn right down the slope of Eastfield Lane, admiring the view of the Wolds.
- Curve round the dog-leg right, continue for 300m and take a wide track on the left. 500m down this track, and 100m before a big gate, turn right along a track between fields. After 400m go through a gate into Intake Lane, and immediately turn left. After a left bend enter through a metal gate on the right into Hagg Wood*.
- After 100m a board gives details and a map of the wood. Carry straight on for 500m to a junction, and turn left. Follow this path for nearly half a mile, emerge from the wood and turn left.
- Follow the edge of the wood, turn left through a gate marked Route 66* and follow this track for half a mile, through Hagg Farm. Pass the entrance to Hagg Wood on your left and continue along Intake Lane until after another 300m you come to Kerver Lane on the right.
- Follow the street to the top, turn right along a path, through two gates, and turn left along a hedge up to Eastfield Lane. Here turn right, past Dunnington Hall* on the left, and soon take the signposted path up the slope to the left, skirting round the top of the golf course and emerging on to the A166.
- Carefully cross the road, and turn left down Straight Lane, back to Holtby.

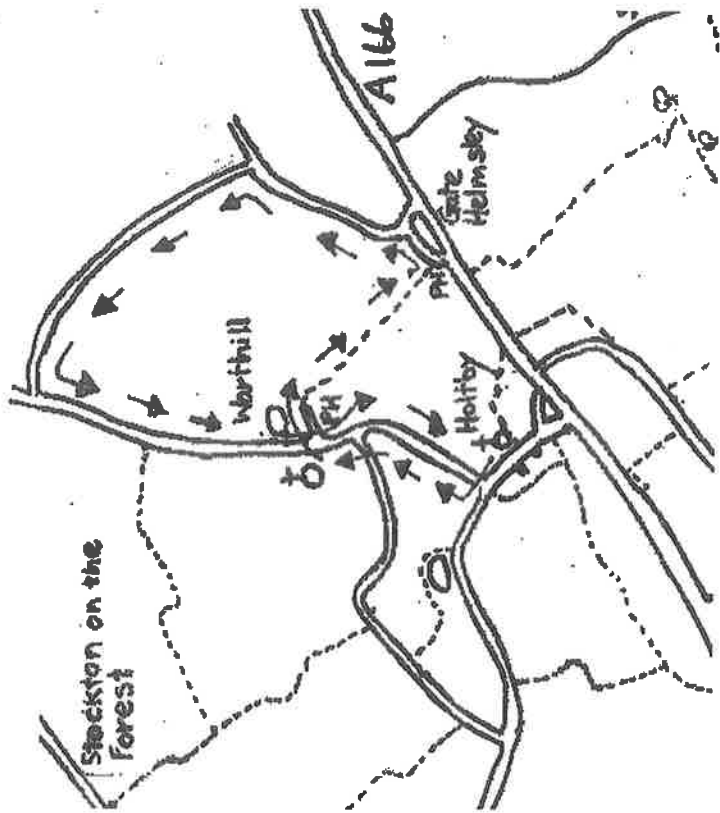


11

9 Gate Helmsley and Warthill 4.9 miles

Excellent views on the way out, but a good deal of road walking later. This is perfectly safe if the usual courtesies are taken—and precautions.

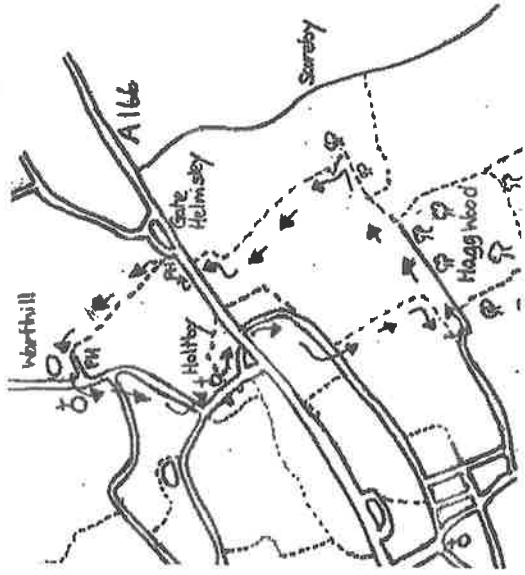
- Turn right down Main Street and carefully take the right turn at the bottom to Warthill. After $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, as you reach the village, turn right to pass in front of the Agar Arms, and proceed along the country lane for a mile, passing the Old Rectory* on the right, Hungry Hill on the left, and reaching Gate Helmsley behind the Duke of York pub.
- Turn left to walk behind the houses for 300m. At the end, turn left up the tarmacked road towards Upper Helmsley. Follow this for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, then turn left up Northgate Lane, the road towards Warthill. This runs almost parallel with the training gallops* alongside the dismantled railway. After a mile turn left along the road to Warthill. Go straight through the village, passing St Mary's church* on the right, from where Holtby is barely a mile along the road.



10 Scoreby 5 miles

Skirting Hagg Wood via Route 66, then the Scoreby estate, with excellent views later.

- Go left up Main Street, and after 200m turn left up Panman Lane*. At the A166, turn left, cross the road carefully, and turn right down the slope of Eastfield Lane.
- Curve round the dog-leg right, continue for 300m and take a wide track on the left. 500m down this track, and 100m before a big gate, turn right along a track between fields. After 400m go through a gate into Intake Lane, and immediately turn left. Pass the entrance to Hagg Wood* on the right, through Hagg Farm and continue for another half mile to a gate into open fields, marked Route 66*.
- Go straight ahead until the track turns right by an oak tree. Here the right of way goes straight on across the field, to the left of Many Gates Plantation, then turns left after $\frac{1}{2}$ mile along Wilson's Plantation to reach a copse by the drain after another 300m. (If the way over the field is not clearly visible, you may turn left at the oak tree and right again to follow the drain to reach the copse after 500m). At the copse, continue along the dike, now with a hedge. After 200m follow dike, hedge and path left to join a path with a hedge on the right. Follow this hedge, which eventually becomes a fence, until after almost half a mile you hit a track going right, towards Scoreby Grange, and emerging on to the A166. Here turn right, and just before the Duke of York turn left up a lane. Level with the pub, take the track on the left going up the slope.
- Follow this undulating track for half a mile, past the Old Rectory* and into Warthill with the Agar Arms on the left. Turn left along the road towards Holtby, and after almost a mile you are back in the village.



Features

to look for on the walks. See map on back cover

- 1 Back Lane** (sometimes called Green Lane)
A wide track from the top of Main Street to the A166. Often very wet and muddy in winter.
- 2 Brecks Wood**
A wood of oaks, birches and other trees, between Warthill and Stockton-on-the-Forest.
- 3 Brockfield Hall Warthill**
An early 19th century country house built for the Agar family. Open to the public in August.
- 4 Cockerill's potatoes and Providence Stud, Holtby.**
A national potato trading organisation, on the same site as Providence Stud, where racehorses are bred.
- 5 Churches**
Holy Trinity, Holtby; St Mary's Warthill; St. Nicholas, Dunnington; Holy Trinity, Stockton are attractive Victorian rebuilds on ancient sites. St James, Murrton, is much older.
- 6 Derwent Valley Light Railway**
A private railway which opened in 1911 to carry produce and passengers between York and nearby villages. Never very successful, it finally closed in 1981.
- 7 Dunnington Hall**
A Georgian/Victorian house on the slope overlooking Dunnington, with a small private golf course.
- 8 The Gallops, Warthill**
A racehorse training track along the old railway between Gate Helmsley and Stockton-on-the-Forest.
- 9 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.
- 10 Julia's garden, Dunnington**
A small secluded garden on Common Road, set up in 2007 by Fiona Hogg Flower Designs in memory of Julia Graves who died in 2006.
- 11 Mill Hill and Mill Field**
Mill Hill, just south of the A166, is, at over 40 metres, the highest point in the area. Mill Field, south of the disused lay-by on the A166, offers striking views of much of Yorkshire.
- 12 Old Rectory, Holtby**
Built in the mid 19th century with gardens, paddock and recently planted woodland behind a ha-ha.
- 13 Old Rectory, Warthill**
A substantial 19th century dwelling half way between Warthill and Gate Helmsley.
- 14 Panman Lane**
One of two roads leading from the A166 Stamford Bridge road into Holtby village. Closed to traffic in 2007, it is now gives pedestrian and cyclist access to the bus and to Dunnington.
- 15 Pubs**
The Agar Arms, Wighill; The Fox, Stockton-on-the-Forest; The Cross Keys and the Greyhound, Dunnington; The Duke of York, Gate Helmsley; the Bay Horse, Murrton.
- 16 Route 66**
A cycle route through Dunnington and Hagg Wood, part of the Sustrans national network.
- 17 Village Green, Holtby**
A corner of land recently fenced and planted with bulbs. A seat round the beech tree offers respite to weary walkers, cyclists and the occasional resident.
- 18 Village Institute, Holtby**
The more usual name for the Village Hall, on Main Street.
- 19 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.
- 20 York Terminal Moraine**
A strip of high land formed by the retreating glaciers of the last ice age 15,000 years ago, running east to west along the A166, and offering spectacular views of the Vale of York and the surrounding hills.

More information on Holtby in the Holtby Village Design Statement.

http://www.york.gov.uk/content/45053/64848/64860/Planning_advice_and_guidance/Holtby_VDS

Walker's Log

Holtby Hikes I have done so far (tick off)					
1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	

The hike 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

