

# Wander With History

*Walks in Kirklevington & Castlelevington*



COMPILED BY DAVID BUTLER



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Individual walks can be downloaded, for personal use only, from the website at;  
[www.kirklevingtoncommunity.co.uk](http://www.kirklevingtoncommunity.co.uk)

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# FOOTPATHS AROUND KIRKLEVINGTON



This booklet is an attempt to describe the historic and natural history of the footpath routes around Kirklevington and its immediate vicinity.

All the footpaths are public rights of way unless a permissive path is indicated. The walks described are all indicated on the relevant Ordnance Survey Maps.

- 1) Outdoor Leisure 26 North York Moors (Western Area).
- 2) Ordnance Survey Landranger 93 Middlesbrough and Darlington Area.

Walkers should obey the Country Code and respect the landowner's property.

Footpaths which may be visible but are not marked as public rights of way on maps should not be walked. These footpaths are for the landowners use and there is no right to roam over any of the land covered by the walks in this booklet.

Walkers should be adequately dressed and have suitable footwear for the weather and ground conditions. A relevant map and possibly a whistle should be carried at all times.

All walks start and finish at Kirklevington Village Memorial Hall.

## INFORMATION ON RIGHTS OF WAY

A public right of way allows members of the public access across privately owned land under the following conditions:-

Footpaths are for pedestrians only.

Bridleways may be used by horses, pedestrians and pedal cyclists only.

All footpaths and bridle ways are based on the relevant current Ordnance Survey Map and show all public rights of way at the issue date of the map.

- The maintenance of paths is the responsibility of the local council.

The local council is the Highway Authority responsible by law to carry out the following:-

- Protect the rights of the public to use the rights of way.
- Prevent where possible the obstruction of the rights of way.
- The public have the right to walk along the footpath but cannot deviate into the adjoining land. The public may however stop on the footpath and rest.

- The right of way may have no legal width but progress along a right of way must cause the minimum amount of damage hence single file through arable land.









Paths can be ploughed out but must be reinstated within two weeks. Paths along a field boundary must not be ploughed out. Sufficient space should be left to allow for safe passage.

- No recognised breed of bull over 10 months old may be kept in a field with a public right of way crossing it, except in the case of a bull which is accompanied with cows or heifers.
- Any other animal known to be dangerous may not be kept in a field which may be accessed by the public.
- Any dispute between the owner of the land and access to a public right of way should be reported to the local authority for clear determination.
- Public rights of way can be altered usually by declaration of the local authority and after satisfactory notice. In some cases these changes may not be on the ordinance survey map but way mark signs should clearly indicate the change on the ground.
- Permissive footpaths are not rights of way but have been indicated by the land owner to direct the public away from the original right of way. This in no way prevents the right of way being used and the existing right of way should be defined on the ground. Although the permissive path may be closed at any time by the land owner. It is hoped by mutual consideration the permissive path will be used as an alternative to the public right of way and so protect what the land owner considers of importance.
- Control of dogs is an important issue in a farming environment. Dogs should be kept on leads or close control (i.e. trained to walk to heel and obey commands without fail). All dog excrement must be picked up. Dogs must not be allowed to foul the landowner's fields or damage any crop or chase stock.
- Waymarkers are used to show the route. Footpaths are shown by Yellow arrows, Bridleways are shown by Blue arrows. Do not interfere with Waymark signs, this is an offence

## THE COUNTRY CODE

- Prevent fire risks.
- Close and fasten all gates.
- Dogs to be kept under close control.
- Keep to the path.
- Avoid damage to crops, fences, hedges and walls.
- Do not leave litter.
- Do not make unnecessary noise.
- Do not pollute water supplies.
- Respect the natural heritage and wildlife.
- Be aware of traffic on country roads and lanes.
- Do not interfere with livestock and machinery.
- Respect the heritage and life of the rural environment.

# KEY TO SYMBOLS

	Stile
	Footpath
	Road or Lane
	Footbridge
	Fence Line
	River or Stream
	Tree or Wood
	Hedge

The sketches are drawn more to give an indication rather than scale. Where possible the scale is approximately 1: 10,000.

All salient features such as buildings, roads, rivers etc. are not to scale.

Where the sketch is broken into 2 or 3 sections by directional section arrows, the section indicates the continuation of the map and the arrows indicate the direction of sight.

Walks 5 to 9 are continuation of previous walks as indicated in the text and on the individual route sketches. To understand the complete walk the relevant walks have to be read together.



## WALK I - AROUND THE VILLAGE



*Distance - 1.5 miles*

*Difficulty - Easy, this walk is suitable for both wheelchairs and pushchairs, the pavement is narrow in parts.*

The walk around the village starts at The Memorial Hall at the junction of Pump Lane and Forest Lane. The original wooden hall was officially opened in 1954 by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Dorman of Kirklevington Grange and dedicated as a memorial to those who gave their life in conflict. Arthur Dorman's firm built the Sydney Harbour Bridge and 100's of bridges around the world. Fund raising for a Memorial Hall started in 1946. A population of 240 raised money and in 1949 bought the land, funds were sufficient to erect a hall in 1954. In 1982 more fund raising and a brick structure replaced half of the wooden structure, after more fund raising in 1993 Ken Crawshaw opened the hall you see today.

Facing Pump Lane are Sundial Cottage and Church House, both early 18th century. The date 1786 is recorded on the sundial, at this time Mrs. Passman was registered as an inn keeper. Sundial cottage was recently extended in keeping with its grade 2 listing. Cross the road turning left along Forest Lane and the building next to The Memorial Hall is now a single cottage but was three cottages originally, on the edge of the village green, possibly early 18th century. The drive beside leads to the new Primary School which was built in 1972 on the site of Hall Garth. A late archaeological dig uncovered post holes and hearth stones from a medieval hall. The excavated stones are set up by the school entrance. The early hall site was abandoned by the 15th century. The bungalow set back once had an extension to the front which was the village shop, planning permission being granted in 1965. Unable to compete with supermarkets the shop was closed and was demolished.



**Church House and Sundial Cottage**

The large trees before Braeside mark the position of a wooden chalet set up as a studio for Rev. Charles Richardson of Kirklevington Hall, a talented artist. It was used as a club room for the village and then became a residence and latterly a weekend cottage for Mr. Thompson of Stockton. Cross Braeside, Rev. Robertson said there was a cluster of cottages at the top of the rise that is now Braeside and a well was found in one of the gardens. The area east and west of Strathmore Drive is the site of the 18th century if not earlier Middle Farm, demolished in



the early 1970's. The fields behind, now built on, had mounds and ditches which would have excited an archaeologist, but no archaeological investigation was carried out prior to building. Continue along Forest Lane and in the dip in the road on the north side is Preston House, once a farm house which was re fronted with brick, its sash windows were replaced by bow windows. Mrs. Smith who lived there in the early 1900's believed that the farm once served as an inn. The larger house attached to Preston House, The Hollies, is early 18th century with modern extensions. It was said to have been used as a hospital or convalescent home for rail workers and may have provided accommodation for drovers. The houses along the road to The Green are built on the drained pond where school children went pond dipping.



**Preston House and The Hollies**

In this vicinity were glacial erratics possibly from the Lakes, the Cheviots or even Scandinavia. One was about 4ft high and local children climbed on it. A plea to save it and place it on The Green was ignored, it was smashed by the builders and used for hard core.

Access to the sewage works was once along one of the drives along this section to the north. Continue up the hill and turn right down the pathway which leads to Birch Close and Ash Grove. On the left is the electricity sub-station. Electricity did not come to the village until 1948 and came later to farms.



**Not the normal transport in Ash Grove**

Walk down to the junction with Ash Grove. Ahead can be seen the trees planted by the Richardson family around Kirklevington Hall (Judges). Turn right and at the dead end is The New Vicarage built to provide a warm easily run house to attract a Parish vicar. The track to the north is private it leads to the sewage works. The ground it

is on was purchased by the village for surface water drainage in the early 1900's. Retrace your steps but continue along Ash Grove to the Forest Lane junction. The medieval village was a long linear village and the gardens on the north side of Ash Grove terminate in a deep ditch marking the edge of pre enclosure garths. A sharp right hand bend takes you back into Forest Lane.



**Replacement of bricks - still a skilled job**

until a new pond was provided. The viaduct at Yarm was built and the line from Thirsk was finished. Did Mr. Chapman get his pond?

The brick building on your right is the sewage pumping station at Picton Stell. To the right can be clearly seen the stream which starts in boggy fields near Rounton, meanders north to within sight of a tributary of The Leven, then meanders west renamed Saltergill Beck derived from saltus terra, forest land. As it passes through the steep wooded valley renamed Hole Beck the valley widens and it crosses Worsall township boundary before entering the Tees at Worsall. The farm land, forest land around the beck, has for centuries been protected by landowners as an area rich in game and it was within the area fed by the beck that Victorian industrialists developed their country estates.

At this point retrace your steps and walk back along Forest Lane and turn right up Grove Bank continue straight on past Knowles Close, stopping at Knowles Farm gate for a view to the south. No public access beyond this point. Retrace your steps turning into Forest Lane. Walking towards the Memorial Hall, you pass West Farm a restored listed building with its old barn. Within the gardens along Forest Lane pottery has been found dating back to Roman times. Most of the semi-detached houses within the village were originally built for farm workers but have all been extended and are privately owned.



**The Church Fete before sale of the Vicarage**

Cross the road and walk towards The Green. Turn into St Martin's Way keeping The Green on your right. Turn left along St Martin's Way and straight ahead take the foot path which leads to the school field. Walk turning right and navigating around the school field to Pump Lane. Modern planning straightened the once curved field boundary indicative of an ancient



boundary. Walk towards the Memorial Hall and on your right is the old Vicarage built on glebe land in 1850 sold in 2005. The land next to the road on which the Vicarage out-buildings stand was Thomas Bates' land. Church fetes in the vicarage gardens were always enjoyed. St. Martins Church Tennis Club used the tennis court at the bottom of the garden. The club was used by local adults and children including the actress Wendy Craig.



### The Church of St Martin and St Hilary

Retrace your steps and on the west side of Pump Lane is the village well. Opposite the well is the Vicarage pump and pig sty in a cobbled yard. The well is fenced off; you can see the steps and the concrete cover. The older boys from the original school came every day for water. John Hodgson wrote his initials in the concrete and was caned. Mr. Tate of Low Forest brought full milk cans to the village from Low Forest and filled the empties with water, as water supply at Low Forest Farm was poor. Piped water did not come to the village until the 1930's and as it came from Cod Beck the supply was intermittent in drought.

Continue along Pump Lane with St Martin and St Hilary's Church to your left. An ancient mounded site enclosed by a fence and hedge, Bowes, The Lord of the Manor, took possession of the church yard until the vicar, famous for writing the first history of Cleveland, after a thirty year dispute had the glebe and church yard returned to him.

Carved stones from the Church date back to 810 and the dedication to St Martin suggests an even earlier site. St Martin was a Roman soldier who converted to Christianity. The bumpy land to the south of Pump Lane opposite the church has earth works, house platforms and paths. The Church was restored in 1883. The Porch and Chancel have Norman arches and built into the walls are fine medieval carved grave stones. The Chancel windows, Door and Piscina are medieval. The Anglo-Saxon and Viking stones from the church spanning the 200 years prior to the Norman invasion are on display in Preston Hall Museum and the quality and

quantity indicate Kirklevington was a settlement with owners of high status. The lower part of the churchyard was the vicar's orchard and glebe but was used to extend the church yard in 1922. The church was rededicated in 2012 to become the Church of St Martin and St Hilary

Continue along Pump Lane until you reach the junction of the road which goes to the left towards The Crown. This is the old main Thirsk Road, the A 67, which was blocked when The Country Club site was developed. As you turn left the house within the corner is built beside the old pond which was drained and the land was bought by the AA and the North Riding Council to remove the sharp right angled bend taken by the old Thirsk Road. The pond was the scene of an early motoring accident when a chauffeur drowned. As you pass in front of the bungalows you come to a gated complex built on the site of the garage and road house which became The Kirk Country Club. Rod Stewart, Jimmy Hendrix, Elton John and many famous 60's groups made their debut here. Houses seemed preferable to another pub or teenage night club so planning was granted provided the pond with the endangered and internationally protected Great Crested Newt was preserved. Pass in front of the houses to The Crown which is over 200 years old. Mr Richardson, (Kirklevington Hall, the owner) largely rebuilt the front in the early 1900's. A friendly traditional pub, in droving times it stood at the cross roads. The drovers could choose the costly turnpike south or the free green roads to Hilton, Seamer and Stokesley via Castleavington. It was also where local coroner's courts were held.

Cross Forest Lane taking care and walk to The Crown car park, the site of the blacksmiths where Mr. Peacock, the publican at the turn of the last century, also shod horses. Along the main Thirsk Road is the bus shelter again built by the village, a fund raising event to celebrate the Coronation. It once had a bronze plaque commemorating the event. It was here that the farmers' wives waited on market day to catch the hourly Stokesley to Stockton bus to sell eggs.

Turn back along Forest Lane towards The Memorial Hall, pass The Crown car park and on your right is Arncliffe garage. This was once Prince Stockdale's joiners, undertakers and wheelwright shop. Across the road are two sets of semis one originally for farm workers and the darker Picton brick semis built by Mr. Reay the westerly one for the district nurse, Nurse Petty. The visiting dentist set up surgery in the front room. Mrs Dorman was the organiser and collector of funds for the district nursing association and started The Mother's Union in 1922 in Kirklevington.

Next door is the once semi derelict and now renovated house, a hind's cottage with a centre passage said to be older by far than Sundial Cottage. A drive separates this from the row terminating in the Old School. A plaque on the wall of the first cottage states rebuilt by John and Elizabeth Sanderson in 1774. Nos. 15 and 17



Old School before modernisation



were once the homes of the dressmaker and next door lived the gardener for Kirklevington Hall. The teacher's house and the old School remained in use as a school until the new school opened in 1973. It housed 72 children in the main school and a temporary room.

The school became a play school in the care of the William Hall Trust. The school was sold in 2011. William Hall left the land and buildings to the poor of Kirklevington in 1692, a time after the Civil War when there was considerable poverty, the Tees having been a battle ground. There being no poor it was decided in 1857 to build a school on the land. The date on a plaque is 1857 but the parish was too poor to support two schools so Worsall school was left open.

In 1876 the school reopened but the large area of land behind the school, part of The William Hall Trust, was sold to maintain the school. Two teachers taught 5 to 14 year olds. In 1958 seniors left to go to Yarm secondary school. A limited number of places allowed the ones who passed the 11 plus to go to Yarm Grammar School, later called Conyers' School. No electricity, no sewage, just earth closets, water was carried daily by senior boys, from the well in Pump Lane.

Walking past the school a long low farm house called Town End Farm is passed . This building was at the end of the cottages hence Town End. It was called The Old Hall when Thomas Bates bought the southern part of the manor in 1811 and started breeding his sought after short horn cattle. They made Kirklevington world famous. At his death thousands came to Kirklevington from all over the world to purchase his cattle. Grand Duke 10284 in the herd book sold for 205 guineas and two years later sold for 1000 guineas to Mr Thorne from the USA. Kirklevington shorthorns are still prized among breeders of cattle especially in U.S.A. Thomas Bates brought



**Richardson Plot**

science to breeding cattle and is commemorated in a memorial in the church yard as well as having a stained glass window dedicated to his memory in St. Martin and St Hillary's Church. Extensive barns and cow houses were demolished to accommodate new housing.

Across the road the house at the right hand corner of Jasmine Fields is an old small holding property which was

renovated. Rosecroft opposite Town End House is again 18th century, if not earlier. It is lovingly restored. Note the traditional cottage gardens. A pair of semis once built for farm workers can be seen beside the church path. Newly-weds beware as the gates of the Church were traditionally tied until a small ransom was paid.

Walk up the Church path and on your left is the Richardson grave plot. The remnants of the holly hedge planted by them can be seen. The graves tell their own story, as do plaques and dedications within the Church. There are three War Graves in the Churchyard: Albert Smith

WW2 Aircraftman, Arthur Douglas Richardson WW1, Raymond de Dibon WW1. Beside the Richardson plot is a memorial to another soldier J.R. Walsh 1st Canadian Division, buried in Hayne Court Cemetery France 1918.

The tallest cross in the Richardson plot is a memorial to Mary Luke, their much loved Nanny. Walk around the outside of the Church and you will find a triangulation point, the highest ground in the township. At the eastern end of the churchyard is a memorial to Thomas Bates. The Church walls have Norman arch segments and Anglo-Saxon carved stones set into the walls inside and out.

Walk to the south side of the Church and the view across the fields is magnificent. Bates planted a circle of trees beside the junction of Picton Lane and Thirsk Road to improve the view. There is an ancient stone coffin beside the wall. Sadly the lid or other shallow coffin has been taken. A red brick hut was built to house acetylene lighting equipment. In 1917 there was no paraffin for lighting so a fund for acetylene gas lighting was started, maintenance proved problematic. The cost of calcium carbide in 1920 was £3, a large part of the annual budget. The building is now removed and replaced with a toilet block. Times move on.

In 1948 electric lighting was installed in the Church, 65 years after Kirklevington Hall and Kirklevington Grange had electric lighting.

Please respect our church yard as our families have been laid to rest here. A new house has been built on the old vicarage orchard. The field beside the Church path was turned into a play area. Rev. David Moore agreed to let the land for a small amount to The Parish Council. The land was purchased for the vicar in 1922 in exchange for the glebe land lost when the church yard was extended. Village sports took place on the land and recently a group of villagers raised money to replace play equipment for children.

Continue your walk through the play area and exit by the gate opposite the Memorial Hall where the walk terminates.



**Thomas Bates Memorial**



## WALK 2 - DENTS LANE, CASTLELEAVINGTON

### CIRCULAR



*Distance - 3.6 miles short route 4 miles long route.*

*Difficulty - Easy, but can be muddy.*

Starting from the Memorial Hall turn right along Forest Lane and proceed to the junction of Forest Lane and the A67. At the junction cross the A67 and enter the lane opposite. The lane tends to be called Dents Lane after the name of the occupiers of the farm at the end of the lane. Before you continue to walk along the lane turn round and look at the Crown Public House, thought to have been built around 1834.

Walking along the lane on the right you will see a splendid view of the Cleveland Hills but directly in front there is the sight of 5 wind generators which dominate the landscape and spoil the view of Roseberry Topping, sometimes called the Cleveland Matterhorn.

The field to the left of the lane is usually seeded with wheat or oil seed rape and it is extremely important not to allow animals into the crop in particular when the crop is fruiting. Any disturbance of the crop can cause the fruit to drop off.



**Kirklevington in the distance**

In early autumn, flocks of Canadian Geese have been seen resting on this field. Beyond the field you can see the wooded area which screens the Kirklevington Open Prison. When the lane turns right towards Dents Farm continue straight on following the Bridle Path keeping to the left of the hedge. Approximately 25 metres into the field you will see a footpath sign indicating a path which

goes through the hedge. Do not take this path but keeping the ditch and hedge on your right, follow the path looking for the bridge on your right. Within 200 metres the path goes through a gap in the hedge cross the bridge.

A path can be seen continuing straight on beside the hedge, this is not a public right of way, it is for the farm owners private use. Misuse of this path and the lack of dog control has severely compromised the hedge's wildlife, large mammals and ground nesting birds are easily disturbed. On crossing the bridge, turn to the left and follow the hedge line towards Castleavington Road. You will notice how the surface of the path changes to hard core. You may be walking on an old Drove Road, which may have connected Kirklevington with Stokesley. On reaching Castleavington Lane, you will notice a lane opposite which goes to Red Hall but that walk is for another day.

The wind generators can be seen dominating the skyline. Behind you will see the rooftops of Kirklevington. Turn left heading North along the road. Soon you arrive at a Trig Point. This point is probably the highest point in the immediate area with views towards Kirklevington, the Cleveland Hills and, in the far distance, the Pennine Hills.

Continue along the lane until you reach Spell Close Farm, here you have a choice. On your left a footpath sign points across the field towards a hedge line. On reaching the hedge line you find a steep sided stream spanned by a bridge. Cross the bridge and scramble up the opposite bank and proceed along the path which rapidly turns into a track. Very quickly you arrive at the A67. Turn left at the A67 and return to Kirklevington and the Memorial Hall. Or for a longer walk you can continue along Castleavington Lane towards the prison. The Lane dips down and crosses the stream which is the same stream you met adjacent to Dents Lane. The change in the size of the stream in such a short distance is quite surprising. To the right is the entrance to West Gill which will be described in a later walk. Continue along the road until a footpath sign is met on your left. Follow this sign through the hedge then turn right and continue along the hedge line for approximately 25 metres until you meet the boundary of Kirklevington Grange prison. In the late 19th century Thomas Richardson II of Richardson and Westgarth renovated and extended Kirklevington Grange, an old farm house. The landscaped grounds included a cricket ground (where ex prison officer houses stand). A boating lake in West Gill served a dual purpose providing water for the Hall by way of a ram pump.

Sir Thomas and Lady Richardson had nine children. Five sons died in military service and a teenage daughter died from measles. After WW1 the three remaining children sold The Grange to Arthur Dorman (whose Steel company built the Sydney Harbour Bridge). The Grange continued as a family home until bought by the Government and converted into a Young Offenders Prison and is now an Open Prison catering for low risk offenders.

Turn left at the boundary fence and keeping the prison boundary on your right, continue towards the A67 and Judges Hotel.



Judges Hotel

The Hotel was originally Kirklevington Hall built by Thomas Richardson Senior in 1884. The Hall was taken over by the Ministry of Defence during WW2 and became an Infantry Brigade Headquarters for the 176 Brigade and then later in the war the 217th Infantry Brigade. Both brigades were responsible for the coastal defence of the North East Coast between the Tees and Scarborough and inland. The main road accessing the hall bisects an area which was once a Prisoner of War Camp, there is no evidence of its position other than by aerial photographs. On the right of the access road can be seen a white walled flat roofed bungalow, which was the command block during WW2. The war time construction included an underground bunker. With the advent of the Cold War this block was modernised to withstand a nuclear blast. From this Command Bunker remote control gun sites could be operated to engage Warsaw Pact aircraft penetrating UK air space.

The Bunker ceased operations sometime during the 50's. It was bought as a private residence in the 70's. The Hall itself was acquired as accommodation for Judges, presiding at trials in the North East. Hence its name when converted to a hotel.

Once you have crossed the road taking care, turn left towards Kirklevington passing through the lay-by where a cup of tea may be acquired from the mobile café. Continue on through the lay-by and return to Kirklevington and the Memorial Hall.

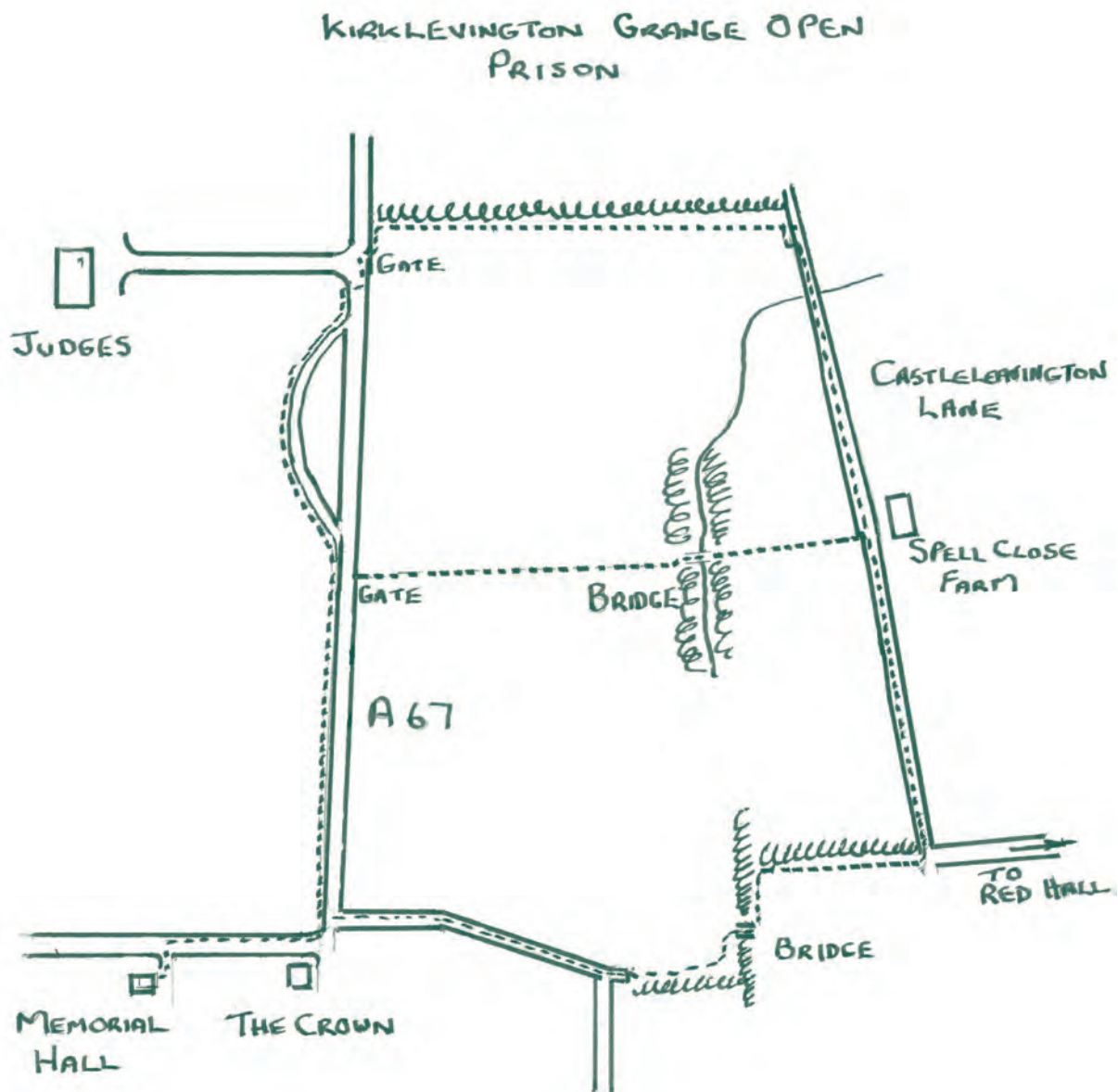


Possible view on this walk



## WALK 2 - DENTS LANE, CASTLELEAVINGTON CIRCULAR

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## WALK 3 - SALTERGILL LANE CIRCULAR WITH VARIATIONS



*Distance - 3 miles short route, 3.9 miles long route*

*Difficulty - Easy, but can be muddy, path may be overgrown with brambles. Trousers recommended.*

From the Memorial Hall turn left along Forest Lane and pass under the railway bridge heading west, on your right you will pass Grove Farm. The farm was the home farm to the Richardson family, a grade 2 listed building over 200 years old and was also a corn mill. Continue up to the brow of the hill and on your right you will see a footpath sign and a stile. Climb the stile and proceed across the field bearing slightly to your left heading for a copse in front of you and you should be able to see a footpath marker. Please keep to single file to prevent damage to the crop. On reaching the copse continue on passing over a footbridge. The copse used to be used by a gun club for the rearing of pheasants and it was not unknown for pheasants to fly into windows in Ash Grove.



Grove Farm

On reaching the far side of the copse, turn to your left and continue around the field keeping to the hedge line on your left. The path rises slightly and on reaching the top of the rise it is worth stopping and looking around.



Line of Path

On a clear sunny day both in winter and summer there is a grand view to the Southeast where the Cleveland Hills can be seen. Continue along the hedge line until the path diverges one path goes to the right to Pit Wood. The path to the left through the hedge and past the stile is to be taken. At this point, pass into the next field keeping to the hedge line on the left and pass under the 400kv overhead power line.



**Cleveland Hills**

This is one of the main grid-lines that connects the North East to the rest of the country. On your right towards the Northwest you will see the site of the former Tall Trees Country Club. The club was originally a house called the Tall Trees owned by Colonel Spence who was a collector of military memorabilia. His collection is now on display at Preston Hall Museum. After Colonel Spence's death the house came into the possession of Charles Amer who was Chairman of Middlesbrough Football Club and the house was turned into a hotel. The present owner extended the hotel and hoped to create a 5 star hotel complete with nightclub and sports centre. Unfortunately the economic climate has resulted in the hotel being closed, the sports centre being demolished and the site developed for housing.

Continue along this path until the edge of a wood is reached. The path appears to continue on to a gate. This is not a right of way. Your path turns left into the wood and continues to skirt the edge of the wood until a stile is reached. The fence associated with this stile is in a state of disrepair hence you can either climb the stile or walk round it. Follow the path along the hedge line keeping the hedge to your left. The path quickly becomes indistinct and is clogged with brambles hence the need for trousers. Eventually you will reach the boundary of a narrow field which you will have seen on your right as you walked through the wood. This field was once part of the Richardson Estate and was part of the Rides.

Continue along the edge of the field towards a gate and stile and under another electricity line. This a 132kv line and supplies electricity to Leeming Bar, Northallerton and Catterick. Go through the gate or over the stile and you arrive at Saltergill Lane, this lane is an ancient medieval lane and was a direct route to Northallerton closed in 1623. Unfortunately the lane is blighted by fly tippers hence, if you have an empty carrier bag, you might be tempted to pick up a few cans or bottles and bring them back to Kirklevington for disposal.

At this point you can turn left continue up Saltergill Lane until you reach the Forest Lane road turn left at this point and return to Kirklevington.



Or you can take the sign-posted path opposite and slightly to your left. This path leads along the southern side of the wood inside the hedge line, do not take any paths that branch off this path, they are not rights of way. The wood contains a number of wild flowers including orchids. Eventually you reach a bridge across a steep sided stream cross the bridge and cross directly towards a stile next to a gate, on your right on the far bank you can see Saltergill Hall partly hidden in the trees. On reaching the stile cross into the next field and head North West towards Hole Beck, the name having changed from Saltergill Beck, very confusing. This field was once open meadow used for grazing but is now being converted to grow trees for power station fuel hence the field is being fenced in and you need to head towards a gate in the fence adjacent to the beck.



**Saltergill Hall**

On reaching the gate you will see a stile on your left cross the stile and turn right keeping the beck on your left-hand side. It is worth standing a little while and appreciate the solitude of the valley created by the beck. It is hard to imagine you are so close to Yarm and the surrounding population. Unfortunately with the proposed development of houses to the West of Yarm and also in Kirklevington Parish this solitude may be lost.

Continue on towards a hunters gate, which can be seen in front of you, proceed through the gate and on your left hand side on the opposite side of the beck you will start to see Giant Hogweed, this is a non-native species and needs to be eradicated. Giant Hogweed when touched will cause serious blisters. The sap causes the skin to become photosensitive and the effects can last for a considerable time.

Follow the path into the wood in front of you, keeping the beck on your left, you will see tracks on your right leading into the wood, do not take these paths they are not rights of way.

Another non-native species grows beside the path, this being Himalayan Balsam. Although this plant does not create a health hazard and it does have a pretty flower it causes extensive damage to river banks creating silt which, if allowed to build up, will cause flooding.



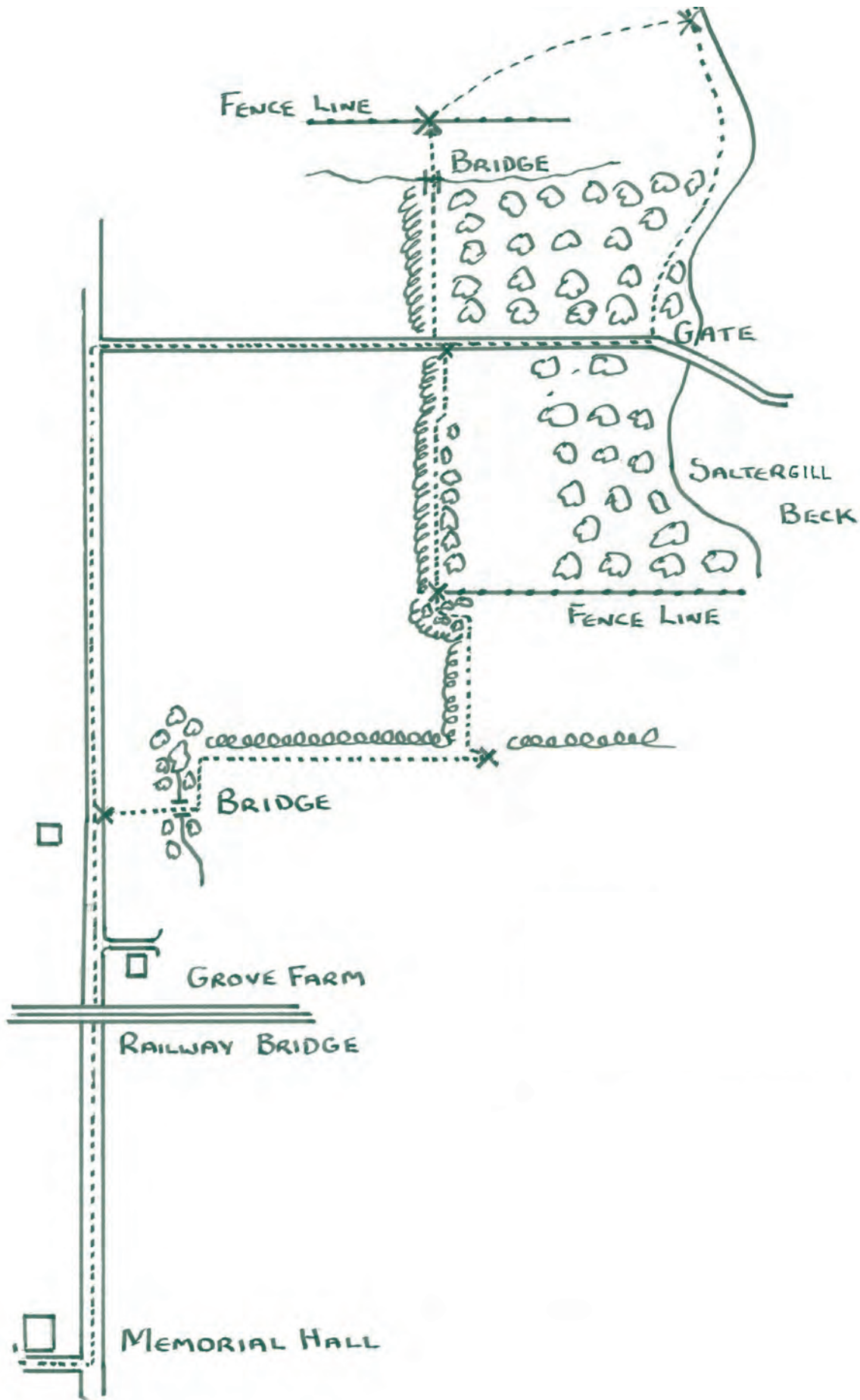
**Giant Hogweed**

Eventually you will reach, after passing what appears to be a small private rubbish tip, Saltergill Lane. It can only be hoped that this tip will be closed and reclaimed at a future date. On reaching the lane turn right and you will return to where you first entered the lane.

At this point you can retrace your steps towards Kirklevington, or continue on to Forest Lane. Turning left you will be able to return to the Kirklevington Memorial Hall. In the autumn you may notice the sloes on the hedges either side of the lane. The sloes with the right recipe make excellent Sloe Gin, producing a liqueur type drink, deep red in colour.

### WALK 3 - SALTERGILL LANE CIRCULAR WITH VARIATIONS

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## WALK 4 - PICTON CIRCULAR



*Distance - 3.8 miles*

*Difficulty - **Moderate, care to be taken when crossing railway.***

The walk follows walk 3 along Forest Lane under the Railway Bridge, but on reaching the brow of the hill, turn left at the sign posted Bridle Way. Before reaching the house, head towards the gate immediately in front of you keeping the outbuildings on your right. Passing through the gate, keep the hedge on your left. There may be an electrified fence on your right so take care. Continue along the hedge side towards the field gate in front of you. This path can be extremely muddy late in the year and usually the gate is surrounded by water, so be prepared.



**Kirklevington**

Continue through the gate, after negotiating the water hazard, on your left the Cleveland Hills can be seen. The main outriders being Hasty Bank, Cold Moor, Cringle Moor and Carlton Moor running down towards Live Moor. The path continues to skirt the field until a Hunter Gate is reached.

It is worth a moment to stop and take in the view at this point. For such a small increase in height the view is panoramic. To the East the North Yorkshire Moors stand out. To the West the Pennines can be seen with Pen Hill and Great Whernside clearly seen, and on a clear day Cross



**North Yorkshire Moors**

Fell can be seen in the distance. To the North you have the Durham Plain unfortunately you can also see wind turbines, though you might find the slow rotation of the sails soothing. Each to his/her own. Turn left through the gate keeping the fence to your right and keep straight on.

Go through the gate in front and straight across the field to the next gate, usually you will find sheep in the field. Continue on through the



next field and over a small bridge. Notice how deep the ditch is and the erosion of the sides. Go over the bridge through the gate and turn right keeping to the hedge line. Very quickly you will pass a pond on your right hand side. Depending on the season this pond can be full of water or just a mud hollow. After passing the pond go through the gate immediately in front of you and walk down the lane. On reaching a cottage on your left turn into the farm access. There is a footpath marker, but sometimes it's hidden by vegetation.

Walk along the lane and continue in front of the modern farm building, as the lane bears left. Note the remains of the old farmhouse. Passing a cow byre on your right, turn right through the gate next to the byre.

Continue straight on through another gate and towards the railway, where the level crossing can be seen. On reaching the crossing take care when crossing the railway, the line is the main line between Northallerton and Teesside, so do not dally and observe the signs. Head towards the hedge opposite and turn left at the hedge line and proceed to the next gate. Again, depending on the season, be prepared for mud and water at this gate. Keeping the hedge on your right, you will find the hedge makes a right-handed turn. Again keep the hedge on your right and head for the wood in front of you. You meet the first stile on the walk and if you have a dog you may find the stile is not dog friendly.



**The Cleveland Hills from Cow Byre**

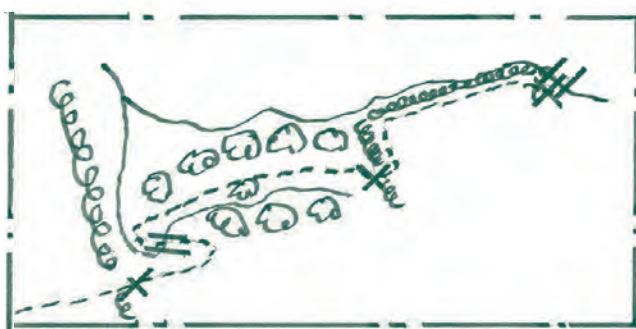
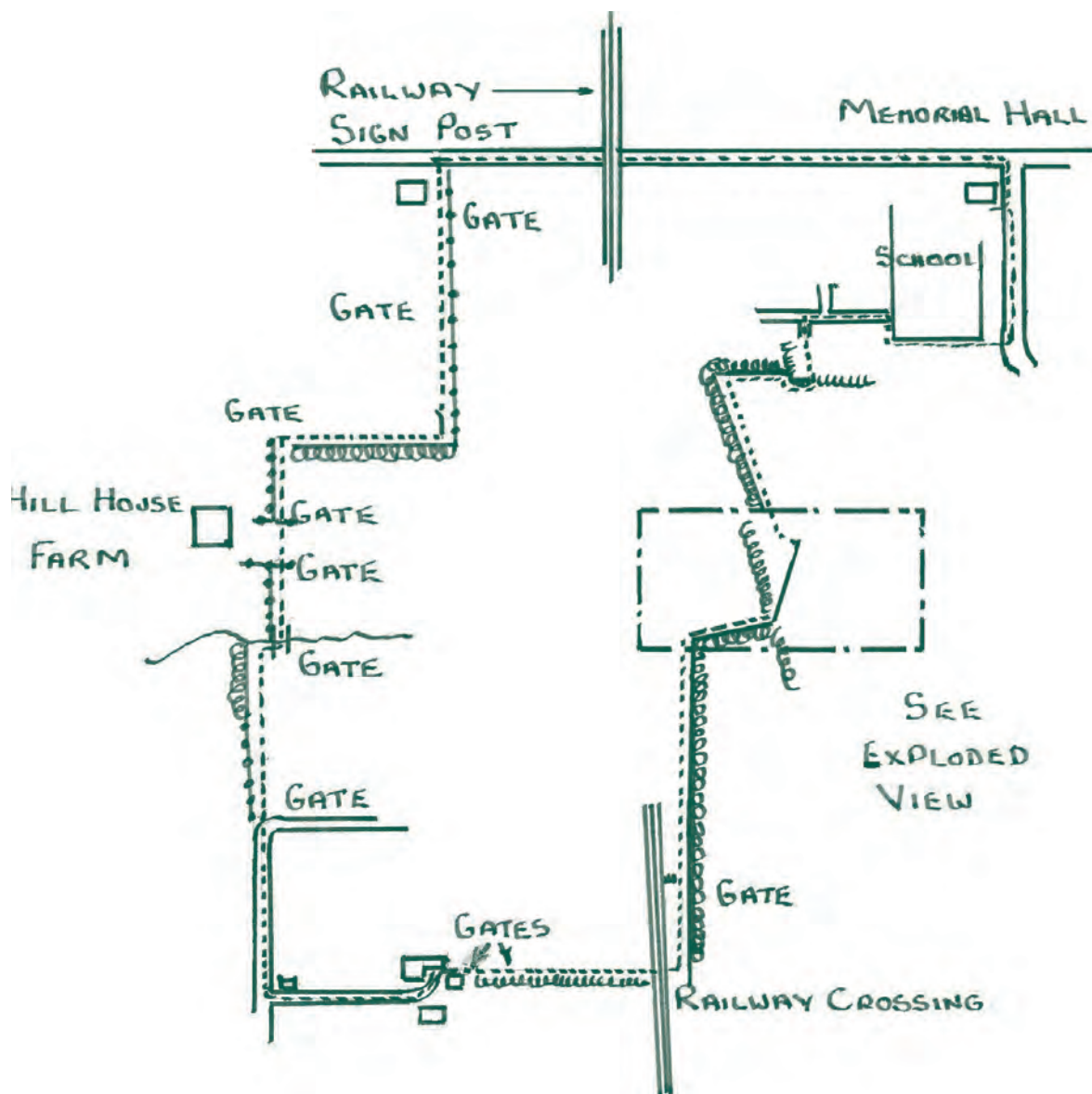
Pass over the stile and follow the clearly defined track over a bridge and through the wood. If you look closely you will see signs of large mammal tracks in this wood. Another stile is reached at the exit of the wood, a little bit easier for a dog, but a helping hand may be required. The stile gives access to a field, which is normally used as a wheat field. Continue along the field boundary on your left. On reaching another stile climb the stile and cross a small wooden bridge, be careful, because this bridge may be overgrown with vegetation, so take care in placing your feet.

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On entering the next field, Kirklevington can be seen in front of you. Take the path on your left and walk around the field boundary. At NZ 426091 the ordinance survey maps show the footpath turning right and going across the field. Although this is the right of way the landowner is trying to encourage walkers to take the path around the field hedge line and not walk through his crops.

Continue round the field keeping the hedge on your left. Just as you come to a dogleg in the hedge you will notice a path crossing into the adjacent field. Do not take this path because it is not a right of way. You continue walking round the dogleg and head towards an 11,000 volt power line in front of you. Just before you reach the power line turn left into the adjacent field. Crossing the field you reach St Martins Way. Turn right and head towards the school field, at the head of St Martins Way. On reaching the school field, turn right and follow a path round the edge of the field. The path opens out into Pump Lane. Turn left into the lane and a further 70 yards brings you back to the Memorial Hall.

## WALK 4 - PICTON CIRCULAR



EXPLODED VIEW

## WALK 5 - WORSALL AND BACK



*Distance - 4.8 miles short route, 6.6 miles long route*

*Difficulty - **Moderate.***



**Worsall Old School**

Follow walk 3 until you reach Hole Beck/Saltergill Beck. Instead of turning right, turn left along the beck and towards a house in the corner of the field. This house was once Worsall School which catered for the children of both Worsall, Kirklevington and the surrounding area. Follow the line of the beck until opposite the house, notice how the beck is eroding its sides creating extensive loops and possible Oxbow Lakes.

At this point a stream runs into Hole Beck and is crossed by a homemade bridge of plastic construction. You leave Hole Beck at this point, the beck continues its journey to the river Tees.

Hole Beck is left behind as you follow the path through a gate and head towards the B1264. On reaching the B1264 turn left towards Worsall and the Ship Inn. If you are arriving at midday, consider a stop for refreshments.

Opposite the Ship you will see a stile. This is the direction you need to take but before you cross the road to the stile, you may want to follow the road to the Worsall War Memorial, which will be on your right and just before the entrance to the village.

On the memorial you will find the name of a member of the crew of HMS Good Hope which was sunk at the battle of Coronel off the coast of Chile on the 1st November 1914, possibly the 1st major defeat of a British Naval Force in WW1.

Although the German Admiral Spee caused the remaining British Naval Force to retreat, Spee had to use half his ammunition.



**The Ship Inn**





**Worsall War Memorials**

The result of the battle meant that when Spee met a reinforced British Fleet at the Falklands he was fighting at a disadvantage. Admiral Spee and the majority of his fleet were sunk at the Battle of the Falkland Islands.

Return to the stile opposite the Ship Inn enter the field and keeping the hedge to your right walk to the end of the field. If the hedge has been cut, look over the hedge and you will see into a narrow valley with side spurs. The valley is well hidden from the adjoining roads and comes as quite a surprise.

On reaching the corner of the field you will see a gate to your right, do not go through this gate but continue into the corner of the field where you will see a stile. Cross the stile and go directly across the valley to a narrow bridge. Take care when crossing the bridge, a tree branch lies across the bridge and you may have to squeeze past it.

After crossing the bridge you will see a stream entering the valley from the South.

Keep the stream on your left and walk along the edge of the wood, which borders the stream. Eventually you come across a crossing place over the stream. Cross the stream and turn right and follow the fence line. Note how the stream is changing its stream bed at this point. Approximately 50yds along the fence line you will need to cross a stile over the fence then cross the stream again. On your left is another stile which you will need to cross. Agility will be required.

Once over the stile follow the hedge line on your left until you reach Forest Lane. Turn left into the lane and walk towards Kirklevington until you reach a signpost pointing into a field on your right. At this point you can decide if you wish to continue onto Picton or return to Kirklevington.

If you wish to return to Kirklevington by the direct route continue along Forest Lane. If you wish to walk to Kirklevington via Picton then turn right into the field. The path can be a little indistinct and the walk is best carried out in spring after the farmer has sprayed his crop. The ground is hard and the path is clearly marked, either by posts or by a sprayed path.

The path takes two right angled bends one to the left and one to the right and heads towards Hillilees Farm. This field system is like a prairie, most of the hedges being grubbed out, you do have a view of the North York Moors as you head towards Hillilees.

On reaching Hillilees keep to the right and walk down the farm lane until it bears left. At this point the path becomes a little indistinct and a map will be useful. You walk directly across the field in front of you towards a small gap in the hedge where a low wire, not barbed wire, may be crossed.

The ground you are walking across is thought to be the position of the Picton Racecourse. Races were held on this course in the early 20th century and it even had a small grandstand possibly a shed. With a little imagination it may be possible to see the rough line of the course.



Direction towards hedge T junction and gap

On reaching the low wire, note the footpath marker and pass into the next field, heading towards the remains of a hedge halfway across the field. A redundant gate post at the edge of the hedge bears a footpath marker. On reaching the post continue on to the gate in the next hedge where another footpath marker may be found. Pass through the gate and head for the farmhouses in front of you.

The access to the farm yard is via a gate and the surrounding area can be extremely muddy, in fact sludge may be the correct term. Best to be tackled in summer. On reaching the farmhouses pass through the farm yard, remember you are walking in the farmer's back yard so take care.

You will arrive at the main road passing through Picton. On your right will be a sign post indicating the footpath you have just walked. Turn left onto the main road and within 400 yds. you will reach a junction. You need to take the left hand lane. At this junction there was a sign post, hidden in the hedge which had indicated a Bridle Path to Kirklevington, the sign top has disappeared either through neglect or metal thieves.

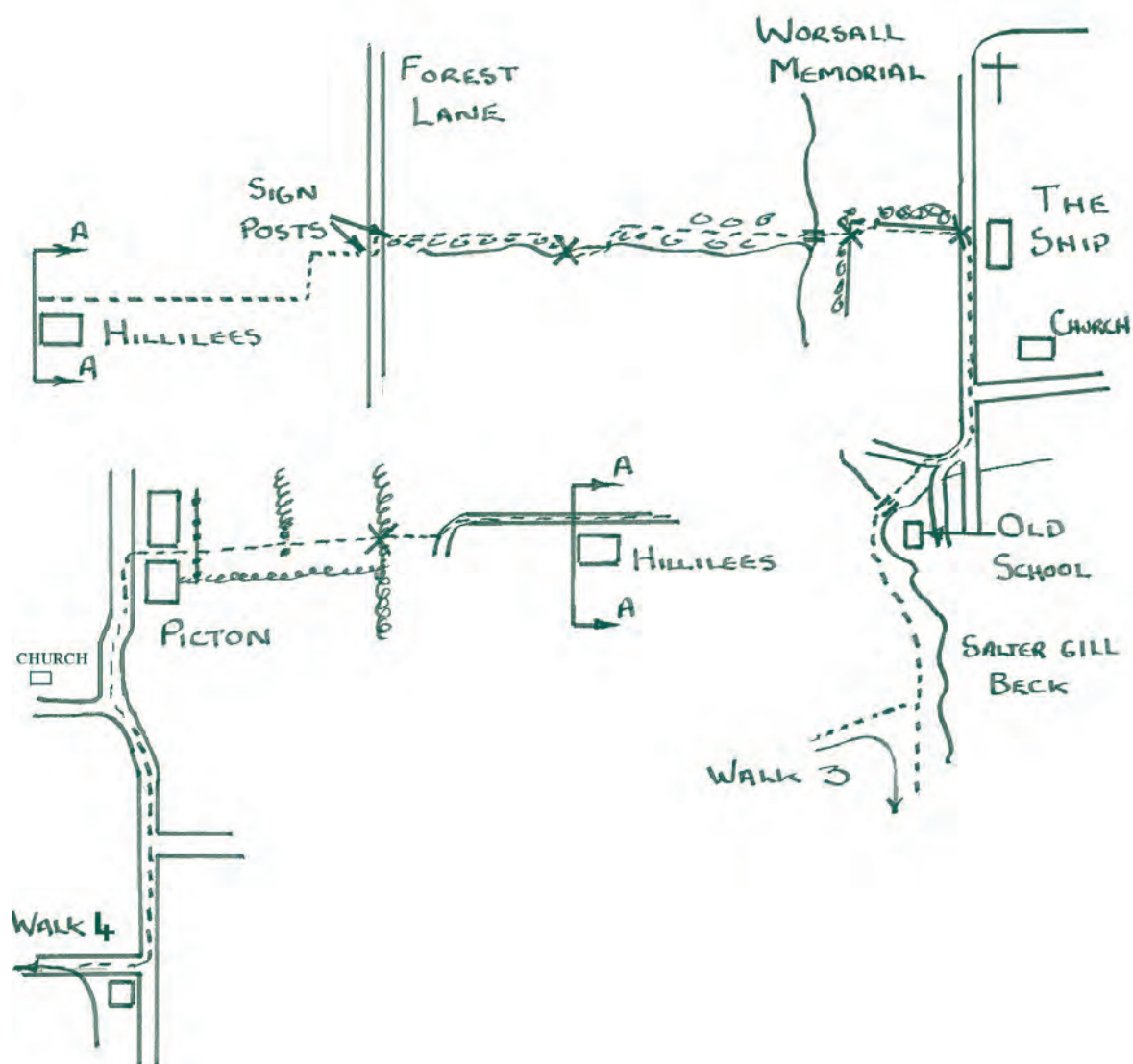
Continue along the lane until you reach a cottage on your right. This cottage is described in Walk 4 Picton Circular. You can turn right at the cottage and continue Walk 4 or continue along the lane and do the reverse of Walk 4, either way you will return to Kirklevington.



Looking back towards the T junction

## WALK 5 - WORSALL AND BACK

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## WALK 6 - THE OUTSKIRTS OF YARM AND BACK



*Distance - 5 miles*

*Difficulty - Moderate / Difficult.*

Follow walk 5 until you reach the B1264 but instead of walking towards the Ship Inn, although you may wish to detour to the Ship, turn right into the lane leading to Worsall Pumping Station. You may notice on your right, at this junction hidden in the undergrowth and under the trees, Giant Hogweed, possibly spread from Hogweed Plant Heaven you will shortly come across. Proceed along the lane towards Worsall Pumping Station. The station was built to intercept clean industrial water from the Tees and then pump it to ICI Wilton. It is assumed it still performs that function today but its customers are no longer ICI. On your right you will come to a footpath sign and a gate with a stile next to it. Crossing this stile is not easy so care is required. The gate is usually locked so the stile tends to be the only access to the field.

Once over the stile keep the hedge to your left and walk on to a footbridge in the valley bottom. The footbridge crosses Hole Beck and you bear slightly left to a hedge corner. On reaching the corner continue along the field boundary towards a wood in front of you. As you climb the hill the Tees Valley opens out on your left hand side, not a bad place to stop and take in the surroundings. To the North you will be able to see Aislaby Grange on the Durham side of the Tees.

Continue towards Mourie Wood, entering the wood by means of a stile. On entering the wood you will be immediately confronted on the left hand side of the path by what can only be described as a Giant Hogweed Plantation. Attempts have been made to spray the weeds but more work needs to be done. The wood is infested with the plants and is probably the main source for the propagation of the plants in the Worsall /Kirklevington area. Continue through the wood passing Mourie Farm on your right, exiting the wood through the gate and into the open field usually sown with wheat. At this point the path bears slightly right and again heads towards a hedge corner. It is hoped the path is clearly marked but if not skirting the field hedge on your right may be the better option.

On reaching the hedge corner proceed along the hedge line keeping the hedge to your right until a walkers gate is reached. Once through the gate cross the lane, turning through a gate on your right hand side. Turn left at this gate and proceed along the hedge, keeping the hedge on your left. After approximately 200 yards. a track cuts through the hedge, cross the track and keep the hedge to your left until a stile is reached. On crossing the stile you enter a narrow path with fences on both sides. Turn right and continue along this path for approximately 200 yards. You may find the path overgrown with grass and normal weeds but progress can be made until a lane is reached. Turn left into this lane and head towards the outskirts of Yarm which can be clearly seen.

On your right you will soon be passing Morley Carr, which is the site for a future building estate of approximately 350 houses. The lane quickly runs into the main road from Yarm. The road changing its name from Worsall Road to Allerton Baulk at this point. Turn right and walk down Allerton Baulk until the junction with the B1274 is reached.

Across the road and slightly to your right you will see a stile, cross the stile, walk along the narrow path until another stile is found. Cross the stile and head across the field keeping well to the right of a National Grid building at the base of a pylon.

The ground you are walking on will soon become allotments and the fields in front of you as far as the railway line will become another housing estate for approximately 370 houses. On reaching a gate, after passing the building, cross the stile and enter another field which is remarkably different from the fields you have just left.



**The Great Pasture**

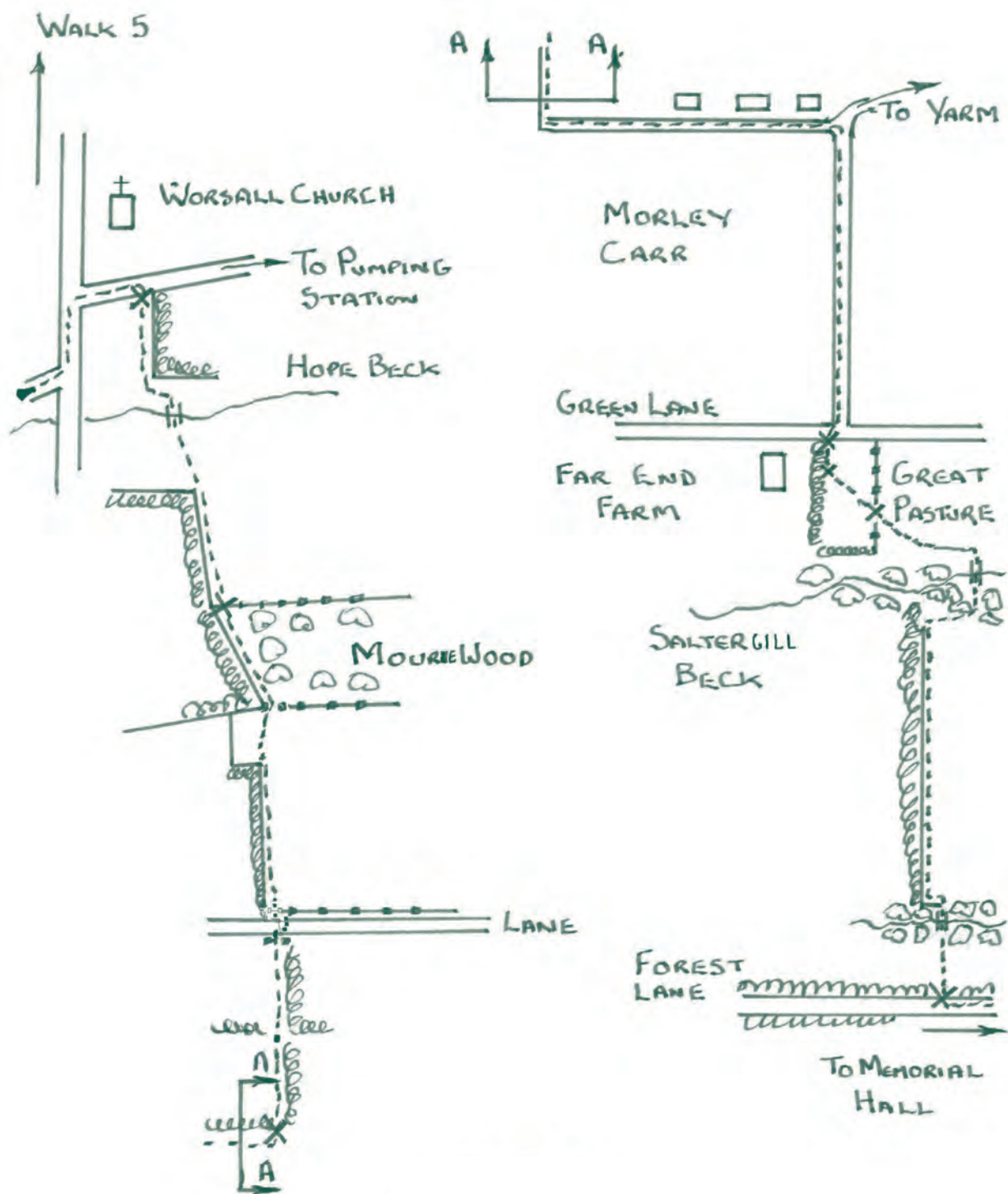
This field is part of the Great Pasture and has remained relatively undisturbed within its fence lines since the late 1700's. Dropping down into this field you enter an area of tranquillity. All this will be destroyed with the introduction of drainage ponds and tarmac paths, all as part of the proposed development.

Cross the Great Pasture by bearing to your right and head for a bridge across Saltergill Beck. After crossing the beck, head through the wood on a clearly trodden path emerging at a prominent tree. The path goes directly across the field in front of you. On your left and slightly behind, you may notice, in winter the field is rather wet. This area may well be a spring, water being forced out of the aquifer which lies below the glacial till and boulder clay, laid down by the last Ice Age.

On reaching the fence directly in front of you, follow the footpath signs and turn left.

You may recognise you are now returning to Kirklevington. Keep the hedge line to your right and follow the perimeter of the field pass through the wood and cross the next field to the stile. Crossing the stile puts you back onto Forest Lane where turning left leads you back into the village and the Memorial Hall.

## WALK 6 - THE OUTSKIRTS OF YARM AND BACK





## WALK 7 - WEST GILL AND YARM



*Distance - Approximately 4.5 miles depending on route*

*Difficulty - Easy, but be aware of dogs, can be muddy.*

Follow walk 2 until the prison is reached. Just before you reach the prison as you walk up the bank you will see a stile and footpath sign on your right. Climb the stile and pass through a walker's gate opposite and slightly to your left. This gives access to a field with a house on your right. You may find dogs in the house garden and they do not appear to be friendly, but you do have a fence between them. Keep the fence on your right and head directly to the gate in front of you. On



**Richardson's Dam**

passing through the gate you are entering West Gill. The path follows the hedge line on your left and very quickly you reach the remains of the dam and reservoir built by the Richardson's to provide water to Kirklevington Grange.

The water was pumped from the reservoir by means of a Ram Pump. Although the dam is no longer functioning, you can still see the dam walls, overspill channel and the size of the reservoir.

Continue along the gill keeping the hedge on your left. The path at this point becomes a little confusing but continue on until a small stream is reached, follow the stream bank to your left until the head of the stream is reached. Cross the stream at this point and angle slightly away from the hedge on your left until the gill opens up in front of you. You are now in East Gill, which again is another hidden gem. The beck flowing in the bottom of the gill has cut through the glacial till creating a deep-sided valley of impressive size and solitude.

Unfortunately developers are considering developing to the North of the gill hence compromising another of Kirklevington's ecological assets.

On entering East Gill, head in a southeasterly direction and towards the junction of the beck and a wood in front of you. On reaching the fence line of the wood cross over a stile, take care, the stile is in poor condition, and follow the path through the wood. You will pass a number of no trespass signs but they do not refer to your path. Eventually you will reach a stile which gives access to the A1044. Take care this is a busy road.

Turn right on to the footpath and follow the road to Leven Bridge. You may want to spend some time here standing beside the bridge watching the river flow by. A number of large trout have been taken from the river at this point. On the bank to your right the march of the dreaded Giant Hogweed is to be seen.

Retrace your steps a few yards and you will see on the opposite side of the road a gate with a stile adjacent. The stile may not be in a good condition so care to be taken when crossing. On entry to the field you will see a better view of the recent development, built within a wildlife corridor. At one time you could get down to the riverside but a fence prevents such access. You can see a fish ladder just below you, when fish last used it is debatable, it is in such poor condition. The area on the far bank used to be a favourite destination for a day out for the people of Thornaby and the surrounding area.



**Fish Ladder**

A grassy bank and sandy river edge gave access for picnic, fishing and swimming. The area was used as a play area until well into the 1950's.

The field path becomes a little vague at this point. A path leads directly up the bank to a fence line but the ordinance survey map indicates you head for a brick building you should be able to see on your left. This building was once an ammunition storage bunker used by the Home Guard during WW2. On reaching the bunker you should head for the top right hand corner of the field, this may not be easy because of the bushes in the way, where a metal gate should be reached,



**Development next to the River Leven**

allowing you access into a grass field. You will notice how heavily fenced this area is, hence restricting the passage of large mammals and further degrading the wildlife corridor.

On entering the field you will see a large house on your right, keeping the house on your right, head for the house's access road. On reaching the access road turn left and follow the road. You are now walking over an area which will be developed over

the next few years, planning permission being given for a retirement village. Such a development will radically change the character of the area. Continue along the lane going through a walker's gate next to the main access gate. You will see a stile directly in front of you. This gives you access to a narrow path between houses on your right and a field on your left. This lane via another



stile leads you into Spell Close and suburban Yarm. Head towards Angrove Close, the name of the close being seen in front of you. On reaching the main road just before the close turn left. Head along the main road until you come to a bus stop on your right. Just behind the bus stop you will see two paths making a Y junction take the left-hand path. This leads to St Nicholas Gardens, the first road you come to. Turn left at this point and head for the hammerhead at the end of the road. On the right hand side of the hammerhead you will see a path heading West. Take the path and on reaching Kirk Road take the path opposite, keeping the houses on your right.

Eventually you will reach the perimeter of Kirklevington Prison. You now have a decision to make. You can cross the main road at this point and walk along Castleavington Lane keeping the prison on you right. Or you can continue along the path you are on and head towards The Golden Jubilee Pub.

If you decide to walk along Castleavington Lane, the footpath only goes as far as the main entrance to the prison. However on reaching the prison entrance you have the opportunity to visit the Prison Café and Shop, which might not be a bad idea. If you continue down the lane to the end of the prison boundary fence you can return to Kirklevington by continuing on Walk 2

If you decide to continue to the Golden Jubilee Pub perhaps a cup of tea in the bar or something stronger might be your requirement. The pub was dog friendly, please ask, but if not, on a pleasant day there are plenty of benches and tables outside.

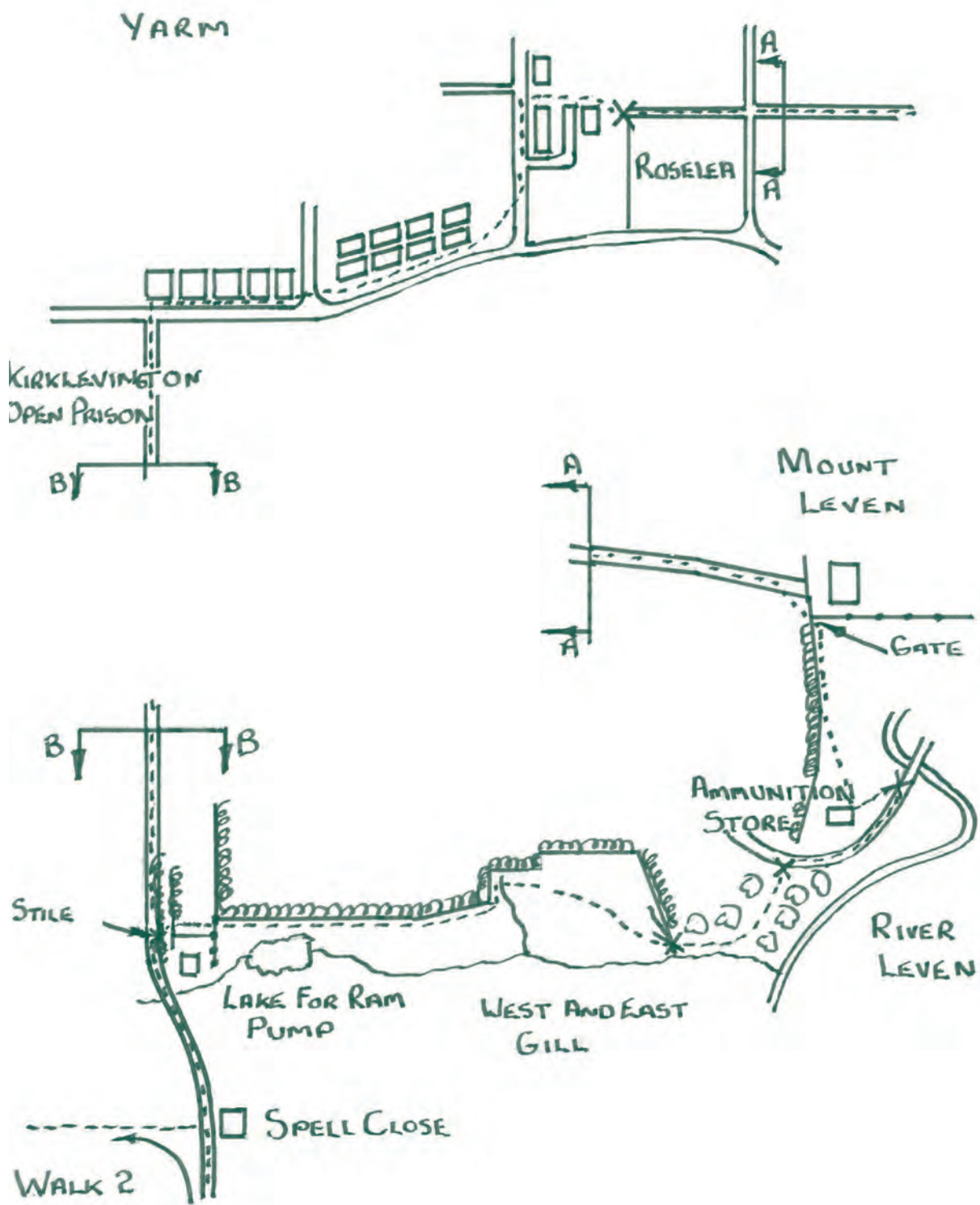
After leaving the Golden Jubilee cross the A1044 and then the A67, skirting round the roundabout. The footpath on the west side of the A67 is best for pedestrians. Before leaving the area of the roundabout take note of the buildings, which were all part of the estates of Kirklevington Hall and Kirklevington Grange.

Continue along the A67 towards Kirklevington passing Kirklevington Hall Lodge which is now in private ownership, until you reach the entrance to Judges where again you can return to Kirklevington via Walk 2.



Southern hedge adjacent to Prison





## WALK 8 - LEVEN VALLEY



*Distance - Approximately 5 miles depending on route*

*Difficulty - Strenuous, good agility required, be prepared for river crossing, Wellington Boots or old trainers required. Be prepared to get wet feet. Turn back if water is fast flowing and deep. Only recommended after prolonged dry spell, it can become very muddy.*



**Red Hall Farm**

to the West. On a clear winters night this position, in November or December, gives you a good view of the night sky.

In particular Orion to the South East and the Plough which seems to be directly above you. From the plough you can find the North Star or Polaris. From the North Star Cassiopeia, or the Big W, can be seen just off to the West. From the red star Betelgeuse, on the left corner of the Orion Constellation, you can see the twins Castor and Pollux in the lower left hand side of the sky. Betelgeuse is a Red Giant and eventually will go supernova. I do not think we need to worry though.

Continue along the lane until the lane bears left. On your right you will see a gate with a footpath marker.



**Windmills, Roseberry Topping just visible**



**Undulating ground, Red Hall**

Before going through the gate, observe the land to your right. It is particularly undulating with dips and tracks. Red Hall's historic site connected to Guisborough Priory. Dean Meriton, Dean of York 1617-1624, and Chaplain to Queen Anne was in possession of the hall after James I came to the throne. The hall with an extensive library, was destroyed by fire in 1703. Its owner, having lost everything, was given support by the William Hall Trust Fund. (refer to the village walk, The Old School Kirklevington, for details).

The hall had survived the Civil war when it can be assumed more destruction came to the village. Three members of the Meriton family died in the Civil War .The Meriton family were famous as authors, George Meriton wrote The Praise of Yorkshire Ale in 1684/5, a poem describing a drinking trip around Northallerton's ale houses with friends from London who went home with sore heads. Copies of the 1975 reprint still available from Ken Spelman, bookseller in York. The valley opens out in front of you, again a place of solitude. Progressing down the track a fork is reached, take the right hand fork as indicated by a footpath symbol. The A19 viaduct can be seen in the distance and that is the direction you need to take . The track becomes tree lined, eventually reaching a ford across the River Leven. Take care at this point, under dry conditions in the summer when the water level is low the ford can be crossed, hence the need for wellingtons or trainers. The ford did have stepping stones but these have been removed. The River Leven is not to be underestimated. Once across the River Leven turn right. Note there is a path going to the left.



**The Leven Valley**



**The River Leven Ford**

If you take this path you will reach Low Lane close to the Fox Covert public house.

Taking the path to the right you follow the field edge until you reach a track, turn right on this track and pass under the A19 viaduct keeping the River Leven on your right. Walking along this track you will notice signs of a wall on your left. The River Leven is quite close



to the track at this point and the wall may be the remains of an old mill. Note what might possibly be a mill race on your right. Continue along the track skirting the field edge. The track becomes more of a path before entering Hilton Wood. The path becomes quite difficult at this point, you will have to clamber over tree roots, and is prone to subsidence so take care. On exiting from the wood, although the Ordinance survey map indicates the path going directly to Scridbles Wood in front of you, it would appear the farmer is encouraging you to take the clearly defined footpath on your right which follows the River Leven. Note the Giant Hogweed growing alongside the river bank. On entering Scridbles Wood via a stile continue to follow the path alongside the Leven until you come to a diversion in the path. Take the left hand path



**The River Leven**

and climb a number of steps walking away from the River Leven. The path at this point can be very wet and muddy care being taken when stepping on the wooden edges of the steps, as they can be very slippery. In fact all the wooden structures when wet can be hazardous so take care.

On exiting Scridbles Wood you will see a Bridle Way sign in front of you. At this point the walk offers two options.

**OPTION 1** If you take the path to the right you immediately face Castle Hill or Mound. In winter with the leaves off the trees Castle Hill appears to tower over you, the flat top being quite pronounced. In summer the Mound is partially hidden by the trees and not so prominent. The Castle was part of a Norman Motte , built to enable the Normans to control the surrounding area.

Walk towards the Mound and before passing over a stream and through a gate, you will notice on your left a number of stones with carvings on their faces. These carvings are all part of local village projects. After passing through the gate directly in front of you, across the field you may just see a path leading down to the river and another ford. In order to reach the ford the ordinance survey map indicates you go left at the gate and skirt the field until you reach the ford. Again only cross the ford in dry conditions. On reaching the opposite bank turn left and skirt round the base of the mound. The path is indistinct at this point, but will soon become visible when you reach the wood in front of you. You will notice on your left signs of walls. This may have been another mill or crossing point, again open to investigation.



**Castle Mound**

On entering the wood follow the clearly defined path but be careful, subsidence has caused the path to be re-routed slightly. The path continues to Foxton Bridge, the River Leven being on your left. On your right, embedded in the bank and just before you reach the bridge, you will

see a World War 2 Pill Box, built to defend the approaches to the bridge. Pass through the gate into Castleavington Lane and turn right and head for the bridge over the A19. Once over the bridge you will see a footpath sign on your left pointing down the embankment. Follow this sign down some steps, which over the years have become more overgrown. Go over the stile and into a ploughed field. Usually the path across the field is clearly marked, but if not, head just to the right of the farm in front of you. On reaching the farm access road continue across the field in front of you keeping the farm to your left. Again the path should be clearly marked, if not aim for a gap in the hedge about 100 metres from the right hand corner of the field. After passing through the hedge continue on to the corner of the field in front, where you will see a gap in the hedge and a footpath sign. Passing through the gap and turning left puts you on Dents Lane. Follow the lane back to Kirklevington and the Memorial Hall.



**Track looking back towards stiles**

**OPTION 2** If you take the path to the left you head towards Hilton. The path from Hilton is a way to avoid the fords but that is not part of this description and is left for you to determine. After approximately 100 metres, a footbridge is seen on your right. Take this footpath and head towards Middleton keeping a hedge on your right. Eventually you reach a stile in the hedge, go over this stile and head for a stile immediately in front of you. Crossing this stile you join a track which leads directly to

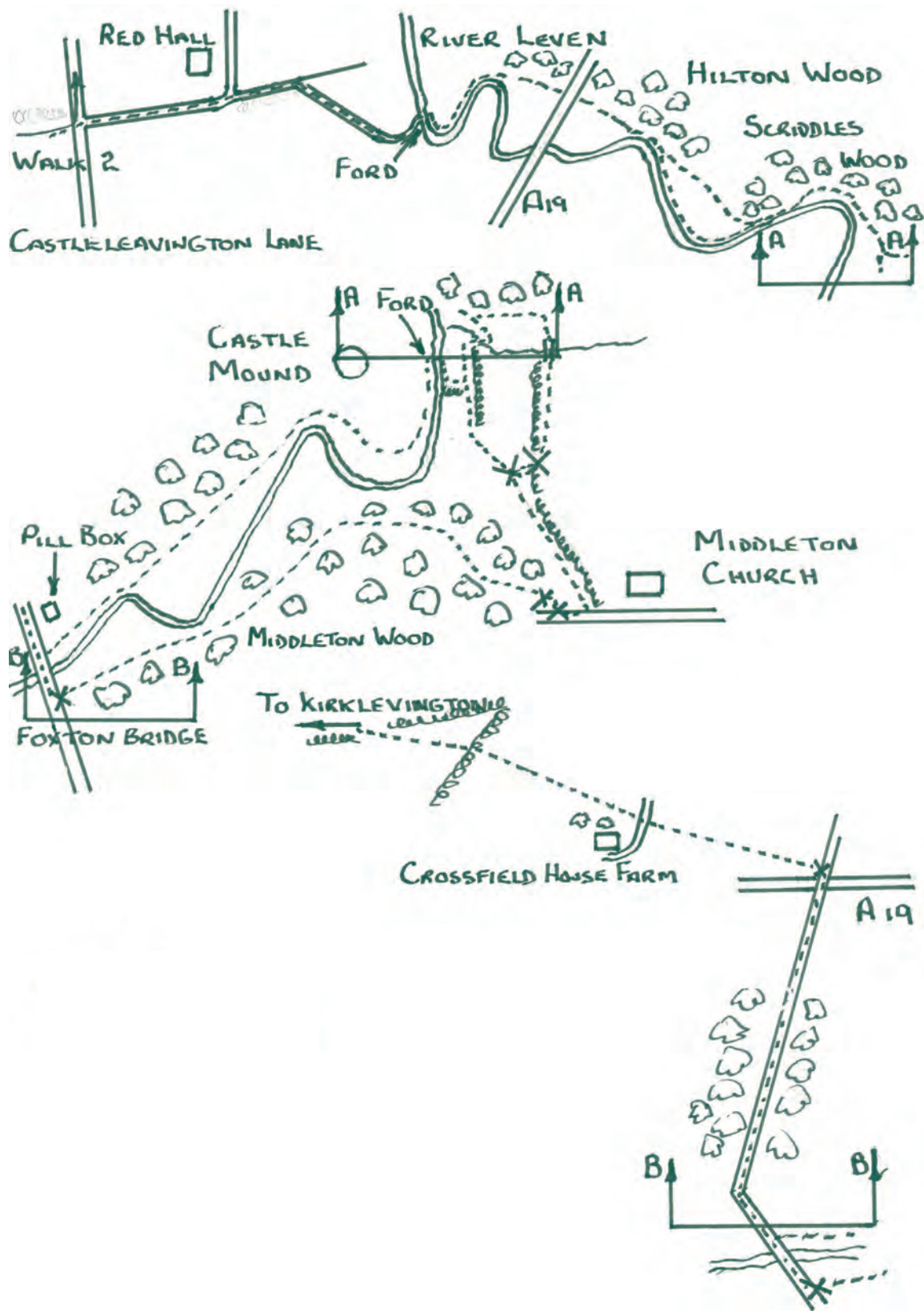
Middleton. On reaching Middleton notice the church on your left. Turn right and head for a stile at the end of Middleton's main street. Climb the stile and follow the edge of a garden. Entering Middleton Wood by means of a further stile, follow the path through the wood. The path is way marked and passes through a number of gates. The path winds its way across ravines and in the spring, the floor is carpeted in flowers, but it can be extremely muddy even in summer

Eventually the path reaches Castleavington Lane, which is accessed by a stile. Turn right on the lane and head for Foxton Bridge where you join the route for option 1 and return to Kirklevington.



**Foxton Bridge**







## WALK 9 - CRATHORNE CIRCULAR



*Distance - approximately 7 miles*

*Difficulty - **Moderate, extensive road walking and some muddy parts.***

Follow walk 2 until reaching the end of Dents Lane. Immediately at the end of Dents Lane there is a footpath sign in the opening in the hedge on your right. Pass through the hedge and follow the direction of the sign towards a gap in the hedge opposite. You will probably recognise the direction you are taking. The direction being the reverse of walk 8. Pass through the hedge opposite and head just to the left of the farmhouse in front of you. Continue on past the farm house over the farm access road and continue in the same direction across the next field towards a stile in the fence at the bottom of the road embankment. Crossing the stile gives access to some steps and Castleleavington Lane.



**Badly sited footpath signs**



**Hedge gap**

Turn right along the lane heading towards the A19 and beyond to Foxton Bridge. On reaching Foxton Bridge Walk 8 is left at this point. Continue along the lane heading towards Hutton Rudby, be prepared for the long drag up the hill.

After passing the entrance to Low Foxton Farm the lane turns left and then right. Approximately 200 yards after the right hand turn on your left you will see two badly sited sign posts, one pointing to a gap in the hedge opposite. Go through this gap and go across the field.

This field can be muddy. Head directly across the field towards the corner of the wood in front of you. On reaching the wood walk along its boundary keeping the edge of the wood on your right. Eventually you will see a path marker attached to a tree directing you into the wood and over a footbridge.

Once over the bridge, turn left and cross over a combination of stiles. Take care at this point as the way markers and the map seem to be confusing.

The map seems to indicate that after crossing the stiles you should be on the

right hand side of a fence. In fact you end up being on the left hand side of a fence where there appears to be a defined path



**Footbridge Middleton Wood**

line and cut diagonally across the field towards the far left hand corner where another stile is reached, crossing this stile and keeping the hedge on your left you reach Hunter Banks Farm access road. You will find the path has been diverted at this point, so turn left along the Hunter Banks Farm access road until you meet the first gate on your right. On the right hand post of this gate you will see a footpath sign partly hidden by vegetation pointing into the field towards Park Wood.

Continue along the path towards Low Foxton Farm. Keep the farm to your right, cross the access road and follow the way marker signs into the next field by way of a stile. Cross the field heading slightly to your right towards a gate which you will soon see. On reaching the gate you will see a stile on your left, cross the stile but be careful, the angle of the stile is quite awkward. Once across the stile keep the hedge on your right and walk along the hedge line crossing stiles as you go. On reaching the final field just before Hunter Banks leave the hedge

Head towards Park Wood. On entering the wood via a gate you will see a clearly defined marked path. The path meanders through Park Wood giving views of Crathorne Hall and the Leven Valley, passing through a gate, across a field and over a stile.



**Bridge over the River Leven**



**Entry to Park Wood**

The path eventually passes through the garden of Park House. Please keep your footfall to a minimum at this point. Passing Park House, a short descent brings you to a lane. Turn right on this lane and head towards the bridge over the River Leven and Crathorne. On the ridge to your right another view of Crathorne Hall can be seen.

On entering Crathorne the church is on your right. Enter the Church grounds, in spring the daffodils are a riot of colour. Take note of the



**All Saints Church, Crathorne**



Anglo-Saxon hogs back lintel in the Church porch. To the East of the church along the hedge you will find an access gate, which provides access to a path through the wood. This path is not a right of way but gives access to a path, which is cut by deep ravines.

It comes as a surprise that such ravines can be formed by what seems a minor stream flowing into the River Leven. The path eventually emerges in the centre of Crathorne opposite The Crathorne Arms.



**Sand Hills, Kirklevington in background**

This however is not your route, proceed along the Hutton Rudby road past the church until a T-junction is reached. Turn right and walk through Crathorne, past Grange Farm until you meet a sign post on your left indicating access to a track, which leads you across the A19 and past a meadow on your right. Passing through the gate at the end of the meadow turn right along the fence line and head towards Grange Plantation and Sand Hills Farm. On reaching Grange Plantation the map indicates the path going direct to Sand

Hills Farm but the farmer seems to be encouraging walkers to walk round the field boundary, before going through the field hedge and then going directly to Sand Hills Farm. Once through the hedge you are entering the Parish of Kirklevington. Keep the farm to your right, skirting the farm boundary, you gain the farm access road.

Walk along this road to Long Lane or known locally as Picton Road. The gate at the end of the access road is locked between approximately 6:00pm and 8:00 am so the only access to Long Lane between these times is through a gap in the hedge on the left of the gate. There was a stile at this point but it was in such poor condition and overgrown that it's been removed.

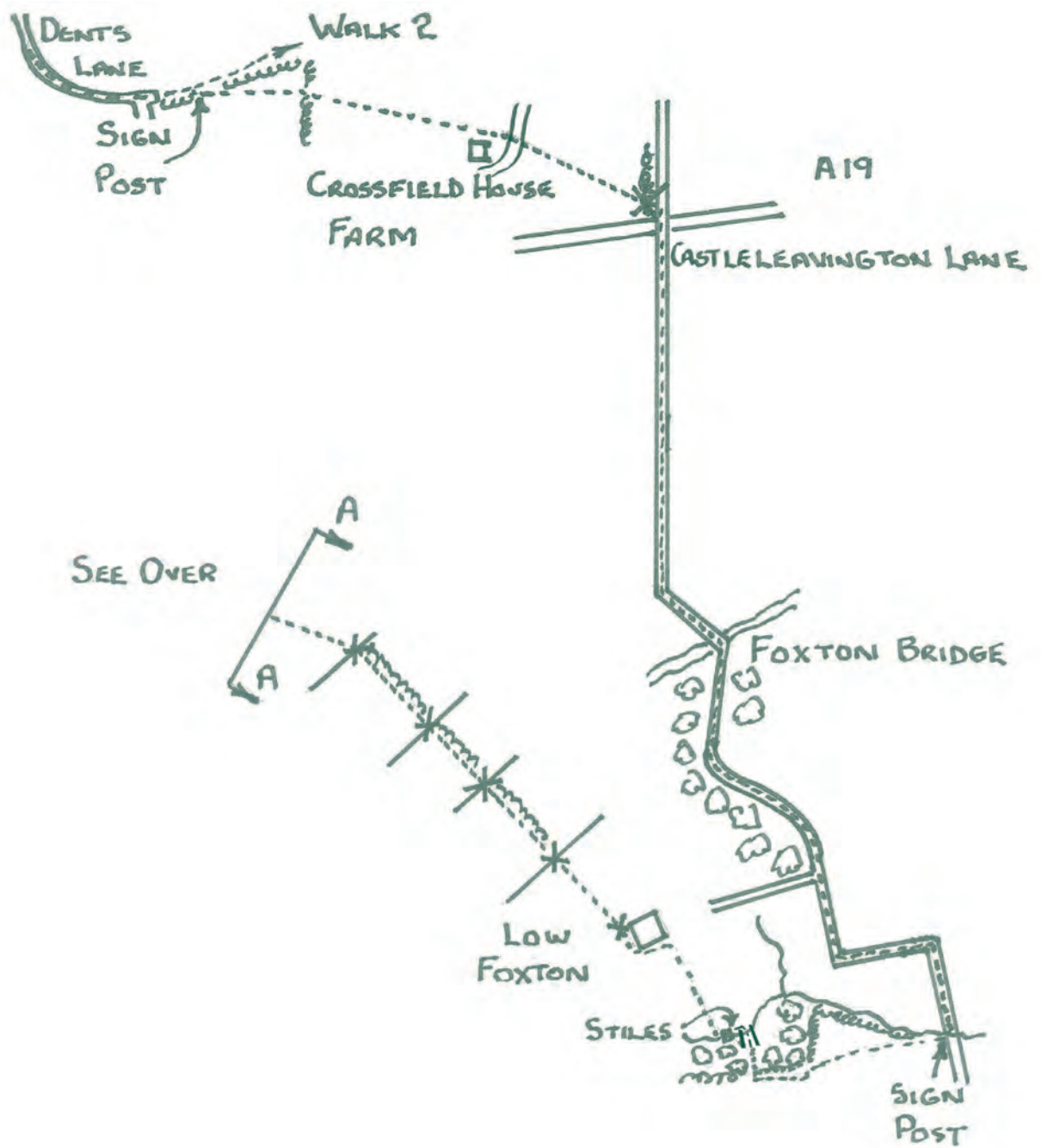
On entering Long Lane turn left and head for the access road to Moor House Farm which is on your right. Turn right along this access road, you are now on the last leg of the walk and Kirklevington can be seen in front of you. Follow the way markers and pass Moor House Farm on your left. On entering a meadow keep the barns and the field fence line on your left and head towards a footbridge in the hedge. Once through the hedge, you will notice a path has been created on your left allowing access to walk 4. This is not a right of way but has been created as a permissive footpath by the present land owner. This path provides a valuable circular route around the field and is ideal for a short evening walk. This is a classic example of the landowner working with the local community to provide a valuable community asset which we should all respect.

However our route is not along the hedge line but, after a slight kink to the right, directly across the field. The path is usually clearly marked and leads straight to Kirklevington. Half way across the field stop a moment and look back towards the Cleveland Hills. On a clear sunny day it's worthwhile taking in the view. Crossing this field you will notice the Poplars at the edge of the school playing field. These Poplars can be seen with visual aids from the Cleveland Hills and are a good visual way mark if you want to identify Kirklevington from such a lofty point. On crossing the field you will meet the path described in Walk 4, which takes you back to the Memorial Hall and the end of the walk.

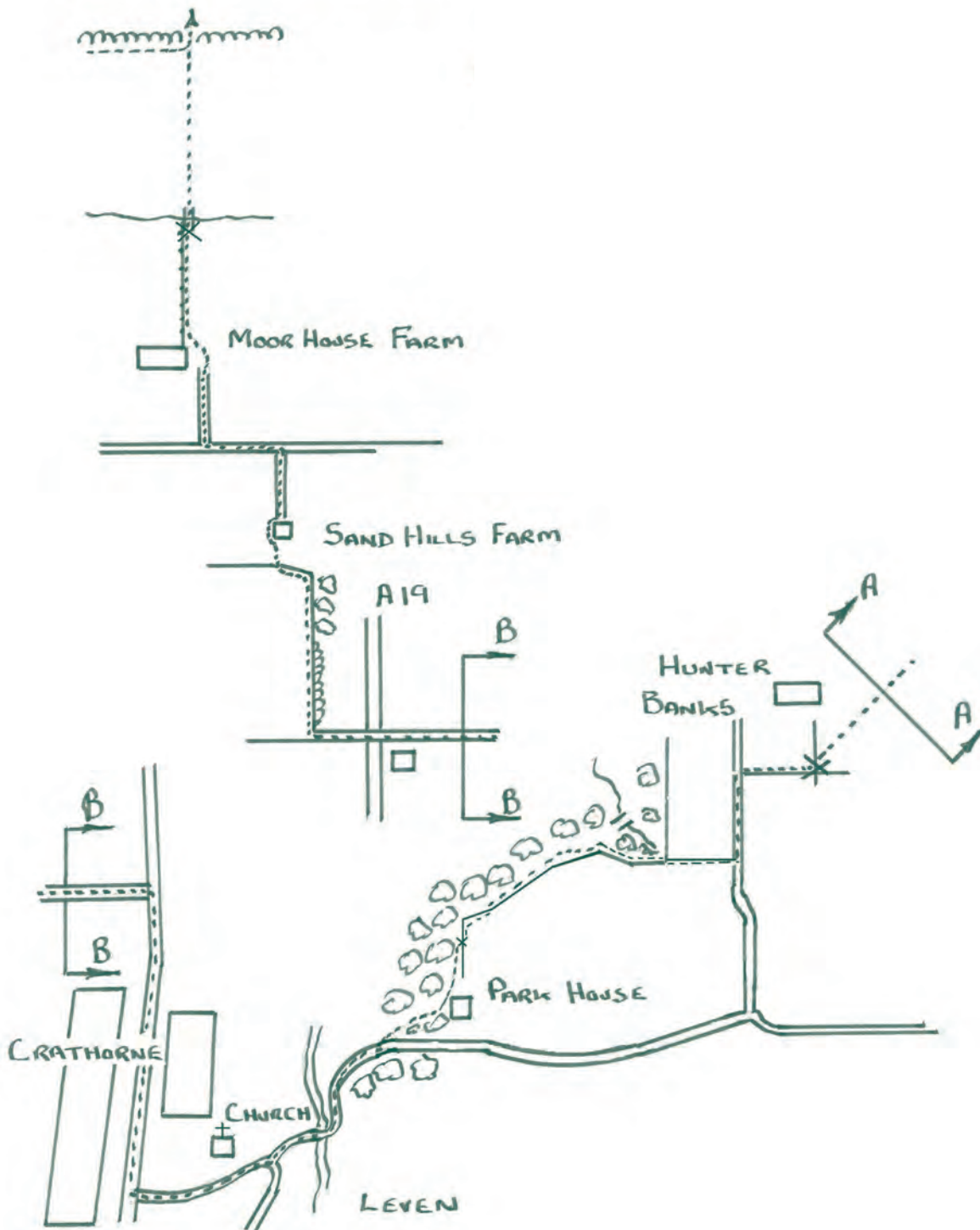


## WALK 9 - CRATHORNE CIRCULAR

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WALK 4 TO KIRKLEVINGTON



## REFERENCES

Kirklevington Township and Parish  
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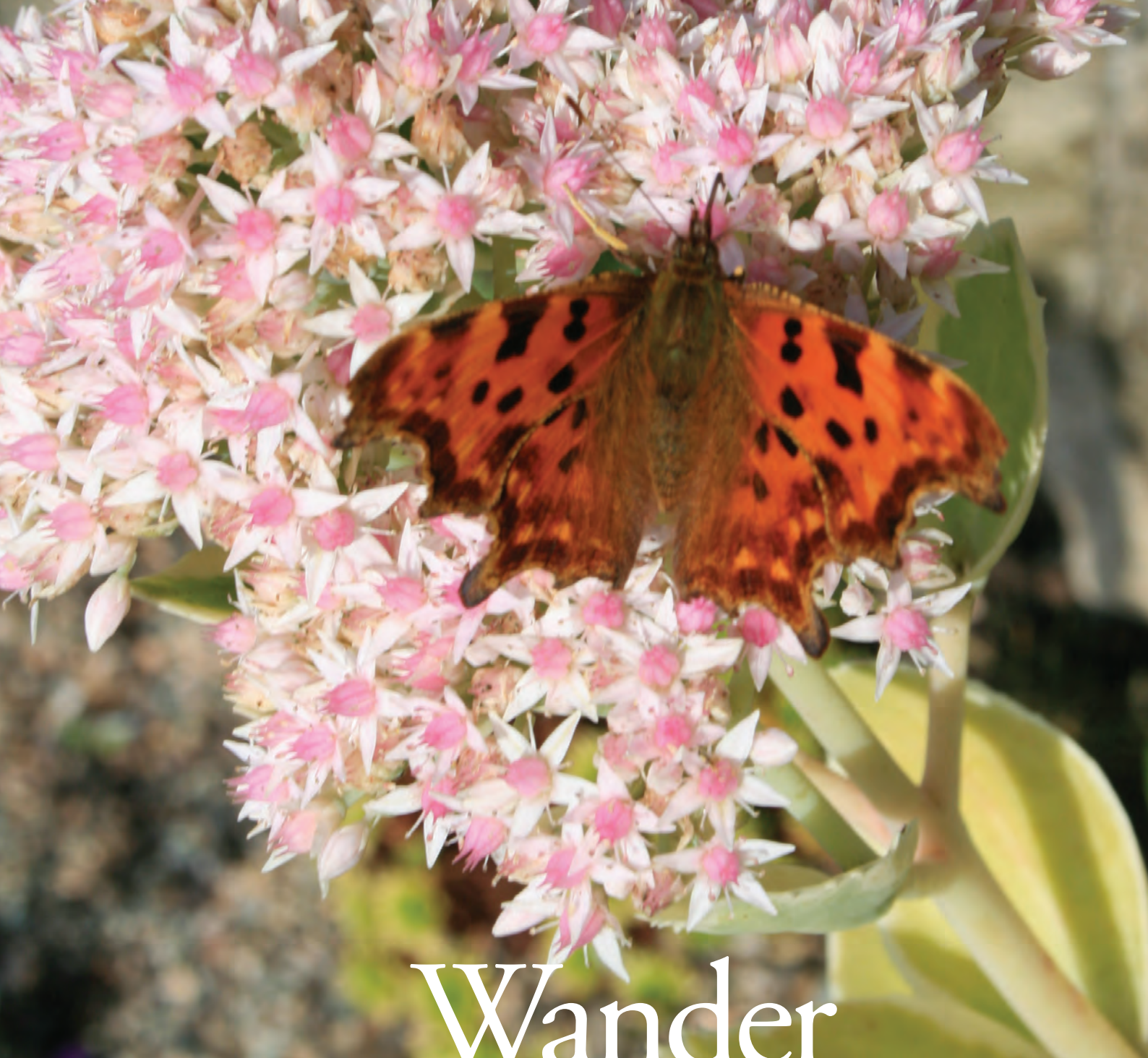
## CONCLUSION

It is hoped that the production of this booklet will give the residents of Kirklevington and Castleavington Parish the opportunity to experience and enjoy the area we live in.

Kirklevington is not just a modern commuter village but a village with a rich history and is surrounded by farmland and a landscape worth exploring and enjoying. It is an area worth protecting and, as such, the stewardship of the area and its protection is a worthy aim.

Not all the walks in the vicinity of Kirklevington are described in this booklet.  
Thanks to villagers, past and present, for their contribution to the history content within the booklet.





# Wander With History

*Walks in Kirklevington & Castlelevington*



Kirklevington & Castlelevington Parish  
Supporting Our Community