



Wander With History

Walks in Kirklevington & Castleavington



WALK 1 - AROUND THE VILLAGE

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