

Wander With History

Walks in Kirklevington & Castleavington



WALK 2 - DENTS LANE, CASTLELEAVINGTON CIRCULAR

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.

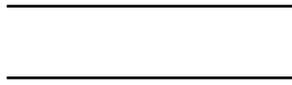
KEY TO SYMBOLS



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 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

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