

Wander With History

Walks in Kirklevington & Castleavington



WALK 3 - SALTERGILL LANE CIRCULAR WITH VARIATIONS

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

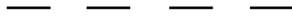
THE COUNTRY CODE

- 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.

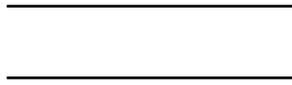
KEY TO SYMBOLS



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 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



Grove Farm

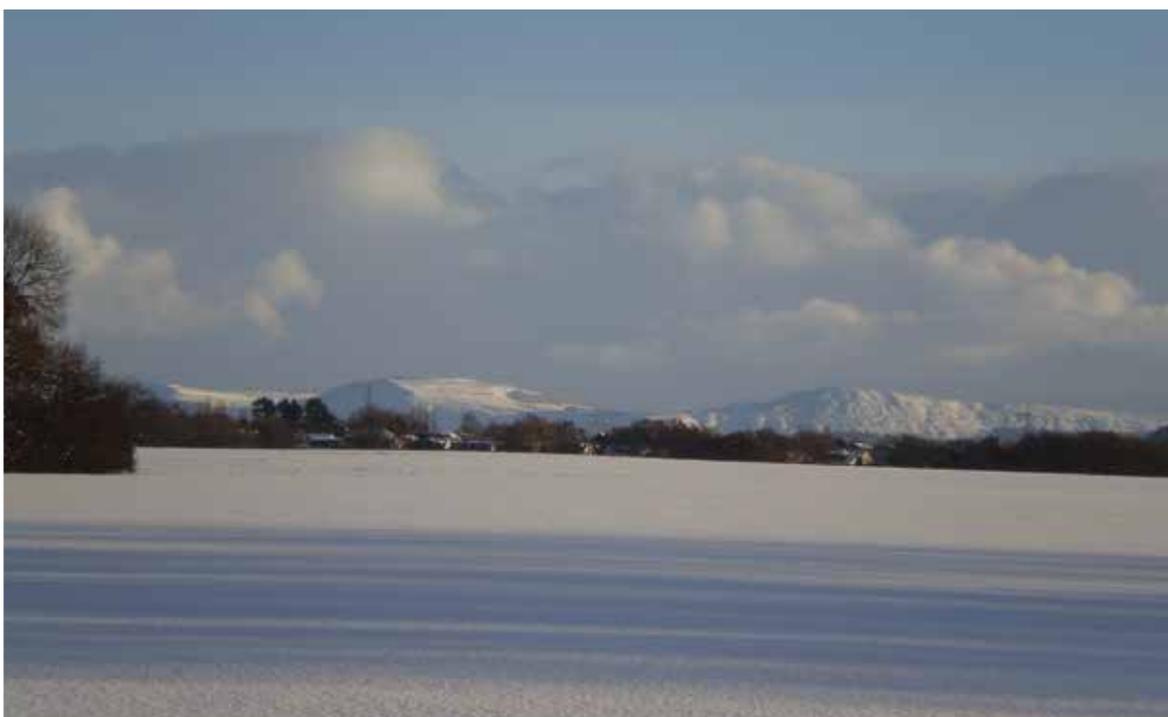
a footpath marker. Please keep to single file to prevent damage to the crop. On reaching the copse continue on passing over a footbridge. The copse used to be used by a gun club for the rearing of pheasants and it was not unknown for pheasants to fly into windows in Ash Grove.

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

