

Wander  
With  
History  
*Walks in Kirklevington & Castleavington*



WALK 7 - WEST GILL AND YARM

# 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.

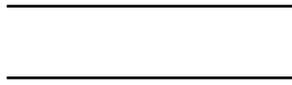
# KEY TO SYMBOLS



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 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.

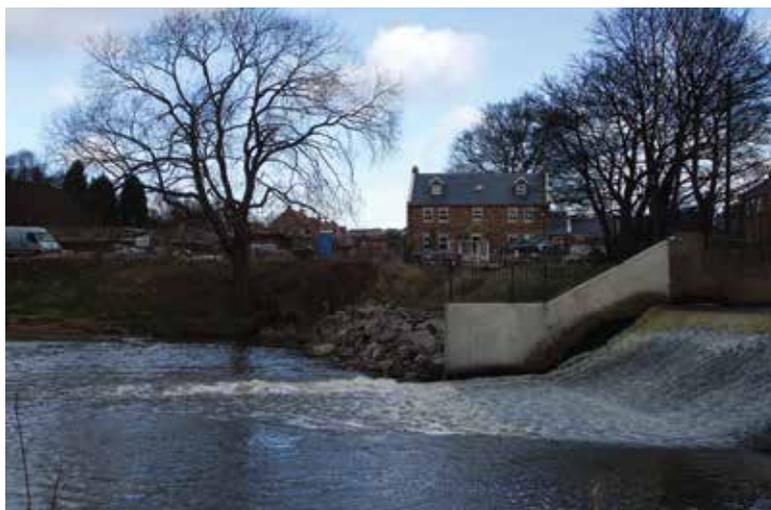


**Fish Ladder**

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,

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.



**Development next to the River Leven**

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 your 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 7 - WEST GILL AND YARM

