

Wander
With
History
Walks in Kirklevington & Castleavington



WALK 9 - CRATHORNE 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 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 Castleavington 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.

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.

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

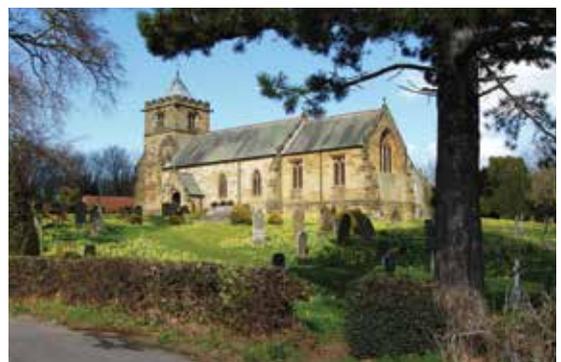


Bridge over the River Leven



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.



All Saints Church, Crathorne

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

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

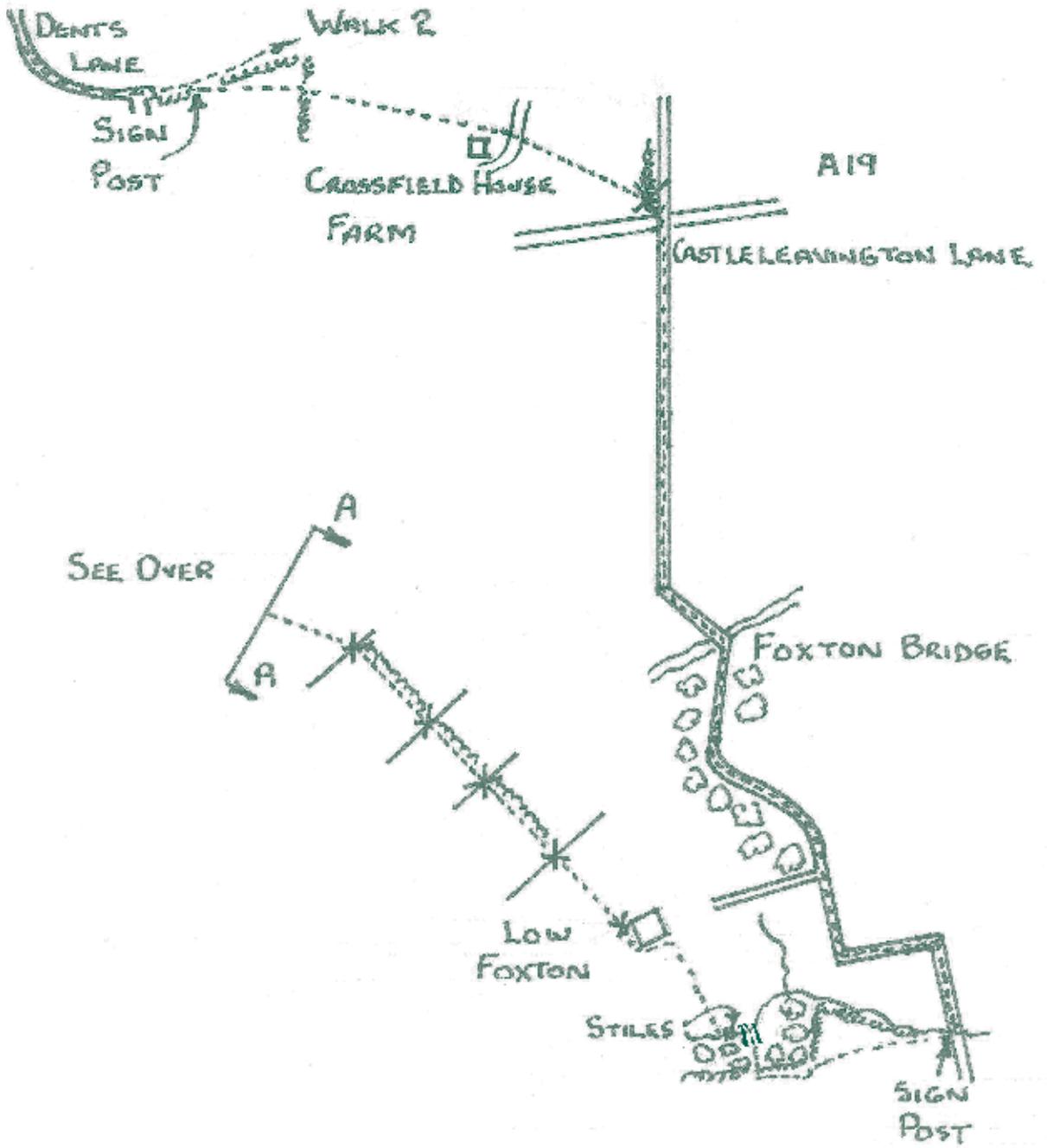
Hills Farm but the farmer seems to be encouraging walkers to walk round the field boundary, before going through the field hedge and then going directly to Sand Hills Farm. Once through the hedge you are entering the Parish of Kirklevington. Keep the farm to your right, skirting the farm boundary, you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



WALK 9 (CONTD) - CRATHORNE CIRCULAR

WALK 4 TO KIRKLEWINGTON

