

Walk for April

Around Airyholme

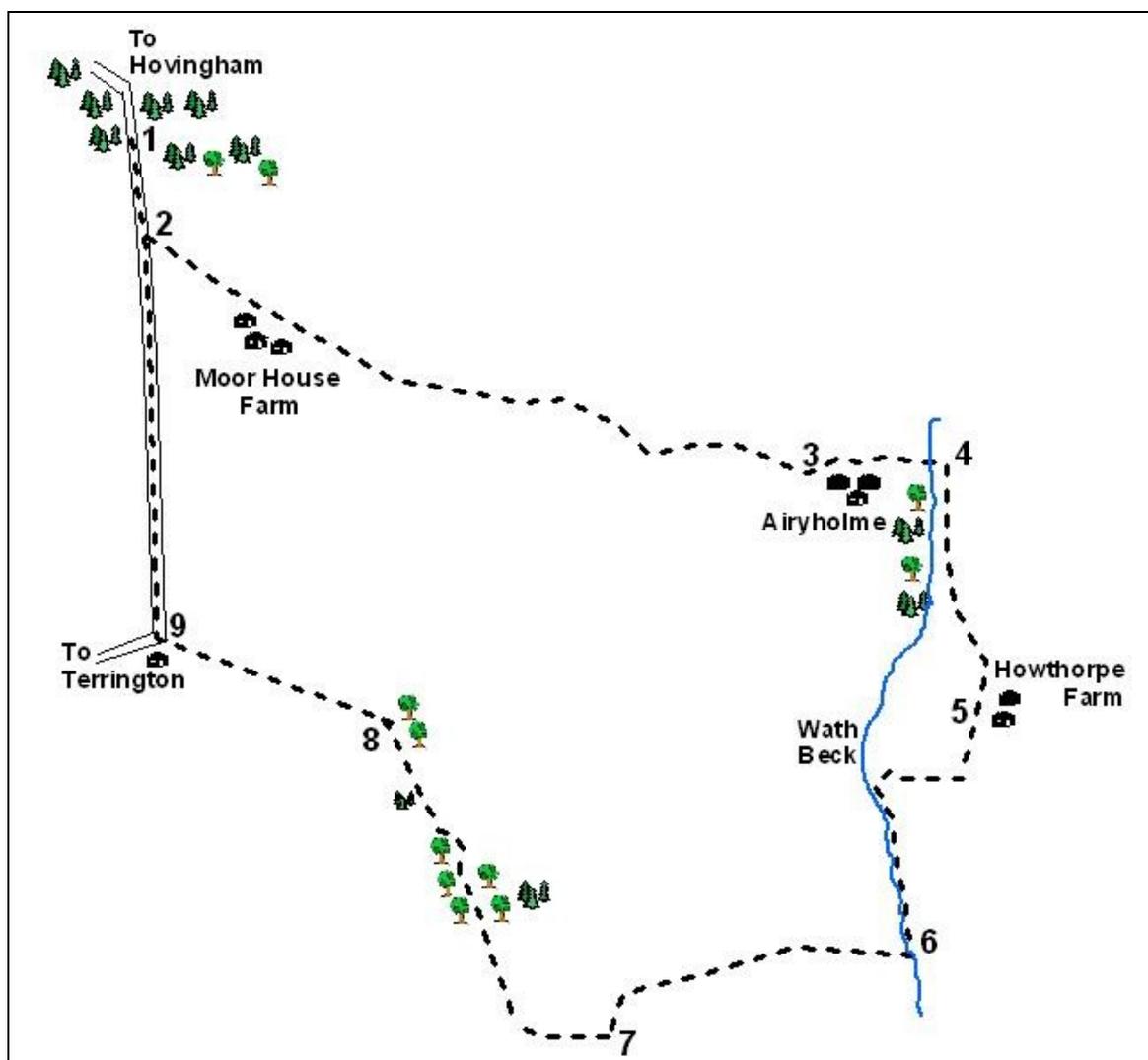
A very pleasant walk for early spring for the most part through peaceful countryside although the final section is unavoidably beside the road. The track to Airyholme is lined with daffodils and you will be unlucky not to see plenty of young lambs as you pass by and through fields.

The central section can be rather boggy so be sure to wear sturdy footwear.

To reach the start point of the walk leave Hovingham on the road to Sheriff Hutton. The road rises steeply then steadily to reach woods about a mile on. The road then descends and bends to the left. As it then bends to the right and before it leaves the woods there is a turn off on the left-hand side with room to park under the trees beside the track, before the gate forbidding entry.

Start – Hovingham Woods near Moor House Farm

Distance – 3½ miles **Duration** – 1½ to 2 hours



1. From your car walk downhill beside the road.
2. At the sign for Airyholme leave the road and turn left along the stoned track which runs below Moor House Farm. Continue along this until you approach the farm buildings of Airyholme.

3. Before passing the first building bear left along the grassy track which descends gently to reach a junction of paths and waymarks at a gate.
4. Go through the gate and turn right. Rather than stay by the fence as indicated by the yellow waymark, walk at 11 o'clock heading towards the paths that run along the bank opposite, below the gorse bushes. The path rises roughly along the line of the electricity wires and after rising more steeply reaches the ridge where Howthorpe Farm comes into view. Head towards the far end of the farm buildings and farmyard.
5. At the end of the farmyard pass out of the field through a gate (not waymarked) into the adjoining field by the farmhouse then turn sharp right and walk downhill to the gate. Go through the gate and turn right, descending the track which then becomes the path that rises alongside Wath Beck. Stay on this boggy path until you reach a small footbridge across the beck.
6. Cross the beck then go straight on at the waymark to ascend the broad grass path ahead. The path rises fairly steeply then more gently before reaching a gate with waymarks.
7. Turn right before going through the gate and pass between fields to meet up with another track and turn right along it. The path shortly goes downhill to enter a wood. Pass through the wood and emerge uphill into more open countryside.
8. At the next small wood on the right follow the waymark that sends you at 10 o'clock across the open field. There are 2 waymark posts along the way to help you stay on the right line to reach the houses at the far end of the field.
9. Leave the field beside the houses and taking care walk beside the road ahead for the last half a mile or so back to your car. The road can be quite busy but for much of the way the verge is sufficiently wide to stay well clear of vehicles.