

Walk for August 2018

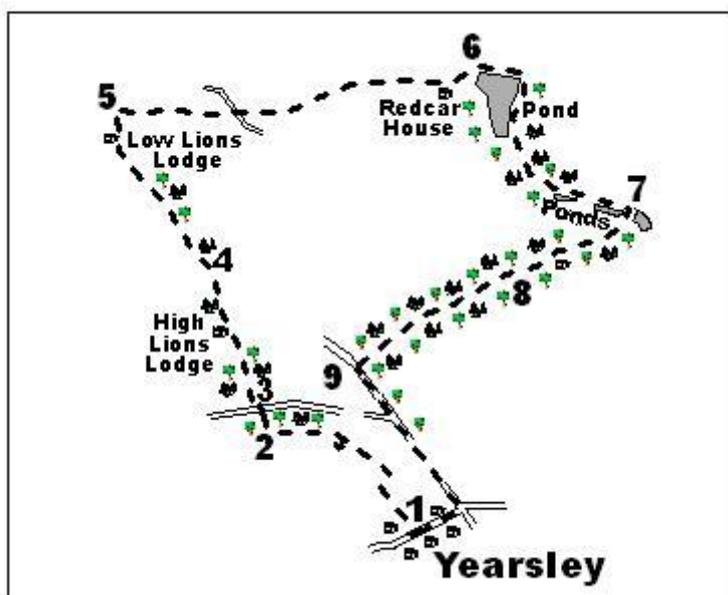
Yearsley, Fish Ponds

A walk of two distinct halves. The first is through open hill country with good views over towards Ampleforth and the Hambleton Hills. The second half is almost entirely in woodland, within which the wildlife is enhanced by a series of ponds.

Note: the field near Low Lions Lodge is liable to become very boggy all year round after heavy rain.

To reach Yearsley from Slingsby take the B1257 road to Hovingham and turn into Park Street opposite the Worsley Arms. Leave the village along this road and stay on it as it passes Coulton then about 1½ miles later reaches a crossroads. Go straight across and you arrive a mile later at another crossroads with the main street of Yearsley village directly in front of you. Park in that street on the roadside near the church.

Start — Yearsley Village
Distance – 5¼ miles **Duration** – 2½ to 3 hours



1. Leave the main street via the path on the opposite side of the road to the church waymarked 'Four Acre Wood ¾'. Walking straight ahead, pass through two gates before turning sharp right on entering a large field. Follow the field boundary round then the path heads off towards the wood. The path dips beside a small copse then bears left alongside the larger wood.
2. About 250 yards along turn right into the wood along a waymarked dirt track and after 100 yards or so you reach a road. (If you miss this first track through the wood, turn right at the waymark post then right again at the road, then walk uphill about 100 yards.) Cross the road and turn left, then about 50 yards down the road there is a waymarked footpath off to the right.

3. Go through the gate and straight over the centre of the field towards the farm buildings of High Lions Lodge. Go through the gate at the farmyard and straight ahead through the middle of the buildings then over the drive by two stiles. You pass the farmhouse on your left then head downhill with the fence on your left. Pass through the gate into the next field, now with a wall on your right.
4. On reaching the narrow corner of the wood bear left following the waymark and head downhill with the wood on your right. After the next gate head over the field at 11 o'clock towards the farm of Low Lions Lodge, pass through the gate and walk through the deep mud towards the handgate now visible to the left of the nearest building. Go through the gate and the slightly less muddy farmyard beyond, then walk down the track straight ahead.
5. As the track levels 250 yards further on, at the T-junction turn right. This lane eventually meets a road. Go straight over at the sign 'Ampleforth 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ Gilling 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ ', on to a path directly ahead and half a mile further on you reach the buildings of Redcar House. Go straight on through the trees on the track to the left of the farm and the drive then bears left as it leaves the farm. At the corner of the field as the track meets the wood a path leads down to a now visible lake, the Lower Fish Pond.
6. Turn right along that path and walk along the straight end of the pond. At the far end turn right up the path, still with the pond on your right. The path meanders through trees and eventually joins a wider stoned track that climbs gently uphill. A second pond comes into view on the right as you keep climbing.
7. Just before the main path rises more steeply, turn right down a steep path that passes between the second and third ponds. At the far side the path rises and meets a stoned track. Turn right and walk uphill. The track passes a lone house on the left then after a steep rise you reach a waymark post.
8. The path off to the left marked 'Yearsley 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ' is meant to slightly cut off the corner and reduce the amount of road walking a bit later. Having twice tried this path and lost my way both times as a result of tree felling or vegetation growth I suggest you continue on the same path. Another half mile along and the path meets a road.
9. Turn left and walk up the road to the crossroads at the brow of the hill then turn right into Yearsley village and back to your car.