

Walk for December 2020

Kirkdale and Hodge Beck

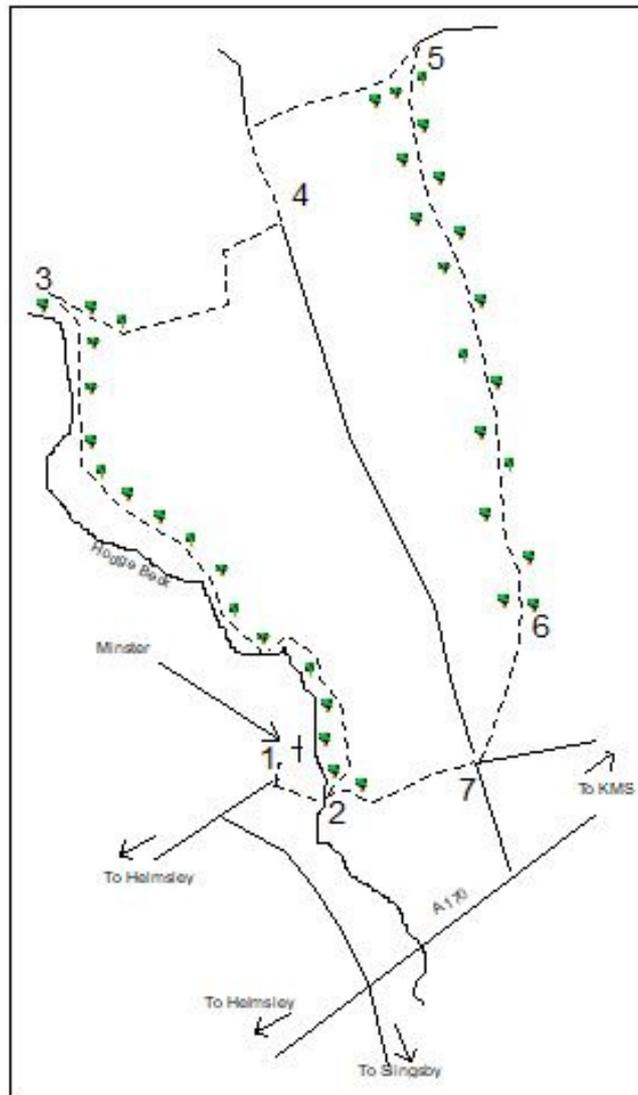
Around half of this walk is in woodland and although Kirkbymoorside is less than a mile away you escape the traffic to enjoy the best of the Ryedale countryside. There is one fairly steep uphill section and the return through Robin Hood's Howl can be quite muddy so wear appropriate footwear.

The direct route to Kirkbymoorside is currently closed so head to Hovingham and follow the diversion signs until you reach Welburn. Pass through Welburn towards Kirkbymoorside and a little further on you reach the A170. Cross the main road and go straight ahead on to the narrow lane signposted Kirkdale. At the next junction turn right and as the road bears right downhill turn left into the lane signposted St Gregory's Minster. Almost immediately bear left into the overflow car park, (Do not park further down the lane in the main church car park)

Start — Overflow car park for St Gregory's Minster.

Distance – 3¾ miles

Duration - 2 – 2½ hours



————— = Road - - - - - = Walk route

1. Leave the overflow car park at its top end and back to the lane you came in on from Welburn. Turn left downhill and at the bottom cross the beck by the footbridge.
2. After crossing immediately turn left onto the signed public footpath. Follow this level woodland path with the river, Hodge Beck, running on your left. After passing the churchyard visible on the far bank the path climbs steeply to run high above the river (which is still down to your left). The banks are steep so take particular care. As soon as the river begins to bear left, at a fork in the path turn left down a steep slope and you will emerge to the corner of a riverside grass meadow. Keep ahead following the river on your left and continue just to the point where a vehicle track crosses the river via a ford. Turn right through the field towards the trees on the right before passing through a gate to enter a wood with the beck now below on the left. Stay on that path which undulates through the wood for around a mile, all along keeping Hodge Beck on the left and ignoring grass paths off to the right. The path starts on a long sustained rise then at the highest point before it descends, a grassy path meets it from the right.
3. Turn sharply right onto this path and continue to climb, now more steeply. While ignoring a grassy path to the right keep ahead uphill to reach a blue waymarker. Take the left path and shortly afterwards turn right through a gate into a field. Continue ahead straight across the field from where there are good views of the Vale of Pickering to the right. At the end of the field follow the path round to the left, and then soon afterwards at a waymarker, turn right and head uphill towards Low Hagg Farm which is passed on the right. Continue to the end of the grassy path to reach a road (Starfits Lane).
4. Turn left onto Starfits Lane. After a short while, turn right to High Hagg Farm along another quiet lane passing by the farm and its holiday cottages, towards the woodlands in front. Continue downhill and at the bottom, just as the road bends and starts to rise look out for a footpath waymark sign on the right set in the trees beside a grassy path that leads down into the woods.

5. Take this path, almost doubling back on yourself, and head along the clear path through the wooded area (known as Robin Hood's Howl). Keep ahead for about a mile along Robin Hood's Howl - the path can be muddy and overgrown in parts. At the end of the woodland you will come to a kissing gate and grassy field ahead.

6. Pass through the kissing gate to enter the field walking straight ahead, following the line of the wire fence on your right. Stay with this fence-side path and it will lead you out of the pasture via a kissing gate (just to the right of a field gate). You will emerge to a staggered road junction.

7. Go straight ahead on the small lane signed to Helmsley. Continue down the road passing Hodge Beck over the footbridge at Hodge Beck again. Continue uphill to reach the access lane for St Gregory's Minster where the walk began.

Geoff Brooks 2020

Acknowledgment - I found the basis of this walk on the All Trails website which can be found on the following link

<https://www.alltrails.com/trail/england/north-yorkshire/kirkdale-and-hodge-beck>