

Walk for February 2019

Appleton-le-Street, Park House, Easthorpe.

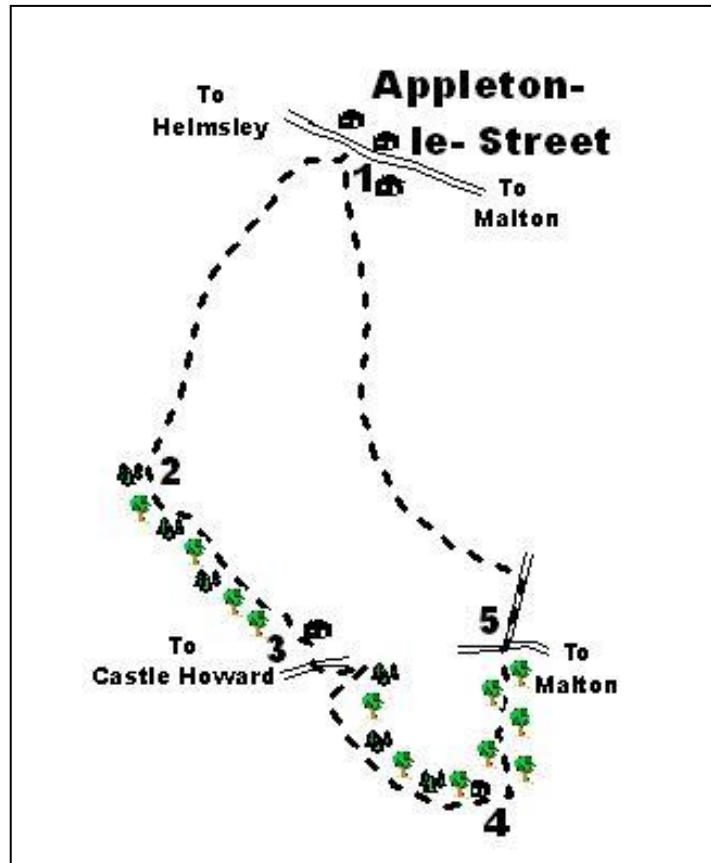
Although this walk starts and finishes in a pub car park unless things change very quickly don't rely on a drink there because at present the pub has closed down, although there are signs of it reopening some time soon.. In the walk there are a couple of moderate climbs and one quite steep descent. Lots of good views, ancient hedges, mature woodland, quiet lanes and some racehorse gallops make for a varied, thoroughly enjoyable experience.

Appleton le Street lies on the B1257 road around 3 miles west of Malton and 3 miles east of Slingsby. Park behind the former Cresswell Arms, in the car park where the walk starts. Entering the village from Slingsby the pub is on the right and the car park clearly signed up the lane to the side.

Start —Cresswell Arms car park, Appleton-le-Street

Distance – 4 ½ miles

Duration – 2 - 2½ hours



1. Join the lane that heads south west from the car park waymarked 'Coneysthorpe 3 miles'. The lane becomes a track and then narrows to barely a path. As you climb gently the path enters the centre of what is basically a very wide hedge that extends for around half a mile. The path emerges with a hedge on the left and field to the right. Around 200 yards before reaching the wood ahead, at the start of the fencing on the right, cut

across the field at 2 o'clock towards a gate at the wood's edge. Enter the wood and a few yards ahead is a waymark.

2. Take the path signed ' Park House $\frac{3}{4}$ mile'. This path passes through the woods then into fields with the wood remaining on your right throughout.
3. The path eventually reaches a group of buildings.. Bear right before them and skirt round the fence with the buildings on your left, go through the gate and the path then joins a drive. Turn right. Where the drive meets the road (beware of traffic), cross straight over, through the gate, turn left and cross the field on the grass track between the recently planted trees. Before reaching the wood the track turns sharp right. Good views over the Castle Howard estate from here before descending the slope. About 50 yards down and there is a grass track/path off to the left heading for a gate at the corner of the field, which you go through and join a track. Turn left and follow the track, waymarked 'Low Easthorpe $\frac{1}{4}$ mile' around the edge of the wood which is on your left (with good views over to the Castle Howard mausoleum on the right). After about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile the track narrows to a path and enters the bottom of the wood before emerging at a farmhouse.
4. Pass along the (redirected) path to the left of the buildings and, some 50 yards beyond, the lane leading away from the farm bends left and enters the wood through a gate. The next $\frac{1}{4}$ mile is a steady ascent through woodland until the track eventually meets a road.
5. Cross the road and, at 1 o'clock join the lane signposted 'Amotherby $1\frac{1}{4}$ '. Walk up the lane and, almost at the brow of the hill, turn left on the waymarked track signed 'Appleton-le Street 1 mile'. The track keeps the low hedge on the left, then passes through a gate to join some private gallops. The views from here, and on the rest of the descent, are panoramic, overlooking the Vale of Pickering and the distant North York Moors. A little further on a waymark post points to 2 o'clock. Your target is a white waymark post at the opposite lower side of the field. Depending on the season and the crop being grown, either reach it in a straight line, or skirt round the growing crops to arrive at the post. Go through the gap in the hedge and join the track that goes gently downhill to arrive back in the car park.