

## Walk for January 2019

### Stearsby, Skewsby, Whenby

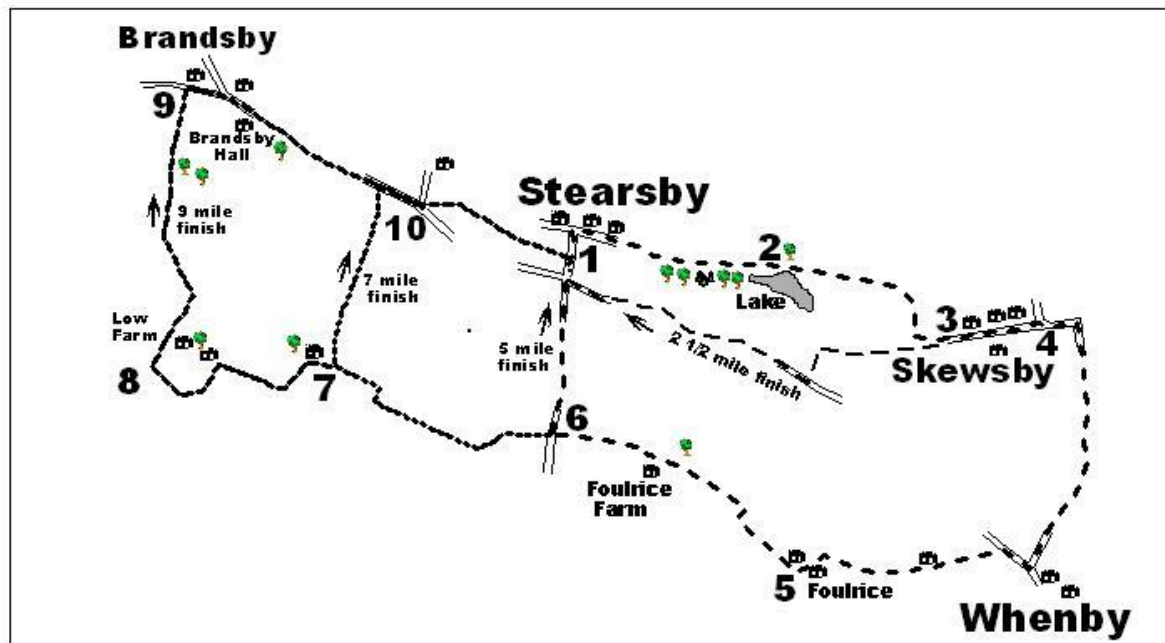
*Something a little different this month as you can take your pick how far you walk with four options. These are charming little 'hidden' villages with lovely countryside in between on the western fringes of the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.*

Stearsby is located around two miles south east of Brandsby. Signposted at the bottom of Brandsby bank, it lies just to the left of the road as you approach from Brandsby. Park on the verge before the Stearsby village sign, leaving room for farm vehicles to pass.

**Start** — Just outside Stearsby Village

**Distance** – 2¼, 5, 7 or 9 miles

**Duration** – 1¼ to 4 hours



1. Walk into the village past the Stearsby sign and turn right at the T junction. As the tarmaced road ends, you continue out of the village along the waymarked track. After 200 yards the track enters a wood, continuing in the same direction. Another 200 yards and a waymark post send you out into the adjoining field, still going in the same direction.
2. At the end of the field (after first taking the opportunity to explore the lake and its wildfowl in the woods to the right) head at 11 o'clock to pass into the small wood. Cross the footbridge and head in the direction of the waymark arrow to cross the next field, passing some 30 yards to the right of the lone oak tree. Pass through the gate at the end of the field, go ahead across the boards over the boggy ground and through the old hedge, then follow the direction of the arrow to climb the hill and arrive at the next gate. After passing through, turn right and follow the path around the edge of the field to arrive at a waymark signpost by the first houses in the village of Skewsby.

- 3. Option a) For the 2¼ mile walk.** Turn sharp right and go through the gate, following the public footpath waymark arrow. The path goes down the valley then waymark arrows send you right across the next stretch of field towards a handgate by a bridge beneath the trees. Go through the trees and turn left along the track which soon meets the tarmaced road. Turn right and walk to the road junction outside Stearsby. Turn right and return to your car.

**Option b) for the 5, 7 or 9 mile walk.** Walk straight ahead and pass through the main part of Skewsby.

- 4.** Stay on that road past the junction to Dalby and the road bends to the right before descending towards the village of Whenby. There are good views over the Vale of York along the way. At the road junction at Whenby turn right along the road towards Stearsby and Brandsby. About 150 yards along turn left down the waymarked bridleway, a tarmaced track. Pass through the substantial group of buildings at Foulrice, keeping to the left hand fork as you pass by the farmhouse.
- 5.** After the last building turn right through the gate into the bridlepath across the fields. The route is clearly waymarked as you make your way through a series of gates and fields, arriving eventually at the buildings of Foulrice Farm. Go through the buildings and join the lane leading away from the farm past the gallops and reach a road.
- 6. To complete the 5 mile walk** turn right, walk to the crossroads and reach your car outside Stearsby.

**To complete the 7 or 9 mile walk** Cross the road and pass through the gate opposite. Follow the grass track as it first rises then descends to cross a small stream. Over the stream the track bears right with the stream on your right. Head for the top corner of the field, passing the small lake with its bulrushes. At the corner turn left uphill towards the large tree. Turn right at the waymark and head towards the farm buildings.

- 7.** Pass through the gate and there is a choice of routes.

**To complete the 7 mile walk** Turn right and walk up the incline on the grassy track. At the top where it meets a tarmaced drive carry straight on along until it meets the lane, turn right and at the junction you are at point 10 below.

**To complete the 9 mile walk** bear left on the grass track between the fence and the farmhouse until you reach the gate at the far end. After passing through the gate your target is another gate by a large oak tree at approximately 11 o'clock, although the right of way takes you left around the perimeter of the field. With the farmhouse on your right, pass through the gate, across the small field then through another gate.

- 8.** A little further on turn right at the waymark signposted 'Brandsby'. Keep close to the fence on your right as you pass the farm and its buildings, exiting the

field through a gate to join the tarmaced lane that bends sharply then heads away from the buildings. Stay on that lane for about half a mile until it reaches the Brandsby-Stearsby road.

- 9.** Turn right and stay on that road (which is not very busy) passing the Old Rectory and Brandsby Hall. The road straightens between fields then with a substantial farm on the left the road bends to the right.
- 10.** A waymark finger post directs you through a kissing gate into a field on the left. Cross that field at 11 o'clock, and a number of other fields as you pass through a series of kissing gates keeping the stream on your left. Emerge through the final gate on to the lane by your vehicle.