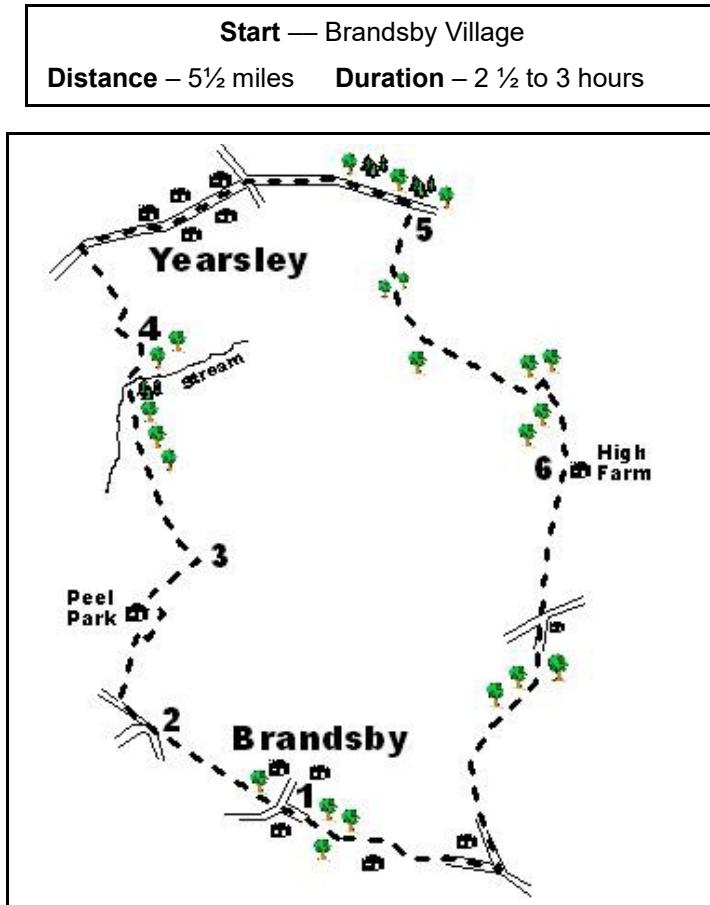


## Walk for July

### Brandsby, Yearsley

*There is some difficult terrain in sections of this walk, but comparatively recent improvements to waymarking and gates by the AONB authority have made it a thoroughly enjoyable experience. The constantly changing scenery provides interest throughout.*

Brandsby lies about 10 miles south of Helmsley on the B1363 Oswaldkirk to York road. At the foot of the steep hill, near the former stores and garage, turn on to the minor road signposted Stearsby, Whenby and Sheriff Hutton and, fifty yards on, park in the small layby on the left. If that is occupied carry on about 300 yards, and 50 yards out of the wood, park on the grass verge on the left.



1. Walk back to the main B1363 road and cross near the junction on to the waymarked footpath directly opposite. Initially the path passes through a field with some huge mature chestnut trees to the right. It then meanders through damp woodland before again passing in a straight line across another field to emerge beside a road.
2. Almost immediately, as the main road bends to the left, bear right up the smaller tarmaced lane. At the first opening on the right, at the sign for Peel Park, turn sharp right to pass through the gate with the waymark, and walk down the field with the hedge on your right. At the bottom of the field follow the series of waymark arrows that guide you round the farm buildings. The last of these arrows directs you right, uphill.
3. On reaching the hedge at the top of the field, turn left and follow another series of waymarks that take you through a number of fields and gates along the bottom of a wood. As the path starts to bear right amongst large gorse bushes, it crosses the route of a small stream that has to be negotiated with care, particularly where walking boards are not laid to assist. Continue round as the path starts to rise and reach a signpost by the side of the wood.

4. Do not enter the wood but instead go straight ahead up the steep incline. The worst of the climb is soon over then the path levels out before passing into a field through a gate on the right. Follow the waymark arrows through further fields to emerge on to a tarmaced lane. Turn right and eventually pass through the interesting and picturesque village of Yearsley. Go straight ahead over the cross roads.
5. About half a mile further along the lane turn right at the waymark post signed 'High Farm 1 mile'. You start with the hedge on your left but as the hedge starts to bend left pass into the narrow wood to the left. The path zigzags through the wood for some distance before entering a field where a waymark points to a gate opposite at 1 o'clock. Go through that gate and cross the next, longer field to arrive at another gate by woods. Carefully follow the waymark arrows as the route goes first left and then right to rise up a hill with the wood on your right, to reach the buildings of High Farm.
6. Pass straight through the farm on to a track with the farmhouse on your left. The track descends gradually to reach the main road. Cross the road and continue down the smaller lane opposite signposted 'Stearsby 1½'. The lane passes steeply down through mature woodland before reaching houses on the right and eventually, a T-junction. Turn right and walk along the road, mostly with a narrow footpath, back to your vehicle.

Copyright © Geoff Brooks 2019