

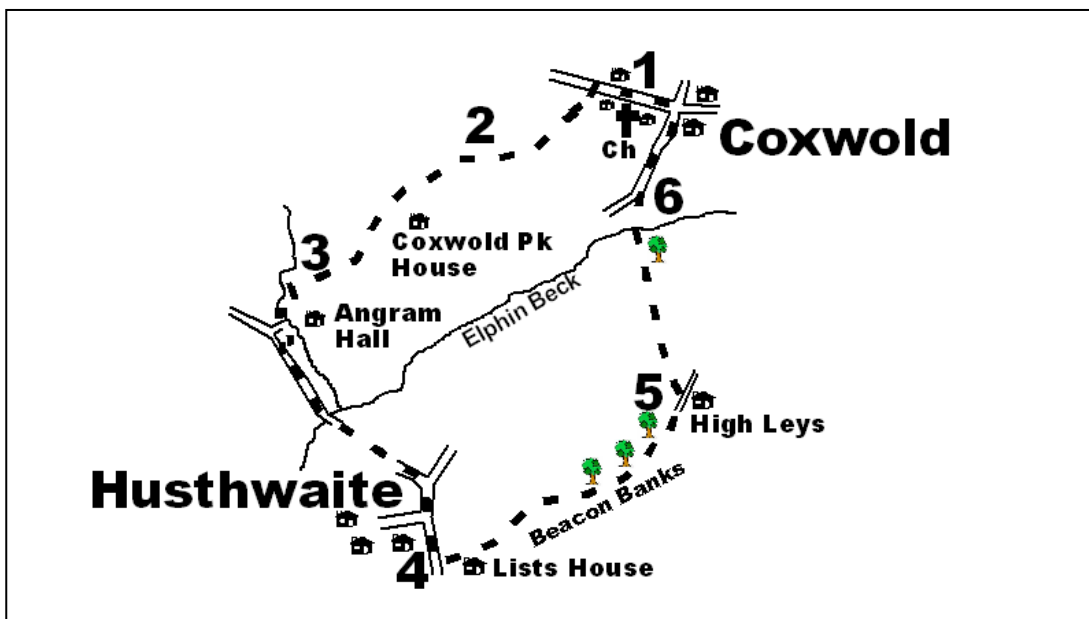
Walk for March

Coxwold, Husthwaite, Beacon Banks.

With days lengthening, a chance to venture a few miles from Slingsby. Virtually from the outset, this walk provides some of the best scenery and views of any in the Howardian Hills. There is a long, steady climb to reach the highest point but it is well worth the effort. Try and choose a clear day. Along the way you also pass through working farms and two very picturesque villages. There is a choice of routes to finish.

Coxwold is situated some 9 miles south east of Thirsk. Newburgh Priory lies just south of the village. From the crossroads in the centre of the village go uphill and park on the gravelled parking areas on the right around the Fauconberg Arms.

<p>Start – centre of Coxwold village</p> <p>Distance 5 miles Duration – 2-2½ hours</p>
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1. Walk uphill passing St Michael's church. Some 300 yards on, cross the road and enter the field at the public footpath sign. At the end of that field bear right at 2 o'clock along the clearly visible grass track that crosses the field towards the skyline.
2. Continue straight ahead and start to descend with your first views of the White Horse at Kilburn to the far right and the trees of Beacon Banks – to be passed later - on the left horizon. There used to be a track through the wide hedge here but it is now overgrown. Pass to the right of the vegetation then rejoin the track as it continues its descent through gates and over the driveway near Coxwold Park House. Keep straight ahead and exit the field on to a dirt road which continues in the same direction to Angram Hall. Wind your way round the bends through the farm buildings then cross the bridge over the stream.
3. Turn sharp left at the waymark to take the corner-cutting footpath that leads in the direction of the arrow towards the road ahead. Your target is to the left of the left hand of the two trees in the field boundary hedge. (If the crop in the field makes this route impassable simply continue to the lane ahead then turn left.) Walk left up the road that starts to rise after crossing the line of the former railway. Bear to the right at the road junction and continue your climb into Husthwaite village, past the green

area on your right hand side. At the top of that area is a welcome wooden seat where you can enjoy an excellent view. Continue to the brow of the hill.

4. Just before the sign on the right for 'W. Hutchinson & Son, Squirrel Crafts' turn left on to the waymarked lane past the signs for Lists House and Beacon Banks. Pass the impressive house and grounds, through a gate and stay on that path as it rises to a triangulation pillar at 434 feet. The 360 degree views on the way up and at the top are magnificent with the White Horse, York Minster and the distant Pennines all visible on a clear day. Start the gradual descent ahead on the same path alongside the trees on your left. After some distance the path veers right and meets a lane. Turn left and walk the short distance towards the farm at High Leys.

From this point if you want to pass Newburgh Priory and its roadside lake continue along the lane past the farm as far as the main road then turn left to return to Coxwold village. The Priory can be visited later in your car so, to minimise road walking, the following is recommended.

5. Just before reaching the farm go left over a stile at the signpost and start a descent on a waymarked path. Your first target is a stile in the hedge opposite – head in the direction of the now visible church at Coxwold to find it. Continue in the same direction beyond to a gate in the bottom of the next field. At the bottom of the hill cross the stream over the wooden bridge and continue round the edge of the field. The path approaches a road and just before reaching it you have to turn sharp left to cross the stream again and reach the road through a gate.
6. Turn right and walk into the village, left at the crossroads and return to your vehicle.