

Walk for May

Whitwell-on-the-Hill, Welburn Hag, and the Monument.

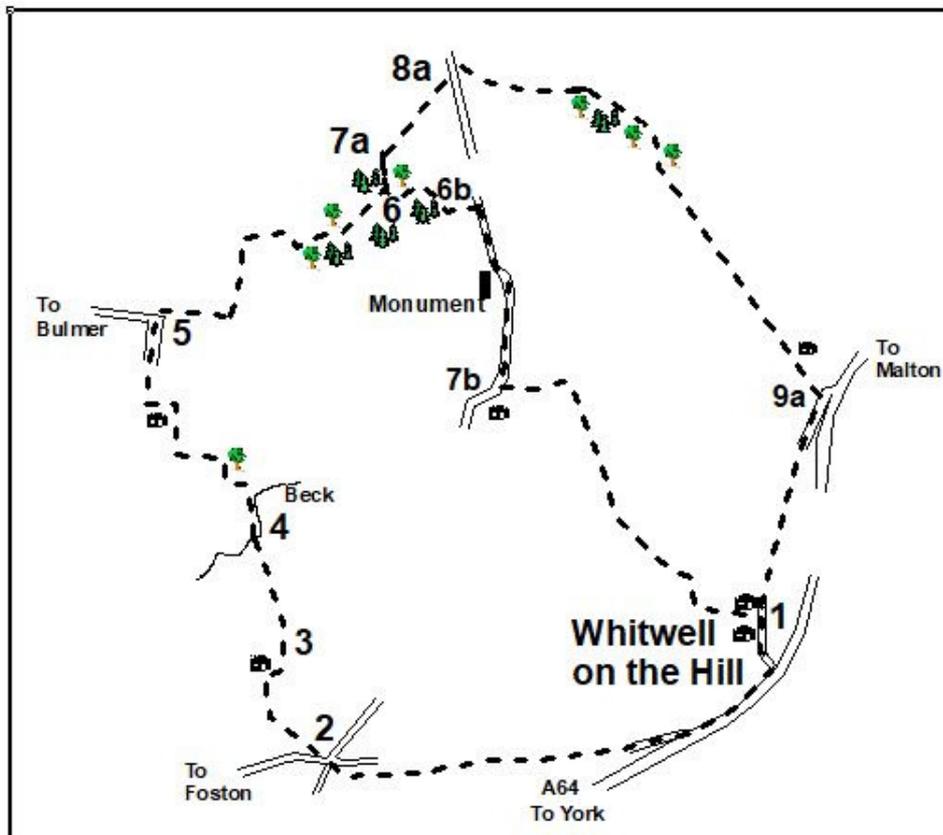
This walk starts and finishes in Whitwell-on-the-Hill, a lovely small village of which most people know the name from passing on the adjoining A64, but rarely if ever visit. Following early brief and noisy contact with the main road, the walk becomes increasingly peaceful, though it can be quite hard going in places. There is a choice of two different endings; one skirts the top of nearby Welburn with views towards Castle Howard, while the alternative passes the Monument to the 7th Earl of Carlisle.

Whitwell-on-the-Hill lies next to the busy A64, about 7 miles south west of Malton. Approaching it from the York side is best as it avoids a difficult crossing of the eastbound carriageway. Park on the wide main street near the church.

Start — Main Street, Whitwell-on-the-Hill

Distance - option (a) 5 miles - option (b) 4 ¾ miles

Duration – 2 to 2½ hours



1. Walk west along the main street past the telephone box towards the A64. As the road bends right at the A64 keep close to the right and join the cycle track/path heading downhill. This encounter with the trunk road is unfortunately unavoidable, but thankfully brief as some 250 yards down you turn off right along a minor road that continues downhill leaving the majority of the traffic noise behind. The road is relatively quiet but care should be taken on the bends over the next ¾ miles or so.

2. At the cross-roads go over the road signposted Hovingham at around 2 o'clock and join the public footpath waymarked 'Bulmer 1¾ miles'. A little further along pass to the far right of the farm buildings, then through the gate to join a track.
 3. As the track enters a field the angle of the waymark is rather confusing. It appears to point towards a large oak tree in the hedge across the field whereas your target is actually a gap in the hedge in the corner of the field some 30 yards to the right of that tree. Pass through the gap and continue on the same line until you reach the next hedge. If you have followed the right line you will find there a wooden bridge by which to cross the beck.
 4. Once over the beck turn right and continue uphill with the beck on your right. In the corner of the field the path turns sharp left and heads for the left hand side of the small wood above. Skirt round the edge of the wood then left along the hedge side until you reach a waymark showing the direction of the diverted path. This guides you along the hedge side then sharp left at the tree (waymark) to pass through a gate and join a tarmac drive. Go right along the drive.
 5. At the bend in the drive, go through into the field and join the waymarked track signposted 'Bulmer Hag'. As the track narrows carry straight on along the path at the edge of the field towards the small wood, at which the path turns sharp right and heads quite steeply uphill. At the top of the hill the path passes right into the next field then skirts the hedge before dropping right at the woods edge where a gate gives access to the wood. Go through the gate and continue on the clear but slightly overgrown path which is almost level for quite a distance before dropping slightly into a clearing.
 6. In the clearing the path forks at a waymark post and you have the choice of finishes to the walk. (For option (b) go to point 6(b) below). For option (a) turn left and follow the path as it rises and reaches a gate into a field.
 7. (a) On entering the field go almost straight ahead towards the end of the row of trees opposite. The exit from the field is through a gap in the hedge and you come to a road.
 8. (a) Go left at the road and 20 yards down cross the road and go up the track leading slightly uphill. As the track rises there are good views on your left over the Castle Howard Estate, its Pyramid, the Mausoleum and the Castle itself, with Welburn village nestling between. Stay on the track for about a mile.
 9. (a) The track meets a minor road, just short of the busy A64. Go sharp right on the minor road, past the church and back to the start.
- 6. (b)** Take the right fork and follow the path as it rises through quite muddy ground to meet a track. Go left at the track and it soon meets a road. Go right along the wide verge towards the Monument ahead. The steps at the base of the recently restored Monument appear deceptively accessible until you almost reach it and find a fence in a ditch preventing access. After attempting to translate the Latin date on the monument, carry on along the road about ¼ of a mile to the next bend. The verge is narrow for the first 150 yards so take extra care. After that a wider grass verge has a narrow path trodden allowing you to walk about a yard off the carriageway.
- 7 (b)** At the farm buildings on the bend, cross the road and go left on the waymarked footpath. At the brow of the hill take the waymarked path to the right and follow this

keeping the hedge on your left as the path bends towards the visible church spire. A gate gives access across an open meadow with the buildings of the village in sight and a further waymark guides you to emerge on a minor road. Go left and return to the main street and your vehicle.

The 7th Earl's Monument

The monument erected to the 7th Earl of Carlisle was designed by Frederick Pepys Cockerell and erected in 1869-70. (1870 is the Latin Date on the column) The gilt urn and lantern which originally topped the monument were destroyed by lightning in the 20th century but restoration work was completed in 2003.

George Howard, the eldest son of Francis Howard, 6th Earl of Carlisle, was born in 1802. In 1826, the Earl of Carlisle arranged for his son to be elected for the constituency of Morpeth, one of the boroughs under his control. He took a particular interest in removing all religious forms of discrimination. He later became one of the Whig candidates for Yorkshire and in the general election in August 1830 he headed the poll.

In April 1835 he was appointed as his secretary for Ireland. He held the post for six years and during this time he carried through Parliament several reforms including the Irish Tithe Bill, the Irish Municipal Reform Bill and the Irish Poor Law Bill.

George Howard became the 7th Earl of Carlisle on the death of his father on 8th August 1858 and died in 1864.