

## Walk for April

### Kirkbymoorside, Ravenswick

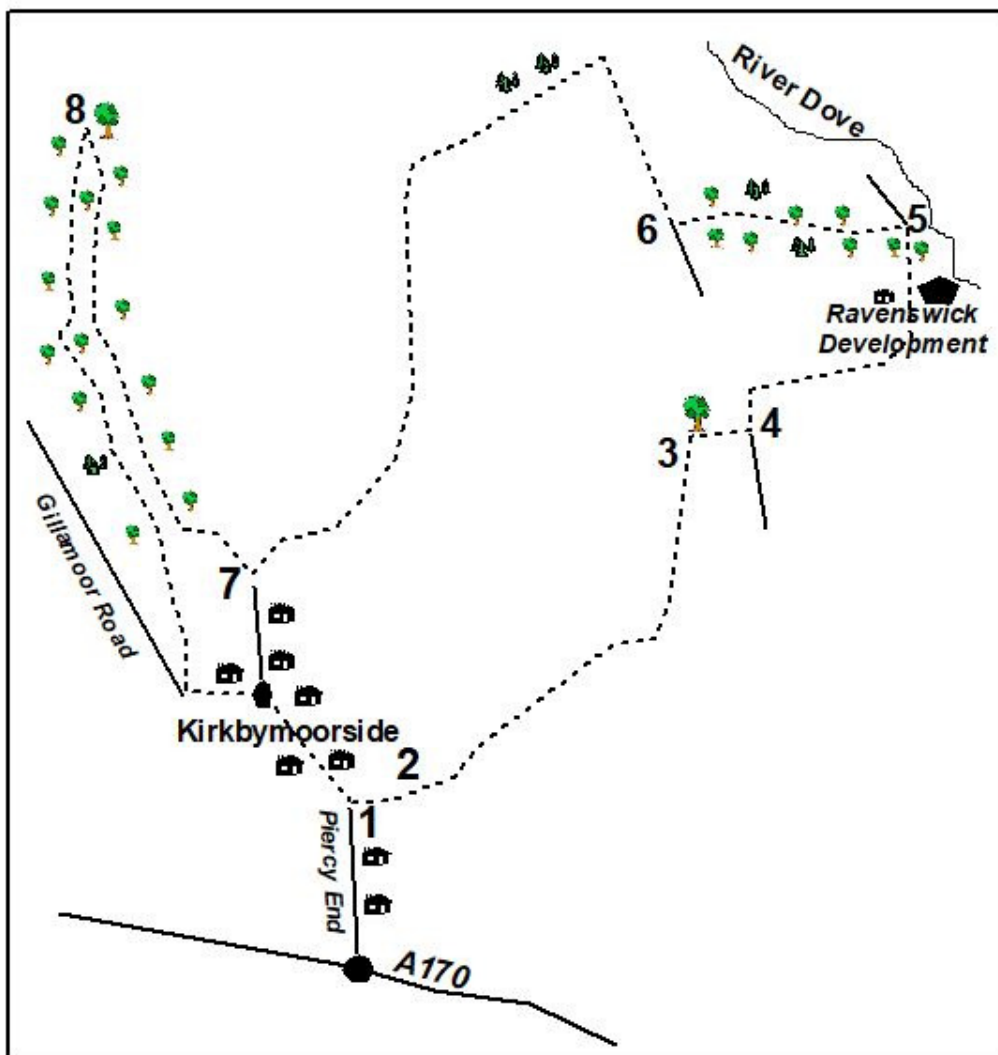
*A walk that will surprise you with the amount of peaceful countryside and ancient woodland through which it passes despite its proximity to this busy market town. The walk takes you past the site of the former Ravenswick Hall, now replaced by an impressive new development which includes the largest Stately Home to be built in Yorkshire during the last 200 years.*

*Reach Kirkbymoorside using the road that leaves the north end of Slingsby and on reaching the A170 turn right and go as far as the roundabout at the bottom end of Kirkbymoorside. Turn left into Piercy End and park where you can in that main street which higher up is called Market Place. Parking is free on the roadside although there is a pay car park beside the library near the top of the street. There is a small street market on a Wednesday when street parking will be limited.*

**Start** — Top of Piercy End / bottom of Market Place,  
Kirkbymoorside

**Distance** — 3¼ miles

**Duration** - 1½ - 2 hours



1. Where Peircy End becomes the Market Place you will find the junction with Howe End. Walk along Howe End and after some 200 yards as the road bends right, turn left through the black metal gate to enter the recreation ground.
2. Don't follow the tarmac path, instead go straight ahead on the grass, following the line of hedgerow on your left. Pass the fenced play area on your right and then keep ahead through the remains of a kissing gate to enter a rough hillside meadow. Walk straight ahead, heading steeply uphill following the line of hedgerow on your right. Towards the top, take a moment to glance behind you and appreciate the glorious views that have opened up across the town's rooftops and far beyond. In the top right-hand corner of the meadow, pass through the kissing gate to reach the corner of a crop field. Walk straight ahead along the right-hand boundary, following the line of a woodland (Kildare Plantation) on your right. Stay with this field-edge path ahead for some distance, then bending right and left around the end of the plantation. Continue for another long stretch around the edge of the field, now with a hedgerow running on your right.
3. As you draw level with a very large oak tree at the field edge, turn right through a kissing gate to enter an old grass pasture. Walk straight ahead (downhill) through the field and exit via the old gateway in the left-hand corner) to reach Swineherd Lane.
4. Turn left along the lane (taking care of any traffic) and follow it as it swings right, signed to Ravenswick. You immediately start passing through the new development of the new Ravenswick Hall and its associated buildings and landscaping. Continue along the same road and follow the lane as it swings left leading you downhill through the ancient Ravenswyke Wood. Before you reach a left-hand bend at the bottom of the slope, you will see a Public Footpath waymarker post on your left.
5. Turn left here and follow the track leading directly away from the road (not the track running parallel to the road marked as private). Follow this track leading you steeply uphill through Ravenswyke Wood. The track leads you past some beautiful rocky outcrops and the woodland floor is awash with wild garlic in the late spring. Where the track swings sharp left, do NOT follow this (it is marked

as private), instead go straight ahead on the narrow unmade path leading you through the remainder of the woodland. Towards the top where the path reaches flat ground turn left through some dumped machinery and building spoil beyond which the path meets the tarmaced Back of Parks Road.

6. Turn right along the lane and, after some 400 yards, follow the lane as it swings sharp left. Further along at Low Park Farm stay on the lane as it turns sharp left again. The lane leads you past a pair of stone houses on the left and then continues downhill. Take time to enjoy the views of Kirkbymoorside which have opened up in the valley bottom ahead. Just before the houses begin, you will find a bench on your right, which makes the perfect place to pause and enjoy the view should you wish. Not far below, as the houses begin, join the right-hand pavement which continues to lead you downhill.
7. When you reach the sharp left-hand bend in the road by the street sign for Castlegate, turn sharp right to join the narrow tarmac lane leading you steadily uphill (away from the town). At the top of the slope, do NOT enter the section of gravel parking ahead, instead with a tall section of castle remains directly on your left, turn left passing between more properties and join the track visible ahead of you to enter Manor Vale Wood. Simply keep ahead on the wide path (a bridleway) through the woodland, ignoring any footpaths signed to the left. You will emerge to the edge of the grass clearing and a fork in the path. Go straight ahead (the right-hand branch), following the line of a fence on your right. Continue ahead on the bridleway track and just before the end of the woodland you will see an ancient ash tree on your right which dates back to the early 1600s. A few paces later, at the junction signed with a fingerpost, turn sharp left onto the public footpath. Follow this stone path, leading you past an information board about the ancient ash tree. The stone path leads you steadily downhill and you will emerge to a junction with the entrance drive for Kirkbymoorside Golf Club.
8. Turn left and follow the tarmac entrance drive, taking care of any traffic, continuing through Manor Vale Wood. Follow the drive all the way to its end, eventually passing between houses to reach a T-junction with Gillamoor Road. Turn left along this and right at the mini-roundabout to bring you back into Market Place and your vehicle.

Acknowledgment - I found the basis of this walk on the All Trails website, which is now slightly out of date due to the development taking place at Ravenswick. That version of the walk gives much more detail about the original Ravenswick Hall, the woodlands and the castle en route. The full original text can be found on the link below:

<https://www.alltrails.com/explore/trail/england/north-yorkshire/kirkbymoorside-and-ravenswick>