

Walk for May

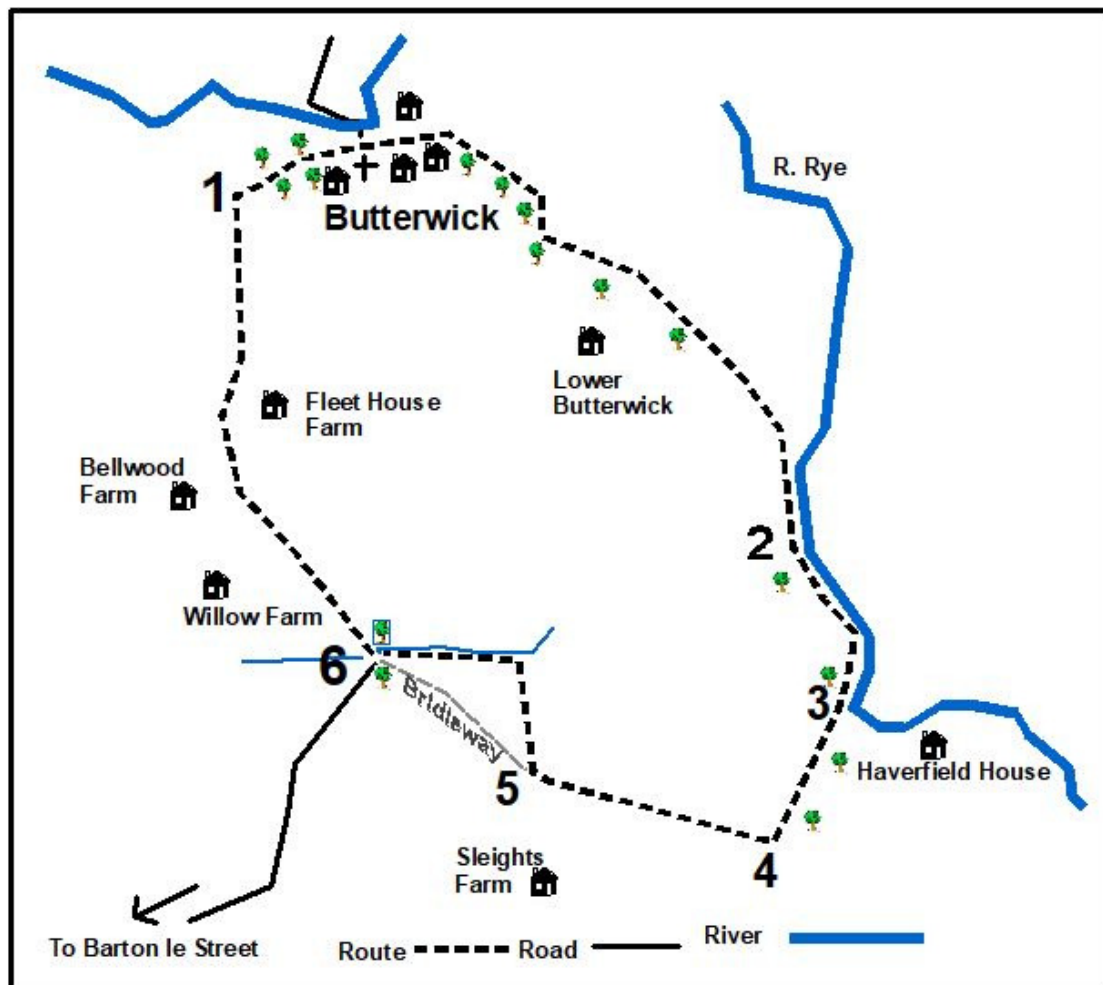
Butterwick

A walk for those who don't like climbing hills. This one passes through peaceful; countryside that is so flat that the only uphill is to the top of the raised river banks. The small village of Butterwick with its lovely small church is soon left behind as you venture into an area occupied only by a few farmsteads, the river Rye and lots of wild birds.

To reach Butterwick from Slingsby head towards Malton on the B 1257, turn left at Barton le Street pass through the village and continue on the road for about 2 miles. After passing Fleet House Farm on your right about 400 yards further on, just before the road bends sharply to the right towards the now visible Butterwick village, park on the wide verge on the left, making sure that you don't block access to the fields.

Start — Just outside Butterwick village

Distance – 3½ miles **Duration** - 1½ - 2 hours



1. From your car continue round the bend towards the village. After walking through the tree lined avenue, as the road bends to the left to pass over the bridge, continue straight on into the village passing the church on your right. The road soon becomes Boynton Lane as you leave the village, staying on the lane and ignoring footpaths and drives to the right. The lane becomes a track and passes the Alpaca centre, bending left then right as it approaches the visible floodbank of the river.
2. The track reaches a field gate right beside the floodbank. After going through the gate there is an opportunity to climb the floodbank on the left and see the river while walking along the floodbank until the track returns to the side of it by the next gate. Stay on the track until reaching a gate before a distinct bend to the left with the buildings of Haverfield House visible just round the bend.
3. Don't pass through the gate, instead climb the floodbank and at the other side you will see a waymarked stile into a field. After negotiating the stile, walk on the indistinct footpath alongside the field with the hedge on your right.
4. After around 400 yards you reach a farm track. Turn right and when the track bears left towards Sleights Farm leave the track and continue on the same line across the field to reach the handgate in the fence straight ahead. Go through the gate.
5. The line of the bridleway heads diagonally to the right across the field. If, as is most likely, the farmer has failed to clear a path through the crops, turn sharp right and walk on the broad uncultivated (boggy) land between the hedge on your right and the crop. At the end of the field you can climb on to the small floodbank that runs alongside the drainage ditch known as Slingsby Carr Cut and walk left until the 'path' emerges through the gap in the trees in the small wooded area beside a road.
6. Turn right on to the road which is the one you came on to start the walk. It is generally fairly quiet and you should encounter only a few vehicles as you pass the entrances to Willow Farm, Bellwood Farm and finally Fleet House Farm before arriving back at your car.