

Walk for Jan-Feb 2024

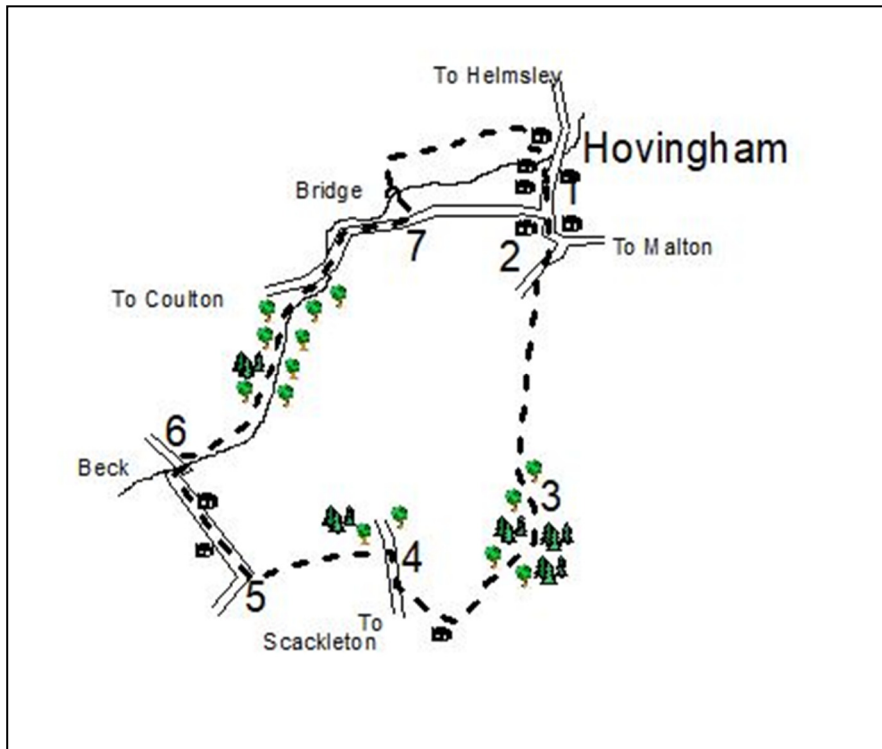
Hovingham, Moor House Farm, Hovingham Lodge, Mill Wood. Hovingham Park.

The walk starts with a steady climb with good views to the north, before passing through stretches of woodland and farmland. The route back follows the line of the beck serving Hovingham, and the final stretch cuts through the impressive grounds of Hovingham Hall.

Hovingham lies on the B1257 road towards Helmsley, 2 miles from Slingsby. There is a free car park (signposted) adjoining the Village Hall in the centre of the village. If this is full, park in one of the streets to the west, off the B1257.

Start — The centre of Hovingham Village

Distance – 4½ miles **Duration** – 2 to 2½ hours



1. From the centre of the village walk uphill past the Worsley Arms on the opposite side of the road.
2. As the main road bends left to Malton, stay on the footpath directly ahead as it passes the stone trough and climbs sharply to meet the Sheriff Hutton Road. Cross the road and 100 yards further on take the waymarked track marked Ebor Way. The track leads uphill steadily before levelling out and entering a wood.
3. About 100 yards into the wood, the track splits. Don't veer left on the bridleway, but stay on the waymarked footpath (yellow arrow on green). The path gradually bears round to the right and emerges from the wood through a gate with a farm ahead.

Head for the farm up the sandy track. Just before reaching the farm buildings, go right along another track past the solitary tree as far as the road.

4. Turn right, and 200 yards along cross with care then turn left along a waymarked bridleway. A short way in, as the track forks, take the left track away from the woods and head for a gate at the bottom of the hill. Beyond the gate the path climbs alongside the hedge until it reaches a tarmaced road on a bend.
5. Turn right and stay on the road as it passes the substantial property at Hovingham Lodge, and bends right then left before arriving at a waymark beside the beck.
6. Take the path going right signposted Hovingham. The path hugs the line of the beck through splendid woodland before emerging at a road. Go right along the road, taking care as there is little verge on either side.
7. When you arrive alongside the field with the ornamental bridge on your left you have a choice of routes. You can continue along the road and enter Hovingham village about half a mile further on. (This saves you about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of walking.) Alternatively, take the path to the left over the bridge. Heading for the top of the rise, look right for a good view of the rear of Hovingham Hall. Go through the gate and keep the fence on your right. In the corner of the field you reach a stile. Which you negotiate and take the path to the right which follows the line of immature trees. After the farm track keep straight ahead over the two stiles and emerge at the entrance to the village playground. Turn right, then bear left, cross the bridge to the right and make your way through the charming village properties back to your transport.