

A Short Walk in Starbeck

We start by walking or driving to Bogs Lane, which is a left turn at the traffic lights on the road from Starbeck to York. Alternatively, cross straight across off Forest Lane from the Morrisons area. Our car parking area is outside a school about 300 m on the left up Bogs Lane, at the point marked P.

We walk back to Knaresborough Road traffic lights, and turn left to walk on the footpath. After about 200 m. turn left along Bilton Hall Drive (another lane with excellent tarmac), and pass a footpath on your right which goes east to Knaresborough (K on the map).

Another 100m brings you to the relatively new allotments on the right hand side, which are neat and well laid out. These allotments are probably the result of allotment holders on the Hillbank estate being dispossessed in favour of Allotment Gardens, an area of modern estate housing.

At the allotment entrance, look left and see the public footpath sign to your left. Follow the public footpath in a westerly direction and keep the hedge line to your left. You are walking over a cattle rearing area and it may be a little boggy, bearing in mind that it's in the vicinity of Bogs Lane (!!!!!). If you look over the hedge line, you can see the buildings of Henshaws College.

The route is substantially a straight line towards Longlands Farm, which is near to the proposed location of Longlands Woods - an area that was the subject of a rejected plan for developing the Nidd Gorge into a Knaresborough > Ripley bypass/ relief road.

Pass the inquisitive cows on your route, avoiding the cow-pats and waterlogged grass, until you come to the farm, which is nowadays a livery stable. There are various paddocks here with a few horses, a Shetland Pony.

You now walk towards an arable farming area and cross the disused railway track which is now part of the cycle route to Ripley. Don't walk straight over the field shown on older Ordnance Survey maps, but take the well-trodden path along the edge of the field.

Walk over the bridge on the operating railway track Harrogate to Knaresborough. This is the area of the Kingsley Farm housing developments, another area of concerns about the ability of existing roads to handle the extra traffic.

Come to Bogs Lane and walk east, passing on your right some relatively new housing including Allotment Gardens, and at your left pass the front of Henshaws College.

Walk over the railway bridge on Bogs Lane and come to the car parking area.

For those of you who want a longer walk and a bit of adventure, there is a 2 mile extension.

At the point K mentioned above, take the footpath down the side of the allotments and walk east towards Knaresborough. You then get to Macintosh Woods not far from the Nidd and walk around the periphery of the woods at point R.

The route from the woods back to Bilton Hall Drive is straightforward and you can then join the walk over fields as detailed above.