

Two more walks from Terrington.

(In the Howardian Hills area.)



Main Street, Terrington

As a companion to Leaflet No. 19 in the same series, this leaflet describes two more circular routes of approximately 5 miles each starting from Terrington, an attractive village situated about 8 miles west of Malton and 15 miles north of York. The two routes, to the south and east of the village, include the small hamlets of Ganthorpe and High Stittenham.

Terrington is an ideal starting point for walking amidst some of the lovely scenery of the Howardian Hills, a region which since 1987 has been designated by the Countryside Commission as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, covering 79 square miles overall.

Walk 3

From the centre of Terrington, head off in a generally south-easterly direction along Mowthorpe Lane, a quiet minor road. Walk about 1/2 mile on this straight lane until, shortly after passing the road signs indicating a "blind summit", the lane curves around slightly and then continues ahead as a bridleway (it is also the access track to Birkdale Farm and fishing lakes). A public footpath signed to the right at this point (Mowthorpe Hill), is where our route will rejoin the lane after completing its circuit, as can be seen on the accompanying map. Continue ahead on the bridleway, there being lovely views on the left to Ganthorpe and towards Castle Howard, passing a junction to Rough Hills Farm. From the summit of the hill the village of Bulmer can be seen in the distance. The track continues to Birkdale Farm, to the right of which are some fishing lakes.

On reaching the farm, turn right just before the house and pass through a gate (the entrance to the fishing lakes). After about 50 yards the bridleway splits, one heading left towards the lakes - our route is straight ahead, keeping the hedge on the right. After about 200 yards, turn right just before a barn and follow around the edge of this field and then pass through the gate and turn to the left, heading down the field edge towards Mowthorpe Bridge. After crossing the bridge over Bulmer Beck our route climbs up alongside old quarries and an ancient hedgeline, at one point passing through a metal gate, and continues uphill, developing into quite a well-defined track with Stittenham Wood on the right hand side. *This section of the path follows the route of the old road to the medieval village of Stittenham which was recorded in Domesday Book. The path approaching Stittenham Wood is on a raised causeway, whilst in the next field it becomes a 'hollow-way'. Do not be confused by the humps and hollows in this field, which are the result of sand and limestone quarrying. At the top of this field the old road runs off to the right beyond the cottages and farms, although*

the line is now barely visible. We enter the tiny hamlet of Stittenham, much changed from the ancient settlement. The grass field on either side of the path shows good remains of the old 'rigg and furrow' strip cultivation system, on which the inhabitants of the medieval village would have grown their crops.

Immediately opposite the small village pond, go through a metal gate into the farmyard of Hall Farm. Pass through the yard and look for a stile on the left side of the large barn. Once over this, walk alongside the barn and head towards the trees, where another stile gives access into Stittenham Wood, particularly pretty during the bluebell season. Follow the narrow footpath which winds its way through the trees - this can be quite muddy at times. Cross a stile onto a more major track and turn right along this for about 50 yards, looking out for a waymark on the left side which indicates the continuation of the footpath through the wood. Shortly this crosses over another old track and then gradually descends, with quite a sharp drop to the left side. Nearing the northern edge of the wood a stile leads onto a wider path - almost straight ahead you will emerge from the trees into farmland.

Cross the field, heading towards a line of trees which border Commission Beck - a stile at the side of the fencing gives access onto a substantial sleeper bridge. Now veer half-right across the next field, to line up with a farm track which can be clearly seen ahead. Cross Ings Beck (shortly downstream this unites with the one previously crossed to become Bulmer Beck) and join the track as it gently climbs up towards Mowthorpe Wood, passing by some derelict farm buildings in an enclosure to the right. At the top of the track go through a metal gate out onto another wide track which fringes the woodland. (Note : From this point, if wanting to link both walk routes together, turn right instead of left (as shown dotted on map) and follow the track as it curves around to rejoin the bridleway west of Birkdale Farm, then follow the directions for Walk 4 from the farm). Turn left and



NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Serving England's Largest County

follow the path as it curves up into the trees - there are beautiful views from here over the surrounding countryside. Climb over a log stile in the fence, noting a magnificent old twisted oak tree on the right. The route now changes to a much narrower footpath, gently climbing to the top of the hill and another gate. Once through the gate, keep the hedge on your left side and, noting the old quarries on the right side, follow along to a stile near Mowthorpe Hill Farm. Now, with the farm to your right, follow the driveway until reaching the road junction and then turn left to retrace your steps along Mowthorpe Lane back into Terrington.

Walk 4

The second route starts as Walk 3, from Terrington along Mowthorpe Lane towards Birkdale Farm. Turn right on the bridleway just before the farmhouse, and pass through a gate (also the entrance to the coarse fishing lakes). Where the track divides, follow the left-hand one towards the lakes.

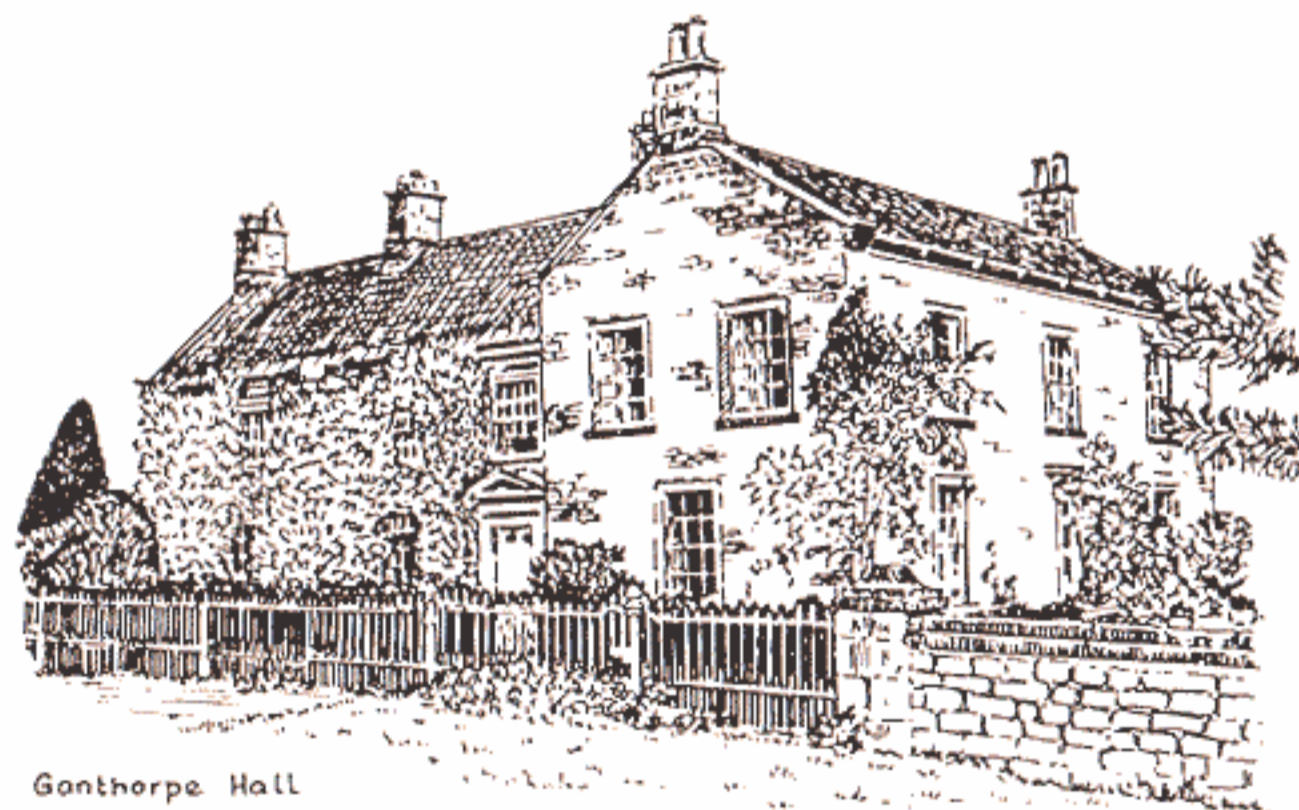


Looking towards Birkdale Farm from bridleway

Close to the edge of the first lake, cross over a stile to the left and follow the beck side, with the farm now on a rise to the left. Over another stile, bear left through woodland to meet a plank footbridge over the beck, and then a stile leading into pasture land.

With Mowthorpe Dale Wood on the right, the route continues uphill along the field edge. When nearing the

corner of the field, veer away slightly left towards a thorn hedge which faces you across the field and pass through a large gap in it. Keeping close to the fence on your right, pass by a house and over some rough pasture land. Still heading in a general northerly direction, stay to the left of the small stream all the time, steadily climbing uphill. There is a gate crossing the path at one point close to where the stream disappears underground. Carry on following the valley in the field, heading towards a stile next to the gate ahead. This gives access to Sleigh Lane - turn right and head into the tiny unspoilt village of Ganthorpe. *Although the available evidence is somewhat uncertain, it appears that the origin of the village's name is Scandinavian, meaning Galm's village and it was mentioned in Domesday Book as Gameltorp. Today it consists of three farms, several cottages and the handsome 18th century Ganthorpe Hall, all built from local stone. Records show that there was once a chapel at Ganthorpe, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene.*



Ganthorpe Hall

Cross the road into the village, keep to the right of the tree-covered island and pass in front of the Hall, where you will notice a square stone pillar, the remains of the old village pump. Now turn left onto a bridleway. The stony path passes by a cottage and into a wooded area. Use two gates to cross over a track from adjoining fields and continue through the trees, old fish ponds being to the right-hand side. On nearing the edge of the wood, the path crosses a dyke and bears half left to pass through a bridlegate into a field. Keeping the post

and wire fence to the right, walk along the field side and join a good track - this carries on in the same direction with some woodland to the left-hand side. At the end of the trees, turn left and walk along the side of three fields, always keeping fences to the left. On reaching a waymarked stile in the fence, cross over and continue between fence and hedge. The path soon widens out into the grassy Broats Lane and this joins the Coneysthorpe Road, where you turn onto the road and head back into Terrington (take great care on this road) for the finish of the walk.

Note : This last section of the route links with Walk 1 in Leaflet No 19 of this series and so they may be combined for a longer route if desired.

Notes on Terrington:

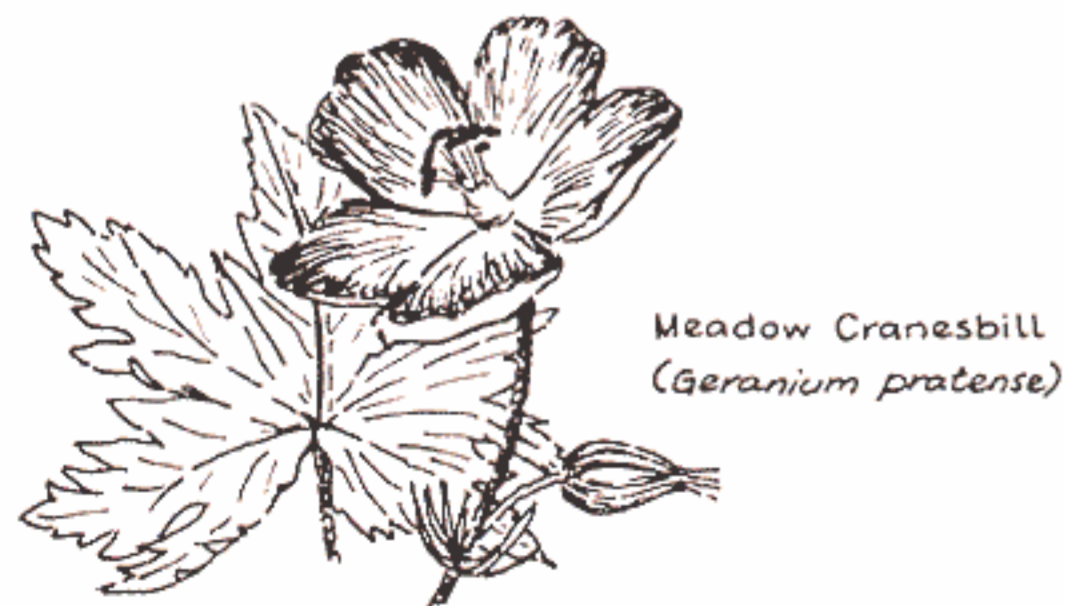
Terrington with Wiganthorpe (to give the parish its full title) originally included three subsidiary townships - Ganthorpe, Mowthorpe and Wiganthorpe. Ganthorpe, to the east, is now a parish in its own right and the tiny hamlet today is little changed from many years ago. There may have been a settlement at Mowthorpe, to the south-east of Terrington, but the evidence of its existence and actual site are unclear, although farms in the area preserve the name. Wiganthorpe, to the west of the parish, was deliberately replaced in the mid-18th century by a large mansion with parkland. In the early 18th century Terrington had its own spa, said to have helped cure many, particularly in cases of rheumatism. In 1725, a visitor to nearby Castle Howard (then being built) described the spa as "an open space dug in the ground, like a grave or sawpit, into which those seeking relief immersed themselves". The spa was sited in the marshy ground close to the road between Terrington and Ganthorpe - by the end of the 18th century, it seemed to have lost popularity. There was also a brick and tile works, next to the beck in the valley between Mowthorpe Lane and Ganthorpe.

The vast majority of houses and cottages in the village date from the 18th and 19th centuries, built from

locally quarried stone. At the western end, close to the triangular green known as The Plump, Cliff Hall was built in 1870 for Marcus Worsley, Esquire - a stone is inscribed "Peace be within thy walls, M.W." By 1954, the mansion was bought by the Village Hall Committee and converted for the many activities held there. Today a purpose-built village hall exists to serve the community, situated on Mowthorpe Lane (also known as Stock Lane). Early in the 19th century there were three public houses in Terrington, but by 1890 only the Bay Horse (originally the Horse and Jockey) remained.



The most important building in the parish is the church, All Saints. In the quiet churchyard, Richard Spruce (a renowned 19th century botanist who grew up in Ganthorpe) is buried. At only 19 years old, he had already published "A list of the Flora of Malton District", identifying 485 species. Several years later, he visited the Pyrenees, returning with hundreds of plant specimens, many previously unknown. From 1848, he spent 15 years in the Amazon region, his studies and collection of over 700 plant species leading to most important scientific results.



INFORMATION

The Howardian Hills form a line about 15 miles long, separating the vales of York and Pickering, also acting as a bridge of higher land between the North York Moors and the Yorkshire Wolds. Named after Castle Howard and the Howard family, the region is one of great interest and beauty with gently rolling countryside, pretty villages, woodland and historic landmarks. Many ancient sites have been recorded in the area although there are few visible signs of any of these today. It is formally designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Walk 3 - via High Stittenham

Distance: Approx. 4½ miles (7.25 km.)

Time: Allow about 2½ hours.

Terrain: Farmland and woods. Mostly well-defined paths and minor roads, gentle ascents with fine views. Some parts may be quite muddy at times - suitable footwear advised.

Walk 4 - via Ganthorpe

Distance: Approx. 5 miles (8 km.)

Time: Allow 2½ - 3 hours.

Terrain: As for Walk 3.

Start: Terrington Main Street.

Parking: Limited roadside parking in the village - please do not inconvenience the local residents.

Refreshments: Bay Horse Inn - Bar meals.
Village Stores - adjoining Tea Rooms.

O.S. Maps: Landranger 100, Malton & Pickering.
EXPLORER 300, Howardian Hills & Malton

FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE

- * Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.
- * Guard against all risks of fire.
- * Fasten all gates.
- * Keep your dogs under close control.
- * Keep to public paths across farmland.
- * Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges & walls.
- * Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone.
- * Take your litter home.
- * Help to keep all water clean.
- * Protect wildlife, plants and trees.
- * Take special care on country roads.
- * Make no unnecessary noise.

Copies of this leaflet are available from these addresses :
(S.A.E. please)

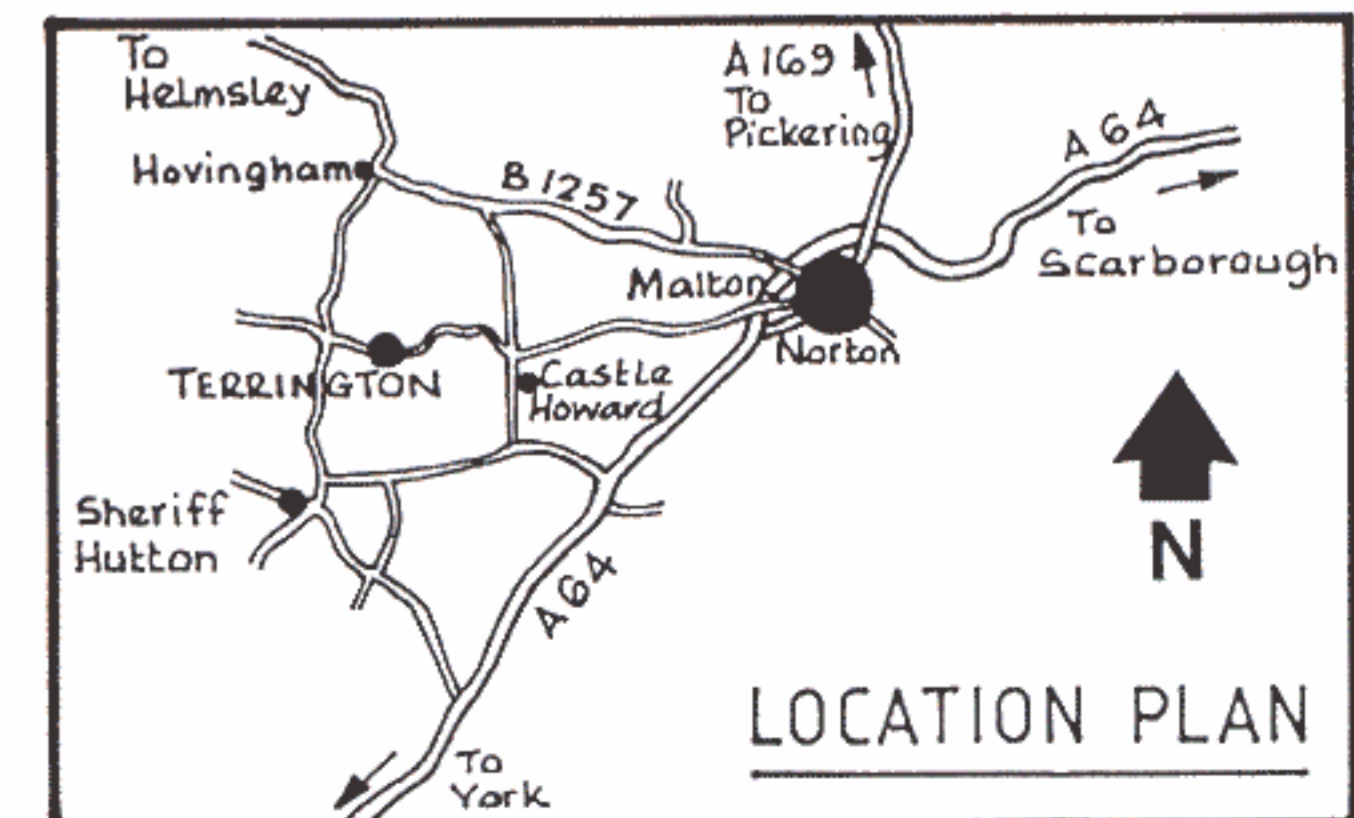
Public rights of Way, Environmental Services, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorks DL7 8AH.

N.Y.C.C. Area 2 Office, Southgate, Pickering, N. Yorks, YO18 8BL.

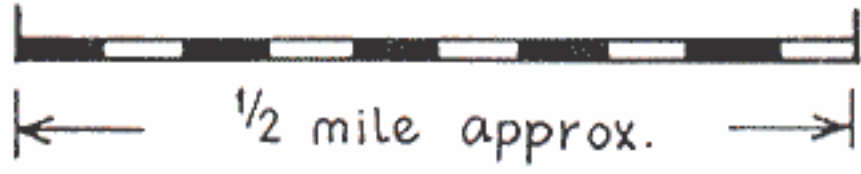
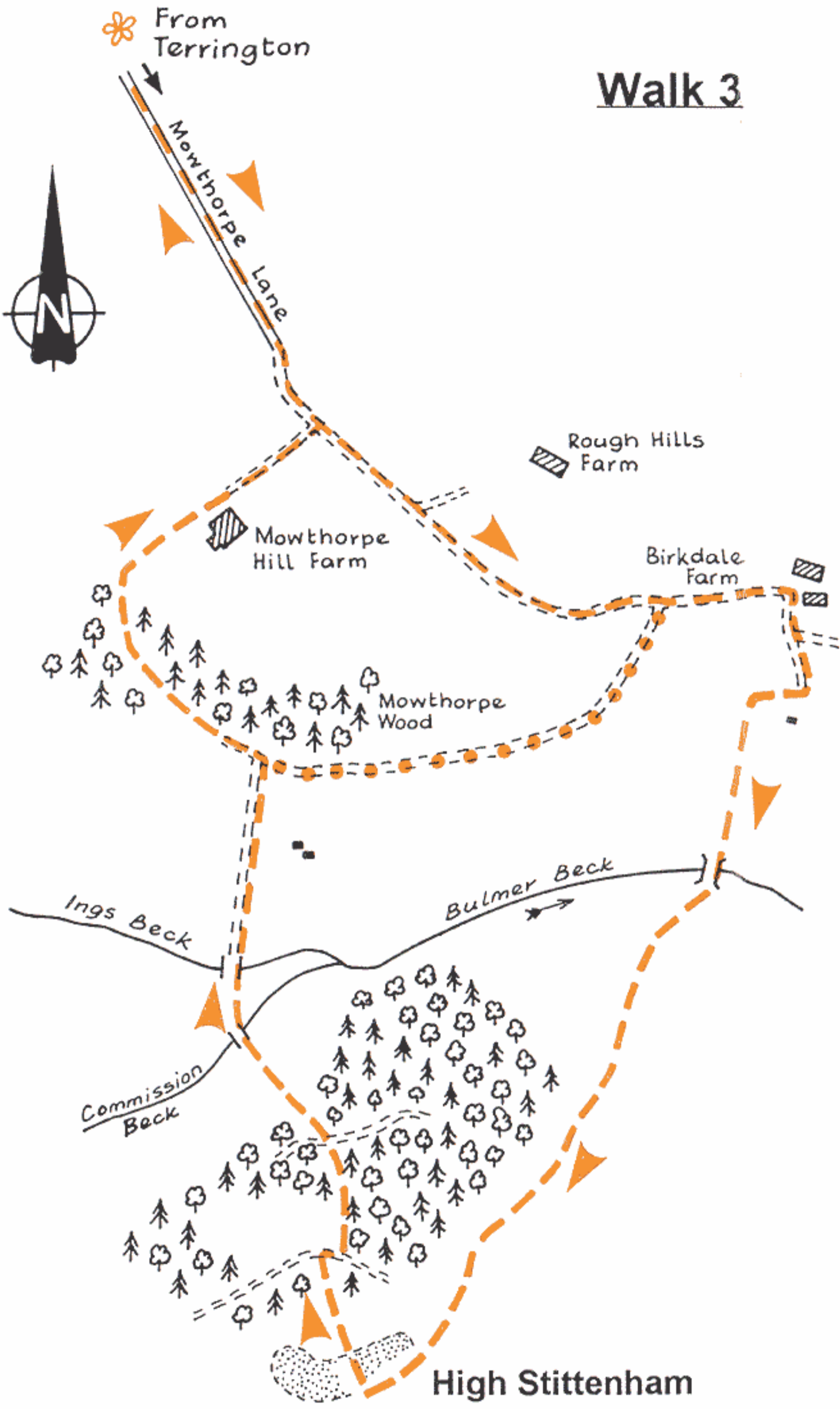
N.Y.C.C. Area 4 Office, Fulford Lodge, 1 Heslington Lane, Fulford, York. YO1 4HW.

For further Archaeological or Conservation information on the area, contact the Heritage Unit in Environmental Services, as above.

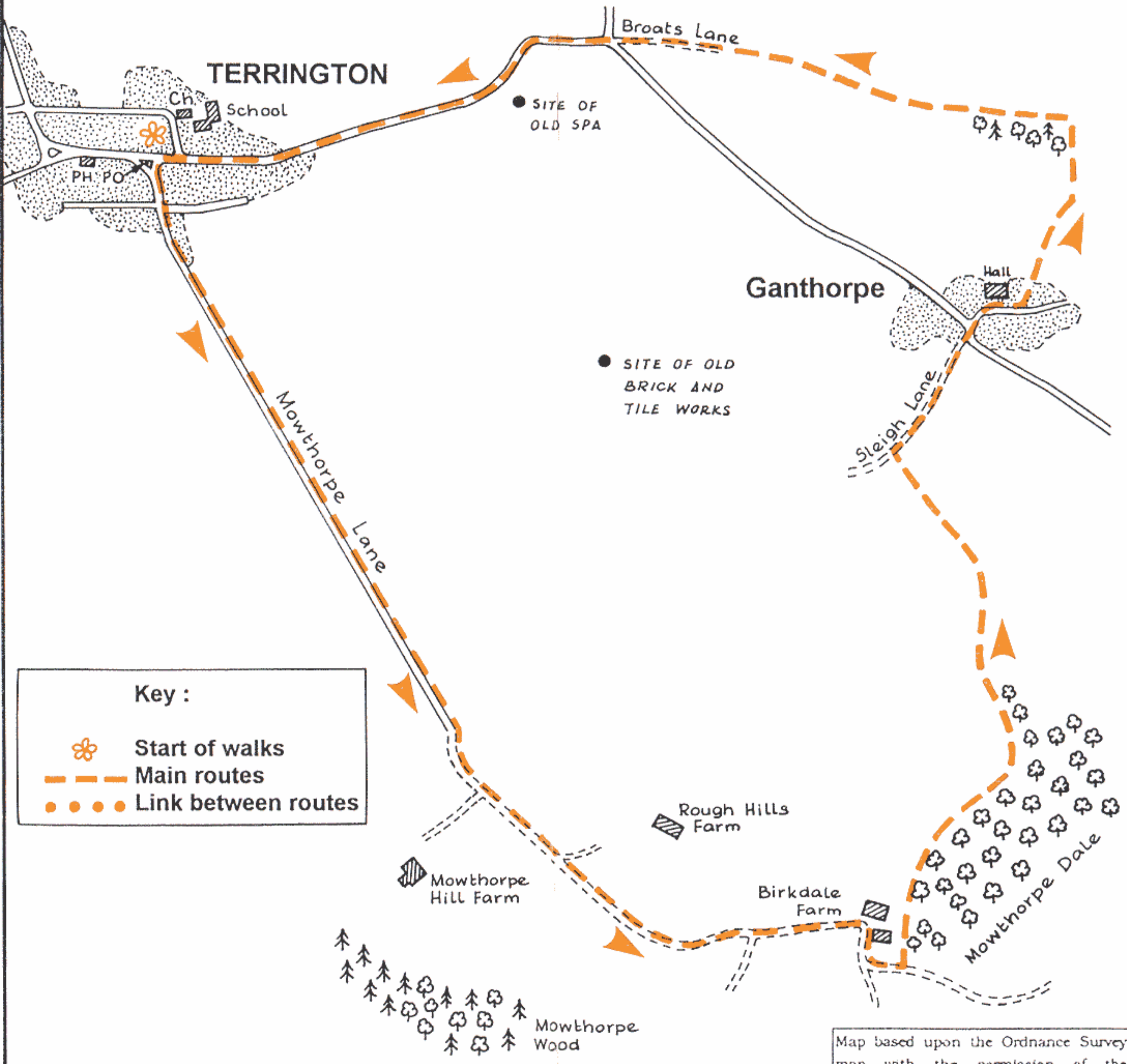
Produced by North Yorkshire County Council, this is one in a series of leaflets which describe short routes in various parts of the county outside the two National Parks, promoting the use of public rights of way. A list of current leaflets is available (please send S.A.E.) from the Northallerton address above.






Walk 3



Walk 4



Key :

-  Start of walks
-  Main routes
-  Link between routes

Map based upon the Ordnance Survey map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright.