

# EASY COUNTRYSIDE TRAIL: HOVINGHAM AND CAWTON



## A 3.5 mile (6km) there and back walk from the idyllic village of Hovingham in North Yorkshire.

You will have chance to discover the village itself, with its beautiful stone buildings and a babbling stream, before setting out on a peaceful journey along the Ebor Way through open arable fields with far reaching views to the woodland ridges. This walk is part of the Howardian Hills Easy Countryside Trails collection, published through a collaboration between iFootpath and the Howardian Hills AONB Partnership, with the aim of providing countryside access for all in the Howardian Hills.

There is one bench along the route, just a simple large log set on the ground, which is located just before Spa House. If you are looking for refreshments, you will find a tea room, bakery, coffee house, pub and hotel all within Hovingham village.

This walk follows public rights of way through public and private land. Please show respect for landowners and other visitors and remember the Countryside Code. OS Explorer Map 300: Howardian Hills and Malton.



Easy Terrain

3.5 Miles  
1.5 hours

210317



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### Access Notes



- 1. The walk follows village lanes and then a compacted stone vehicle track for its whole length. The track is generally well-made but has some pot holes and one stretch (near Spa House) can be muddy in winter and after periods of rain.*
- 2. The route can easily be shortened to suit your own ability.*
- 3. The track has only gentle slopes for the most part (estimated maximum gradient of 1:20 or 5%) with a couple of 20 metre stretches after Spa House that have a moderate slope (estimated gradient of 1:12 or 8%). There are no stiles or steps on route, but you will need to cross one footbridge (1.1m wide) and pass through a single wooden bridle gate (1.6m wide).*
- 4. The entire route should be suitable for rugged pushchairs and rugged disability buggies for most of the year. There is no livestock on route.*
- 5. Breakfree Surface and Slope Rating B1 (for majority of track) and B3 (for two 20 metre stretches).*

## Getting there

Hovingham is located about 8 miles south east of Helmsley in North Yorkshire. The walk starts and finishes outside All Saints Church on Church Street. If you are coming by bus, there is a bus stop on the main village road, the B1257, close to the junction with Church Street. If you are coming by car, there is roadside parking available on Church Street or in the Village Hall car park (signed off the main village road, the B1257).

Approximate post code **YO62 4LG**.

## Walk Sections



### Start to Playground



The walk begins outside All Saints Church on Church Street. Before starting the walk, it is worth understanding more about the village itself. Stand on the pavement, facing the church and turn left for just a short distance to reach the ornate stone entrance arch for Hovingham Hall, topped with stone dragons.

Hovingham Hall has been home to the Worsley family since 1563, although the present mansion dates from the late 1700s. The Fourth Baronet Worsley was captain of Yorkshire County Cricket Club 1928-9 and Lord Lieutenant of the North Riding of Yorkshire. You will see a Latin inscription within the entrance arch, *Virtus In Actione Consistit*, meaning Virtue Consists in Action. Hovingham Estate is still the main landowner in this area and is the landlord for many of the old cottages.

Turn around and walk back along the Church Street pavement, passing the church on your left. Before you reach the junction with the main road, you will pass a stone cross within the green to your right. As you approach the road junction, bear left to pass the Hovingham Bakery and Spa Tea Room on your left. Use the footbridge ahead to cross the stream, Marr's Beck, alongside the ford.

Beyond the bridge, turn left and follow the quiet residential lane with the stream running on your left. Pass one stone stream bridge on your left and, before reaching a second stone bridge, turn right onto a side branch of the lane (signed with yellow arrows to the cemetery). At the end of the tarmac you will reach a vehicle turning circle, with a playground at 11 o'clock, the cemetery at 1 o'clock and a sheep pasture to your right.



### Playground to Spa House



To your left you will see a choice of two paths, a footpath over a stile and a brideway through a gate. Go through the gate to join the brideway, a compacted stone vehicle track signed as the Ebor Way to Cawton 1.5 miles.

Follow the fenced vehicle track ahead. Where the fences on each side end, ignore the footpath signed right to Stonegrave. Instead go straight ahead on the vehicle track which leads you between open crop fields. After 800 metres, you will come to a rough crossroads. Stay with the main vehicle track which turns right here and, after one field length follow the track bending left. Part way along this next stretch you will pass a log seat on your right. This is one of 25 log seats that were installed in 2012 to celebrate 25 years since the designation of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

At the end of this field you will pass a large stone property on your right, Spa House. The track can be muddy here, partly due to the local springs. Spa House was built in 1835 by the Worsley family as a health spa. The springs and local waters in this area were described as having a sulphurous character, considered to have beneficial properties. The spa comprised baths, a spa villa, gardens and a pump room and was visited by invalids in search of a cure for their ailments. The villa still has holiday accommodation for today's tourist.



### Spa House to Cawton Village



Beyond this property, continue on the vehicle track which swings right and then left. The track leads you ahead, with a hedge on your right and crop fields on your left. Further along, a hedgerow begins on your left and you will pass a small woodland on your right, Cawton Low Plantation.

You will now be able to see the houses of Cawton village ahead. The track leads you over a small stream and then emerges to a junction with the village road, alongside the Cawton village sign.

This marks the furthest point of this Easy Countryside Trail.



## Cawton Village to End



Turn around and now it is simply a case of retracing your steps back into Hovingham. Follow the vehicle track back past Spa House (now on your left), then ahead for one field length before turning right and then left. Keep ahead between fields to reach the gate by the playground. Go through the gate, turn right to reach the junction by the stream and turn left back towards the village. Turn right across the footbridge alongside the ford, passing the Hovingham Bakery (on your right) and bear right along Church Street. You will come to All Saints Church where the walk began.

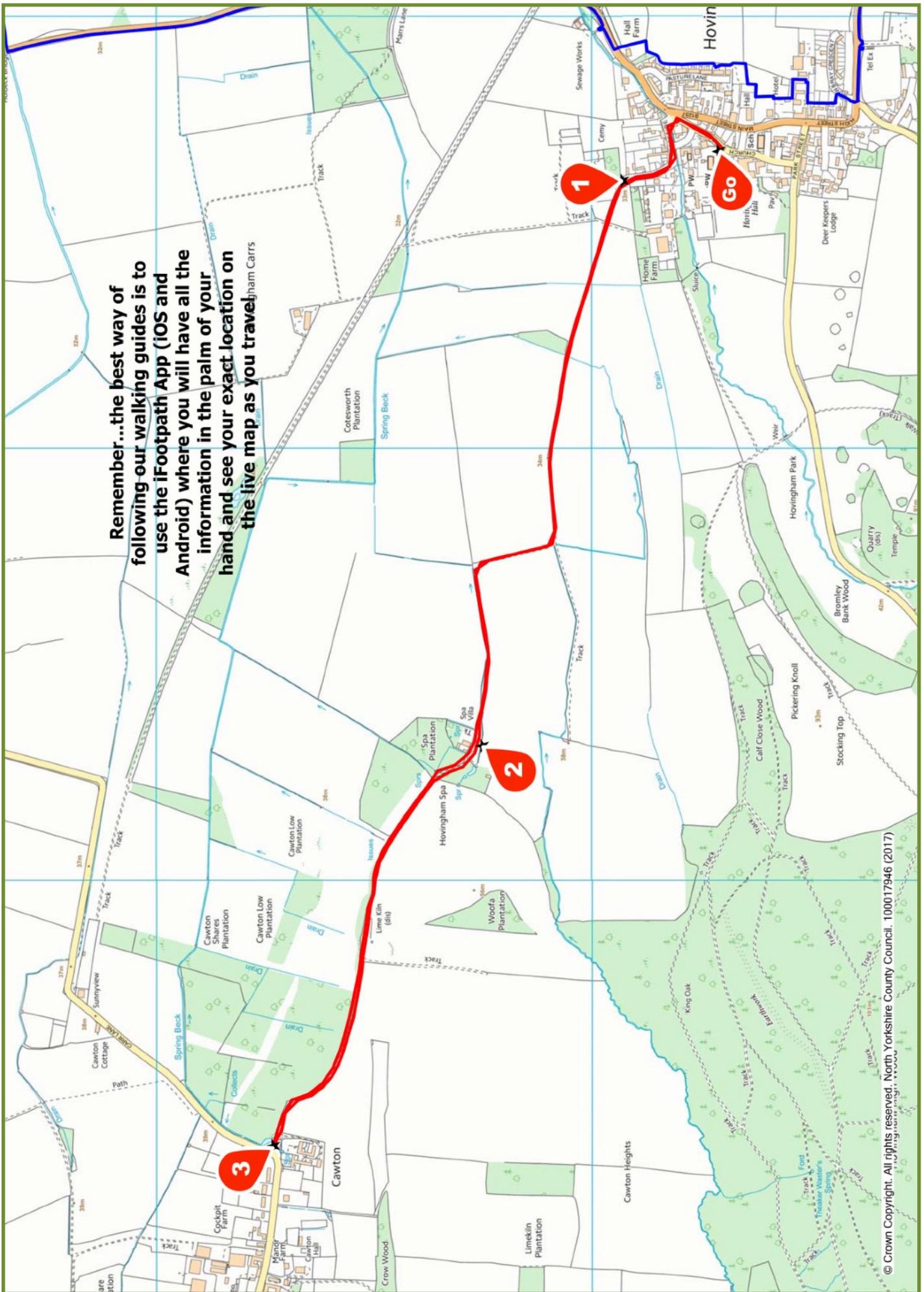
### Disclaimer

This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

### Walking Safety

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and an Ordnance Survey map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking on the coast make sure you check the tide times before you set out.

**Remember...the best way of following our walking guides is to use the iFootpath App (iOS and Android) where you will have all the information in the palm of your hand and see your exact location on the live map as you travel.**



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