The Church of All Saints, Hovingham

The Village

On returning to Hovingham please take time to enjoy this highly attractive and vibrant village. Hovingham has a shop, bakery and café, doctor's surgery, public house and a number of other businesses. Bed and Breakfast, hotel and self-catering accommodation is available in Hovingham and other nearby villages.

Getting to Hovingham

By car: Hovingham lies on the B1257 between Helmsley and Malton. Limited free car parking is available at the Village Hall. Please avoid causing inconvenience to residents when parking.

By bus: Routes run from Malton and Helmsley (see www.yorkshiretravel.net). Hovingham also lies on a Moorsbus route (see www.moors.uk.net/moorsbus).

By train: The nearest stations are York, Malton and Thirsk.

HISTORY AND HABITATS

Three circular walks starting from

Hovingham

Hovingham Estate

Howardian Hills

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Learning about Hovingham's geology on a Howardian Hills Discovery Day

For further information please contact:

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Photos: AONB Unit
Except,
C. Megson: *Guelder rose berries, Wood anemone and Lady's smock.*
G. Megson: *Long-tailed tit, Hawthorn, Song thrush, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Sloes on blackthorn and Red admiral.*
Whitfield Benson:
The Church of All Saints (Hovingham), Beckside (Hovingham) and Stonegrave Minster (Stonegrave).
Hovingham Estate: *Hovingham Hall, Timber harvester.*

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Supported by:

NATURAL ENGLAND

Guelder rose berries

The Country Code

When walking in the Howardian Hills AONB please remember The Country Code:

- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs on a lead or under close control
- Consider other people

When walking on permissive footpaths within Hovingham Estate please note that stock are likely to be grazing in the fields. Bulls might be present. Please keep dogs on leads at these times and take care not to disturb the livestock.

Maps

These routes can be found on:

OS Explorer 300, The Howardian Hills and Malton
OS Landranger 100, Malton and Pickering

You are advised to use an OS map alongside this leaflet when following the walk routes.

Stonegrave Minster

Stonegrave

The church at Stonegrave is known as **Stonegrave Minster**. Minsters were a type of monastery. Stonegrave was an 'Old Minster', or mother church, which means that it was a church serving a wide area. There is evidence that the first church on this site pre-dated 757 AD; the west wall of the current church is probably original. The large stone cross within the building dates back to the 9th or 10th Century. There were originally four crosses, made on site from locally quarried stone. Fragments of the other crosses were found in the north wall of the chancel in 1863.

The **Black Poplar** is Britain's rarest native timber tree. The last remaining black poplar in the AONB can be found on the southern edge of Stonegrave. The mature tree fell down and re-growth from its stump is being protected by a fence. Now that the new shoots have grown to about 2m in height some have been harvested and are being grown-on at a local nursery. This will produce local provenance trees to introduce to new locations within the AONB.

SINC sites

SINC is an acronym of Site of Importance for Nature Conservation. SINC sites have all been surveyed and are important for biodiversity in North Yorkshire. Horse Coppice and Cawton Fen are SINCs.

Horse Coppice is an area of mainly mature oak woodland on an Ancient Woodland Site. The current trees were planted in the 19th Century.

Cawton Fen is an area of calcareous fen, grazed by Exmoor ponies since 2003. Aims for the site include the management of scrub and removal of nutrients by grazing, to create a balance between valuable breeding and wintering bird habitat and open fenland plant communities.

Cawton Bank is not yet of SINC quality. It was once part of a larger grazed field. When the rest of the field was ploughed to create arable land, this steep bank was isolated as an island, deemed to be of little use for agriculture. Since 2003 it has been seasonally grazed by Exmoor ponies, the aim being to reduce the nutrients and develop a more diverse range of flora.

Exmoor ponies grazing Cawton Bank

Hovingham Hall

Forestry provides valuable income

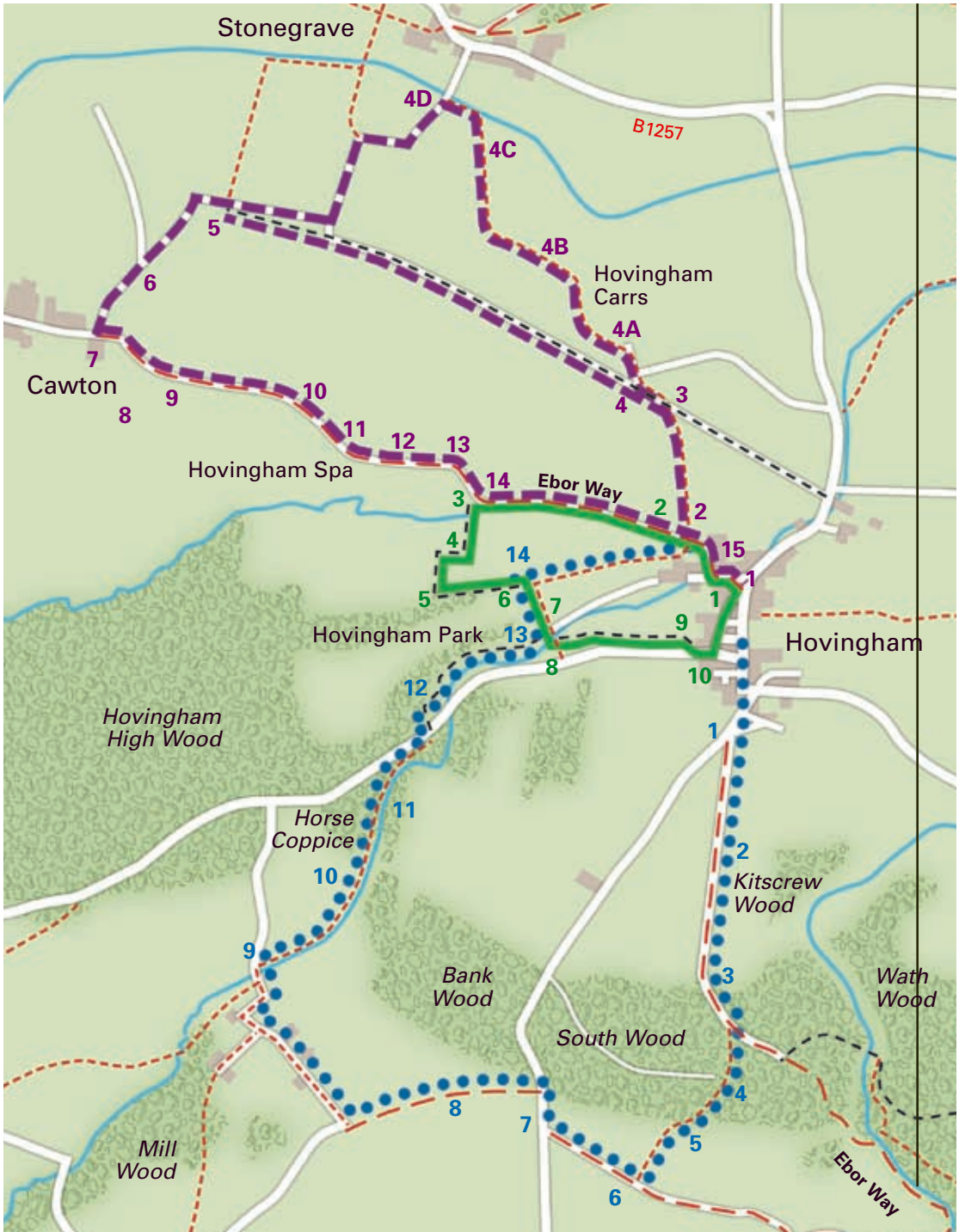
Hovingham

Hovingham has been home to the Worsley family since 1563. The sixth Thomas Worsley (b.1710, d.1778) designed and built the current Hovingham Hall. He had two main interests – horses and architecture. This perhaps makes it a little less surprising that a unique feature of the Hall is that it is entered through a covered Riding School, once used for training horses.

The family crest is the Wyvern, a medieval variant of the dragon. See if you can spot it in the heraldry.

The Hovingham Estate includes tracts of arable and grazed farmland, forestry, woodland, parkland, watercourses and buildings of traditional style (including many of those in the village itself). The Worsley family place great importance on the custodianship of both the Hall and the land with which it is associated, sensitively balancing productivity, habitat management and landscape and building conservation.

The tower of the **Parish Church of All Saints, Hovingham** is of Saxon origin. The majority of the current church building dates back to 1860, when it was rebuilt at the expense of Marcus Worsley. It is in the style of a 13th Century church and the walls directly overlie those of the Saxon building. The south aisle was an addition at this time, essential given the increasing population of the community. Take time to look inside. The many interesting features include the large Altar cross which dates back to the 10th Century, the Lady Chapel in the south aisle (which was created in memory of Sir William Henry Arthington Worsley in 1937) and the Anglian cross above the doorway, which was probably carved by some of the first Christians in North Yorkshire. The church is built of at least eight different types of stone, including a range of grits, limestones and sandstones. The sunken Mausoleum, in the graveyard, has a roof of Lakeland Slate and walls of Birdsall Calcareous Grit. The church is pictured on the back of this leaflet.



KEY

- Purple Route
- Blue Route
- Green Route
- Public Footpath
- Public Bridleway
- Permissive Footpath

Red admirals arrive each spring and summer from Mediterranean countries. They are often seen working their way along road verges and hedge boundaries in the summer months. The caterpillars of red admiral feed mainly on stinging nettle.

Blackthorn grows in many of the hedgerows that you will pass. Blackthorn berries are called sloes; they are traditionally used to produce sloe gin. They also provide a valuable food source for wintering birds; members of the thrush family particularly enjoy them.

PURPLE ROUTE

Grade:	Easy
Distance:	Main route 6.7km (4.2 miles) Extended route 7.7km (4.8 miles)
Start:	Hovingham (Grid ref: SE668756)
Terrain:	Farmland paths, stone tracks and minor roads. Mostly flat. Can be muddy in places. Strong, flat shoes recommended.

1. Leave the village on the beckside lane and head towards the cemetery. Just before the cemetery turn left onto the bridleway.
2. Turn right, signed 'Stonegrave 1 mile'. After a short distance cross the beck on a sleeper bridge; keep your eyes open for a heron fishing from the bank.
3. Here the route follows a disused railway line, which closed over 40 years ago. Notice the silver birch to the right and sycamore to the left.
4. You now have an option to extend the route to visit Stonegrave (follow 4A to 4D). Alternatively, continue along the disused railway line to Point 5. The railway line is a permissive footpath opened up as part of a Countryside Stewardship Scheme. Remain on the disused line until you reach the Cawton to Stonegrave road.

4A. Pass through the break in the hedges to continue straight ahead in the direction of the village of Stonegrave. As you look to the left you can see Ampleforth Abbey on the hillside in the distance.

4B. Cross the beck on a small wooden footbridge. Having followed the beck upstream for 350m, turn right to follow the boundary hedge in the direction of an old oak tree and the village of Stonegrave.

4C. Pass over the stile and turn left along the near bank of the Holbeck. Join the lane from Stonegrave to Cawton, next to the brick and stone bridge.

4D. Turn right to visit the village of Stonegrave and Stonegrave Minster, then retrace your steps to this point. Alternatively, turn left to continue the walk. After approximately 30m you will see the black poplar on your right. Continue along this lane where, near the former Cawton railway station, you rejoin the main route.

5. On reaching the road turn left, towards Cawton.
6. The mixed coniferous and broadleaf plantation to your left supports a variety of breeding and wintering birds. Keep your eyes open for chaffinch, goldcrest and family groups of long-tailed tit.
7. Cawton's village sign is on a millstone. At the sign turn left, onto a bridleway. The bridleway is part of the 112km (70 mile) Ebor Way, which links Helmsley and Ilkley via the Howardian Hills and York.
8. The steep grass bank to your right is Cawton Bank.
9. The significant age of the hedge to your right is shown by its interesting structure. The lower branches run horizontally because it has been laid; a traditional technique employed to maintain strong, stock-proof hedges. Look through the gap in the hedge to your left – the hills in the far distance are within the North York Moors National Park. On a clear winter's day you might see smoke rising as heather is burnt.
10. The wetland habitat to your left is Cawton Fen SINC.
11. As you enter the grounds of Spa Villa you pass between blocks of rhododendrons. Originally introduced from Japan and frequently planted in landscaped parks and gardens as decorative game cover, they exhibit a vibrant display of colour in summer. Rhododendrons are often invasive if given the chance to establish in natural habitats.
12. Follow the stone track past Spa Villa. The restorative powers of the three different mineral springs at Hovingham Spa were used in the past by people seeking a cure for a variety of ailments or general weakness.
13. The thick holly and hawthorn hedge to your left provides good protection for nesting birds and berries for food in the autumn and winter. When you reach the mature oak at a junction in the hedgerows, continue to follow the track that you are on round to the right. After 150m remain on the track as it turns left.
14. Look to your right, across the agricultural land. On the slope you can see a circular copse of trees. The neat and tidy shape of its outline shows it to be a landscaped parkland planting rather than of natural origin.
15. Rejoin the track which you set out on and follow this back into the village of Hovingham.

BLUE ROUTE

Grade: Moderate
Distance: 7.5km (4.7 miles)
Start: Hovingham (Grid ref: SE668756)
Terrain: Farmland paths and some woodland rides.
Some short, steep ascents and descents.
Can be muddy in places.
Boots recommended.

1. Leave Hovingham on the road to Terrington, then bear left onto the bridleway signed 'Ebor Way, Terrington 3½ miles'. The bridleway is called Middle Way.
2. Initially passing between two hedgerows and then crossing open farmland, the route ascends to reach the woodland. Glance behind and you can see Hovingham nestling at the foot of the hill. Further away and slightly to your left is Stonegrave and in the distance, on a clear day, the profile of the North York Moors forms a backdrop to the view.
3. Enter the wood and bear left, continuing along the track. Cross over a woodland ride. After 250m leave the Ebor Way, forking right onto a footpath. Follow the broad, grassy track between the blocks and rows of coniferous plantation – commercial forestry provides an important income for the area.
4. Cross a woodland ride and, keeping to the footpath, work your way downhill on a slightly sunken, narrower path. The track enters deciduous woodland. As the stone track takes a left hairpin, you continue straight ahead along the footpath.
5. Leave the woodland through a wooden gate, entering open farmland. Follow the fenceline to Moor House Farm. To your right are the tree-covered slopes of the managed woodlands of the Hovingham Estate.
6. Immediately before reaching the buildings, turn right onto a track. The large building to your left is an 18th Century threshing barn; a Listed Building and the only one of its kind in the AONB.
7. When you reach the road turn right. After 150m, as the road enters the woodland, turn left onto a bridleway and follow along the field boundary.
8. Cross the beck and go through a wooden gate. Continue to follow the field boundary, keeping to the right of it. At the end of the path you reach the Scackleton road. Turn right onto this road and continue past Hovingham Lodge and the footpaths to 'Lodge Farm' and 'Scackleton'.
9. Continue to follow the meandering track. Immediately after passing the footpath to 'Coulton 1 mile' you cross the beck on a stone bridge. Leave the track here, turning right (Hovingham 1½ miles) through a kissing gate to follow the beckside. As you progress towards Hovingham the beck will often accompany you.
10. As woodland starts to close in from both sides you cross a wooden footbridge and a stile, keeping the beck to your right hand side. Listen for the drumming of greater and lesser spotted woodpeckers.
11. As you continue along the grassy path, below Horse Coppice SINC, listen for an array of birdsong. A distinctive common call is that of the great tit; the regular high-low sounds like it is calling teacher-teacher-teacher over and over again. In winter you will see the very distinctive red stems of dogwood bushes on the damper ground, a native species in the UK.
12. Leave the woodland through a wooden gate. Cross the road and go over the stile directly opposite, to enter the open parkland. Turn right and follow the bank of the beck to Pickering Bridge.
13. Take time to stand on the bridge and look around you. The landscape is that of a parkland. Neatly-edged circular copses, parkland trees in individual guards and avenues of trees are all examples of the major replanting project which took place in Hovingham Park in the 1990s. You get a good view of Hovingham Hall and can see the Saxon tower and weathervane of Hovingham Church. The beck contains bullheads; spiny fish that live under stones and overhanging banks. Also look for dragonflies, whose larvae develop in the beck.
14. After walking away from the road for approximately 125m, ascending a small rise as you do so, pass through a wooden gate and after a short distance cross the fence to the right using the stile. Follow the line of mature and recently planted trees in the direction of Hovingham. After 500m cross the farm's entrance track and emerge close to the cemetery. Turn right to re-enter the village.

GREEN ROUTE

Grade: Easy
Distance: 2.9km (1.7 miles)
Start: Hovingham (Grid ref: SE668756)
Terrain: Farmland paths, stone tracks and minor roads.
Mostly flat.
Can be muddy in places.
Strong, flat shoes recommended.

1. Leave the village as if following the Purple Route.
2. At the crossing of Rights of Way continue straight ahead, following the Ebor Way in the direction of 'Oswaldkirk 3 miles'.
3. After 400m the bridleway turns sharply to the right. Leave it at this point, turning left as you do so, to follow the permissive footpath on the far side of the hedge. Please avoid walking on the set-aside strip.
4. Follow the permissive footpath waymarking. In doing so at the end of this field you will follow its far boundary to the right and then, at the end of this boundary, you will turn to your left and follow the hedgeline until you leave the agricultural land by a stile and enter the parkland.
5. Having crossed the stile, follow the fenced boundary to your left until it reaches a junction with a public footpath. At this point you meet with the Blue Route.
6. Do not cross the stile in front. Instead take the public footpath to the right.
7. Pass through the wooden gate and continue ahead, crossing the stone bridge (Pickering Bridge) as you do so.
8. After crossing the bridge bear slightly to the left to follow the permissive footpath through the parkland. On meeting the roadside fence keep to the park side and walk towards Hovingham Hall.
9. Pass over the wire fence and exit onto the road using the stiles provided. Turn left along the road – beware of the traffic which can be fast-moving.
10. Enter the village through the gate pillars and turn left into Church Street. You will pass the main entrance of Hovingham Hall (the Riding School Entrance) and the Parish Church of All Saints.

Look out as you pass below Horse Coppice for patches of the spring flowering **wood anemone** carpeting the woodland floor.
The flowers appear white but if you turn them over you will see that the sepals have a pale pink tint underneath.

Black poplar is Britain's rarest native timber tree. The only one that has been recorded in the AONB is close to Stonegrave.

Lady's smock is found in damp grasslands and fens. Flowering in spring and early summer, it occurs in Cawton Fen. It is also known as cuckooflower because it is in bloom when the first cuckoo arrives.

Lesser spotted woodpecker have been heard drumming in Horse Coppice. At only 14-15cm long, they are much smaller than the greater spotted woodpecker and they drum more quietly.

Family groups of **long-tailed tit** pass through the blocks of scrub and young trees. Look out for them as you walk along the track from Cawton to Spa Villa.

Song thrush are resident in the UK all year round. They tend to nest in areas with dense cover, including thick hedgerows and ivy-clad trees. Listen for them calling from the hedgerows and woodland boundaries.