

THIRSK Past & Present SOWERBY

Thirsk and Sowerby Past and Present is a town and countryside trail that has been designed by the local community. It takes in 12 sites of historical and environmental interest. The route is circular, flat and approximately 3 miles long, but it may be shortened if you wish. There are 15 information boards in total that extend from the centre of Thirsk and take in such sites as Thirsk Castle, the old mill race and a prehistoric burial mound. Along the route are several Blue Plaques that give information on particular buildings and on people of influence who have had connections with the area.

START

To begin the walk go to the west of the Market Place and enter Castlegate. Take the alley on the right beside Lee's butchers which leads to the grassy area of Castle Garth which is the site of Thirsk Castle and Boards



Take the footpath that leads northwards to join Pick's Lane, named after a Mr. Pick who had a farm opposite the kissing gate. The farm has been redeveloped and houses built on the site.

Turn right and go down Pick's Lane to enter Kirkgate. Opposite the junction is the site of Rhodes Brewery, converted into flats, which was one of two breweries that existed in the street. Thirsk Museum, marked with a Blue Plaque, is to the right. Thomas Lord, famous for founding Lord's Cricket Ground in London, was born there.

To use the alternative route, which is quieter, but rather narrow in places, follow the public footpath through Croft View, opposite the kissing gate.

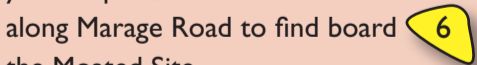
Both routes lead into Kirkgate and the main route. At the northern end of the street is the Parish Church built in the Perpendicular style and dedicated to Saint Mary. Other buildings of interest are the Herriot Museum where Alf Wight (James Herriot), the world famous vet, had his surgery and Thirsk Hall, the home of the lords of the manor. Walk towards the church and cross the road. Take the footpath to the left that runs parallel to the right hand side of the main road and walk for about 300 yards (275 metres) to get to board



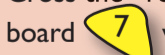
Board



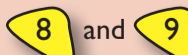
is nearby, located on the Holmes. Retrace your steps to the eastern end of the church and walk along Marage Road to find board



Continue along Marage Road to reach Millgate. Cross the road and immediately to the left is board



which is located in Mill Gardens. It gives information about the workings and site of the former mill. Cross the bridge to enter Bridge Street. This leads to Saint James's Green and the adjoining Little Green. These areas are the original site of the town. Boards



Go southwards from the Little Green along the path that leads beside the river. Note the Victorian houses of The Crescent on the left.

On reaching Ingramgate cross the road and follow the footpath through the garage premises to board



sited near Canal Wharf. Follow the grass footpath beside the river. The path can be muddy at times. Note that part of the river has been straightened in preparation for the canal system. The path goes to Lock Bridge, from where there is a choice of routes.

To use the alternative and shorter route take the right hand footpath to cross Sowerby Flatts to get to board



For the main route continue southwards along the path. This follows the river and may be rather muddy after rain. Take note of the fields on the opposite side of the river which show evidence of the 'ridge and furrow' method of ploughing. There is much wild life in the area and kingfishers are often seen. Cross the road at Blakey Bridge and make the short detour to board



at Pudding Pie Hill, an ancient burial mound, which is clearly visible from the bridge. Return to the main path which crosses pasture land and terminates near World's End Bridge. Cross the road for the Pack Horse Bridge and board



Walk over the bridge and take the right hand path which follows a green lane to join Back Lane. The house on the right was once the notable World's End public house. Turn right and go down the gentle slope to join Front Street, the main street of Sowerby. Turn left and walk up the street. Notice the timber-framed house at the junction of Gravel Hole Lane and Front Street and the large houses on either side of the street built by the prosperous business people of the town. Also note the row of three Regency houses with steps up to the entrance over the basement. Further up the street is St Oswald's Church. Just to the south of the church is an ancient house called Manor Farm. A building has been on this site since 1304. Note the splendid dovecote in Manor Farm field.

Continue up the street to find board



which is placed near the The Flatts. There is a choice of routes from here. For the main route, follow the path between The Flatts and the terraced housing to reach Westgate. To the left is the Ritz Cinema, the Town Hall and a little further along, situated in the former Courthouse, the Rural Arts Centre. Return to the cinema, turn left into Castlegate and walk the length of the street to re-enter the Market Place (which is to the right). Here boards



The alternative route continues along Sowerby Road. On the left are several large detached houses built in the 19th century. Opposite is a row of terraced houses known as 'Blue Row', built by a local landowner who expected the tenants to support his political leanings. At the end of the road is the busy junction of Town End. To the left was the site of Thirsk Town Maltings. Work ceased in 1966 and the area was used for housing. On the land now occupied by the car park and the superstore was a railway line (Leeds to Thirsk), a goods depot and a coal yard. Next to it was the engineering firm of Bamlett's which was famous for producing agricultural machinery and closed in 1985. To return to the Market Place go down Westgate to enter Castlegate or cross over the Castle Garth to enter the Market Place and find boards



THIRSK Past & Present SOWERBY

A MAP AND GUIDED WALK TO
15 HISTORIC SITES IN
THIRSK AND SOWERBY



For further information on where to stay, where to eat and shop, activities and events please contact:

Thirsk Tourist Information Centre
49 Market Place, Thirsk, North Yorkshire, YO7 1HA
Tel: 01845 522755 Fax: 01845 526230
e-mail: thirsktic@hambleton.gov.uk

FIND OUT MORE

Thirsk Museum www.thirskmuseum.org
Thirsk & Sowerby Civic Society www.thirskcivicsociety.co.uk
Herriot Museum www.worldofjamesherriot.org
Churches www.yorkshirechurches.com
Rural Arts North Yorkshire www.ruralarts.org

For North Yorkshire County Council establishments
www.northyorks.gov.uk or email direct to:
Thirsk Library: thirsk.library@northyorks.gov.uk
N. Yorkshire County Record Office: archives@northyorks.gov.uk

INTERPRETATION BOARD WALK
www.thirskpastandpresent.co.uk

Copies of the Interpretation Board Walk leaflet and the Blue Plaque Trail leaflet available from Thirsk Tourist Information Centre, Thirsk Museum and Thirsk Library.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING:

Thirsk Past and Present was coordinated and produced by the Signs, Plaques and Interpretation Boards Working Party in partnership with Rural Arts North Yorkshire and in conjunction with:
The Past and Present Writing Group, Cooper Harding and Thirsk Museum, Thirsk Clock, John Bell, children from Thirsk School and the Primary Schools of Thirsk, Sowerby, South Kilvington and Carlton Miniott.
Many thanks to English Heritage and Yorkshire Museum, for their support and assistance.

This leaflet was believed to be correct at the time of going to print. The Signs, Plaques and Interpretation Boards Working Party which is publishing this leaflet cannot be held responsible for any errors and omissions.



THIRSK
Town Council

Heritage
Lottery Fund

The
Countryside
Agency

Sowerby
Parish Council