



Gateforth Village Green

Birkin and Gateforth Circular

Western CEF Walk no. **3**

An easy circular walk starting and finishing in the pleasant village of Birkin and following a route through the Village then onto field and farm tracks with some later quiet road walking before again joining field and farm tracks en route to Gateforth where, if you wish, you can make a short diversion to relax on the village green for a while before returning to Birkin via Gateforth Wood and further tracks to join Haddlesey Road in Birkin. Here, it is a short walk back to the Tea Room. Whilst in Birkin, take the opportunity to visit the historic Church of St. Mary which was built in 1140/50 and is a Grade 1 listed building.

There are no hills but there are some stiles and woodland walking with uneven sections underfoot on this route which is unsuitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs. Best walked in dry weather to avoid muddy tracks. Where road walking is involved, please observe road walking protocol by walking in single file facing the oncoming traffic.

Overview

Distance - 6.2 miles

Time - 3 hours

Parking - Birkin Fisheries Tea Room, Haddlesey Road, Birkin, WF11 9LT
 Contact for permission to park - 07970 727619 (Jo-Anne Masters)

Opening hours - Mon - Fri 10am - 3pm. Sat & Sun 9.30am - 4pm.

Starting point- Birkin Fisheries Tea Room, grid ref SE 53482 26927

OS Map - Explorer 290 York, Selby and Tadcaster

Toilets - At Tea Room (for customers)



Route Description

1. Leave the Tea Room car park, turn left onto Haddlesey Road and follow this towards Birkin Village, until you arrive at the road junction in the centre of the village. **(0.3 miles)**

2. Turn right here to join Roe Lane and continue until you arrive at a footpath sign where you turn right and follow a field edge to arrive at a small wood. Turn left here to cross a footbridge and follow the track through the wood to emerge onto a field track which you follow, keeping woodland and Birkin House on your right, until you join a farm track where you turn left. Follow this track for about one mile where it joins Hillam Road. **(1.7 miles)**

3. Turn right and follow the road for just over $\frac{1}{4}$ mile then turn left into Fox Lane (Maspin Grange Farm on your left). Continue for a further $\frac{1}{4}$ mile until you reach a footpath sign. Turn right here to leave the lane and join a field path which you follow for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile until you arrive at a broken farm gate. **(2.8 miles)**

4. Pass through this gateway to join a track which heads towards Hambleton. After a short distance, turn right at a footpath sign to join another track and follow this until it meets Hillam Road near the driveway to Gateforth Hall. **(3.6 miles)**

5. Turn left onto Hillam Road and follow it for about $\frac{1}{3}$ mile to a point just before the start of Gateforth village where you will see a footpath sign on the right. *(at this point, if you wish, you can continue on into Gateforth to the village green where you can take a short break before retracing your steps to the footpath sign. This will add about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to your walk distance).* Follow the sign to cross a footbridge at the far edge of a small field and then cross a second

field diagonally to the right to climb a gated stile and enter Gateforth Wood. Cross a main track which runs left to right and ahead you will see a track with a fishing pond on your right. Follow this track through the wood, ignoring all intermediate turn offs, to a point where the track bears slightly left. Here, you will see a second stile as you approach the edge of the wood. Cross this stile and exit the wood. Cross a field margin here and join the path across the field bearing diagonally right until you reach a grass farm track. **(4.7 miles)**

6. Turn right onto this track, follow it round a sharp left hand bend and along Wood Lane for about 1 mile until it becomes a metalled lane (Woodhouse Farm on the left). Continue, passing the entrance to Birkin House on your right, until you arrive at the junction with Haddlesey Road and turn left to return to the Fisheries Tea Room. **(6.2 miles)**





Birkin Fisheries Tea Room

Distances quoted are approximate and are intended as a guide only. Walkers are advised to use the appropriate Ordnance Survey (OS) map for the area when undertaking the walk and are responsible for taking care to follow rights of way and avoiding trespass on private land or damage to private property. Be aware that rights of way may have altered since publication of the map. Always follow the Country Code – Close gates, don't litter, don't pick wild flowers. Keep dogs on leads and under close control near livestock. If possible, avoid walking through fields containing cattle or horses. Wear suitable footwear and clothing appropriate to the weather conditions and terrain and always carry a drink and a mobile phone.