



Ledsham Church

Brotherton and Fairburn Ings

Western CEF Walk no. 4

A very pleasant, easy walk following the River Aire to Fairburn Ings where you can linger awhile to observe the varied bird life and take refreshments at the Visitor Centre. From the Visitor Centre the 9 mile walk follows Newfield Lane northwards past a wooded plantation to the beautiful village of Ledsham and its historic All Saints Church which is well worth a visit. From Ledsham we return along a scenic route via Wormstall Wood, Lambkin Hill and Caudle Hill Plantation with panoramic views across Fairburn Ings to arrive in the interesting village of Fairburn with its historic local jail which is built into a rock wall. We then continue via Cut Road down to the River Aire to retrace the first outward leg of the riverside walk back to Brotherton passing the historic Church of St. Edward the Confessor en route.

There are gentle gradients and some stiles on this walk but all of the walking is generally easy underfoot although some grassy and unsurfaced sections may be slippery in wet weather. There may be livestock in some of the grass meadows on the return leg from Ledsham. The walk is unsuitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs.

Overview

Distance - 9 miles (can shorten to 7.0 miles – see route directions)

Time - 4 hours (9 miles)
 - or 3 hours (7 miles)

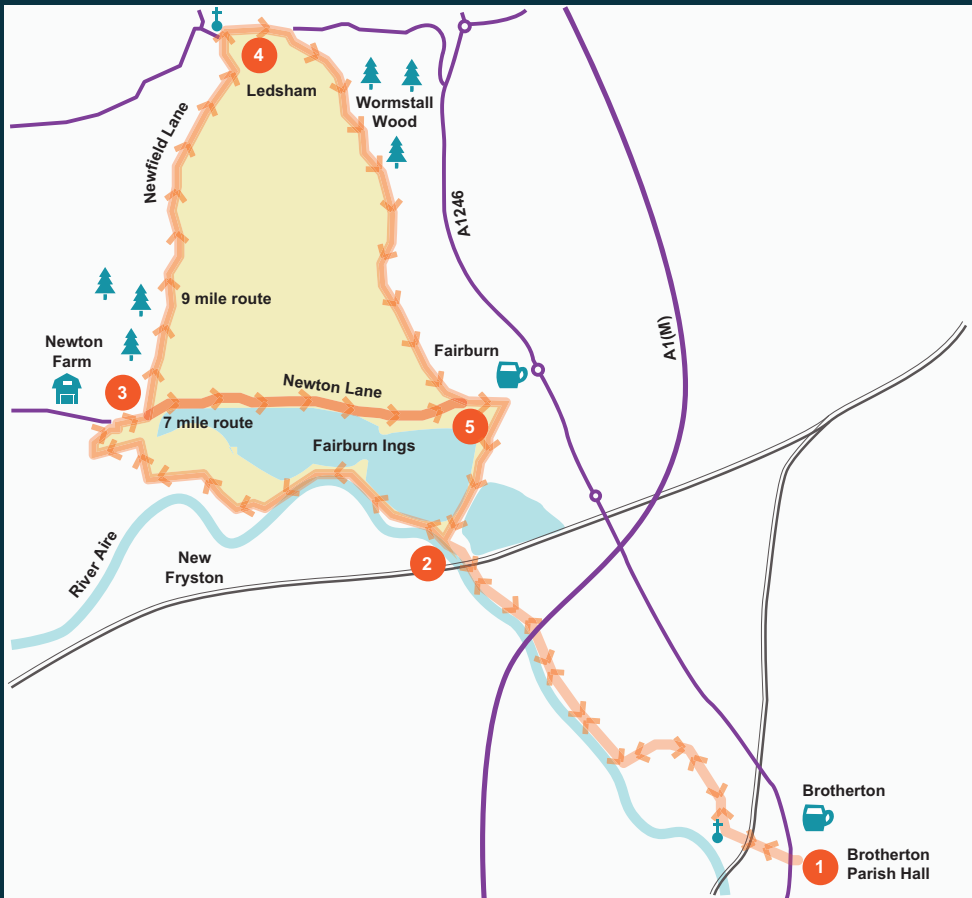
Parking & Starting point - Brotherton Parish Hall, Brotherton, West Yorkshire, WF11 9ED.

Access to car park is on the Old Great

North Road (A162) at Brotherton grid ref. SE48621 25642.

OS Map - Explorer 290 York, Selby and Tadcaster. (Note, most of the walk is covered on OS Map Explorer 289 Leeds, Harrogate, Wetherby and Pontefract)

Toilets & Refreshments - Fairburn Ings Visitor Centre, The Chequers Inn at Ledsham (if open) and pubs in Fairburn.



Route Description

1. Start at the entrance to a signposted footpath almost directly opposite Byram Park Road. Follow this path which runs alongside Brotherton Parish Hall and you will soon cross a footbridge over the Brotherton and Ferrybridge bypass (A1246) to enter Church Road Wood. Follow the path through the wood to eventually cross another footbridge over a rail line. Continue ahead, passing a cemetery on your right and a war memorial on your left to join Church Street opposite the Church of St. Edward the Confessor. Turn right onto Church Street and follow it bearing right and left to join High Street at its junction with Gauk Street. Continue along High Street, Three Horseshoes Pub on the left, until you arrive at a footpath sign on the left. Turn left and down Pasture Lane, Peugeot Garage on the left. Immediately after the garage, left at another footpath sign to join a narrow track passing by settling ponds on left and right. You will soon arrive at the River Aire where the track bends right to follow the river bank. Continue along riverside track with woodlands on right behind which are Brotherton Ings. You will eventually pass under a motorway (A1M) bridge and further along you will pass under the right hand arch of a three arch rail bridge after which you pass a set of sluice gates to arrive at Fairburn Ings at the junction with Cut Road on the right and a kissing gate ahead. **(1.8 miles)**

2. Pass through kissing gate and follow the track which climbs gradually to a level above the river and the Ings, meandering through woodland from where you can see the River Aire and Fairburn Ings below. You will also pass bird watching hides along this track. The track gradually turns away from the river eventually joining a track where you turn right

to walk downhill towards Fairburn Ings Visitor Centre. As you approach the Visitor Centre take a left hand turn to pass through another kissing gate. Continue ahead, passing dipping ponds on your right, until the track bears right and round, passing 'The Pick Up Hide' on your left, before arriving at the Visitor Centre. **(3.4 miles)**

3. From the Visitor Centre, you have the choice of following the **9 mile** or the **7 mile** route.

7 miles (direct to Fairburn) - Leave Visitor Centre car park by main entrance and turn immediately right to follow Newton Lane (can be a busy road) for about 1 mile walking on the grass verge on the right until you arrive in Fairburn where you continue up Caudle Hill to its junction with Beckfield Lane on the left. **(point 5 - 4.6 miles)**

9 miles (to Fairburn via Ledsham village) - Leave Visitor car park by main entrance, cross the road (Newton Lane), then cross a small triangular grassed area before crossing Back Newton Lane to join a track, Newfield Lane (wooded plantation on the left with a hedge on your right). Follow this track which climbs gradually until you pass the plantation where there are open fields on the left and the track begins to descend into Ledsham village. Entering Ledsham the track becomes a surfaced lane. Follow this until you arrive at a junction opposite the Church. **(5.0 miles)**

4. Cross the road and continue along Holyrood Lane on the footpath round a sharp right hand bend, passing the Old School on your left until you arrive at a left hand bend where, opposite, you will see a stile. Cross the stile to join a field track for a short distance until you arrive at the



corner of Wormstall Wood. Continue along the track, keeping the wood on your left until you arrive at an open pasture where you follow its right hand edge until you divert away from the edge to head diagonally left towards some trees.

At the trees, climb a stile to walk a short distance through the trees before emerging onto open pastureland where you follow the track bearing left up Lambkin Hill to arrive at a hedge on the left. Continue along the hedge side until you arrive at a kissing gate. Pass through to follow the path along the right hand field edge and eventually pass through another kissing gate where the walk joins Beckfield lane. Follow this downwards to arrive in Fairburn at the junction with Caudle Hill where you rejoin the 7 mile route.

(Point 5 - 6.6 miles)

5. From here, both walks continue up the hill into the centre of Fairburn where you will see the old jail built into rocks on the left and a small car park opposite. On the right is Cut Road which you follow downwards through a kissing gate and continue along the track with lakes on either side and a bird hide on the left until you arrive back at a clearing at the River Aire bank. **(point 2 - 7.2 or 5.2 miles)**

6. Turn left here to retrace the first leg of the outward journey back to the start.

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.



Fairburn Owl