



paths. Follow this path which reaches the edge of the plateau then turns right as it descends the hill. Skelton Tower can be seen ahead follow the distinct path to it.

Skelton Tower was built in 1859 by Rev Robert Skelton, the rector of S. Mary's Church. The ground floor was used as a stable while the upstairs may have been to write sermons or just to enjoy the view.

The deep valley below, Newton Dale, was gouged out 13000 years ago by water draining from a large glacial lake in the Esk Valley

5. From Skelton Tower turn south and follow a path which runs along the edge of the plateau and eventually meets a wall. Keeping close to this wall on your right, continue walking in this direction for about 1 km (2/3 mile) passing signs saying Levisham Station Walk.

6. Take the path down off the plateau. Part way down turn right at signpost. This part may be quite overgrown with bracken (Alternatively, a less steep way can be taken by following the path straight on, turning right when it meets a fence, and continuing on it to the bottom.)

7. At bottom go over the stile, crossing the railway tracks (stop, look and listen) and go over the stile on opposite side. Follow the footpath over footbridge up to a forest road. Turn left on it and follow it to the station ignoring footpath on right.

The woodland here was once part of the Pickering Forest, a royal forest founded in 1106. It is now part of the North York Moors National Park. In summer look out for a profusion of wild orchids.

The first trains that ran on the railway, from 1836, were pulled by horses. When it was taken over by the York and North Midland Railway in 1845, the tracks were converted for locomotive use. This also created the need for stations along this route and the obvious choice for one in this area was Farwath. However Rev Robert Skelton, also the Lord of the Manor wanted a station near his new home which was Grove House, just behind the station. In return for this he provided the land on which Levisham Station is built.

The line closed in 1965 as part of Beeching's reshaping British Railways and became derelict. In 1968 the North Yorkshire Moors Railway began restoring the line. In 1970 a small group of volunteers, the Levisham Station Group, began to restore the station, recreating a circa 1912 scene. Today steam services run about 250 days per year.

8. After visiting the station cross the level crossing and go through the gate at the cattle grid. At the signpost; Levisham –the Inn Way, take the path on the right going over a small footbridge made from wooden sleepers and go through the gate. Follow the path straight ahead ignoring white gate to holiday cottages on right. This wooded rising path can be muddy at times. At the top go through the gate into a field. Keeping close to the edge of the field boundary on the left, head

up to the corner by a water trough, then turn right following the waymark arrow to gate with a stile.

9. Go over the stile and turn right onto a bridleway, and then almost immediately bear left at the signposted fork. Follow this gorse lined path up the hill, passing or pausing at the bench, as it bends to the left and then sharply to the right as it winds its way up to the top where there is another stile.

Warning – The approach to this stile can be slippery in wet weather and stout footwear is recommended.

The bench on this path is a replacement of one put here in 1937 to commemorate the coronation of King George VI.

One of two, the other one can be found at the southern entrance to the village.

10. Go over the stile bearing left and then head east keeping close to the wall on your left. Go over another two stiles until you reach Little Field Lane.

11 Follow this back to the Levisham.

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This leaflet is one of a series covering Lockton and Levisham produced by the Lockton and Levisham Heritage Group funded by



LEVISHAM, SKELTON TOWER and LEVISHAM STATION

Circular Walk from St. John the Baptist Church in Levisham

DI STANCE- 7.3 km/4.5miles

START - Grid reference 833906

Notes on the Walk

1. Leave the village by Braygate Lane which is the road to the left of the pub, keeping straight ahead when the main road turns left (2). The lane turns into a track which reaches a gate.

3. Go over the stile and follow track which bears slightly left, keeping wall on left.

4. At the corner of the walls continue straight ahead (bearing slightly left NW, Ignoring other