

*The first plantings for Dalby forest were made in 1921, previously the district had been littered with rabbit warrens.*

5. Bear left and walk diagonally down the hillside to a signpost. Here turn left along a sunken lane (muddy!) to the access road to High Dalby House. Turn left, then by a signpost (marked 'Bridestones') turn right and continue along the valley bottom with water on your right, crossing the access road to a new bridge. On approaching the large house ahead (Staindale Lodge) make for the stile by a signpost. Cross the stile and continue over a small orchard to cross a ladder stile. Turn right, through a gate, into a small enclosure for horses. Continue straight ahead, through a gate onto a forest track.

*High Dalby House, originally a farmhouse, was later used to accommodate a forest executive but eventually fell into decay. In the 1950's it was bought by Sir Meredith Whitaker who rebuilt it as it is today. Staindale Lodge was originally a modest smallholding called Rose Cottage. It was transformed into a country house shortly before High Dalby House was rebuilt.*

6. After about half a mile the track passes out of forest into open pasture. Make for a stile in the bottom corner. At the next stile you enter National Trust land and shortly reach Low Staindale Cottage.

*Staindale Beck marks the boundary between Lockton and Allerston townships. Low Staindale Cottage, previously a farm, probably dates from the 1500s when a William Meltham enclosed 66 acres of moor and built two houses at 'a place called Stayndale'. It contained a farm until the 1930's when it became a Youth Hostel for about 30 years. It is now owned by the National Trust.*

7. At Low Staindale Cottage turn sharp left up the farm track doubling back uphill. Before reaching Low Pasture Farm turn left over a stile into a field. Make for the far corner of a barn, cross another stile then continue straight ahead towards steps in the bank. Walk diagonally across the field, through a gate in the wall and into a concrete lane. Here turn left. Where the farm track turns sharp left (to Low Pasture Villa Farm) turn right through a farm gate. A grassy track goes diagonally down Greendale.

*The bank on the left was the site of an old lime kiln so it is not surprising to find lime loving flowers such as cowslips, orchids and thyme growing here.*

8. The track continues through woodland, Thwaite Wood on the east side of the beck and Old Field Wood on the west side. Continue uphill until you reach the Pickering – Whitby road. Cross the road carefully and you are at the road into Lockton by the cricket field and almost back at your starting point.

Maps and profiles researched and drawn by Mary Wellburn. Text by Ruth Strong.

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Local Heritage initiative



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## **LOCKTON and STAINDALE**

*Circular walk from Lockton Cemetery*

*DISTANCE - Approx 5½ miles*

*START - Lockton Cemetery at east end of village. Grid Reference 847889*

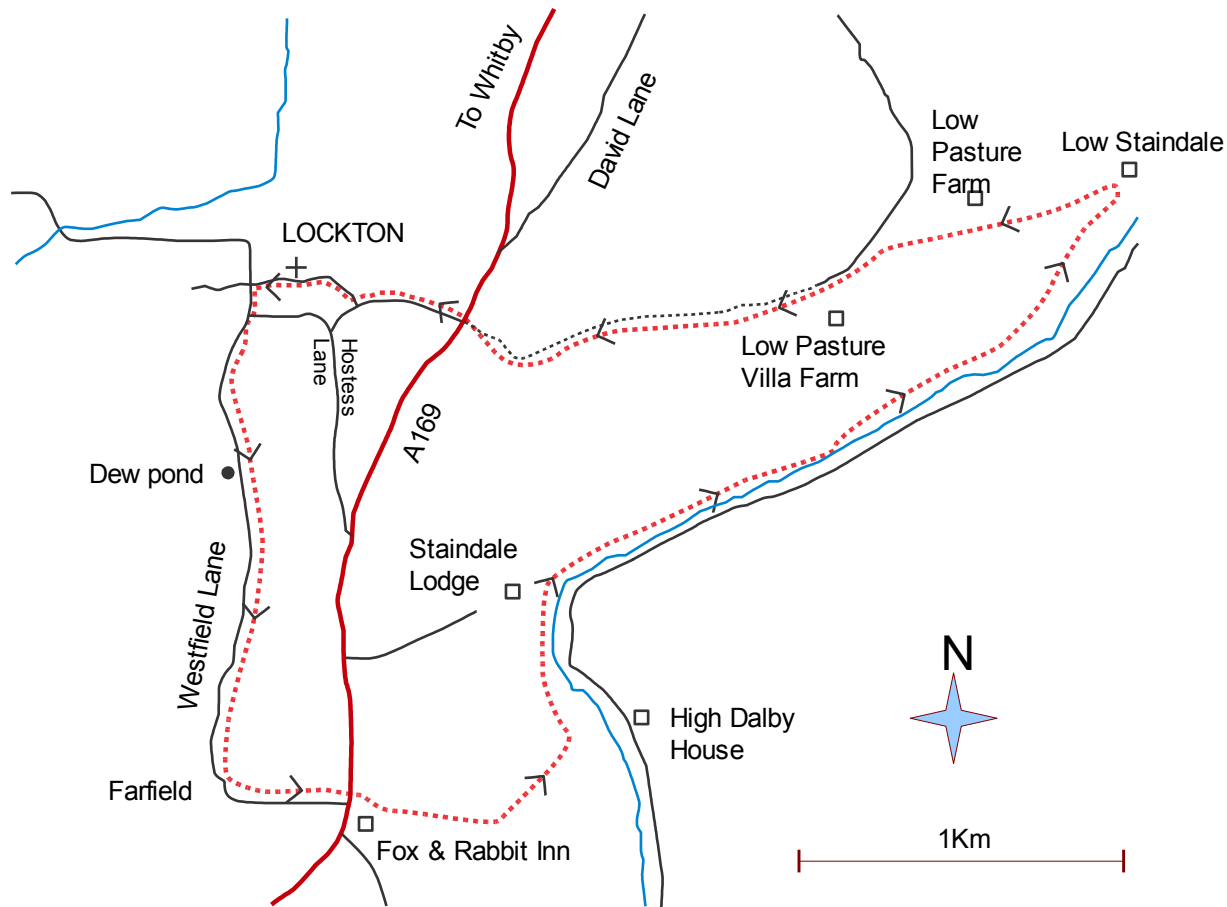
*PARKING - on the verge opposite the cemetery.*

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### **Notes on the Walk**

1. With your back to the cemetery, turn left and walk towards the village continuing down the village street with the church on your right and the old Lockton well on your left.

*Lockton Church is believed to date from the 13<sup>th</sup> century but there is said to be some 11<sup>th</sup> century stonework. It is dedicated to St Giles, a 7<sup>th</sup> century hermit whose sole companion was a hind (a female deer). The church has a stained glass window depicting St Giles created by local sculptress and artist, the late Jean Bullock.*



*The well is in a small fenced enclosure. You can see the date and the names of those who paid for it - one apparently chiselled out.*

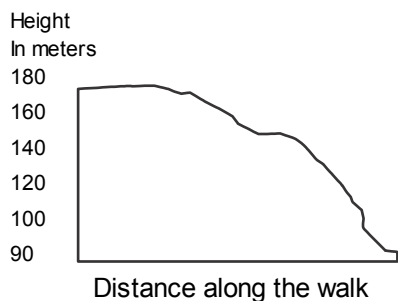
2. At a crossroads turn left up Hudgin Lane (shop and tearoom) then bear right up Westfield Lane. After about a mile the track turns left and reaches the main Pickering – Whitby road.

*Westfield Lane marks the boundary of the East and West fields, two fields originally farmed in strips until enclosed in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. About a third of the way up the lane, on the right, is the site of an old dewpond used by the 'lane cows' which grazed on the grass verges. Dewponds are formed by digging out a circular hollow which is lined with puddled clay and then literally filled with dew.*

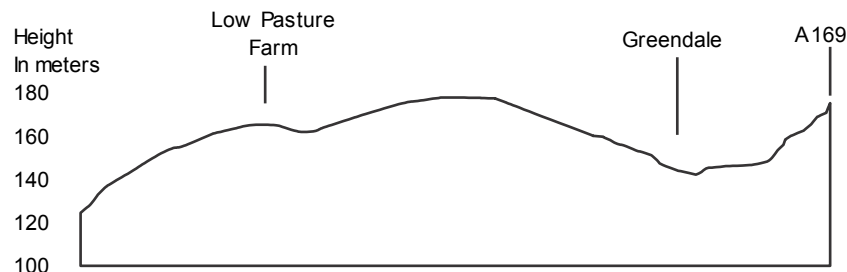
3. Carefully cross the Whitby road at The Fox and Rabbit Inn. The footpath goes immediately behind the Inn, identified by yellow markers through a series of buildings and on down a tree lined track.

*The Fox and Rabbit Inn, originally called Keld House, was built as a farmhouse over two hundred years ago. When the farm was separated from the Inn in the 19<sup>th</sup> century some of the farm buildings were incorporated in the Inn.*

Profile 1.- Fox & Rabbit to High Dalby



Profile 2.- Low Staindale to the A169



4. Keeping the line of evergreens on your left go along the left hand side of the field with good views of Dalby forest ahead. Go through a gate to enter a young plantation. Soon a fence appears on your right. About 50 yards before the path crosses a stile into woodland turn left onto a lesser path. Cross a stile then follow the path steeply down the hill through beech and coniferous trees. At the bottom cross a stile into open pasture.