

5. On returning to the main track continue along the right fork about ¼ mile to a metalled road.

Within living memory this hillside was grazed by sheep and in spring was covered in bluebells and foxgloves. Later it became overgrown with bracken, but has now been planted with drifts of trees. You may be able to see the tracks of deer coming down to the stream to drink.

6. At the road turn right up the hill and after about 100 yards turn left down an old lane. Where the track forks keep left continuing downhill to St Mary's Church and its graveyard on your right. The graveyard is still in use.

St Mary's is Levisham's ancient Parish Church. In 1984 the roof of the nave was removed for safety. The chancel and steps up the tower have been closed off and the chancel contains various monuments. An annual open air service is held in the graveyard in July.

7. Cross the beck by a bridge, turn right to follow the path through a gate then diagonally uphill to a track. Turn left along the track to eventually reach a metalled road.

The track is called 'Sleights Road'. Was it the old route from Pickering to Sleights? If so, St Mary's Church was not built in such a remote place after all.

At the road turn right, climb some steps by a footpath sign and follow the path up through the woods. There is a welcome bench at the top.

Notice the inscription on the bench. P/O James Michael Horrox was the son of the Lockton & Levisham rector.

8. Climb the steps behind the bench into an enclosed path eventually crossing a stile into Lockton's main street.

Until recently most of the houses in Lockton were smallholdings with a variety of buildings behind them. The working farms in the village are now all beyond the Levisham turn off.

9. Walk down to join the road from Levisham and continue past the pinfold on your left, the old well on your right and St Giles' Church on your left.

The pinfold was used to impound stray animals. St Giles' Church is believed to date from at least the 13th century and has a beautiful 17th century carved pulpit and an unusual font. Can you find the ancient Mass Dial on the exterior south wall of the chancel? The well is in a small fenced enclosure on the other side of the road. The date and names of those who paid for it can be seen. Why is one name chiselled out?

10. Continue past the YHA (once the school) and past the Village Hall to your starting point.

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

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LOCKTON - WEDLANDS AND THE VALLEY CHURCH.

Circular walk from Lockton Cemetery

DISTANCE - Approx 3 miles

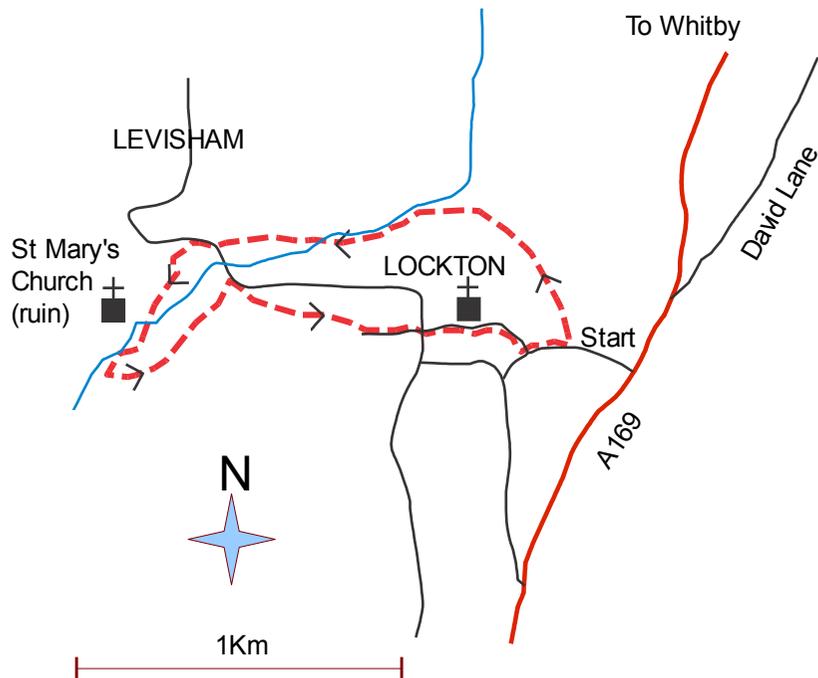
START - Lockton Cemetery at east end of village. Grid Reference 847889.

PARKING - on the verge opposite the cemetery

Notes on the Walk

1. With your back to the Cemetery go through the gate behind the trees by a footpath sign.

These trees were planted by Lockton Parish Council on the site of the old Claypit Pond which was filled in during the early 1930s. Lockton Cemetery was consecrated in 1913. The east end is Church of England, the west end is Methodist.



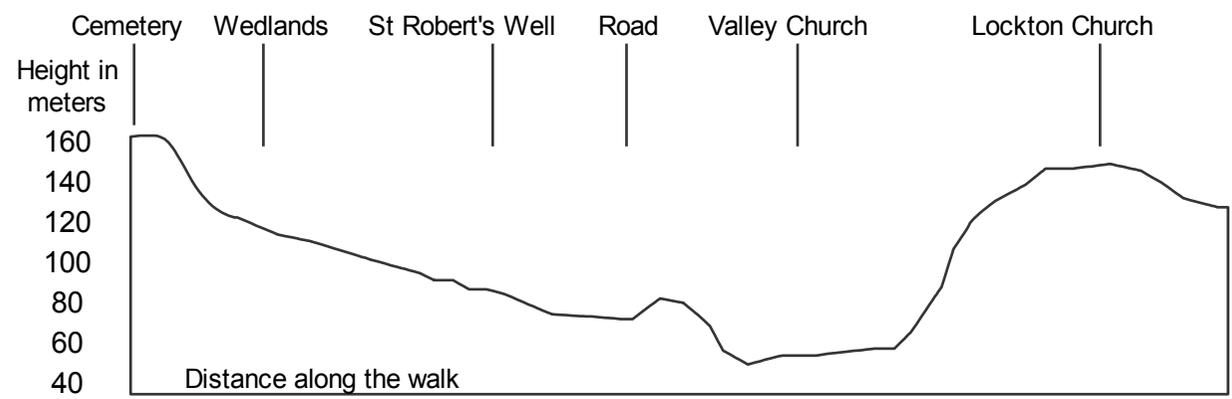
2. Follow the track along the hillside and through a gate.

This area is called Wedlands. It is an old name dating back at least 500 years; perhaps it meant wet lands. The bumps on the hill side to the left are the remains of the old Clay Pit designed under Lockton's Enclosure Award of 1795. Was this the source of clay for the various dewponds? They were lined with puddled clay.

3. Immediately bear left down a steep bank (finger post to Levisham) then right into a small valley well used by local cattle.

This part can be quite muddy. The way down into the valley is an ancient public 'stray' giving access to the beck for village cattle. Cowslips and orchids grow on the steep grassy bank and the relatively rare ragged robin can be found in the swampy ground by the little bridge.

As you walk down the valley keep to the left passing through a gate. At the bottom follow the right hand side of the stream eventually cross a stile then turn right over a little bridge. Turn left. In a few yards take the optional detour (para 4 below) or continue (para 5).



4. A slight detour can be made to St Robert's 'Well' by taking the left fork down the hill. When the track veers to the left continue straight ahead getting closer to the cliff on your right. Soon you will notice a number of springs issuing from the cliff face. The largest of these is known as St Robert's Well and is marked on OS maps.

St Robert's well is a petrifying well and the surrounding stones are covered with petrified moss. St Robert was a 12th century monk associated with Whitby Abbey.