

and climb steeply uphill with a wall on your right. You soon reach a ladder stile. Immediately over the stile turn sharp left and continue to a gate into Horcum Wood. Follow the track downhill to a gate at the bottom to join the footpath through the Hole of Horcum. Turn left.

*Further up the valley you can just see what is left of Low Horcum Farm. It was worked as a farm until after World War II. Further up the valley was High Horcum Farm.*

5. You soon cross a stile into scrubland. Passing over another stile the path continues, slightly downhill, to reach a bridge over the stream. Cross the bridge and, almost immediately a little stream, to a signpost.

*This is the bottom of Dundale Griff, a good place for a picnic.*

6. Take the path marked to Levisham. The path climbs steadily uphill until, at a footpath sign, it levels out. It then continues along the hillside for about ½ mile.

*This is a good place for blackberries. Also look out for wild marjoram.*

7. Soon after climbing a flight of steps, the path veers round to the right, giving good views of Lockton and later, of the little valley running down into Newtondale. Soon after reaching an area of newly planted trees, by a signpost, leave the main path and doubling sharply back to the left, walk downhill. At the bottom, turn left along another footpath. Soon this drops down to a little bridge over the stream. Turn left over the bridge, over a stile, and continue straight ahead along the valley bottom.

*Notice how many of the alder trees have been coppiced. By cutting the tree back to ground level about every 15 years there was a continuous supply of young wood suitable for fencing etc. The little bridge is ideal for playing Pooh Sticks! The fairly rare ragged robin grows in the boggy ground to the right just over the bridge.*

8. Eventually the path begins to climb, veering round to the right. Continue uphill until you reach a wall straight ahead. Here turn left and climb steeply up the hillside to join a well made track at the top by a gate. Turn right through the gate, continue to another gate which brings you back to your starting point.

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

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



Version2. May 2008



## **LOCKTON - Wedlands and the Hole of Horcum**

*Circular walk from Lockton Cemetery*

*DISTANCE - Approx 5 miles*

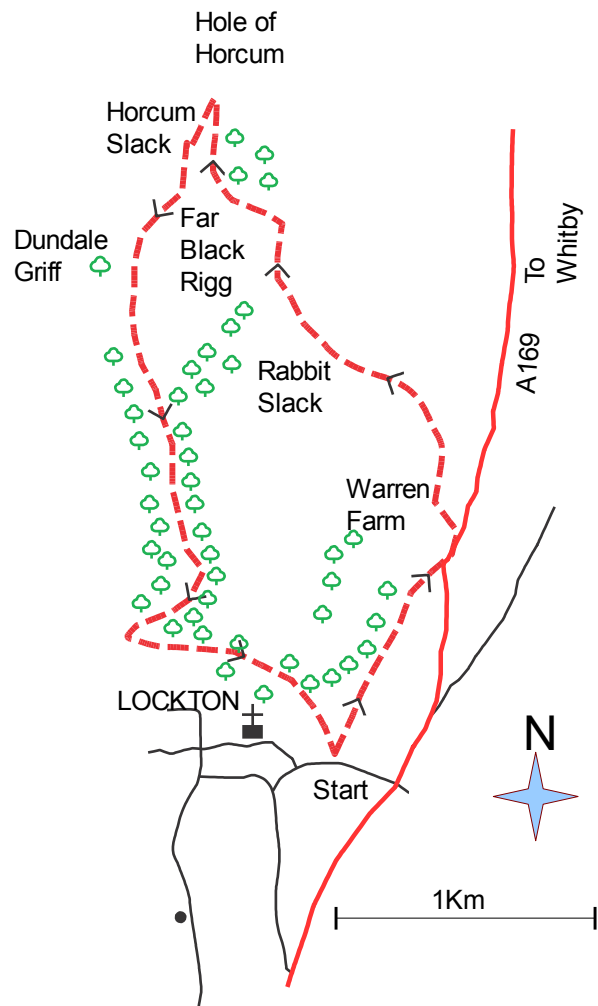
*START - Lockton Cemetery at east end of village. Grid Reference 847889*

*PARKING - on the verge opposite the cemetery.*

---

### **Notes on the Walk**

1. With your back to the cemetery make for a gate, by a footpath sign, in the far wall. Pass through this gate, then a second gate, and continue along the hillside for about half a mile. The path passes through rough pasture and woodland and can be muddy. Towards the end of this stretch pass through a gate with a yellow footpath arrow. Turn left along the verge of the main road (A169).



*This area is called the Wedlands, an ancient name dating back at least to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and is probably a corruption of Wetlands.*

2. Walk along the grassy verge for about 100 yards then turn up the Warren House Farm access track. Just before the track doubles back towards the farm the right of way continues ahead, through a gate by a pond.

*In early summer this access track is lined with cow parsley, but in July this gives place to a riot of yellow lady's bedstraw and milfoil. Look out for the kennels of the Saltergate Farmers' Hunt in the farm buildings to your left. Warren Farm has long been the largest farm in the district.*

3. Walk diagonally up the hillside to the left, eventually coming to a gate. Pass through the gate and walk straight ahead, keeping close to the fence on your left. In about ¼ mile cross a stile then bear right, walking diagonally over a pasture to another gate. Pass through then walk diagonally left across the next pasture. Make for a wooden post, then in about 100 yards through a gateway onto a farm track. Turn right down the hill

*The field you cross diagonally is called Rabbit Slack. Notice the sandy soil, especially on the right bank of the track, ideal for rabbit warrens.*

4. At the bottom of the hill where the track turns sharply left, leave the track

