

WALK 4

BOTTOMS WOOD

Walk approximately 1.5 miles

Start Point: Main Street Thorner. LS14 3DX

- (1) Walk down Main Street towards the Ford. Continue past the Ford at Westfield Lane, and the Beehive Restaurant
- (2) As the road turns to the right, to pass over the bridge, take the track to the left (entrance to the football and cricket grounds) towards the stile at the bottom of the field, on the right hand side.



- (3) The Notice by the stile makes it clear that there is no formal public right of way through the field, or the wood beyond. The field and wood are owned by Mexborough Estates, who are prepared to allow access only on the basis that users accept full responsibility for their own safety. If there was a right of way, even a Permissive right of way, then the route would be identified and

there would be some responsibility on the owners to keep the route accessible and safe. There is no such responsibility through the wood.

- (4) Across the stile head up the side of the field, with the football pitch and cricket ground on your left. The path leads to a fence and a rather crude stile, requiring a degree of agility,

- (5) Once over the fence, the path continues around the perimeter of the cricket field, and then down into the woods.

- (6) Bottoms Wood is a wonderful area to explore, and in May is covered in bluebells. However there

are a number of ditches, which need to be crossed, and which have steep sides and can fill with water. It is foolish to attempt this walk in the winter without Wellington boots, and a certain degree of mobility is required. All this leads to the appeal of the wood – it is natural environment.

- (7) once across the boggy area, the path becomes more manageable and pleasant to walk. There is no formal route marked out, but the walked routes through the wood are obvious. All lead towards the far left hand corner.

- (8) The path exits the wood in the far corner, up a short steep bank, onto a wide farm track.

- (9) Remember there is no formal right of way over this track. The Estate, and the tenant farmer, will allow use of the track to enable you to exit the wood to join up with the disused railway track. This is accessed by turning left on the track, up to the fence, which leads out onto the track of the old Wetherby to Cross Gates railway line.



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- (10) Turn left on the railway line, and follow it back to the village. The first section is through a wooded area, which can become overgrown, but, after a metal kissing gate, the track widens out and becomes more open.
- (11) Continue along the railway line, past the track off to the right, towards Watery Lane, to a kissing gate on the left, just before the stone bridge over the railway line. Follow the narrow footpath, which leads out onto the wide track of Littlemoor Lane.
- (12) As you reach the houses the road surface is made up, and becomes Butts Garth. Proceed along Butts Garth.
- (13) To return to the start you can take Butts Garth View on the left, and through the car park of the Fox, although this is not a public right of way, and the gate is sometimes locked (when the pub is closed)
- (14) Alternatively walk along Butts Garth as far as Heathcote Avenue, and take the footpath next to the gardens or allotments. This leads to Main Street, close to the starting point.