

THORNER WALKS

WALK 1

FISHPONDS - ELTOFTS

Walk approximately 2 miles with option to extend to about 3 miles

Start Point: Main Street Thorner. LS14 3DX



- (1) From the starting point take the public footpath between the houses on the opposite side of the road, the Chapel Footpath. Follow this footpath between the stone walls of the properties, and past the houses at Virginia Terrace, towards a metal kissing gate. Continue through this and a further two gates to emerge on to Carr Lane.



- (2) Now turn left passing 'Kirklands' a former Methodist Chapel, now converted into residential apartments, on your left. As the footpath ends, cross the road diagonally to a stile on the right. Continue over the stile and up a good farm track to a kissing gate at the top of the rise.
- (3) From here the path runs diagonally left across the middle of a field towards a stile and steps. From here there are impressive views over to Scarcroft Hill and the grand house at Oaklands.
- (4) Continue over the stile and down the stone steps. The path splits here.
- (5) An alternative path runs from the bottom of the stone steps directly to a stile at the bottom of the field, and to a path running along the boundary of Oaklands Manor.



- (6) Our route heads diagonally left across the field to a wooden gate at a gap in the hedge at the edge of Kidhirst Wood. On reaching the wide track through the trees, turn left heading towards Kidhirst Fishpond. The pond – through which flows the Scarcroft Beck - is said to be based upon medieval fish ponds created by monks who lived and worked at their



grange at Eltofts, half a mile to the south-west near Eltofts House.

- (7) As the track forks, take the left hand path heading towards a wooden seat overlooking the pond. From the seat, continue forward on a distinctive path up through the wood with the pond on your right.



- (8) At the end of the wood, go through a gate and head uphill across the field heading towards the houses in the hamlet of Eltofts. The path ends at a wall, which you climb over via a stile, on to a tarmac road, in front of the houses.

From here you have alternative routes back to the starting point. The short route back to the village, is to turn left along the road, which very soon becomes an unmade track, and starts to run downhill. Where the track swings to the right, down towards Carr Lane, take the steps on the left up to the clear track running along the side of the hill (Scarborough Walk)

- (9) At the end of this level track, the route crosses the next field to a stile in the far right hand corner. This stile leads directly onto Carr Lane. Walk carefully down the tarmac road (no pavement), as far as Kirklands and back down the footpath back to the starting point.
- (10) To extend the walk, or as an alternative, instead of turning left along the tarmac road at Eltofts, turn right, and follow the road for 1/2 a mile as it curves left and back to Carr Lane.



- (11) On reaching Carr Lane turn to the left, and continue carefully along the road for a few minutes, to a public footpath sign on the right.
- (12) Here, turn down the farm track at the edge of a field to reach a stile on the left. Cross over stile and walk along the right hand side of the field to reach a further stile in the bottom right hand corner.
- (13) Continue forward over the stile, walking along the narrow path between hedgerow and horse paddocks. The footpath eventually broadens out and goes slightly uphill to the next stile, at the end of the field.

- (14) Immediately after negotiating this stile, turn left along the track towards the farm buildings, but after just a few steps, turn right uphill over another stile, and continue up the right hand side of the short field to the final stile on the walk.

- (15) Now continue straight across the middle of a large field. From the brow of the hill the village comes into view. Head eventually with a hedge to the left, towards the houses at Westfield. Pass Honeysuckle Cottage on your right and carry on down the wide track to the ford and Thorner Main Street. Turn left along Main Street back to the original starting point.

