

BARDSEY

Start Point: Main Street Thorner. LS14 3DX
Walk approximately 5 miles with options.



(1) From the starting point take the signed public footpath between the houses and what was the Village Stores - 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) 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. There are impressive views over to Scarcroft Hill, the grand house at Oaklands Manor and Sutton Bank (on a clear day).

(4) Continue over the stile and down the stone steps. From the bottom of the steps there are two options – diagonally to the left and a gate in the far hedge, or angled diagonally to the right to a stile at the bottom of the field, and to a path running along the boundary of Oaklands Manor. Our route takes the right hand option.

(5) There is a second stile, and at the top of this path, take the made up road towards the properties. Opposite Oaklands House take the footpath through a gate on the left, and proceed straight ahead to another gate.



(6) From this gate take the track half right towards a large tree. Beyond this there's a stile with steps out onto the road (Thorner Lane)

(7) Turn left at the road and walk along the road for a few hundred yards, round a bend and then over the bridge over Scarcroft Beck. About 100 yards beyond this bridge leave the road, and take the track down to the right, towards Moat Hall.



(8) After passing a couple of houses take the footpath sign posted to the left, over a stone stile. Walk along the bottom edge of this field, with the hedge on your right. As you come to the end of this field the path goes off to the right, over a wooden footbridge.

(9) Follow the track through a narrow wooded area, with a field to the right, and the gardens of a house on the left.



(10) At the end of this section of path, the route goes to the right, into a field, and continues uphill, with a hedge on your right shoulder. Over the brow of the hill the path continues down to a junction of paths. The route off to the right leads to the entrance to Hetchell Woods, and will be crossed on the return leg. The track ahead is private, with no right of way, so take the track to the left, and follow it to where it emerges onto the A58 Leeds – Wetherby Road.

(11) Cross the road with care and take the public footpath that runs up Wayside Gardens, which is slightly offset to the left.

(12) Proceed up Wayside Mount, passing houses of varying styles. Continue beyond the end of the houses, along the unmade track. At the end of this track, or rather where the track turns off to the left, you have a choice of routes.



(13) One alternative is to go to the right and walk down the field edge. The path leads to a small wooded area, which you go through, and across a small footbridge into the Churchyard. Proceed through the Churchyard to emerge onto the road, (Church Lane) and pick up the walk at (15)

(14) Otherwise follow the track to the left, and walk past various farm buildings. As you approach the village pond continue to follow the track as it swings round to the right. There are seats here if you are in need of a rest, or picnic break.

- (15) Continue to follow the track, which now runs downhill past a number of properties. After the last property, which is the Old Vicarage, the track narrows and continues more steeply downhill, eventually emerging into the car park of the Bingley Arms. Cross the car park, and proceed along the main road, and past the Church.
- (16) Continue along the road, which eventually leads out onto the A58 Wetherby Road. Here turn to the right, and keep on the pavement, past the bus shelter. On the other side of the road, before the bus stop, there's a track leading up into the woods and onto to the bed of the Wetherby to Cross Gates railway line, a victim of the Beeching cuts in the 1960s.

- (17) From this point one option is to walk back along the railway line, all the way back to the bridge at Thorner Lane, near Oaklands. The railway line is not an official public right of way, although it has been regularly walked for many years and, at the time of writing, an application is pending to have it registered as a public right of way, and added to the Definitive Map



- (18) The official public footpath leaves the railway line, off to the left, very shortly after joining it. The track leads through the woods (Hetchell Woods – a Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Reserve), which, in April and May, are a profusion of bluebells and wild garlic. The track is clear and obvious, but care is needed, as there is a degree of unevenness.

- (19) A section of the path then runs along the edge of the wood, with a field to the left. At a bend in the track there is a clearly marked footpath straight ahead. This path leads to the road, Holme Farm Lane, which is a continuation of Milner Lane. However our route ignores this path off, and continues to the right around the edge of the wood



- (20) The path eventually re-enters the Woods, passing the rocky outcrop at Hetchell Crag, and continues until a gate exiting out onto the track referred to in (10) above. This track is part of the Roman road from Adel to York. Take the track to the left, which leads up towards Milner Lane and beyond that to the Stubbing Moor Plantation.



- (21) After a few yards go through the gate to the right of the path, into Pompopali, an intriguing site which has confused historians and archaeologists for some time. There is an official line for the right of way, which stays low and follows the stream, but most go higher and follow a variety of routes up down and around the topography. Head towards the far right hand corner, and exit the area onto a clear and distinct path.



- (22) The path passes an old mill property, now derelict. The path is to the left of the wooded area, with an open field over the fence to your left. Continue on this path, which leads under an old railway bridge.



- (23) An alternative at this point is to haul yourself up onto the railway line, using the rope hand rail kindly provided, and follow the railway line to Thorner Lane, remembering that the railway line is not, at the moment, a public right of way.

- (24) The actual footpath continues under the bridge. It actually goes through a gate on the right, across a field to a gate in the opposite corner, but most walkers will choose to walk round the field on a clear track. The property to the right is Moat Hall, and it brings you back to where you left the track at (8)

- (25) Retrace your steps along Thorner Lane to the stile into the field just before Oaklands. Walk half right up the field to the gate at the side of the houses, and exit out onto the road at Oaklands.

- (26) Take the signposted path immediately to the left of the properties. At the end of the track, a stile on the left leads into a field. Walk down the field to a metal kissing gate in the hedgerow, (this area gets muddy in wet weather) and then up the fenced in path, up the side of the field, over a pair of stiles, to another metal kissing gate, and the broad track passing the farm buildings on the left, and the tennis courts and Victory Hall, on the right



- (27) On emerging onto Carr Lane, either follow the road round to the Mexborough junction, and back along Main Street to the starting point, or turn right, past the properties of Skippon Terrace, taking the footpath to the left, before the converted Methodist Chapel, back to the starting point