

FLYING HORSE FARM

Start Point: Main Street Thorner. LS14 3DX

Walk approximately 3.5 miles.

- (1) From the starting point, cross the road, and take Heathcote Avenue, the footpath between the Over 60s Bungalow, and the boules area, and head out onto Butts Garth. Turn right and follow Butts Garth round to the left, and up the unmade track of Littlemoor Lane.



- (2) After a couple of hundred yards, and before the bridge, take the track to the right, which leads to a metal kissing gate out onto the former railway line, not used since the Beeching axe. Walk along the railway line for a short distance, to the footpath sign (to Barwick) and kissing gate, off to the left.



- (3) The track proceeds uphill, initially with the hedge on the left, and then, from the brow of the hill, with the hedge on the right. This eventually ends at a junction of paths, at this point turn right away from the village, along the rough track, which can be muddy in poor weather.



- (4) Ignore the track off to the left and keep straight on to a gate, with a stile on the left. Go over this stile and take the path signposted to Barwick, which sets off diagonally through the wood.



- (5) The route is clear, with occasional way markers to keep you going in the right direction. There is a soft patch, at about half way, where walkers have crossed into the wood, to bypass this short section.



- (6) At one point there is a fork in the track. The footpath is clearly marked, and continues to the left. The condition of the path improves after this point, and is an attractive walk through mature woodland.



- (7) The path eventually emerges onto the A64 Leeds – York road, opposite the farm buildings of Flying Horse Farm (soon to be a new residential development) You need to cross the road, taking extreme care as the road is busy, with fast moving traffic, and the sight lines are limited.



- (8) The continuation of the path is approximately 50 yards on the right, and is clearly signposted. You cross over a stone stile, which takes you away from the traffic. The path is not clear, but head to the left of the first two oak trees, and to the right of the next two. The path becomes more obvious and continues down the edge of the field, with the hedgerow on the left

- (9) At the bottom of the field, in the left hand corner, a stile takes you into another large field.

- (10) The Definitive route from this point is across the field to a metal signpost in the middle of the field on the brow of the hill. However when this walk was surveyed, this cross field path had not been reinstated, and there was no evidence to show it had been walked. There was, however, clear evidence that walkers had walked to the left, along the bottom edge of the field, and then up the far side, to join the cross field path from the white gates



(11) From this position the walk continues to the right, straight across the field, towards the farm buildings, passing a solitary footpath signpost in the middle of the field. Continue past the farm buildings, which have been extensively developed and modernised in recent years.

(12) Beyond the buildings the path continues, now along a made up road, which turns to the right, towards the main A64 road, ignoring the footpath sign leading straight on past Whinmoor Nook Farm, which leads to Scholes. Cross York Road with care, and pass to the right of the metal car park gates. Follow the field edge, with the hedge on the left.



(13) The path follows the field edge, first to the left, and then right. Resist the temptation to cut the corner, across the field.



(14) Continue along the field edge, back towards Thorne. At a gate in the hedge line take the side gate onto the disused railway line, back towards 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.



(15) 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.

(16) As you reach the houses the road surface is made up, and becomes Butts Garth.

(17) 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)

(18) 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.