



Approximate distance: 8.6 miles
Total ascent: 730 feet
Time: about 5 hours
We've included OS Grid references should you wish to use them

Start: Coxwold Village Hall, Byland Road, Coxwold. Postcode: YO61 4BB
Starting at: SE 535 772
Distance: Approximately 8.6 miles
Grade: Moderate
Walk time: About 5 hours
Parking: Village Hall car park. A donation of £2 would be welcome

This pleasant walk meanders through the hinterland of Newburgh Priory, through small farmsteads and into forested land surrounding Oulston Reservoir. There are some fine views, much tranquillity, and a prime picnic spot on the reservoir dam. There is some road walking in the second half of the route.

Directions

Letters refer to waypoints on the map.

1. From the Village Hall go away from the centre of the village along the road towards Wass, cross the ford and after 400 yards turn right at a green footpath signpost. Follow the track to cross a bridge over the line of the old railway where there is now a well-kept rifle range (SE5436 7732)
2. Turn left and follow the line of the old railway to cross Long Beck by a metal bridge, then turn right to walk alongside the beck **(A)** This is a man-made waterway to supply water to a fishpond for the Augustinian Priory with help from their brothers at Byland.
3. On reaching the tarred Colley Broach road turn left and proceed for 2 miles to reach the second gate across the road and then turn right up the hill towards Low Lions Lodge (SE 571 762).
4. Pass through the farmyard **(B)** and follow signs across the fields, and on seeing High Lions Lodge head towards it as the path passes to the left-hand side of the house. Keep crossing fields until you reach the Yearsley Road, turn right and after a few yards take the forestry track on the other side of the road.
5. This track takes you through mixed woodland and after a mile arrive at the dam wall of the Oulston Reservoir (SE 5663 7416). The Pond Head dam **(C)** was built in 1790's to regulate the flow of the River Foss which was navigable in its lower reaches; the source is just above the dam.



Oulston Reservoir

Letters refer to waypoints on the map.

6. Have a picnic in the sunshine on the dam wall and commune with the geese and swans.
7. After enough leisurely snoozing continue along the dam, turn left, then immediately fork right up a small track to a gate and an open field. The path takes you along the left-hand side of this field then turns right on meeting the next fence.
8. A gently shaded path (Brierham Lane **D**) skirts a bank through a small plantation and brings you out on to the Yearsley Road (SE 5601 7483).
9. Now take the road walk back to Coxwold by turning left along the Yearsley road. This offers fine views to the south and west and takes you past the front of Newburgh Priory, **E** by the duck pond and to the Coxwold crossroads; turn right to the Village Hall, or...
10. Alternatively, turn right along the Yearsley road and after almost a mile back to where you left the road for the forest track (SE 5765 7498) and retrace your steps back past High Lions and Low Lions farmsteads. An extra couple of miles or so, and perhaps an hour longer.



Reservoir Dam