



Approximate distance: 8.5 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 8.5 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 good picnic spots. 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 (SE5765 7498) take the forestry track on the other side of the road, crossing the stream (the young R. Foss) to a T-junction. Turn right.
5. This track takes you through mixed woodland and in ¼ mile the path turns sharp right, re-crossing the stream, then left. Keep to the north of the reservoir. The path descends to some boggy ground then rises and bears right towards Pond Head Farm. Go round the north side of the farm then turn left down the hill, through the edge of the wood and arrive at the north-eastern end of the dam wall of Oulston Reservoir (SE5653 7428). Pond Head dam **C** was built in 1790s to regulate the flow of the River Foss which was navigable in its lower reaches: the source is a spring close to where you crossed the stream earlier.



Oulston Reservoir

Letters refer to waypoints on the map.

6. Have a picnic in the sunshine and commune with the geese and swans.
7. After enough leisurely snoozing head south-west to the corner of the next field (SE 5638 7407) and turn 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