

Approximate distance: 5.3 miles
Total ascent: 457 feet
Time: about 3¼ hours

Start: Coxwold Village Hall, Byland Road, Coxwold. Postcode: YO61 4BB
Starting at: SE 535 772
Distance: Approximately 5.3 miles
Grade: Moderate
Walk time: About 3¼ hours
Parking: Village Hall car park. A donation of £2 would be welcome

A varied walk, passing Newburgh Priory then climbing to the Beacon Banks triangulation pillar before dropping to Husthwaite Village and returning to Coxwold over gently rolling farmland. Along the way are views south-east to York and north-west to the Pennines, as well as possible meetings with alpacas, and coffee or tea at a disused railway station.

Directions

Letters refer to waypoints on the map.

1. From the Village Hall go to the cross-roads and turn left. Pass the Tea Rooms, the old Village School (now a private residence) and cross the bridge over the old railway line. Proceed up the bank for a short distance then follow the almost level road around to the Newburgh Priory duckpond (SE 5406 7668). A short, if early, rest will allow you to admire the fine swans set against the background of Newburgh Priory.
2. Pass the end of the drive to the Priory, with its ornate gates **A** and turn right along the lane, keeping the recently cleared plantation **B** to your left.

Newburgh Priory

An Augustinian Priory was originally established here in 1145 but after the dissolution of the monasteries in 1538 Anthony de Bellasis, a chaplain of Henry VIII, was granted Newburgh. In 1552 he left the property to his nephew William who destroyed much of the monastery and church and built a courtyard-plan Elizabethan-style manor house on the site. The house has been extensively remodelled and restored since that time, but evidence of monastic building and Elizabethan and Jacobean work may still be discerned. The estate passed through inheritance to the Wombwell family in 1825. *More info: www.newburghpriory.co.uk*



Newburgh Priory

Letters refer to waypoints on the map.

3. Follow the lane as it climbs the half-mile towards High Leys. As it turns left (SE 5360 7611), pause and look back at your first sight of Coxwold sheltering below. This point is about 300 feet above sea level and affords a good view of the surrounding mixed farmland.
4. Walk past the farmyard (and pile of waste tyres) on your left, say hello to the chickens and ducks, and at a Sustrans signpost (SE 5340 7548) turn right over a field: this may be boggy for 50yds but soon improves. The path turns left at the field boundary: keeping the woods and scrub to your right, follow it for just over half a mile to the gate (SE 5254 7501) at the top of a tarmac lane. On your way you will pass the Beacon Bank triangulation pillar **C**, from where there are fine views in a sweeping arc from south-east to south-west. On a clear day can be seen the tower of York Minster and, on the horizon, Drax, Eggborough and Ferrybridge, the three great power stations of Yorkshire, though much too far way to spoil our walk today.
5. As you approach the gate you will pass alpacas in their fields on the left. These are the Husthwaite Beacon Alpacas, and you can take them for a walk in groups of 2-12. Contact Jacki at jacki@beaconalpacas.co.uk for further details.
6. Go through the gate and continue down the lane. At the road, turn right and follow to a T-junction (SE 5218 7513): turn left into Husthwaite Village. Follow the road through the village as far as the church **D**. Shortly past the church turn right along the footpath between the church and private house. The path widens out, passes the gardens and a small orchard, and gently drops down to a kissing gate.
7. Go through the gate, follow the footpath across the field and emerge on to Elphin Bridge Lane at SE 5176 7564. Turn left and proceed ¼ mile over the beck, over the track of the old railway and to the self-service café **E** just off the road in the grounds of the old Husthwaite Gate station on your left (SE 5165 7571). Coffee, tea and biscuits are provided and there's an honesty box for payment. Sign the Visitors' Book to show your appreciation of this welcome break.



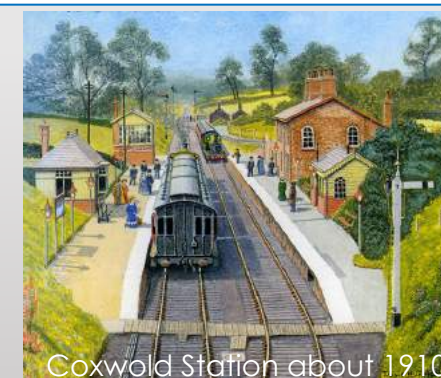
Trig point **C** at the top of Beacon Banks. Views to the left and right, over the hedge!



The Honesty café **E**

Thirsk – Malton Railway

The Thirsk & Malton Railway opened in 1853. Lack of money had forced its owners to lower their ambitions for a main line from Hull to the north-east, and the route was built as a single line throughout. Services ran from York via Husthwaite, Coxwold, and Gilling to Malton and Scarborough, and from Gilling to Pickering and Whitby, over what is now the North York Moors Railway. It was never a money-spinner, and regular passenger services ceased at the end of January 1953. Goods services, mainly grain, limestone and coal ended in 1964 and the line closed.



Coxwold Station about 1910

Letters refer to waypoints on the map.

8. Leave the café and walk up the lane about ¼ mile to a public footpath signpost (SE 5157 7590) on the right, pointing diagonally left across the field. Cross the field to Angram Hall farm the other side. (If it is muddy, follow the lane further and turn right down the farm track).
9. Walk through the farm and leave in an ENE direction to follow the track past some houses and outbuildings. Keep going gently uphill to a stile (SE 5194 7641) into the next field. Ascend the bank, keeping the hedge to your left. Cross over a farm track and proceed up another rise and turn right off the main path at SE 5248 7686.
10. Continue uphill to an old blasted sycamore tree near the top (SE 5270 7687). Follow the path to the right of the tree, along the ridge top, go through a gate and bear left down the hill to the hedge corner.
11. Keeping the hedge on your left, follow the path another 100yds to the road at Shandy Hall, turn right and take the road down through Coxwold, turn left at the cross roads back to the Village Hall.



SE 5248 7686 – turn right here,
up the hill