



Approximate distance: 11.1 miles
Total ascent: 1500 feet
Time: about 6 hours (excluding stops)
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 11.1 miles
Grade: Moderate/Strenuous
Walk time: About 6 hours (excluding stops)
Parking: Village Hall car park. A donation of £2 would be welcome

This varied walk crosses rolling farmland and includes Byland Abbey, Mount Snever Observatory, Yorkshire Gliding Club, and Scotch Corner Chapel. There are fine views of the Coxwold-Gilling Gap, much of Yorkshire and numerous points of interest. It is well marked at gates and junctions.

Directions

Letters refer to waypoints on the map.

1. From the Village Hall cross the road and go up a grassy lane, at the first corner bear right through a gate.
2. Walking parallel to a hedge on the left go through two fields, then a couple of gates before bearing right to the top of the hill (SE 53001 78082).
3. Cross a stile by a big tree stump and follow way-markers towards Cams Head Farm: on crossing the second narrow footbridge (SE 53027 78428) turn sharp right and follow the path along a field edge and then through woodland to Cams Head Farm and a Byland Abbey way-marker.



Yorkshire Gliding Club

Byland Abbey

Savigny monks from Furness in Cumberland crossed the Pennines and, after at least three false starts, (and after being absorbed in to the Cistercian order in 1147) founded the exceptionally grand Byland Abbey with its great west-facing rose window.

It is managed by English Heritage and admission is free. It includes mosaics, well-kept lawns, good sitting benches and peace. With good timing and positioning the setting sun can be framed perfectly by the rose window.



Byland Abbey

4. Byland Abbey **A** is an English Heritage site (entry is free, visiting time about an hour). As you leave the Abbey follow the road towards Wass until you come to a track to the left leading towards a large house (SE 55004 79179). Take the track and, in front of the house, turn right then bear left up the rise to join the road at the west end of Wass (SE 55293 79430).
5. Turn left and follow the forest track upwards and westwards for about a mile. On reaching a dry-stone wall with a galvanised gate turn left into the trees alongside the wall and follow the pathway to reach the forty-foot high Mount Snever Observatory **B** (SE 53714 80455), offering very fine views. *(There are several paths from Wass to the Observatory: once you have ascended the ridge try not to go down but keep to the top, either in front of or behind Mount Snever House).*
6. Leaving the Observatory, descend steeply and westwards using the footpath through the trees and turn right along the forestry road (SE 53443 80399). On meeting another road turn left (SE 53390 80702) then right (SE 53342 80666) along a gravelled drive leading to Cockerdale Farm. On the far side of the farm (SE 53329 81239) follow way-markers up the rise and roughly south-west to join the bridleway (SE 52982 81037).
7. Turn right and after climbing a little you will reach Scotch Corner Chapel **C** (SE 52664 81407) at Scotch Corner, again with fine views to the South.



Mount Snever Observatory

Scotch Corner Chapel

This chapel is close to the site of the [Battle of Scotland 1322](#). It is on the Drovers Road, and the building closest to the gate was once a pub for the drovers.

John Bunting was a wartime child refugee from the south and took a strong liking to this part of Yorkshire. Eventually, in 1955, he became Master of Drawing at Ampleforth College and bought 'The Plot' in 1956. He built most of the chapel himself at the weekends. In 1957 he started on some sculptures commemorating three Amplefordians who had been killed in World War 2.

John Bunting died in 2002 and his family now maintains the site and holds occasional [Open Days](#) in the summer. The view to the south is huge.



Scotch Corner Chapel

8. Follow the track northwards to a road, turn left (SE 52359 82228) and walk to **D** the Yorkshire Gliding Club, where you can enjoy a well-earned break at the all-day café and watch the gliders take off and return.

Walks around Coxwold maps are intended as a guide to help you walk the route. We recommend using an OS map of the area in conjunction with this guide. Routes and conditions may have changed since this guide was written. Coxwold Parish Council and Village Hall Committee take no responsibility for any accident or injury that may occur while following the route. Always wear appropriate clothing and footwear and check weather conditions before setting out.

Yorkshire Gliding Club

The Yorkshire Gliding Club was founded in 1934 by a group of pioneering aviators seeking to understand the potential of powerless flight. Today it is dedicated to providing high-quality training and facilities, affirming its position as the best soaring club in the North of England. Whether you're looking for your first glider flight experience or you're all set and ready to learn to fly, the club offers professional, friendly instruction guided by its national sporting body, the British Gliding Association.



Yorkshire Gliding Club

4. On reaching the end of the road by the waterworks building (SE 52300 80485) turn right then immediately left towards High Kilburn **E**. Just before reaching High Kilburn at a bend in the road which starts to ascend, turn left down a farm track sign posted with a green finger post (SE 51956 79489). Walk past the farm through two galvanised gates and turn sharp left along the field edge, cross a stile and follow the path through trees to another road (SE 52539 79097).
5. Turn right along the road and go past Fox Folly farm. At the bottom of the dip turn left at a stile by a green gate: after 100 yards you will find the footbridge (SE 53027 78428) that you crossed earlier.
6. Retrace your steps through Town's Pasture back to the Village Hall.

Points of Interest and further information

Byland Abbey

Snever Observatory

[John Bunting](#)

[Bunting Chapel at Scotch Corner](#)

Windy Pits at Scotch Corner

[Scotch Corner was the Site of the Battle of Scotland 1322](#); the English were routed and King Edward escaped to Bridlington.

[The Gliding Club House and its memorabilia](#)

Roulston Scar Promontory Iron Age Fort.

[Coxwold Church, Shandy Hall, Tea Rooms, Pub and more](#)

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