



Approximate distance: 2.5 miles
Total ascent: 254 feet
Time: about 1.5 hours

Start: Coxwold Village Hall, Byland Road, Coxwold. Postcode: YO61 4BB
Starting at: SE 535 772
Distance: Approximately 2.5 miles
Grade: Moderate
Walk time: About 1.5 hours
Parking: Village Hall car park. A donation of £2 would be welcome

A route which includes sight of Newburgh Priory and then an ascent to High Leys Farm, from where there are superb views back across to Coxwold, to the White Horse of Kilburn and further to the Pennines.

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 signpost (SE 5349 7571) turn right over a stile **C** into a field. If you pass the telecoms mast you have gone too far. Rest awhile and admire the views: Coxwold to the north, Byland Abbey to the NNE, Ampleforth through trees to the north-east, and Thirsk to the north-west. Sutton Bank and its iconic White Horse are visible to the NNW: if the weather is fine you may see gliders being towed aloft from Yorkshire Gliding Club on Sutton Bank.

The White Horse of Kilburn

This hill figure, cut into the south-west face of Sutton Bank, is the largest and most northerly in England. It's 318 feet long, 220 feet high and covers about 1.6 acres. It was created in 1857 by removing topsoil and whitening the exposed sandstone rock with 6 tons of lime. Thirty-three men were involved in cutting it. Inspiration for its creation is given to Thomas Taylor of Kilburn who had seen the Uffington White Horse near Swindon. Today it's maintained by The Kilburn White Horse Association. The top can be viewed along the footpath from the Sutton Bank Visitor Centre.



Towards the White Horse from Coxwold Church

5. Walk down the field, bearing half-right towards a gap (SE 5343 7583) in the hedge. Go through the gap (stile) and continue down the next field to the far right-hand corner. This part of the walk down from the farm is delightful in a summer evening as the sun is setting.
6. Go through the gate and continue down the right side of the field. At the end, turn right across a footbridge **D** over Green's Beck.
7. Turn left after the footbridge and follow the path about 200yds under the trees to the end of the field. The path turns right, follow this approximately 40yds and look for a break in the undergrowth left over a second footbridge.
8. Cross the bridge and emerge on to the road. Turn right and follow the road back to Coxwold (about 0.4 miles), over the crossroads and back to the Village Hall.