



## Ted's walk 1

A 4 mile flat circular country walk via South Kilvington

### Introduction

This is a circular field walk from Thirsk Town Centre to South Kilvington and back. It starts from Marage Long Stay car park, national grid reference 429823 (nearby postcode for satnav YO7 1AA).

The distance is 3.7 miles (5.9km). Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 302, Northallerton & Thirsk, covers the walk but a map is included here.

The walk grade is Easy – it is flat with a few stiles. Allow up to 2 hours from start to finish.

### The walk

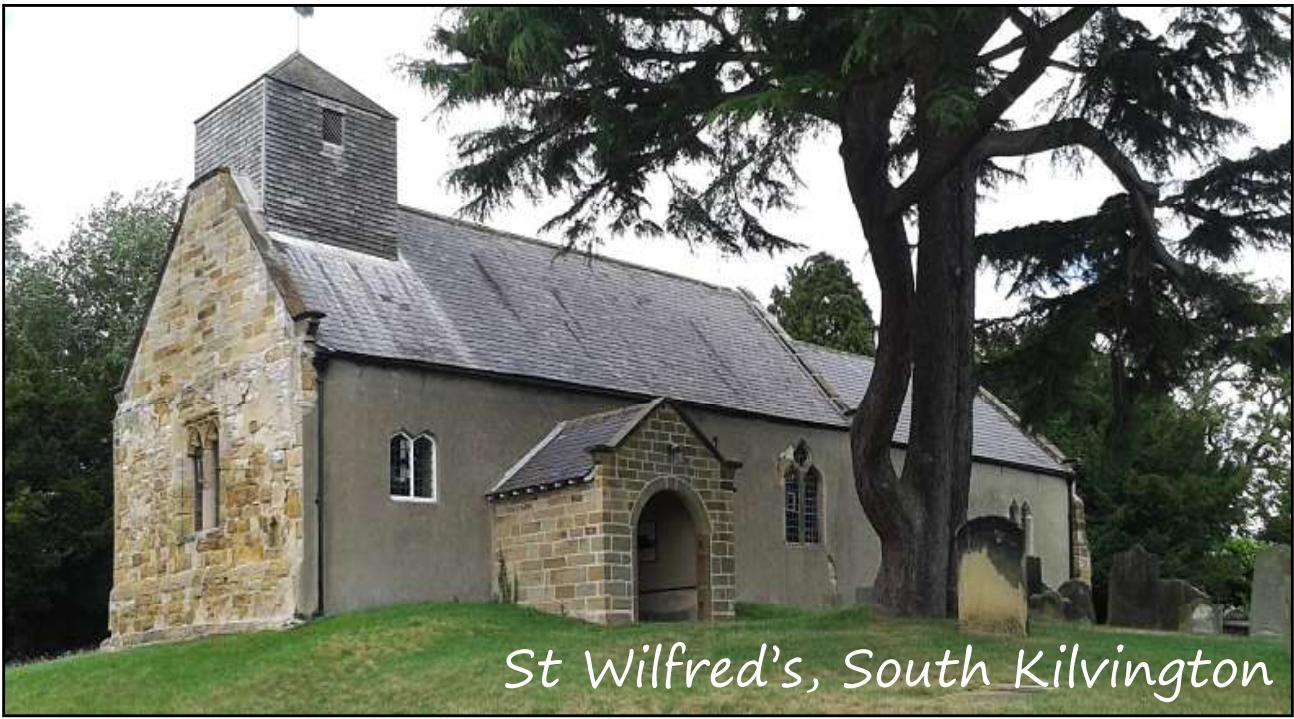
Leave the car park by the kissing gate in the North East corner by the Cod Beck (river) and walk through the small picnic site to the metal footbridge over the Beck.

Cross over the bridge and in a few yards turn sharp left to go through a gate into the playing field. Turn right and head for a kissing gate at the far edge of the field.

Go diagonally left towards another kissing gate about 200 metres away close to the Cod Beck again.



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*St Wilfred's, South Kilvington*

Go up to a path turning right (leaving the weir on your left), walk through some woodland for about 100 metres and turn right down a slight bank. (If you get to a kissing gate you have gone too far).

### **Whitelass Beck**

**The path then meanders** through some more woodland, crossing and recrossing the Whitelass Beck several times for about 200 metres before climbing slightly up to the busy Stockton Road.

Cross over the road with care, go right, and turn sharp left after a few metres down a farm track over the original road bridge crossing the beck with a derelict bungalow on your right.

### **To South Kilvington**

**Walk on into some more woodland** with the beck close on your right,

winding through a surprising stand of tall bamboo to the next field gate. Keep close to the beck on your right aiming for a stile and footbridge about 300 metres across the field in the far right corner (the field may have horses in it).

Cross over the beck and go left to follow the field edge on your left through three fields going north, parallel to the bypass, for about 1 km till you reach a road on the outskirts of South Kilvington. Turn left into the village till you pass St Wilfrid's Church about 100 metres on your right.

If you have time it is worth going into the church (with clean footwear!). It is always open and has just been fully restored.

During the restoration a fragment of an Anglo-Saxon cross headpiece fell out of the south wall. This has taken the history of the church back

from being originally a 12<sup>th</sup> century Norman church to the 10<sup>th</sup> century. The cross fragment can now be seen inside in an alcove in the north wall of the chancel.

A former rector, Revd. Wm. Towler Kingsley who lived to 101yrs old (1815 - 1916), carved much of the wooden furniture, was friendly with both Ruskin and Turner and had many other skills – artist, botanist, pioneer photographer and maker of scientific instruments. An explanatory leaflet is available for a donation.

The porch is also a good shelter for refreshments and a rest.

Turn right then cross over the main road and pass the Old Oak Tree pub, also good for light refreshments or a lunch stop.

## Back into the countryside

**About 50 metres further** on the left is a lane signposted 'Mill House' which goes down and right to the renovated

Kilvington Mill (not open to the public). Cross the footbridge over the mill race and bear right to cross a field which can be boggy in winter and in summer shoulder high in vegetation. This brings you to a footbridge over the Cod Beck and a gate into a field which often has cattle in it.

About 100 metres directly across the field you will see a gate into a small woodland by the main Thirsk to Northallerton Road (B1448). Go through the gate and small wood to cross diagonally right over this often busy road, then through a farm gate (with an old farm tanker trailer behind it) into a field.

Go up a slightly rising farm track into another field – on the Ordnance Survey map Underwood Plantation is shown on your left but this was felled in 2014. At the next open field boundary is a crossroads of footpaths with distant views of the Dales ahead and the Hambleton Hills behind you.





### **Optional 1 mile extension to visit the Statue of Buddha**

**At this point before you aim for St. Mary's Church** you may want a short one mile diversion to visit an idiosyncratic and mysterious landmark- a decorated 3ft high statue of Buddha.

To do this turn right instead of left, walk north on the farm track past Barnaby's bench on the right and three field boundaries on your left. At the point where the path takes a right angled left turn, go down a slight incline for about 100yds to the next field and hedge junction where you turn right.

Continue now on an upward incline for about 100 yards and by an old gnarled oak tree in the hedge line you will find a 3ft high statue of Buddha which has been decorated by passers-by with ribbons and tokens.

Quite where he came from and who placed him there is a complete mystery but we keep getting asked about him so I have included him in this walk.

To get back to the main walk simply retrace your steps to the crossroad of paths and go straight ahead back to Thirsk, aiming at St. Mary's Church.



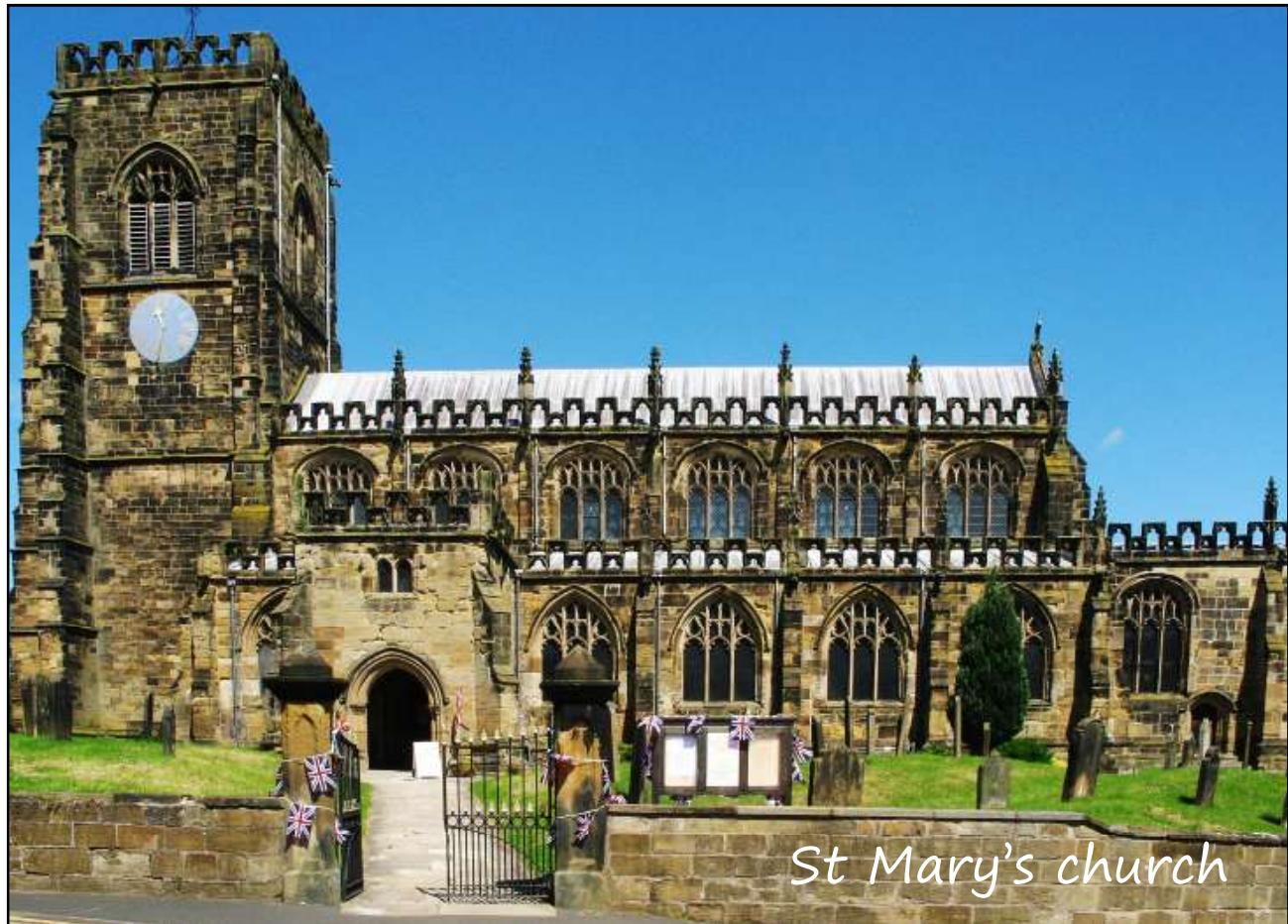
## Aim for St. Mary's Church

**At this crossroads** turn left heading south back to Thirsk alongside a field hedge on your left. The tower of St. Mary's Church comes into view soon front left. Halfway through a second field the path goes left through a kissing gate and diagonally across the field. You are looking for a footbridge in the hedge on the far side of the field where there are several large trees. The footbridge is by the third large tree from the left – the field can be boggy and often has livestock in it. Once across the footbridge follow the footpath diagonally across a large field to a hedge corner. Bear right through the hedge keeping it on your left. Just before the end of the field,

go diagonally right and at the end of the hedge you will see a farm track going between two hedges towards houses and the church. Carry on past the houses with allotments and then the cemetery on your right till you arrive at Cemetery Lane.

This lane goes left to, and around, the Church reaching the Northallerton Road again. The church is opened by volunteers most days from 10am till 4pm and is well worth a visit in its own right. On your right is the attractive Georgian Thirsk Hall Thirsk Hall occupied by our Lord of the Manor, Mr John Bell.

Cross the road, go left and then right into the Marage car park where you will be back at your starting point.



# Suggested walks

These walks can be obtained from Thirsk's information centre or downloaded from [VisitThirsk.uk/walks](http://VisitThirsk.uk/walks).

## Thirsk guide

To find your way around 'the quaint market town of Thirsk' you need our free guide. The map clearly shows the paths, snickets and ginnels which permeate the town. It will help you find children's play areas and show you how to escape the built up area on foot in just a few minutes. Wheelchair and pushchair walkers can see how to explore within the town.

The guide also shows contact details for places where visitors might want to go to such as activities for children, markets, abbeys, historic houses, gardens, birds of prey, heritage railways, cinemas, theatres, concerts and fishing.

## Blue Plaque Trail

This is a walk around 20 historical sites in Thirsk and Sowerby marked by blue plaques. These record important buildings or people associated with our town. The walk takes anything up to 1½ hours.

## Past & Present

Thirsk and Sowerby Past and Present is a town and countryside trail that has been designed by the local community. The leaflet has historical notes on all the explanatory boards around the town. The walk takes up to 2 hours.

## Ted's Walks

**Ted's Walk 1** – A 4 mile circular field walk from Thirsk via South Kilvington.

**Ted's Walk 2** – A 4 mile circular flat field walk to the west of Thirsk and back through Sowerby.

**Ted's Walk 3** – A 3 mile village and field walk – Sowerby, with Pudding Pie Hill.

**Ted's Walk 4** – A 6.5 miles circular field walk north of Carlton Miniott & Thirsk.

**Ted's Walk 5** – A 3 mile circular walk along country lanes and in woodlands.

**Ted's pushchair walk** – A 1.5 mile circular walk around Thirsk centre suitable for pushchairs and most wheelchairs.



W: [VisitThirsk.uk](http://VisitThirsk.uk) T: 01845 522755

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