

North Stainley Parish Circular Walk
O.S. Explorer map 298 (Nidderdale)

A walk of about 5.25 miles with stiles, gates and dog chutes.
Uneven in places, suitable footwear needed.

1. Starting point- Staveley Arms, at the south end of the village of North Stainley (Grid ref. SE288767). Parking and refreshments are available at the Staveley Arms who will welcome walking groups and offer discounts for pre-booked groups of 8 or more. Tel 01765 635439.

From the car park (A) turn R (A6108) to pass the front of the Staveley Arms then R between the pub and adjacent house. Follow the well made path (Way Marker) through a hawthorn hedge (ignore a path to the R) to emerge along a straight path with lavender along the middle. Pass by a gate to a wooden seat on your R. Turn L onto a tarmac drive, cross a road and take a gravel track between houses to pass the sports field, R, and pond L, to cross the A6108.

2. Forward (a little left) into Roseberry Green (footpath sign), pass another pond on your R then skirt the green clockwise (do not cross) to pick up the path between house numbers 15 & 16 (footpath sign). Go through a narrow passage and a left hand bend then, in a few metres R over a stile (WM), through a wood with a hedge and field on the L. Cross a stile to leave the wood then follow beneath an overhead power line, over another stile and bear R to cross a house drive. Pass through a pair of metal gates to follow a wire fence, L, for a few metres up a small rise into another field, R at a drinking trough keeping old hawthorns on your R, forward towards a stone built lodge over two stiles to the Mickley road. (B)

3. Turn L. Proceed up the road towards Mickley for about half a mile (850m) ignore a T junction L with footpath opposite, pass a track on the R (C) to enter a small wood (Chimneysweeper Wood).

4. In the corner where the road leaves the wood and bends L (D) leave it and turn R through a gap into an open field (footpath sign). The right of way here is north, straight across the field into the far corner which is not visible at this point. Cross the field (about 400m) or skirt the RH edge, enter a wood, passing a wooden slot gate (WM) to a stile (uneven and boggy). Leaving the wood cross the stile (E) and continue northwards close to the wire fence on your L for about 400m.

5. Turn L over a stile into Piccadilly Wood, down a steep bank for 20m. Care needed, there is a near vertical drop to the River Ure at the Bottom. Turn R

and continue down keeping the river on your L to a kissing gate and into a pasture (F). Cross the field diagonally towards a stile, either cross this and proceed to the far LH corner - or follow the land owner's preferred route by remaining in the pasture and going L to a permissive path - to join Quarry House Farm drive. Turn R, (G) to the A6108 at Tanfield Bridge (H). A deviation from the route is to cross the bridge and turn L at the Bull Inn to visit the Marmion Tower. Refreshments at the Bull Inn.

6. From the south end of the bridge cross the A6108, go R for 40m then L at the Ripon Rowel WM, follow a well marked path with the River Ure on your L, pass the weir and Tanfield Mill (across the river) to a tarmac road. L to Sleningford Mill, enter the caravan site (WM in 150m). (J) At the site reception/shop pass to the R (WM) through a metal gate and forward with an earth bank on your R and campsite on L, keep the mill tailrace on your L to a pair of metal/wooden gates. (K) Pass through and sharp L (ignore the North Stainley sign towards the A6108) to follow the LH edge of the field, and river towards Sleningford Grange. (M) (N)

7. Pass through a gate L onto the top of a high bank, turn R, pass through a narrow gate and bear L to descend the bank diagonally. Ignore a gate L and pass a pond R. Ignore other gates L and turn R up a grassy track (P) to pass between a house, L, and bungalow, R, to the A6108 at North Stainley (WM). L along the A6108 for 120m then L just before a brick house for 10m and R onto a well made footpath into Beats Wood.

8. In Beats Wood follow the path with a beck on the L, (Q) ignore a turning R, pass a seat then fork L (keeping the beck L) to ascend a set of steps (seat on L). At the top go L and follow the LH edge of the field to the end, turn R and proceed forward. This becomes a wide grassy track eventually passing through a wood (field on R) to a dirt road. R then immediately L into another wood (Laurel Walk) to meet Lavender Lane (see part 1). Turn L then pass between the Staveley Arms and a stone wall to the A6108 and return to the pub car park(S).

Acknowledgments are extended to the proprietors of the Staveley Arms for the use car parking facilities.

Points of Interest

- A. Look across the A6108 to view the old gazebo.
- B. Before turning L, take a few moments to look through the lodge gates into Sleningford Park; on the RH side in front of the great house is the site of the long gone mediaeval village of Sleningford.
- C. Look over the wall to see an old stone dovecote in the field on your R
- D. See the stone dated 1837 on LH side of the road where the old Sleningford road began.
- E. Notice an old sunken roadway across your route.
- F. There is evidence of a mediaeval hollow way here.
- G. Good views of West Tanfield with its church and 15th century Marmion Tower (open to the public).
- H. Demarcation stones on the bridge mark the boundary between the old West and North Ridings of Yorkshire.
- J. The old Tanfield Mill is on your left, Sleningford Mill just a little further down river.
- K. If you divert along the downward path toward the mill race (before going through the gates) there are traces of the old cornmill.
- M. Note where the mill tailrace rejoins the river. Across the river to the L of derelict farm buildings is the site of the long gone mediaeval village of East Tanfield.
- N. Serious river bank/cliff erosion.
- P. The walled garden, visible to the L, contains a rare keyhole well (not open to the public).
- Q. Springs in the wood issuing from Beats Well.
- S. Evidence of Civil War stabling has been found in the vicinity of the Staveley Arms.

Large print available from Parish Clerk, See Parish notice board for details.

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