

Yarpole circuit via Leys Lane.

Now that restrictions upon our movements have been relaxed somewhat I thought it would be a good idea to post some more walks from Yarpole, which will take you a little further afield. The following walk will take you along country lanes, through fields, past farms and cottages, through woodland and finally onto the common.

The walk is approximately 6 miles, relatively easy but does have a couple of tricky stiles.

From Yarpole Church walk towards Yarpole Lane, turn left and left again into Red Oak Lane, opposite Pound House. Walk through a gate on your right immediately after the old barn to follow the footpath to Home Farm caravan park. From the park turn left onto B4362 and after about quarter of a mile take Leys Lane on your right.

Walk along Leys Lane to a cattle grid. Cross the grid and continue along the lane until you see a footpath sign on your right. Follow the footpath signs past a farm through fields and over four stiles until you reach a tarmac road at Ashley Moor.

(Please be aware that the stiles are a little difficult.)

Walk down the road and immediately left past Ashley Moor farm and holiday cottages. Continue along this road, ignoring one on your right, pass through a gate and after about 500 yards take the track leading up into the wood and heading back towards Leys Lane.

When you see the farm you passed as you took the track off Leys Lane initially, beneath you, take a well worn track on your right. Walk up hill and walk between Birch Coppice and Oakes Coppice. Just before you enter the woodland look out for the site of an ancient enclosure on your right.

Once you reach open ground again follow the edge of Oaker

Wood on your right to walk down Birch Common to Welshman's Lane. Continue along Welshman's Lane heading towards Yarpole.

After approximately half a mile along the lane take the footpath on your right. Follow the path through two gates to B4362. Cross the road carefully to enter the field on the right of the cottage facing you. Cross this field to another gate and a field, currently planted with potatoes. Turn right and walk along the edge of the field until you find a gate on your right. Pass through the gate, turn left and follow the path through three more gates until you reach the lane in Yarpole. Turn right and return to Yarpole Church.

For those who wish to walk a little further there is the opportunity to pick up the Mortimer Trail if you walk further along the lane from Ashley Moor. Turn left onto the Trail and after a mile or so you will reach the top of Bircher Common. From here you could return to Yarpole as described above or take trails through Croft Castle woodland to return to Yarpole via Green Lane.