

Footnote

By extending your walk by about a mile you can take in another point of interest, Marton Abbey. At the finger post near the White Bridge, carry straight on along the Foss Walk. After two fields and gates (Remember to close them behind you) you reach Marton Abbey Farm. This is on the site of Marton Priory, a religious house for some 400 years prior to the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536. Initially it was a "Twin House", for both monks and nuns, until a separate house for the nuns was established two miles to the South at Moxby. Nothing remains of the monastic buildings but in the field to the left of the track, just before it joins the main road, are some curious undulations. These are the last vestiges of the old fish ponds which served the monastery.

Rather than facing the traffic on the main road back into Stillington it is much pleasanter to retrace your steps and turn right over the White Bridge when you reach it and continue with the walk as above.

Information

This walk is one in a series prepared by people from Stillington for the enjoyment of visitors and villagers.

Walk 1	Marton Circular	3 miles
Walk 2	Moxby Pram	4 miles
Walk 3	Crayke via Bumper circular	8½ miles
Walk 4	Marton Pram	2½ miles
Walk 5	Walking the Parish Boundary	10 miles
Walk 6	Wigginton Lane End bus walk	8½ miles
Walk 7	Moxby Circular	4 miles
Walk 8	Illustrated Map of Stillington	

All the walks in the series are available as a free download from the village website: www.stillingtonvillage.org, or in a printed form for a small charge from the village post office (*the starting point for all the walks*).

Maps: OS Explorer Maps 299 and 300
OS Landranger Map 100

"Please follow the country code"



Since July 2003 the Stillington Post Office & Stores has been run as a community shop, purchased by the village community and operated largely by volunteers. A full range of sandwiches, snacks and drinks is available to sustain you on your walk.

Opening Hours

Monday - Friday	6.30am-5:30pm
Saturday	6:30am-1:00pm
Sunday	Closed

Stillington Local Walks

Walk 1

Marton Circular Walk

Start of Walk:

Stillington Post Office and Stores

Distance:

Approximately 3 miles (5 km)

Allow 2½ hours walking time

Grade:

Easy walking with some gentle slopes

A circular walk from Stillington

With your back to the shop and facing the Church, turn right and walk along Main Street passing the village pubs and the school. Continue along Main Street around a sharp left bend in the road and turn right at the junction sign-posted to Farlington & Sheriff Hutton. You are now in Mill Lane.

A

Walk down the hill and after about 200 yards the footpath runs out and care must be taken on the next section. You will pass Home Farm and the entrance to the small industrial estate on your left. Continue to the old mill on your left which gives its name to the road. The mill is now a substantial bed and breakfast establishment but the old mill wheel is retained and has been incorporated in the complete refurbishment of the building some twenty years ago.

Just past the mill you cross the old bridge over the river Foss, which eventually runs into the Ouse in the centre of York. Bearing left and then right you continue on the Farlington road, uphill, for half a mile to the point where the road again turns sharp right.

B

At this point there is a wide track running left from the road. Take this track, called Harryfield Lane, which is a part of the long distance footpath, the Foss Walk. As you proceed up the hill good views open up on the left hand side. Across the fields to your left are the rooftops of Stillington, ahead of you is the hilltop village of Crayke and behind you is a view across the plain of York. On a clear day you should see the distinctive towers of York Minster on the skyline and plumes from the distant power stations. As you approach the brow of the hill someone has kindly provided a seat where you can sit, rest and admire the view! Beyond the brow of the hill the tarmac track takes a sharp right turn and becomes a private road to the farms. The right-of-way continues downwards between hedges and soon deteriorates. Beyond the entrance to some stables, a few yards down the slope, the track becomes more overgrown and in wet weather can be muddy. At the foot of the slope there is a finger post where a footpath crosses the track.

[There is an optional extension of the walk at this point – see footnote overleaf.]

C

Turn left at this point and cross the river Foss by the bridge shown on maps as the White Bridge – there is not very much white on it now! Go through the metal swing gate and go straight ahead across the field to a similar swing gate on the far side. Go through this and cross another wooden bridge over a deep ditch. There is a footpath ahead of you going straight across the field towards Stillington. Ignore this and turn sharp left onto the permissive footpath along the side of the watercourse. Before the end of the field this watercourse joins the river Foss and the path continues beside the river. Across the field to your right the buildings are those of the Leatham Kennels and Cattery. Continue along the river bank to the end of the next field where the path turns right just short of an earth embankment. This contains the storage reservoir for Home Farm. Carry on along the edge of the field until, through a gap in the hedge, you reach the Brandsby Road.

D

Cross the road (with care – traffic can move fast) and take the field entrance on the opposite side, a few yards to your left. To the left of the track are the outbuildings of Pond Cottage Antiques Centre. Carry on along the track with the hedge on your left until you join the public footpath coming from the Brandsby road. Turn left and cross the small bridge and you are on Lucy Balk. Balk is an ancient name for an uncultivated strip between fields giving access to them. Who Lucy was is not recorded.

At the end of Lucy Balk there is a swing gate onto North Back Lane. Turn right and go a short distance along the road until on your left there is a footpath through to the Main Street. This is Vicarage Walk and brings you out almost opposite your starting point.

