

Lunchtime Walks

Walk 6 - Springwell Lane

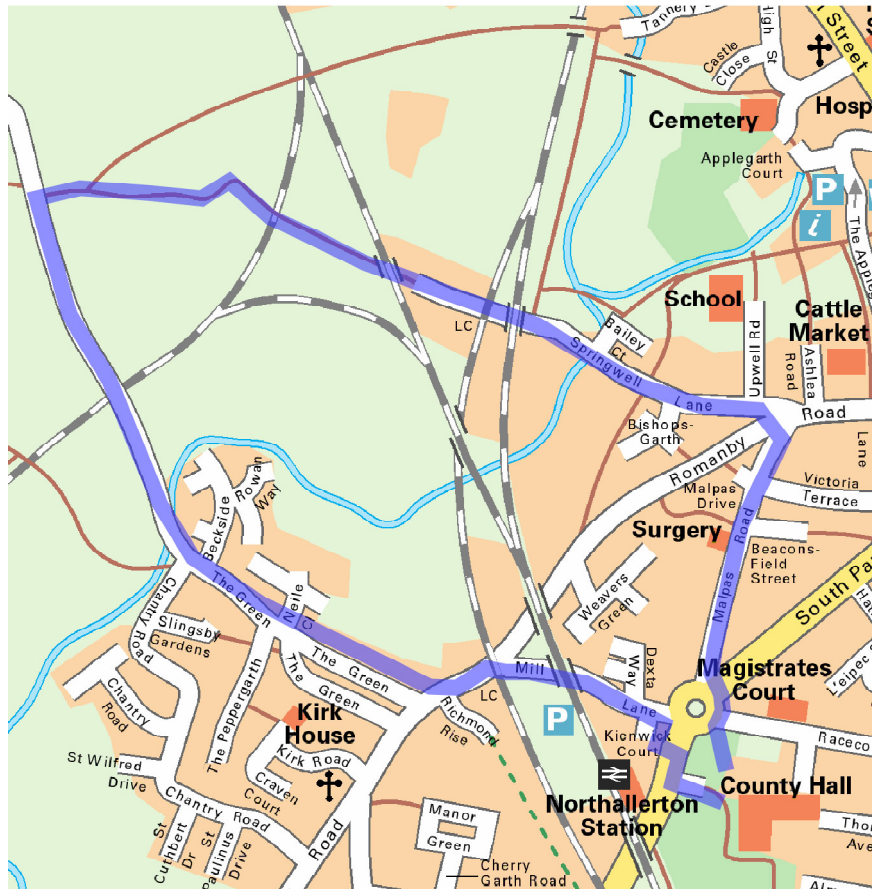
While we are looking at longer walks, here is one that does not have any short cuts, so ensure you have a good 35 to 45 minutes to finish it. Springwell Lane is one of the four paths we use to cross the railway, and as the most northerly it is a good hike round.

This walk is of interest to railway enthusiasts, as it gives a chance to see the proposed routing of the Wensleydale Railway in to Northallerton Station, as well as several bridges and crossings.

This walk can be wet underfoot and may be a bit rough in places, so sensible footwear is needed. It also follows a road with no pavement or verge, so extreme care should be taken in this area.

From county hall, leave via the main gates, cross the road and go round the side of the Station Hotel, down Mill Lane and under the railway bridge. Care should be taken under this bridge to avoid pigeon droppings which seem to accumulate here.

On the other side of the railway bridge, follow the road round to the left and over the level crossing. Cross the road and follow the path up the side of Romanby Green. Look out along here for the house on the right which has a butterfly on the wall. Proceed along the path to the north end of the green, cross the bridge over Willow Beck and follow the road out of Romanby. As this road does not have a pavement, follow the right hand side and watch out for traffic.



Go under the Wensleydale Railway bridge and follow on along the side of the road past the buildings on the right to the end of Springwell Lane. Turn right here and follow the lane as it bends around the field edges. Look out for the footpath leading away across the field on the left; this path crosses the main railway line and follows the side of Castle Hills to arrive at the cemetery. This is a pleasant walk but a bit too long for a lunch time stroll - watch out for it in a future leaflet.

As you walk along the lane here, you have one leg in Romanby and one in Northallerton. The boundary follows Springwell Lane from the footpath to the level crossing, before heading away South. The level crossing marks the East end of the Wensleydale Railway; the electrified Main Line is about 200 metres on your left, just round the bend. Looking to the right, you can see along the railway nearly back to Romanby. There is no public right of way along this part of the railway, but it is used by dog walkers. Carrying on along Springwell Lane, we can see to the right the embankment which may carry the railway into Northallerton station at some time in the future. You may also notice a flat area on the left - during the second World War a temporary line was put in from the low level line back up to

the main line so if the embankment or bridges were bombed, the main line could carry on working.

We now pass under the electrified main line and enter 'Castle Hills'. The old earth-works are behind the houses on the left, between the main line and the Middlesbrough branch; there is nothing to see for the amateur, we just have to take the archeologists word that this really is a historically significant area.

As you cross the low level goods line look to your left. From here you can see the points where the passenger trains break off to climb up to the station, and beyond you can see the crossing at North End. Going on under the passenger link line, we find that part of Springwell Lane that we saw on walk four. We pass Archers yard and the building site on the right and we could follow one of the routes described in walk four if we wanted, but as this walk is called 'Springwell Lane', we will go straight on.

Springwell Lane is a world in itself, passing from a quiet farm track through open fields, through reminders of the twentieth century love / hate relationship with railways, passing medieval earth works and a twentieth century oil depot. The housing at the south end is similarly varied with modern estates cheek to jowl with Victorian terraces. Keep you eyes open on this walk - it really is an interesting place.

At the end of Springwell Lane, cross Romanby Road and return to County Hall via Malpas Road.

Northallerton and the Railway

The railway has had a significant impact of Northallerton over the years. Before the railway, the centre of Northallerton was round the church and town hall with High Street going off in both directions. When the station was built well to the South of the town, it pulled business away from the North End, and a whole new street of large houses was built (South Parade) to reflect this.

Northallerton was not only a station on the East Coast Main Line; it was the hub of lines going off to Middlesbrough and industrial Teesside; Ripon, Harrogate and Leeds; and the Wensleydale line serving the agricultural Dales and on to Settle, Carlisle and the West.

Being a centre of communication helped confirm Northallerton as the administrative centre of North Yorkshire, leading to the decision to build County Hall next to the station.

This leaflet is one of a series describing short walks around County Hall, taking about half an hour. The target is to get people out of the office at lunch time, to improve health, reduce stress and generally make people feel better - but mainly to be enjoyable.

Obviously some people walk faster than others, but the latest medical advice is that to be beneficial you should just be able to hold a conversation without running out of breath. The government also advise us to take at least half an hour's exercise at least three times a week, so even if you already do some exercise each week, a lunchtime walk will still benefit your health.

Always start exercise gently, warm up the muscles with a few stretches, and stretch again at the end. Always take the first and last five minutes of the walk more gently, and stride out in the middle. If you have any medical conditions which may be affected by walking, please consult your doctor before following this route.

Watch out for hazards as you walk - we try to highlight any known problems but you will need to take care when crossing roads, and look out for steps and kerbs, mud or wet grass, and in winter for ice and slippery surfaces.

Walking for Health

This leaflet is created by Hambleton Strollers, an organisation funded by NYCC and Hambleton District along with the local PCTs, and part of the government led 'Walking for Health Initiative'.

For more information, please contact John Brookes or Rita Laverick in County Hall, or e-mail strollers@hambleton.gov.uk



This is a dynamic document - if you have any comments, additions, corrections or other suggestions please feel free to e-mail them to myself, john.brookes@northyorks.gov.uk

