

The Marton-cum-Grafton Eight

This figure-of-eight walk around the twin settlements of Marton-cum-Grafton shows you some glorious panoramic hilltop views, tells you a tale of two churches and stands you next to a map-making high point.

References to this area go back at least as far as the Domesday Book where lands at Marton were listed as belonging to the Priory of Nun Monkton and an entry can be seen for the Archbishop of York's estate at Grafton.

But today you'll be exploring two small but thriving villages, using some of the extremely ancient pattern of roads and paths which has been carefully maintained here, and taking an easy stroll out into the countryside to the south.

Walk Information



The full walk is three miles (5km) and should take around two hours at a steady pace. The Country Loop is just under two miles (3km) and should take an hour. The Village Loop is just over one mile (2km) and should also take around an hour.

Park thoughtfully near the green in Grafton. Start at the walk interpretation panel on the roadside verge.

Following the route shown by the purple waymarkers.

A hilly walk with stiles and, on the Village Loop, a number of steps. Ye Olde Punch Bowl Inn past the church and along Legram Lane is suitable for wheelchairs and scooters.

OS Map Explorer 299 covers the area.
Buses serve Marton-cum-Grafton
(www.northyorktravel.info)
www.marton-cum-grafton.org
www.martoncumgraftonhistory.com

Christ Church, Marton

URE WALKS THROUGH TIME

Boroughbridge and the lower Ure Valley are steeped in history and support fascinating wildlife. Ure Walks Through Time enable the people who live here and the visitors who come here to explore and enjoy the riches that surround us. This is one of a series of waymarked walks leaflets available from local outlets.

Ure Walks Through Time is an initiative led by Yore Vision, the regeneration partnership for Boroughbridge and the Lower Ure Valley, working to improve the area for people who live, work and visit here.

For further information about Ure Walks Through Time or Yore Vision, visit the Tourist Information Point, 1 Hall Square, Boroughbridge or call 01423 323373.

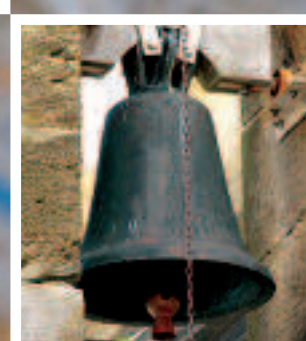
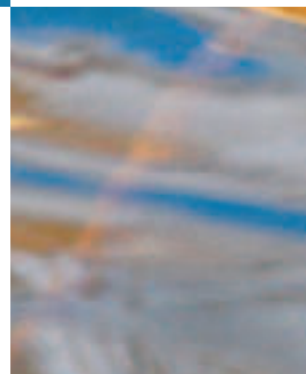
www.boroughbridge.org.uk | www.yorevision.org.uk

FOLLOW THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE

Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs.
Leave gates and property as you find them.
Protect plants and animals and take your litter home.
Keep dogs under close control.
Consider other people.



The Marton-cum-Grafton Eight



Front cover images: Top right - Brass of the Reverend John Lunn in Christ Church. Middle - Riding through Grafton. Bottom right - The second oldest church bell in the country.



URE WALKS THROUGH TIME

400 500 600 700 800 900 1000 1100 1200 1300 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900 2000

The Route

Keep an eye open for corn bunting on the Country Loop.

Before or after your walk you may wish to stand on the Millennium Sundial on the village green. Where your shadow falls tells you the time.

Facing the interpretation panel turn left to go uphill on Thorny Hill Lane.

When you near the brow of the hill, look for a fingerpost on your right where the woodland starts. The footpath brings you to Grafton Hills which are, along with nearby Wood Hills, the highest point for 20 miles around. The flock of handsome Soay sheep may be about. Pause for a look back across the lovely Vale of York and the lower Ure Valley.

As the route continues, you'll enter Marton, passing the 16th century Ye Olde Punch Bowl Inn. As you walk down Reas Lane you'll see the school, built in 1861, before you follow a track down to cross Goker Beck which flows down into the River Ure. Going uphill from the beck you'll climb through a type of stile known as a 'squeeze' stile.

Look out across the fields for birds such as skylark, yellowhammer, pheasant, partridge, redwing and fieldfare, depending on the time of year. If you're really lucky you might spot a corn bunting.

Ye Olde Punch Bowl Inn at Marton.



Great views can be had from the Trig Point.



The route continues past farm buildings and then behind Marton Wood before bringing you onto Legram Lane. Look for the cemetery on your left which was once the site of Marton's church. It is now also a nature reserve.



Roe deer are occasionally seen.

Key

- • • The Marton-cum-Grafton Eight
- Start of Walk

- 1 Millennium Sundial
- 2 Ye Olde Punch Bowl Inn
- 3 Shop/PO and Village Hall
- 4 The School
- 5 The Cemetery
- 6 Christ Church
- 7 Sports Ground
- 8 Trig Point

The church was demolished in 1873 on the orders of the Reverend John Lunn, and you'll see the replacement he built further on as you cross over into Church Lane. Christ Church was built in 1875 using much of the carved stone from the previous building. It houses the second oldest church bell in the country on the side of the church. Inside, the font dates from 1320, and is well worth seeing.

Continue into the village past the shop and village hall and head down the right hand side of the pub car park. You'll find yourself reaching a high point on a path by the Sports Ground which gives you spectacular views across to the White Horse of Kilburn, as well as York Minster.

With ups and downs, the result of this ground having been used to quarry gravel, you'll pass a white Trig Point. Standing at 75 metres above sea level, this is one of thousands of high-point markers used by the map makers of the Ordnance Survey. This was once the site of an Iron Age Hill Fort and you, like those ancient ancestors, can enjoy excellent views.

Finally, take the pathway down to Thorny Hill Lane. The shops, pub and businesses which used to be here are long gone, but their names can still be seen on some of the houses as you turn left and downhill to the start.

