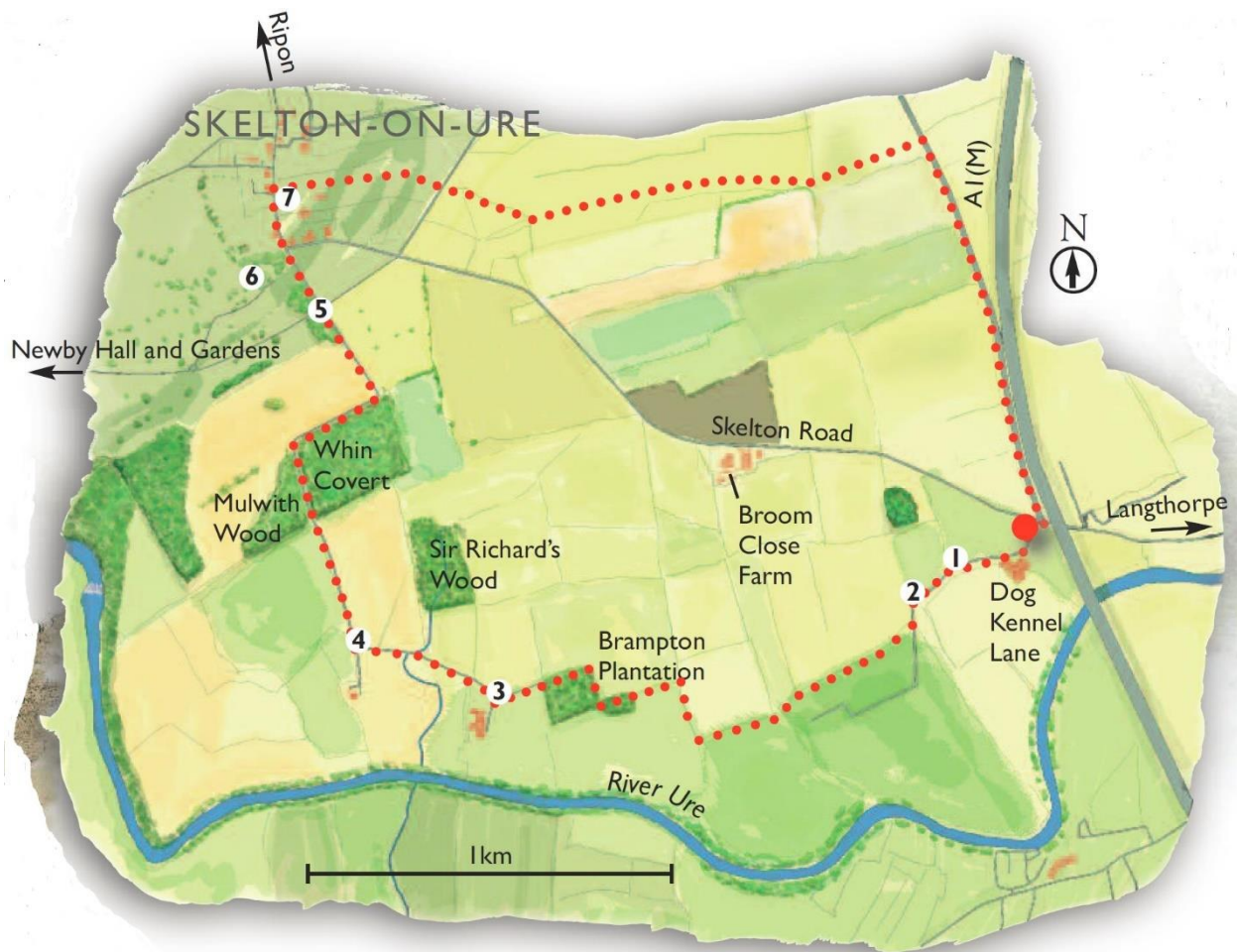


## Boroughbridge “Walkers are Welcome” Group: Report on the Dog Kennel Lane Walk, September, 2019



I completed the walk, known as the “Dog Kennel Lane Circuit”, on the morning of Saturday, September 28, 2019. I measured the walk to be 7.9km, starting and finishing at the walk signboard at the end of Lowfield Lane, off Skelton Road (if the walk were to start and finish at the Langthorpe Picnic Site car park, the total distance would be around 10km). Proceeding at a steady pace, without stops, I completed the walk in 91 minutes

### Observations on the walk:

- Following a rainy spell, the wettest and muddiest part of the walk was the first 400m section along Lowfield Lane, past the farm! Fortunately I had elected to wear my well-dubbinned, leather KSBs and gaiters on this occasion.....

- The right turn (west) off the lane is clearly marked. Although there is no path or track as such, the next section which runs along a field boundary (*relatively* easy walking now the summer crop has been harvested) is 100% clear as far as Brampton Plantation (NB I walked on the north side of field boundary). Way-marking is very clear here and, indeed, throughout the walk
- On reaching Brampton Plantation, I followed the waymarks which take the walker around the northern perimeter of the woodland (interestingly, the right of way on the OS map runs on the *south* side); and the route is absolutely clear
- I should mention that, as I approached the Plantation, I observed the local, well-known herd of Charolais cattle basking in the autumnal sunshine, well to the left of my position and perhaps 300m from where I was at the time; so I breathed a sigh of relief!
- At the western end of the Plantation, I followed the sign and crossed (per stile) into the adjacent field for the final leg before reaching Brampton Hall farm. Ahead of me, reclining next to the stile/gate at the far end of the field, to my surprise I noticed three beasts, a small Charolais group which I soon identified as members of the same family: dad, mum and a youngster! Deciding that I could, if necessary, vault the fence to my right, I headed towards the far stile. On my approach, the three beasts got to their feet and, for a few seconds, there was what is sometimes called a “Mexican Stand-off”. Then, perhaps realising that I had in my right hand a high quality, German, aluminium walking stick, all three beasts decided to “leg it” across the field, away from me, much to my relief! I was soon on the tar road and striding towards Skelton village and the Black Lion pub, with views of Christ the Consoler to my left, making good time
- The signpost immediately beyond the pub building is clear, as is the route through the mini-campsite, across the field sometimes (but not today) occupied by two frisky horses, and then around a field boundary to the crossing of the minor road which links Skelton Road with the B6265 to Ripon
- From the road crossing the route home is simplicity itself: one follows the field boundary for perhaps 250m before turning up what might be called a hill which leads, ultimately, to Cottage Lane and the finish. I mention that the farmer has left an ample space for walkers along the field edge and there are none of the problems some walkers have found while walking in the summer at the height of the rape-growing season! There is even a way mark at the “dog-leg” in the walk route, about 250m west of Cottage Lane, which must be a help to first-timers on the Circuit

## CONCLUSION

I have changed my mind about the DKL Circuit which I had, earlier in the year, vowed never to tackle again. It's a grand, short walk, *at certain times of the year*, this being one such time; it all depends on the state of the crops in the fields and on the whereabouts of the Charolais cattle, in my opinion!



View looking downslope, more or less west, towards Skelton, from a point about 250m west of Cottage Lane, nearing the end of the walk

JH