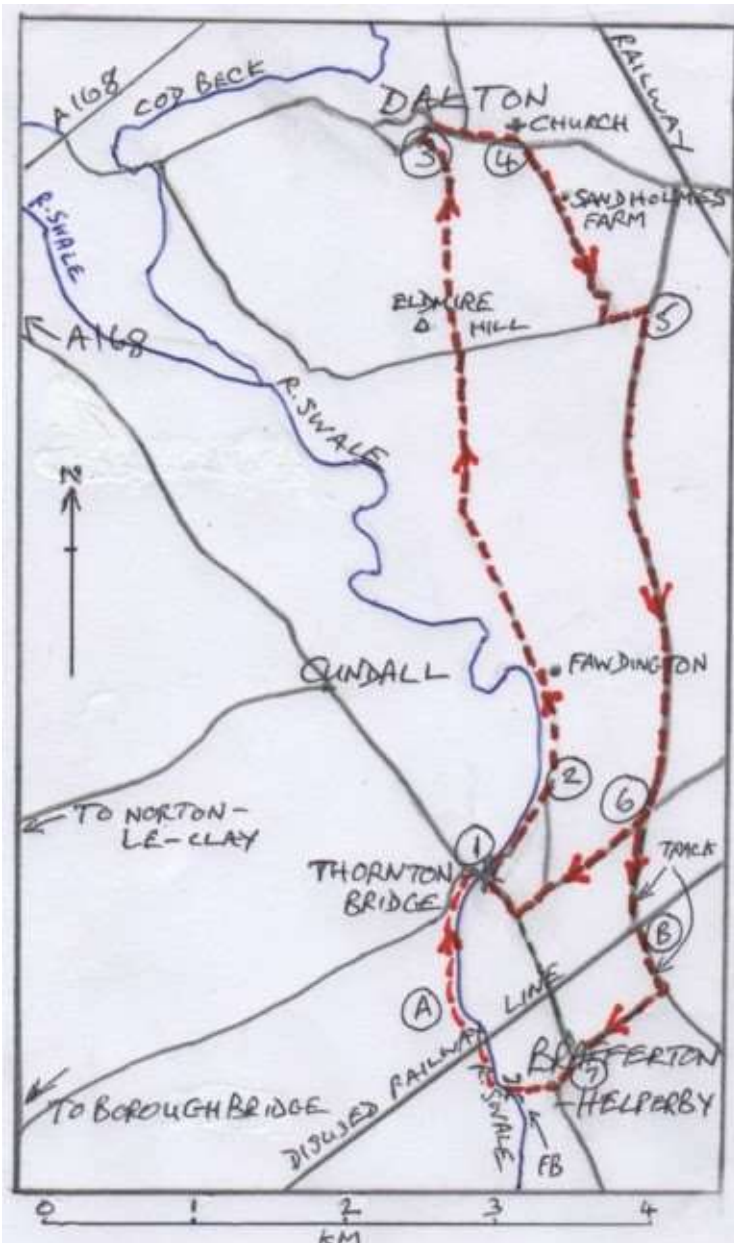


Boroughbridge Striders (Walkers are Welcome): The Thornton Bridge-Dalton Loop

- The walk starts at Thornton Bridge (1) where there is parking on the Helperby side of the bridge
- A short section of riverside path leads to a very minor, tarred road at (2). After Fawdington the road becomes a track all the way to Dalton (3)
- It's essential to use the most up-to-date OS map (1:50 000 or 1:25 000) on the section of the walk between Eldmire Hill and the southern "suburbs" of Dalton in order to reach the main road, via Pit Ings Lane, through the village without trespassing
- At the prominent church (4) you will find a sign for the return path via Sandholmes Farm. Cross the stile opposite the church and find your way through some scratchy brambles/briars. Bear slightly left and you will locate the footbridge across the beck, after which you will see the farm, SSE, ahead of you. There was no actual path when I walked the route in January, but there is no doubt about the right of way. The path runs along the right-hand side of farm, as shown clearly on the OS Map
- Once you reach 5 on the map, the walk back to Thornton Bridge via 6 is entirely on a very minor road



NB As an alternative (extension) to the above walk, you can start and finish in Brafferton-Helperby, adding at least 3 km to the total distance. Park in BH and follow route A on the map, crossing the Swale using the footbridge and enjoying a pleasant stroll along the river to Thornton Bridge. On the return leg, take the track at 6 and enter BH from the NE

Distance and Timing

The basic walk is 12 km (7.5 miles), 2 hours 30 minutes for a quick walker; 3 hours for more leisurely amblers, plus stops. With the BH "extension", the distance is around 15 km (nearly 10 miles), adding almost an hour to the time

The walk is easy, apart from the mud in winter, and comprises both tracks and minor roads in more or less equal amounts. It's essential to have an OS map to hand (ideally 1:25 000 Explorer 299) as the above, hand-drawn map is for illustrative purposes only

JH January 2020