

The Bacon Run

This was our standard, first arrival at the site, walk from 1970. Named since in Ugthorpe Village there was the pig processing 'factory' of Aaron Hart, Butcher. Walking past was exciting as often suspended pig carcasses were in full view.



Go out of the main lodge drive and turn left along the main road. (You can cut a corner by angling left across a bit of moor about a third of the way up the lodge drive) Only one vehicle in the picture which is a rarity these days; back in the 70's it was quite a pleasant stroll; now you want to get this bit over as fast as you can before you get totally traumatised by the

incessant roar of the traffic blasting past.

Watch your step as there are a number of drainage gullies cut into the grass across where you walk. After 100m or so it's worth a look left across the moor towards the sea at Sandsend; and a quick glance



over your shoulder shows, re-assuringly, that the lodge is still there. Continue past The Rails farm and the turn for Lealholm and it's with considerable relief



that you reach the left turn for the Traveller's Rest Farm.



As you get to the farm, don't forget to say "Hi" to the very friendly - well always very amiable when we

pass, however past performance is no guarantee of future expectations - dog who will undoubtedly bound out from his (her?) kennel to meet and greet you. And, if you are a tractor geek



Moving swiftly on, leave the farm on your right and continue down the track towards Ugthorpe village.



To the right over the fields many scenic landscapes down the valley towards the sea

And since we are in the country, expect to see life - and maybe death -



and to open many gates, making sure you leave them as you found them, open or closed. If perchance you come across one so securely tied up that it is beyond the talents of any guide or scout to open (even with the help of the knife thingy that gets stones out of horse's hooves) always clamber up and over at the more secure end; NEVER in the tempting middle.



Follow the track until it leads into the village, past the quoits pitch/court/field. This has recently been upgraded but you can still see, on the left, an original mud quaiting area. Quoits matches take place throughout the year, I think, and there's usually a good festival at spring bank holiday; liberally lubricated from the Black Bull.

Here on the corner, now dwellings, the original bacon factory of happy memory.

The walk turns left at the T junction but it's worth a quick trip into the village to the church and back; if you have time to spare, call in at the



Black Bull for a pint or two of OP and then see if you can make it successfully back up the hill.

However, back to the walk proper. Go up the road and see on the left the old sheep fold, complete with a very peaceful and well behaved sheep. Is it one sheep, many sheep? There can't be many cases of singular and plural being the same.



If you are doing this walk in the springtime, make sure you admire the



daffodils on the roadside, and especially look over the wall on the right as you start to go up the hill. This is the bottom part of the garden of Ugthorpe House. These daffs give Farndale a run for its money.

The road you're on is Postgate Way, named after Nicholas Postgate (pronounced Poskett) who was a priest here during the 1600s when being a RC priest was illegal. Ugthorpe and the surrounding area has held onto a strongly Roman Catholic faith - apparently when Henry 8th's men were going round the country destroying monasteries and such like, this area of N Yorkshire was so remote and wild that they never got here! However, back to Nicholas - whenever he celebrated Mass (a crime that carried the death penalty), he would stretch out white bed sheets across the hedges as though he had just done a big wash, so that the faithful could see and would know. Those seeking to destroy the Roman Catholic system would remain ignorant. Nicholas was eventually captured and executed in 1679. If you want a longer walk then, instead of turning in at the Traveller's Rest Farm continue down the main road to the turn off marked to The Hermitage(which was where Nicholas lived). This track brings you out at the bottom of the village by the Anglican Church.

As you reach the top of the hill look right at the windmill, a landmark that can be seen from far distance over the moors.



Nearly there, continue up the road. Just past the turn to Mickleby there are some fine trees on the right; admire their tenacity, they were planted about 30 years ago and have struggled against the brisk moors winds to reach this size. For about 15

years they hardly seemed to grow at all



Soon you turn left towards Burnt House Caravan Site, walk across the front of the site entrance and across the grass. There used to be a Narnia lamppost standing proud but when we passed it was lying on its side; hopefully waiting to be restored and re-installed.



Now the walk is nearly complete; across the moor and over the bridge into the campsite and return for a cup of/glass of Or you could let your youngsters try a round of the assault course

Walk length 45 to 90 mins. Easy



