

Whitby through the Mulgrave Woods

The Mulgrave Estate woods are open for access. only on Saturday, Sunday or Wednesday - but not in May



Leave the campsite over the bridge by the assault course in the W corner and go along the back of Burnt House caravan park.

Reaching the road, turn right and head towards Ugthorpe Village; as you go downhill past

Ugthorpe House look left and if it's a clear day you may see Whitby and the Abbey down the valley



Keep on going through the village, noting on your right, for future visits the Black Bull Inn and the parish church, now part of a large multi parish benefice (big jargon word meaning 'group of parishes').



The Parish church is always worth a visit on a Sunday at 11 am (not on the 5th Sunday of the month though when there is a combined benefice service usually somewhere else).



Exit the village looking back at the fine sign and reminder that we are on Postgate Way, named after Blessed Nicholas Postgate, a Roman Catholic priest who lived nearby in the days when it was a hanging offence to celebrate the Mass.



The road is normally quiet but take care as you travel along past Broom House

Farm till you reach Low Broom House where the road curves left. The path leaves the road just after the farm; I think it should go by the big tree but it's





simpler to go in through the field gate - you can see the footpath marker on the other side of the field.

Walk down the fields following the markers; after the footbridge there isn't a marker, the path keeps to the left edge of the field.



Soon after the footbridge you come to a fence barring the way; hop over the gate and wiggle a bit to travel on the track between two fences. You can see Barnby Sleights farm ahead.



The track crosses a road; you can go right here for a short while and then enter Mulgrave Woods on the left by a sign. The simplest way is to go straight on skirting Barnby Sleights on its left side and through a waymarked gate on a clear

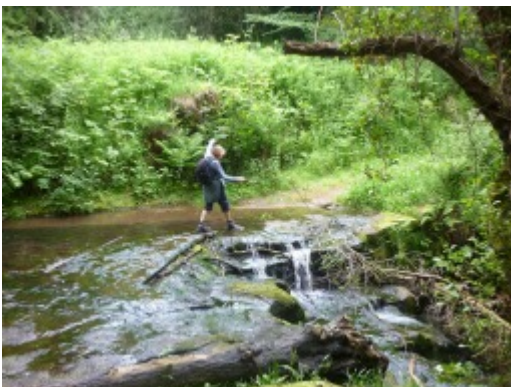


track which leads on through ancient woodland and into Mulgrave Estate proper.

When we were here the gate was somewhat broken. If it gets repaired and closed you may see a National Park notice on it saying 'no public right of way'. On Saturdays Sundays and Wednesdays (but not in May) this can safely be ignored! A clear track leads through the woods.



However, if you like a bit more of a challenge, follow the marked path to the left down to a very dodgy looking stream crossing. You can always back track to the gate if it look too much! Over the stream and up the track past some old ruins almost



buried in the undergrowth. The path goes left, slightly up hill and then there's another labelled way into the estate. The mound facing you is a 'motte'; the path goes right around its base and then



buried in the undergrowth. The path goes left, slightly up hill and then there's another labelled way into the estate. The mound facing you is a 'motte'; the path goes right around its base and then

disappears. The track is overgrown and very steep. You have to make your way round a bit then down to the stream where there is a footbridge. Over the footbridge and then angle up left to follow an indistinct path upwards - you soon come to a bit with handrails and then the way is obvious- to join the wide path which has run down from the gate which you bravely left recently to attempt the 'stream crossing and motte' scenic route.



It's a very pleasant woodland path along the top of a spectacular ridge, past some interesting trees and leads straight to the old Mulgrave Castle. If you set off from the campsite around 10 30 or 11 it's just about time for lunch.



The old castle is amazing and well worth exploring. As you leave (by the way

you came in) and continue round the path you come to the explanatory board giving some history of this place. The current Marquis of Normanby lives in the new castle which is much nearer the road between Sandsend and Lythe..



From here there are many ways down into Sandsend; just opposite the board are steps down onto the main 'road' back to the coast. We prefer to keep up on the ridge heading straight past the info board. This broad



path eventually curves down and left which would take you across the stream and up towards the new Mulgrave Castle and out onto the coast road on Lythe bank - at the fork go right and under the stone bridge.. Earlier, just past the info board you may



have noticed a very small path angling up to the right; if you had taken this you would have gone over this bridge. No matter, just keep heading east, you will see the main 'road down to your right and eventually all paths converge on this.

Straight on past a house and down into the wood yard; make sure you take the left track otherwise you'll get tangled up in the timber operations.



Soon you exit through the Mulgrave Estate car park with a cafe on the left and then into Sandsend; over the bridge to the right, onto the bridge and then just over 2 miles of golden sand takes

you to Whitby. If it's a normal day and the weather is changeable, expect some dramatic views of sea and sky and also some dramatic examples of cliff erosion.



Of course, you can walk back but we prefer to catch the 93 bus from the Whitby bus station; follow the river Esk into town, past the old swing bridge and the bus station is near the Co-op. 93 buses call here going to Middlesbrough (the one you want) and Scarborough (which you don't want). Currently it's platform 1 and buses at 1545, 1655, 1725, 1755, 1825 and 1855. Ask for Ugthorpe Lodge and if the driver has had a good day, he will drop you at exactly the spot

(If you miss the last bus, as we did once, get some food in Whitby, catch the train back towards Mbro, alight at Lealholm and slog all the way back over the moor in the inrushing gloom of nightfall.). .

Total walk length about 9 miles reasonably gentle apart from the bit over the stream.

