

Barkston Ash Wapentake Path

, Wapentake is believed to have meant 'A showing of weapons' as in a vote. This wapentake was often held near a river, or road junction. In the case of Barkston Ash this would have been the old ash tree. (No longer there). This is the tee junction on the old London road.

This path is thought to have followed part of the old Barkston Ash boundary, from centuries back.

The path starts (and finishes) at Church Fenton Post Office in this case, but can be started anywhere along the route as it is a circular of approximately 5.5 mile or 9 Km. From the PO head towards the railway station and turn right (North) over the bridge into Sandwath Lane. Continue down into wooded section bridleway.

At a path intersection (Know locally as 'the tank houses') turn left towards Scarthingwell.

Keep to this path until you reach the main road (A162). Turn left and head uphill towards Barkston, keep to the newly built footpath.

At the tee junction turn left into Barkston Main Street. Where the road bears sharp left you turn right up a narrow back lane. After 50 metres turn left and follow the track (Saw Wells Lane) under the railway bridge,

This can be used as a picnic point as it is slightly sheltered,

Approximately 100 mtrs after bridge (At fingerpost) turn left and follow field edge path to footbridge. Follow path (72 degrees magnetic) to field edge path and continue along to the trees .At the first large tree, bear right, at a bearing of 139 Mag, cross the field to the railway line. (Aim for white marker on line) Take extreme care crossing as trains come at a possible 100 mph. From this point head in an Easterly direction to a footbridge, Take care crossing, Then on to the road at Little Fenton tee junction keeping the hedge on your left.

At this point you can, if you wish have a quick return back to Fenton by heading North (See road direction post), failing that continue on to Little Fenton. Opposite the telephone box is a stile and Public footpath post. Cross the stile, a little further on another one. Swing to right (Follow trodden down grass pathway) hand side of field after passing through a little metal gate. Continue along until, in the corner of the wood a stile and foot bridge can be seen.

Cross the footbridge (Take extreme care) to the East side of Carr Dyke. Continue keeping dyke on your left to another footbridge, cross this. Keeping the paddock fence on your right continue until you reach Nanny Lane near the brick millennium sign.

Take a seat on the nearby bench.

Turn left for approximately 50 mtrs, The path is on your right, just after the cottage.

Continue along, Westerly, past the beautifully landscaped pond, on to the Church. At the main road, cross over, turn right and continue along to the snicket, taking you back to the Post Office.

Congratulations, You have just completed 'The Barkston Ash Wapentake Path'.

Please report all ploughing, cropping, or obstructions on paths to-

Paths@northyorks.gov.uk Tel 0845-0349599.

Or to the PROW Team Leader,

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