

## Hambleton to Coxwold 5 miles, allow 2 ½ hours.

**Transport** **M4** (Sat, Sun/Public Holidays), **M5** (Sundays/Public Holidays only), **M31** (Sundays/Public Holidays only), **31X** (Saturdays only)

**Map** OS Landranger 100 or OS Explorer OL26 + OS Explorer 299

**Start** Get off the Moorsbus M4 just past the old Hambleton Inn, 1/4m before Sutton Bank. Grid Ref. 52138 82925

### Points of Interest

If you do this walk on a day with a decent westerly breeze you'll probably find a sky full of sailplanes from the Yorkshire Gliding Club, one of the oldest in the country. 2400 years ago, their airfield was a huge defensive fort, one that is still exciting archaeologists. As you leave the access road to the gliding club, you are probably in the middle of what was, on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 1322, a particularly bloody battle between Robert I of Scotland and Edward II of England. Robert the Bruce was determined to teach Edward, who fled as fast as he could to London, a lesson, and he certainly did. Names like Hell Hole, and Scotch Corner, a few hundred yards to the south, still bear witness to this savage event. After a lovely walk through country lanes and rolling farmland you'll reach Coxwold. This is a very attractive village, famous for both the Shandy Hall, where Laurence Sterne, the author of *Tristram Shandy*, lived, and for St Michael's Church where he was "perpetual curate". The church is a Grade I listed building dating to 1430 and was built in the perpendicular style with an octagonal tower. You will also find the excellent Fauconberg Arms here, serving very good food and drink with which to reward your efforts.

### Route

Turn left and walk down High Town Bank Road until it bears right towards the gliding club. Keep straight ahead here on to a gravel road, descending through woods to reach Oldstead Road. Turn right for 50 yards then left on to River Road. After ¾ mile turn left at the bend in the road down a farm lane towards Weatherill Barn. After the gate just beyond the barn turn left up the field edge for 230 yards to the top where there is a yellow waymarker. Turn right here and after another 230 yards meet a lane and turn right. Continue past Fox Folly Stud & Livery Farm then turn left and cross a stile at the footpath sign on the first bend in the road. Walk along the hedge and shortly cross a stile on the right, then just follow the yellow waymarkers through fields until you come out on the road just before Shandy Hall at Coxwold. Use the bus stop by the pub for the M5 and the one at the village hall 330 yards further on and after turning left at the crossroads for the M31 or 31X.

*With thanks to Margaret King.*

