

Guisborough Forest Walk

Scenic Route, Roseberry Topping Option

Visit my website for full details: <https://www.paulbeal.com/guisborough-forest-walk>

Introduction to the Walk

This rewarding circular route begins at the Guisborough Forest & Walkway Visitor Centre in Pinchinthorpe and explores some of the North York Moors' most varied terrain. Starting out along the old railway line, the path climbs steadily through Bousdale Wood and High Bousdale Wood before reaching the open slopes of Roseberry Common, where Roseberry Topping comes into view ahead. After joining the Cleveland Way, the route visits Hanging Stone for superb views, then continues past Home Farm and returns along the disused railway line to complete the circuit.

Highlights of the Walk

There's no shortage of highlights along the way. The peaceful well-being trail through High Bousdale Wood invites you to pause and connect with nature before the route opens out onto Roseberry Common, where wide views stretch across Teesside, Redcar, and the North Sea. A steep climb leads to the summit of Roseberry Topping at 320 metres, marked by a white trig pillar and offering one of the most iconic panoramas in the North York Moors. From Little Roseberry, there's a superb rear view of the hill, while Hanging Stone provides a dramatic overlook of Guisborough and the coastline.

The return along the Cleveland Way and the old railway line features woodland sculptures, quiet forest paths, and a chance to finish with a coffee at the welcoming Branch Walkway Café beside the visitor centre's well-known railway carriage. It's an ideal way to round off a day spent exploring this peaceful corner of the North York Moors.

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Additional Information

- **Distance:** 7 miles (11 kilometres).
- **Duration:** Approximately 3½ hours (excluding stops and breaks).
- **Difficulty:** Moderate. The route includes steady woodland climbs and a steep ascent up Roseberry Common and around Little Roseberry, but there is no technical terrain.
- **Trail Conditions:** A mix of firm forest tracks, well-maintained stone paths, and sections of disused railway line. Some parts can be muddy after rain, but overall the paths are clearly defined and easy to follow.
- **Recommended Map:** OS Explorer OL26 – North York Moors Western Area.
- **Parking:** Guisborough Forest & Walkway Visitor Centre, Pinchinthorpe (pay-and-display). Facilities include a café, toilets, and picnic areas.
 - **Google Maps Link:** <https://maps.app.goo.gl/iXR1ZCVfxGx2gSaK9>
 - **What3Words:** ///giraffes.contoured.perch

Support My Work

If you've found these directions helpful or enjoyed this walk, please consider making a £2 donation to support what I do. Your contribution helps me create more free walking guides like this one.

You can donate by visiting <https://buymeacoffee.com/paulbeal> or by scanning the QR code.

Thank you for your support!

Paul Beal



Step-by-Step Directions

Your Guisborough Forest walk begins in Pinchinthorpe, located just west of Guisborough on the A173. Park at the **Guisborough Forest & Walkway Visitor Centre (1)**, where you'll find a café and toilet facilities. From the car park, head up the ramp towards the visitor centre, then turn left. Walk past the front of the centre on your left and an old railway carriage on your right. After passing the carriage, go through the gates and continue straight ahead along the route of the old railway line. Shortly, you'll spot a **children's play area (2)** on your left. Here, the path splits; take the right-hand route, following the Guisborough Forest green, red, and white walking trails, marked by waymarkers on a post.

Continue through a gate, now following the Guisborough Forest well-being trail. The path leads past a picnic area on your right and then reaches a crossroads. Keep going straight on, staying on the well-being trail and the blue cycle route. The track gradually ascends, passing **Bousdale House (3)** on your right. Further on, ignore the left-hand path signposted to Guisborough Market Town and continue uphill towards **Bousdale Wood (4)**. As you progress along the woodland track, it bends left and then right. Stay on the wide, stony path, ignoring any side routes. The track levels out briefly before climbing again through **High Bousdale Wood (5)**, with signage confirming you are still on the well-being trail.

At the **top of High Bousdale Wood (6)**, the track bends sharply left in a U-turn. Waymarkers indicate you are still on the blue cycle route. Follow the ascending track, and when you **reach another junction (7)**, take a sharp right, continuing along the blue cycle trail. The climb continues through the woods until the main track bends left. At this point, walk straight ahead onto a **narrower footpath (8)**. Follow this path, heading towards Roseberry Topping, which soon comes into view. Enter the **Roseberry Topping National Trust area (9)**. Stay on the main path across Roseberry Common, avoiding side trails.

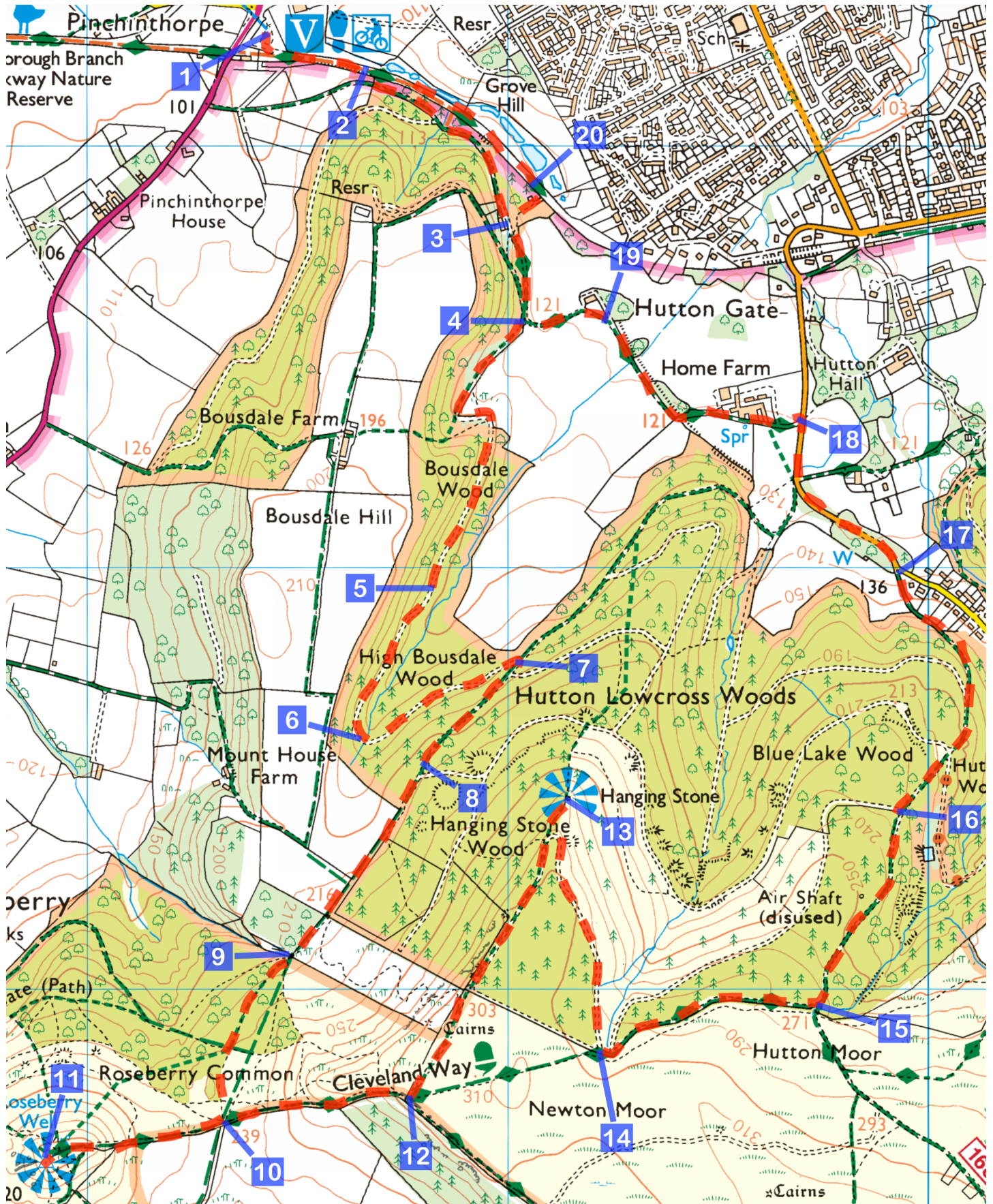
Eventually, you will reach a **large gate in a dry stone wall (10)**, where the path to your left and right is the Cleveland Way. If you wish to extend your Guisborough Forest walk with a climb up **Roseberry Topping (11)**, turn right here, then return to this spot. Otherwise, turn left onto the Cleveland Way, keeping the dry stone wall to your right. The path rises steeply, skirting the right side of the cone-shaped hill called Little Roseberry. Continue along the stone-stepped path to the top, where you'll find a **dry stone wall with a bench (12)** in front of it. Pass through the gate in the wall, where the path splits into three. Take the first path on the left, which runs alongside the dry stone wall.

Follow the moorland track, exiting the Roseberry Topping National Trust area and continuing straight ahead. The trail leads into Hanging Stone Wood, where the track bends sharply right. Look for a narrower footpath on the left, leading into the trees. This is a North York Moors public footpath, marked by a yellow waymarker on a wooden post. Take this route to **Hanging Stone (13)**, a highlight of the Guisborough Forest walk, then retrace your steps to rejoin the main track. Turn left and follow the descending path south until it meets the **Cleveland Way (14)**, where you should turn left again.

Continue along the Cleveland Way until you reach a **barrier and a T-junction (15)**. Turn left, following the stony track downhill through Hutton Wood. At a **crossroads (16)**, continue straight on, keeping downhill. The path narrows as it descends, eventually **reaching a road (17)**. Turn left and walk along the roadside footpath as the route passes through woodland. Soon, you'll see a large grassy field on your left. Ignore the first public footpath into this field and continue along the road until you reach a **tarmac lane to Home Farm (18)**. Turn left here, rejoining the well-being trail and the blue cycle route.

Walk past a cluster of stone cottages and a farm on your right, then follow the track alongside the trees. The path bends left in front of **Bousdale Cottages (19)**. At the next junction, turn right, following the sign for the Walkway Visitor Centre. Shortly after, where the path splits, take the lower right-hand path. When the path splits again, ignore the left turn up to Bousdale House and instead take the right-hand trail downhill, following the green, red, and white waymarkers. At the bottom, turn left onto the **disused railway line (20)** and follow it all the way back to the visitor centre car park, completing your Guisborough Forest walk.

Map of the Walk



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