

OSMOTHERLEY WALK

Lady Chapel, Scarth Wood Moor, Sheepwash, and Stunning Views

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

Introduction to the Walk

This lovely circular walk sets off from the centre of Osmotherley, a charming village on the western edge of the North York Moors. From the village green, it climbs Ruebury Lane before turning into peaceful woodland on the way to the historic Lady Chapel. After visiting the chapel and optional Rosary Path, the route continues along the Cleveland Way across the open expanse of Scarth Wood Moor. You'll then loop south past Chequers and into Oak Dale, before returning to Osmotherley through quiet valleys and moorland fields. Expect great views, varied terrain, and lots to explore along the way.

Highlights of the Walk

Osmotherley is a lovely place to start a walk, with stone cottages, village pubs, and easy access to the surrounding moors. The landscape around here is a mix of wooded valleys, rolling farmland, and high open moorland. One of the highlights of this route is the Lady Chapel, a peaceful spot with a long and fascinating history. It's set on a quiet hillside in Chapel Wood, and well worth the short climb to reach it.

There's loads to enjoy along the way, especially if you like taking photos. You'll pass through scenic woodland, follow a beautifully laid stone path across Scarth Wood Moor, and enjoy big views out towards the Cleveland Hills and the Yorkshire Dales. The Lady Chapel and Rosary Path are both very photogenic, with lovely benches and viewpoints, while the sweeping moorland near Scarth Nick really adds to the sense of space and scale.

Additional Information

- **Distance:** 6¾ miles (11 kilometres).
- **Duration:** Approximately 3½ hours (excluding stops and breaks).
- **Difficulty:** Moderate, with a few short, steep climbs and flights of steps, plus some longer gradual ascents and descents. Suitable for walkers with a reasonable level of fitness who are comfortable with several short climbs, flights of steps and some longer uphill sections. The route is not technical.
- **Trail Conditions:** A mix of stone-paved moorland tracks, woodland paths, grassy field paths and short stretches of minor road. Sections can be uneven, muddy and slippery in wet weather, especially in the woods and valley areas.
- **Recommended Map:** OS Explorer OL26 – North York Moors Western Area.
- **Parking:** Roadside and other parking options in the centre of Osmotherley near the village green. Spaces are limited and the village can be busy at weekends and in holiday periods, so it's best to arrive early.
 - **Google Maps Link:** <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Pj4Agwia1CMNJNL97>
 - **What3Words:** //crucially.gagging.enclosing

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://buyameacoffee.com/paulbeal> or by scanning the QR code.

Thank you for your support!

Paul Beal



Step-by-Step Directions

Begin your Osmotherley walk in the **centre of Osmotherley (1)**, where there is a reasonable amount of roadside and other parking options. It is advisable to arrive fairly early to secure a spot. Start from the village green, heading north uphill along the road called N End. Although this road leads to Cod Beck Reservoir, you won't be going that far. After about a quarter of a mile, turn left into **Ruebury Lane (2)**. Look for the signpost indicating the Cleveland Way, Scarth Nick, and Lady Chapel.

Continue west uphill along Ruebury Lane, but be careful not to go too far. Turn right, following the footpath to Lady Chapel. Walk north through Chapel Wood, and at the end of the path, take the steps up into the **grounds of Lady Chapel (3)**. Continue past the chapel and exit via the northern gate. Optionally, before you leave, if you have time, why not consider a short detour along the Rosary Path, which circles the chapel and returns you to the grounds.

After leaving the chapel grounds, go through a gate and turn right, following the signs for the Cleveland Way. Descend and pass through another gate, turning right again. Follow the **Cleveland Way (4)** north and uphill for about a mile, initially through woods and then along the eastern edge of the woods. You'll pass a **radio and TV transmission station (5)** on your left before reaching a gate where the path emerges onto **Scarth Wood Moor (6)**.

Here, you'll find a delightful stone-paved path crossing the moor, offering fantastic views of the surrounding countryside. As you reach the end of the path, look for a signpost indicating the Cleveland Way. Instead of continuing on the Cleveland Way, **bend to the right (7)** and follow the public bridleway, which will lead you down to a minor road. Walk south along this quiet road to the footbridge and ford known as **Sheepwash (8)**.

Cross the bridge and head up the stone track, guiding you south along High Lane. This route skirts the **eastern edge of a large forested area (9)** above Cod Beck Reservoir. After just over a mile, the stone track will lead you to a **minor road (10)**. Continue south along this road to the luxury guest house known as **Chequers (11)**. Shortly after passing Chequers, look out for a path to your right, signposted as a public footpath. This grassy path heads south-west, initially across moorland and then downhill to reach a **farm in Oak Dale (12)**.

Turn right and walk past the farm, rejoining the Cleveland Way. Continue along the Cleveland Way, crossing a bridge in the wooded valley, then head uphill north-west along a concrete track leading to a **minor road (13)**. Notice a house with an amazing garden at this road. Turn left, then immediately turn right, signposted Cleveland Way and Osmotherley. Walk uphill along this track for a few minutes, then take a left again, following the Cleveland Way signs.

The route will guide you along a track towards Whitehouse Farm. Before reaching the farm, veer off to the right, again following the Cleveland Way signs. Descend into a small, narrow, wooded valley, **cross a footbridge (14)**, and climb out of the valley up some steep steps. At the top, emerge from the woods and follow a stone-paved path across the fields. This path will lead you back into the village of Osmotherley.

Map of the Walk

