

WHITBY WALK

A Coastal and Railway Loop From Robin Hood's Bay

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

Introduction to the Walk

This Whitby walk starts in Robin Hood's Bay and follows a superb coastal route north along the Cleveland Way to Whitby, before returning by the Cinder Track. It combines sea cliffs, historic landmarks, harbour views and railway heritage in one varied circular walk, with wide views across the North Sea and a memorable descent into Whitby's old town.

Highlights of the Walk

The outward route follows the Cleveland Way past Rain Dale, Whitby Lighthouse, the Whitby Fog Signal and Saltwick Bay before reaching Whitby Abbey. Along the way there are dramatic clifftop views, quiet valleys, seabird cliffs, old jet and alum landscapes, and the striking approach to Whitby, where the abbey and harbour gradually come into view.

After passing St Mary's Church and descending Whitby's famous 199 Steps, the walk continues through the old town and across the River Esk before joining the Cinder Track for the return. This former railway line crosses Larpool Viaduct, passes Hawsker and runs through woodland, hedgerows and open countryside, giving a gentler contrast to the exposed coastal section.

Additional Information

Distance: 13¼ miles (21 kilometres)

Duration: Approximately 6¼ hours (excluding stops and breaks)

Difficulty: A long and varied walk with some steep coastal dips, flights of steps and a lengthy overall distance. The route is straightforward to follow but needs a good level of fitness.

Trail Conditions: Mostly clear footpaths, coastal tracks, tarmac lanes, town streets and the level Cinder Track. Some clifftop sections can be exposed, uneven, muddy or slippery in poor weather.

Recommended Map: OS Explorer OL27 North York Moors Eastern Area

Parking: Station Car Park in Robin Hood's Bay, near the B1447 and the start of the route. It is a long-stay pay and display car park with toilets, and there is an overflow car park nearby if needed.

- **Google Maps Link:** <https://maps.app.goo.gl/85ka1aNLXG5iqfUq7>
- **What3Words:** ///clipped.buddy.stun

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.



STEP-BY-STEP DIRECTIONS

Begin your Whitby walk at the **Station Car Park (1)** in Robin Hood's Bay, a long-stay pay and display car park with toilets, and an overflow car park if the main one is full. From the car park, head back towards the B1447 main road, where you will find the Grosvenor Hotel directly in front of you. Turn left, then immediately right onto Mount Pleasant North, where you will start to see signs for the Cinder Track, the Cleveland Way and the Coast to Coast Path.

Walk to the top of Mount Pleasant North and keep to the road as it bears around to the left, following the signs for the Cleveland Way and the Cinder Track throughout. Turn right onto the gravel path signposted for the Cleveland Way, the Coast to Coast Path and the Cinder Track to Hawsker and Whitby. Soon afterwards the route splits in two. Take the right-hand fork for the Cleveland Way and Coast to Coast Path public footpath to Hawsker and Whitby, and avoid the left-hand fork, which is the Cinder Track that you will return along later.

From here, simply follow the footpath signed as the Cleveland Way public footpath. A signpost here also indicates Whitby, six miles away. This stretch of the Cleveland Way forms part of the King Charles III England Coast Path, as shown on OS Maps. The path is clear, straightforward and easy to navigate. After one and a third miles you reach a small valley called **Rain Dale (2)**. Follow the path down into the shallow valley, then climb the steps up the other side. Beyond Rain Dale you will notice the cliffs become noticeably higher.

Carry on along the clifftop for a further one and a quarter miles to reach **Oakham Wood (3)**, set in a small valley formed by Oakham Beck. Ignore any paths leading inland to the left, such as those to Hawsker or Northcliffe Holiday Park. Instead, drop down into the small valley and climb back out the other side using the steps, still following the Cleveland Way to Whitby. Another two and a third miles brings you to **Whitby Lighthouse (4)** on Ling Hill.

After the lighthouse, turn right and continue on the Cleveland Way to reach the **Whitby Fog Signal (5)** shortly afterwards. Carry on across the top of the cliffs for just over a mile to reach **Whitby Holiday Park at Saltwick Bay (6)**. Walk all the way through the holiday park, following the footpath to Whitby, then continue on to Whitby Abbey. Make your way past the abbey and **St Mary's Church (7)**, then down Whitby's 199 Steps.

At the bottom of the steps, follow the cobbled Church Street all the way through Whitby's old town, between the shops, cafés and restaurants. When you reach the main road, Bridge Street, turn right and walk across **Whitby Bridge (8)**. Turn left and follow New Quay Road to the mini roundabout, then turn left again onto Langborne Road, signposted to Endeavour Wharf. Continue straight ahead along Langborne Road towards Whitby Marina, passing the supermarket on your right, then carry on through all the car parking areas with the River Esk on your left.

Eventually the road comes to an end at the railway line. Cross over the line and turn left, continuing to Waterstead Lane. Here, take the steep path on your left uphill to reach the **A171 road bridge (9)** that crosses the River Esk. At the main road, cross over and take the footpath directly opposite. The path bends right towards the school. Follow it to the school and across the coach parking area, where you will join the Esk Valley Walk, indicated by a yellow waymarker arrow. Follow this footpath across the school sports fields, and at the far edge you will reach the **Cinder Track (10)**. Turn left here, signposted to Scarborough.

The return leg of the Whitby walk now follows the Cinder Track, the route of the old railway line, all the way back. Heading away from Whitby, follow it for one and a half miles to reach **Stainsacre (11)**, then carry on for a further mile to reach Hawsker. At Hawsker, cross the **A171 main road (12)** and stay on the Cinder Track, signposted to Robin Hood's Bay. After one and three-quarter miles you reach the **top of Rain Dale (13)**, which you passed earlier on the Cleveland Way, and from there it is just over a mile to Robin Hood's Bay.

Almost back in Robin Hood's Bay, the Cinder Track merges with the Cleveland Way. Continue forward, following the signpost for Robin Hood's Bay. When the houses come into view, turn left and follow the Cinder Track down into the village to rejoin Mount Pleasant North. Walk along Mount Pleasant North to the end, then cross the main road and continue straight ahead to return to the car park, completing your Whitby walk.

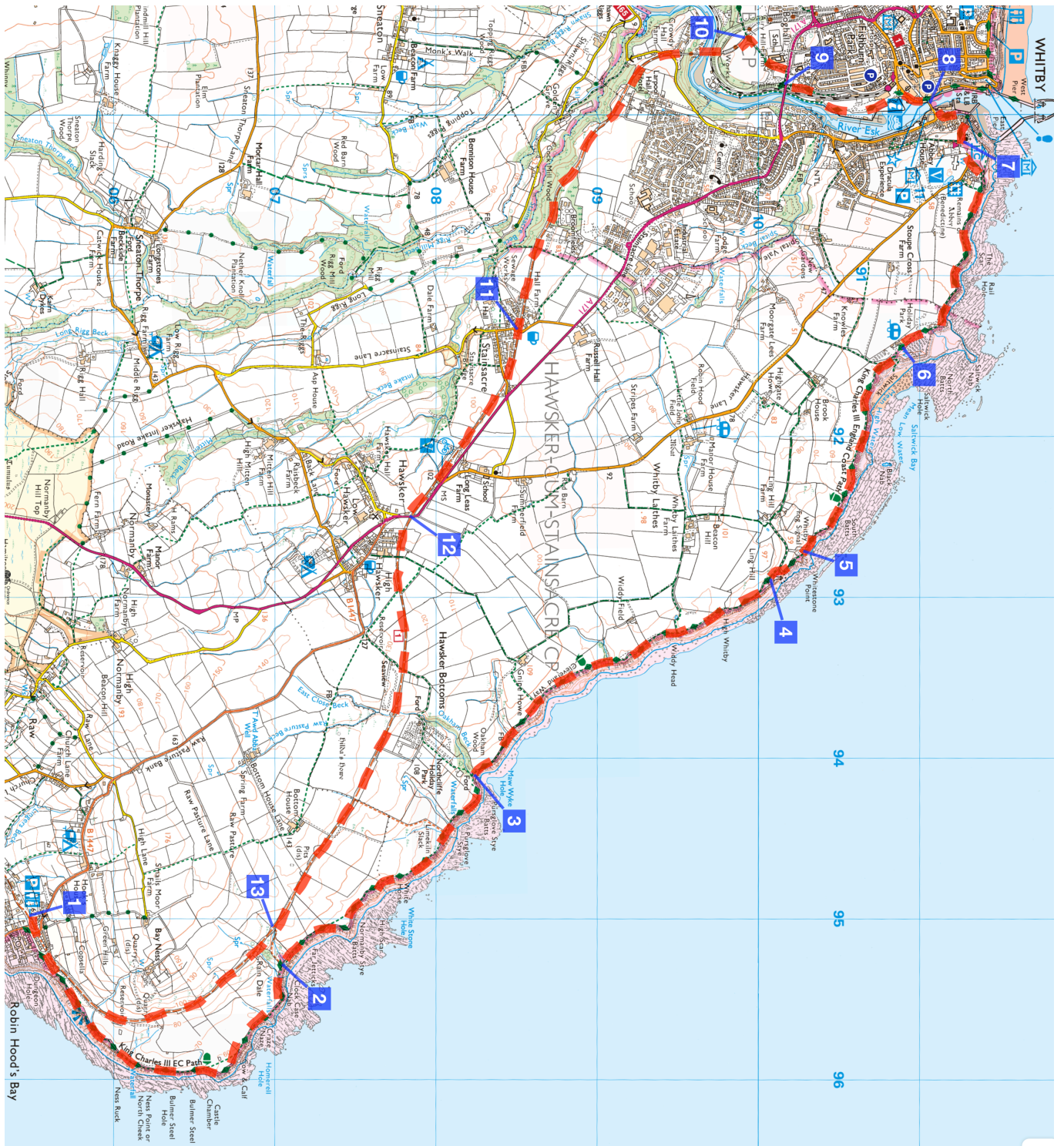
Support My Work

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



MAP OF THE WALK



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2026