

CASTLE HOWARD CIRCULAR WALK

Loop From Bulmer to Coneysthorpe

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

Introduction to the Walk

This varied circular walk begins in the North Yorkshire village of Bulmer before crossing farmland and woodland towards the Castle Howard estate. Along the way are attractive villages, historic parkland and landmarks including the Gate House, New River Bridge, the Temple of the Four Winds and the Mausoleum.

Highlights of the Walk

A memorable section begins at the Gate House before the route continues through the Castle Howard landscape. New River Bridge offers fine views towards the Temple of the Four Winds and the Mausoleum, before the walk continues beside Ray Wood to Coneysthorpe.

Beyond Coneysthorpe, the route passes through Cum Hag Wood and Ganthorpe before heading south through Mowthorpe Dale. Woodland, meadows and farmland lead back towards Bulmer, with St Martin's Church and Kilburn House marking the final approach.

Additional Information

Distance: 8¾ miles (14 kilometres)

Duration: Approximately 4 hours (excluding stops and breaks)

Difficulty: Moderate. The route is generally straightforward, but its length, occasional road walking and some less distinct or overgrown field paths require a reasonable level of fitness and care with navigation.

Trail Conditions: A mixture of field paths, woodland tracks, grassy paths, estate tracks and quiet lanes. Some sections through Mowthorpe Dale can become overgrown, and occasional waymarkers mean careful navigation is useful in places.

Recommended Map: OS Explorer 300 Howardian Hills & Malton

Parking: A small lay-by in Bulmer opposite the bungalows at St Martin's Field, close to the red telephone box. Some roadside parking is also available along the main road through the village.

• **Google Maps Link:** <https://maps.app.goo.gl/XKRzEYnFuME4guMJ7>

• **What3Words:** ///gong.snoozing.sectors

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STEP-BY-STEP DIRECTIONS

This Castle Howard circular walk begins in the North Yorkshire village of Bulmer and covers roughly 8¾ miles. There is some roadside parking along the main road through the village, but the better option is a small lay-by opposite a group of bungalows called St Martin's Field. The lay-by sits close to the **red telephone box (1)** on the opposite side of the road.

From the lay-by, head east along the road towards St Martin's Church, which will be on your right. Walk past the church and follow the road out of the village. The road bends first to the left and then to the right. As it bends right, turn left along a narrow tarmac lane, passing a small village green on your right with a large oak tree in the middle of it, and Oak Tree Cottage on your left. Continue past Bulmer Village Hall, then take the public footpath on the right signposted to Brandrith Wood.

Follow the footpath across two grassy fields to a wooden kissing gate in the hedgerow. Go through the gate, turn right and walk along the field edge to reach the **main road (2)**. Turn left, and a couple of minutes later turn right onto the public footpath signposted to Brandrith Wood. Walk along the edge of two fields, then turn left towards the wood. The path runs for half a mile through Brandrith Wood before bringing you out on the main road known as **The Stray (3)**.

Turn left and head towards the Gate House, taking care as this is quite a busy road. Walk through the arch of the **Gate House (4)** and turn right onto a tarmac road. A wooden signpost for Coneysthorpe appears soon afterwards to confirm you are on the right track. Follow this quiet lane for three quarters of a mile, passing the Towers and **The Pyramid (5)** on your right. As you pass The Pyramid, you are about a quarter of the way round your Castle Howard circular walk.

At the crossroads with the Centenary Way, turn left, signposted Coneysthorpe, and follow the stone track down towards **New River Bridge (6)**. As you cross the bridge, look right for the Mausoleum on Kirk Hill. Continue straight on up the grassy bank towards the Temple of the Four Winds. Walk past the Temple, then follow the path alongside the high dry stone wall on the edge of the woodland. Keep beside the wall, go through a gate and into the woods.

At the far side of the woods you reach a **T-junction (7)**. Turn left onto the wide stone track, which bends round to the right and passes a children's adventure playground. Follow this track across the estate for half a mile to reach the northern boundary and the **main road (8)**. Turn left and head towards Coneysthorpe, continuing straight ahead with the village on your right. A short detour to look round the village is well worth the time. Coneysthorpe is the halfway point of your Castle Howard circular walk.

Beyond the village, go straight across at the crossroads onto the minor road signposted to Terrington and Yorkshire Lavender. Follow this road for about half a mile until it bends round to the right. At the bend, turn left onto the **public footpath (9)** signposted to Ganthorpe and Terrington, then turn right almost immediately and walk around the edge of the large field to its far, western side. The right of way shown on OS maps crosses the middle of the field, but skirting the northern and western edges is the more practical line.

Take care as you approach the far side of the field. In time you will spot the way out on your right, marked by a yellow footpath waymarker on a large wooden post. Follow the route down through the woodland. This is Cum Hag Wood, and it marks roughly the three-quarter point of your Castle Howard circular walk. Leave the wood through a **gated gap (10)** in the stone wall and head straight across the wildflower meadow, climbing gently.

Leave the meadow, turn right and follow the edge of another field round to the far side. As before, the mapped path runs straight across, but walking the northern and western edges is the easier option. Leave the field by a stile onto a wide track and turn left towards Ganthorpe. Shortly afterwards, at a grassy clearing, take care not to turn right onto the track into the farmer's field. The route you want enters woodland through a small metal gate, passing a small pond on your left. The path then passes a stone cottage on your right and widens into a track climbing gently uphill. At the top you meet a tarmac lane in front of a high dry stone wall. Turn right here, passing an old water pump on a **small village green (11)**, and carry on to a T-junction with the main road.

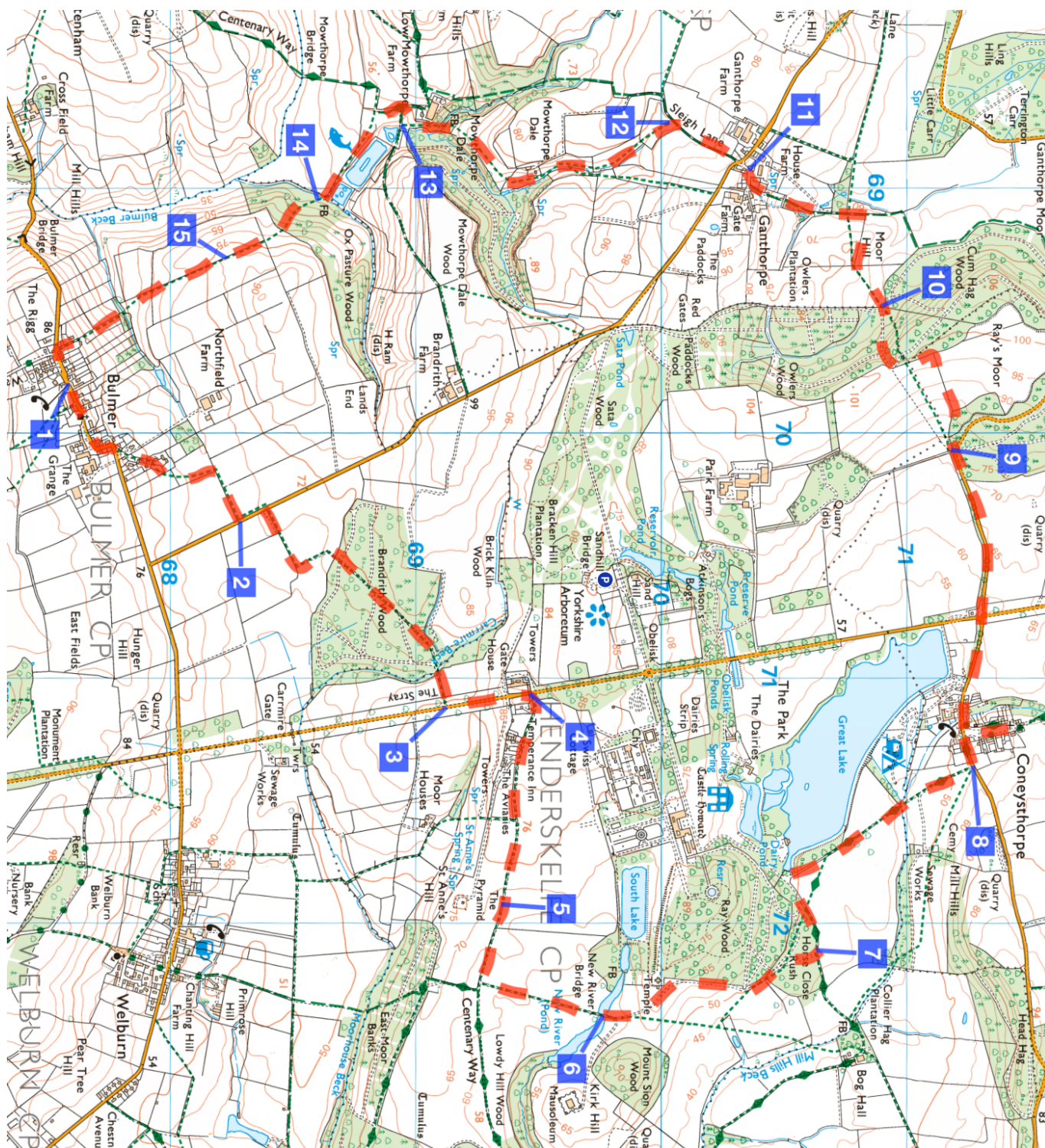
Cross the road and take the track directly opposite, known as Sleigh Lane. Follow it to a point just before it bends round to the right, then look left for a **public footpath (12)** through a gate. Take this path across another wildflower meadow and continue south through the shallow valley, keeping the large hedgerow on your left. Parts of this section may be a little overgrown, and there are only occasional yellow waymarkers to guide you. After just over three quarters of a mile you reach a **narrow tarmac road (13)**.

Turn right and follow the road uphill. As it swings round to the right and almost reaches the farm gates, take the left-hand track that doubles back on itself. Follow this grassy track and, just before an old stone barn, turn left at the signpost reading Public Footpath Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The path crosses a grassy field, with some large ponds visible through the hedgerow on your left, and leads straight ahead into

Ox Pasture Wood (14).

Climb uphill through the woods, then leave them and follow the straight path along the field edge. At the **brow of the hill (15)**, Bulmer comes into view, including St Martin's Church. Look also for a large stone farmhouse on the western edge of the village. This is Kilburn House, and it is where you are heading, so it makes a useful landmark for the last stretch. Continue along the field-edge path directly ahead as it dips into a shallow valley. Cross the footbridge, climb back out and carry on straight ahead along the field edges. The path brings you out on the main road next to Kilburn House, where you turn left to return to the lay-by and complete your Castle Howard circular walk.

MAP OF THE WALK



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