

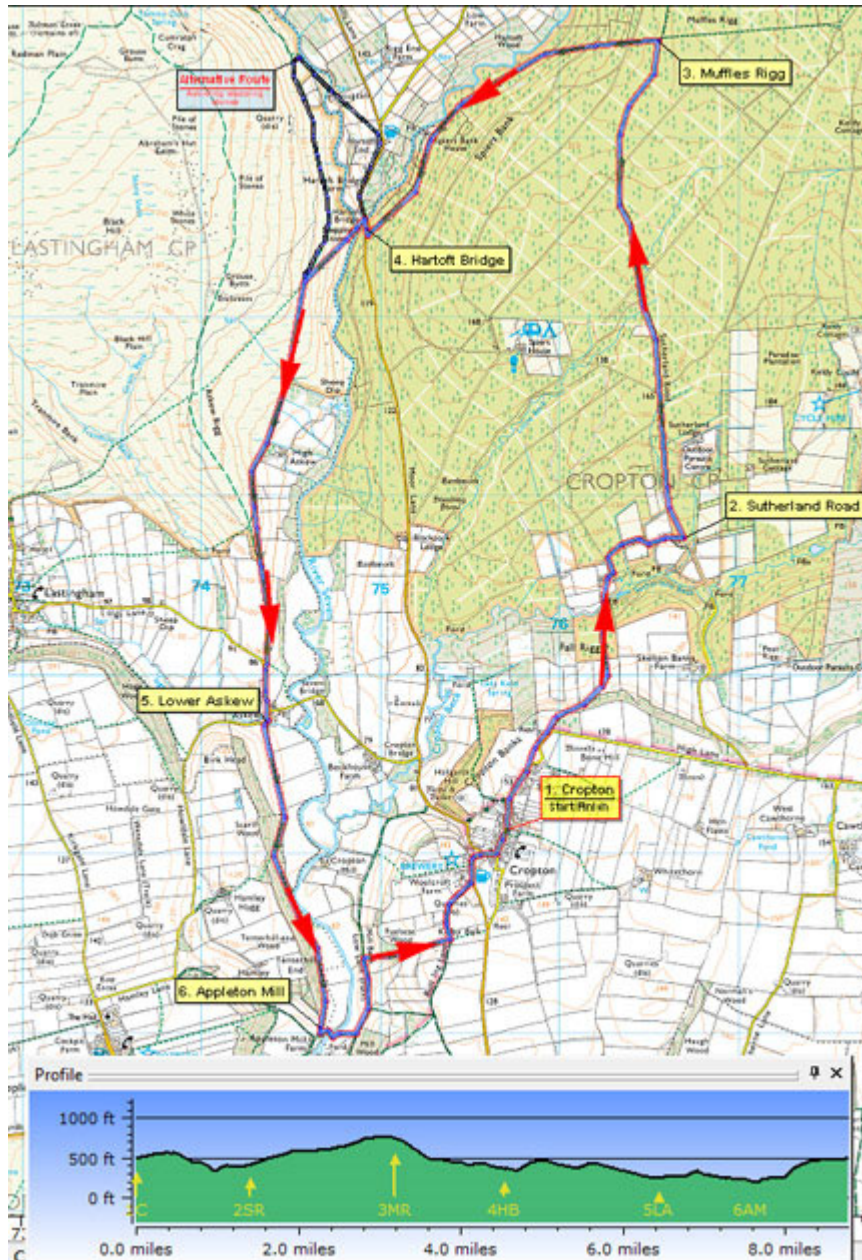
NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS

Cropton Forest & the River Seven

Heading first north into Cropton forest and round via Spiers Bank to meet the River Seven at Hartoft in Lower Rosedale. The river is followed past Lower Askew and the walk ends with climb back up to Cropton village

Fact File

Distance	14.4km/9 miles (using the steppingstones at Hartoft Bridge)
Time	4 " hours
Grade	*** (moderate)
Map	OS Explorer OL 27 (North York Moors East)
Start/Parking	Cropton (Main Street)
Terrain	Field & forest paths, tracks & minor roads
Nearest Town	Pickering
Refreshments	Blacksmiths Arms at Hartoft Bridge, The New Inn at Cropton
Toilets	none
Public Transport	Moorsbus (Pickering – Rosedale) operates via Cropton (Summer Suns & Bank Holidays)
Suitable for	keen walkers
Stiles	4



Route created using [TrackLogs Digital Mapping](#)

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1. (Start) Walk due north up the broad main street out of Cropton noting the interesting houses and cottages that border this road. The road narrows and does a loop near Sycamore Farm, which you on foot can cut out by using a narrow path on the left. Further

on where the road bears right go straight ahead through a gate onto a footpath. Soon you begin a descent of the wooded slope of Cropton Bank. The downhill trend continues across open land and then more forest to a footbridge over Sutherland Beck. Across the bridge walk straight up the field to a gate between barns. Go through and bear right past stables and a bungalow to follow the driveway round to the left. Keep to driveway past more buildings and paddocks to arrive at junction with Sutherland Road.

2. (2.4km/1½miles) Now head north along this forest road for 2km. There is a mix of wooded and cleared areas so the surroundings are not as monotonous as you might expect. Also, there are dips and turns in the road, suggesting that this forest track does follow the line of ancient road. Eventually you reach a junction with another forest road, which comes straight up from Spiers house continuing up to Muffles Rigg. Our route now continues straight ahead as a narrow bridleway through the trees (blue waymark). In places this path can be wet and boggy as it picks its way through the forest. Here the fir trees are tall and well-spaced so there is a light and airy feel, not dark and claustrophobic, as in many conifer forests. After about 0.5km you emerge onto another forest road at a bend. On your right a yellow waymark indicates a path along Muffles Rigg – our route is in the opposite direction, on your left.

3. (5.1km/3½miles) Here a narrow path descends quite steeply down through the trees. Take care there are some awkward rocky sections to negotiate which are likely to be wet and slippery. Safely you spill out onto a forest track. The path continues its downward trend of Spiers Bank directly opposite to bring you to another track. Here go slightly left to pick up the continuation of the path (waymarked here) down to yet another forest road – looking very much like the previous ones! However, this time you turn left and follow this track for 1.5km, past Spiers Bank House with its flags flying, to the Rosedale Road near Hartoft Bridge.

4. (7.5km/4½miles) Turn right to cross the bridge, then cross the road to a footpath opposite alongside Hartoft Beck. Follow the path over stiles to the confluence of the beck with the River Seven. Here steppingstones lead across the river. If the river is low it should be possible to cross here, although one stone has been shifted out of place and could be awkward. (If it is not possible to cross the stepping stones you must return to the road and walk up past the Blacksmith's Arms and take a footpath on the left down to a footbridge across the river). Where the path from the steppingstones joins the main track you pass the site of a medieval glass works (marked by a plaque). Beyond High Askew Farm, over to your left, the condition of the track improves, becoming a metalled lane to its junction with the Lasingham Road. Walk on along the road into Lower Askew continuing straight on to a gate & stile at the road corner.

5. (11.0km/6½miles) Walk up the side of the field and enter Scarth Wood. Here you'll find a succession of wild flowers in spring from daffodils in March, wild garlic, primroses, and bluebells in May.

Keep to the lower narrow path, which follows the edge of a steep wooded bank falling away to the river below. The path merges with a broad track and a gate you exit the woods. Follow the edge of a large field round below the wooded hillside towards Appleton Mill Farm.

6. (12.5km/7½miles) Do not leave the field, but double left back round the edge of the field to a sturdy wooden bridge over the river. Walk away from the bridge up a muddy track to a T-junction (SP) and go left. In a short distance go right (no signpost) to follow a tractor track up a shallow gully. This climbs out of the valley and for the last part of the climb becomes surfaced with stone chippings. At the top, this track joins Bull Ing Lane and here turn left. This enclosed green lane brings you into Cropton near to the New Inn. The High Street is a short distance along from the pub round to the right. (14.4km/9miles)

Along the Way

Cropton is a typical moorland village with robust but attractive cottages bordering a wide main street.

On the edge of the village is the New Inn which serves excellent food and a large range of beers from its own brewery

Arnold Underwood (March 2008, Revised Oct 2017)