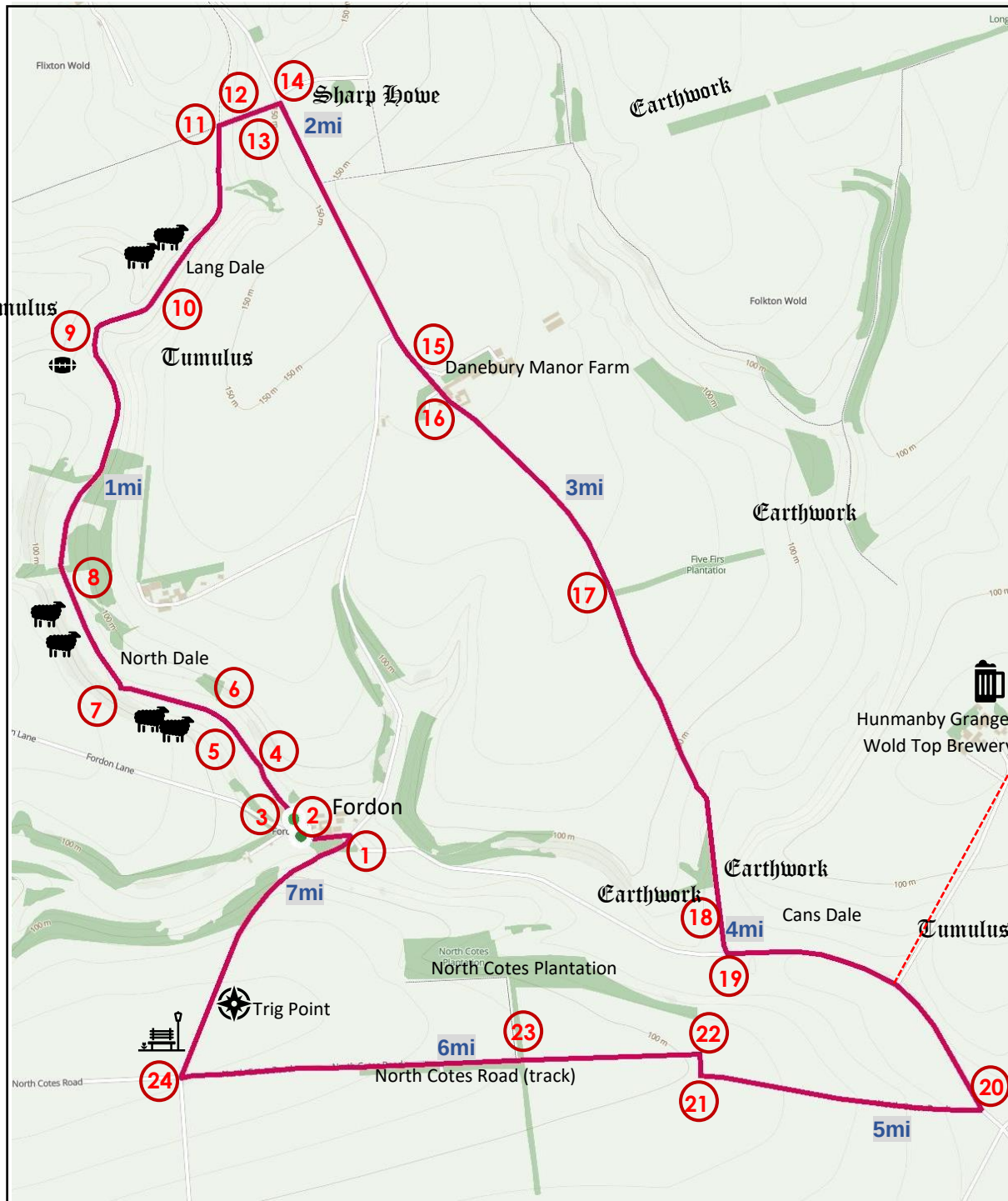




Route Information

Fordon Round

Total Distance	7.27 mi (11.69 km)
Elevation	178 ft at lowest point
	507 ft at highest point
Total Ascent	519 ft

Elevation Profile





1. Park opposite the lovely, but tiny, St James' Church just as you enter the village on the layby off the road. Walk down the hill and turn left into the village to start your walk by the phone box.

2. At the phone box walk through the gate at the signposted public footpath and go straight through the farm yard to the gate which is marked with a big 'footpath' sign. Go through the swing gate and head along the grassy path between trees to the next gate.

3. Go through the next wooden swing gate and you will be amazed how quickly you are out into the fabulous countryside here as you are straight into the beautiful North Dale with easy walking all along

the bottom of it.



4. Walk along the bottom of the Dale enjoying the views and the peace and quiet to the next swing metal gate.

5. Go through the metal gate and continue along the Dale with a wire fence to your left. In all of this stretch please be mindful that there could be sheep at any point along here so keep control of your dog and if you can't see all the way ahead around a bend put them on a lead just in case.



6. You will come to another metal kissing gate (which is quite wide so maybe OK for mobility buggies), go through this and North Dale bends off to the right - which you continue following and enjoying the views.

7. There were sheep on the latter part of this stretch, so dogs should be on a lead as you approach the next wooden kissing gate and then follow the path through, again with the wire fence on your left.

8. When we were here in late April the gorse to the right of you on this stretch was beautiful, and Bill had fun exploring uphill as we travelled along this glorious stretch.

9. At the next corner - where there is weirdly a set of rugby posts, the path swings right and you pass the trackway to North Fordon Farm. Head past this and through a gap in the fence, entering Lang Dale. You will see that all along this Dale here are some jumps and other obstacles which must be part of a cross country course.

10. Avoid the urge to have a go on the obstacles - you don't want to be twisting an ankle out here!!, and carry on along the dale bottom (again there were sheep part way along here, so Bill went back on his lead)



11. At the end of this stretch you will come to a fence and a four-way Wolds Way / Centenary Way (and public footpath) sign post. On another day we would like to explore the way to your left, but for today head right following the Wolds Way / Centenary Way and uphill, with the wire fence on your left.

12. The path is quite steep so Bill & I took lots of breathers on the way up (who am I kidding - I took the breathers - Bill ran up and down several times!!)

13. Part way up you will go through a green swing kissing gate (again quite wide and new).

14. Continue uphill along the field edge, pausing now and then to enjoy the views backwards.

At the top you will come to another green metal kissing gate and the road at Sharp Howe (ahead).

Sharp (or Sharpe) Howe is the best-preserved barrow of a small cemetery of eight and survives in reasonably good condition - although a bit overgrown - to a height of around 2 metres and a diameter of 20 metres. It was built on a chalk platform with chalk rubble used to cover a single female burial accompanied by a food vessel. This was found when the barrow was excavated in the 1880's by Canon Greenwell, who also said at this time that Sharp Howe had a 'conical form', the top 6 feet having been removed 'many years ago, but within living memory'.



15. Turn right on the quiet road and follow it for around 1/2 mile until you reach to sign for Danebury Manor Farm, where you head straight ahead towards the farm and off the road (the road bends right). On the road you will pass where the Wolds Way branches off to your left - which is again a route that looks great and we will come back to this at some point in the future hopefully)

16. Walk along the farm / campsite road, branching right on the roadway towards the open fields at the back of Danebury Manor Farm. Take the twin track out into the open countryside to enjoy the big open skies of Yorkshire.

17. Keep following this green lane and as the farm track swings to the left at some trees, take the path through the hedge ahead and continue following the path with a wire fence on your left and clumps of trees and hedge on your right

18. Enjoy the lovely views over The Sheepwalks on this stretch as you head steadily downhill to reach Cans Dale (again more lovely views and two earthworks either side of the path) and the quiet road at the end.

19. Turn left on the road and follow it for just under a mile. You will pass the entrance to Wold Top Brewery at Hunmanby Grange, and we would have been tempted if it wasn't closed on the day we were there - that's a good reason to return though (although it would add a couple of miles to the route to get there and back!)



20. Watch out for the turning off the road on your right a few 100 yards before the T junction on the road (you will see the giveway signs ahead). This is a green path called North Cotes Road(track) that goes initially steadily uphill with the road you have just walked down on your right.

21. At the top of this stretch the track turns right at 90 degrees underneath a line of twin telegraph poles

22. Follow the track along for a short distance and then it turns sharp left just before North Cotes Plantation. This a straight track that heads along the edge of fields with a hedge on your left.

23. You will walk through a slim stretch of the Plantation to carry on straight ahead on the path which eventually comes down to the road back into Fordon.

24. Turn right at the road (there is a bench here where you can take a breather if you want) and follow the road back down into Fordon, passing an old OS trig point. As you enter Fordon you will come to St James' Church, which is said to be the smallest active church in Yorkshire, and where you started from!



St James' Church dates from Norman times when it was granted to Bardney Abbey by Walter de Gant in 1115. It is unfortunately closed to visitors but apparently boasts a decorated font in a simple Norman chalice design set upon a later base with carved foliage decoration. It also contains an 18th century carved organ near the pulpit. The most interesting fact that I found about the church, though, was that smugglers used to hide out here!