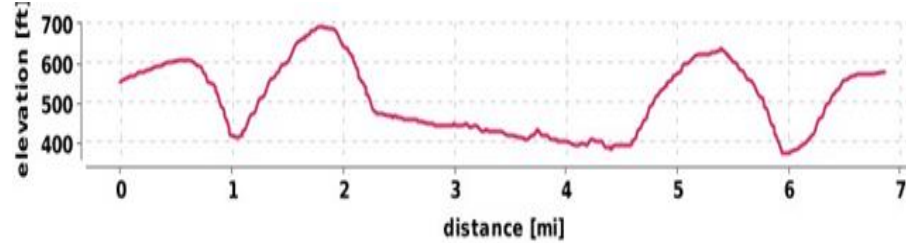


Route Information

Fridaythorpe to Thixendale

Total Distance **6.87 mi (11.06 km)**
Elevation **375 ft at lowest point**
691 ft at highest point
Total Ascent **810 ft**

Elevation Profile



Start From: YO25 9FD ///stores.mouth.tadpole



1. Park near the village pond in Fridaythorpe along Back Street and on the kerb not the green, being careful not to block access and then head up Thixendale Road straight ahead (with the beacon on your left). This is a quiet road but you will need to keep dogs on a lead for now.
2. Just before the agricultural buildings turn left at the signpost for the Yorkshire Wolds Way and Thixendale. Follow this footpath (where Bill had a nice initial roll) and it soon opens up with lovely views of Brubber Dale.

3. The path swings right to walk along the top of Brubber Dale for a while. Bill found an abandoned ball here and so wanted to play for this stretch until we 'lost' it! Then head down into the valley staying on the obvious path and follow it to the gate, where there is one of the Wolds Way acorn way-markers.

4. Go through the gate, but note when we were there, there were sheep the other side so Bill went back on his lead for this stretch. The path swings left and heads along the valley bottom to the end of Brubber Dale, with Cowdale Leys on your right.

5. Go through the gate, where there is another Yorkshire Wolds Way signpost and head straight ahead along the stony path heading for Gill's Farm.

6. At a point along this path it turns left at a hedge line and then right again quite soon (just keep following the path and the signposts).

7. Watch for coming off the stony path at the trees where the footpath sign points straight ahead along the grassy path (with the trees on your left) towards a house you can see in the distance (the stony path to Gill's Farm swings round to the left). This path runs to a quiet road so you may want to put dogs on leads to cross it (plus there is no gate at the end).

8. Cross straight over the quiet road onto the footpath the other side and follow the path out onto a wide-open stretch (very breezy when we were there) with farmland and big open views on either side.

9. The path comes to the edge of Thixen Dale and a lovely carved wooden sign for dew ponds.

Dew ponds in the Yorkshire Wolds are artificial ponds filled with rainwater that were created in the 18th and 19th centuries to provide water for livestock living in the dry landscape of the High Wolds. They are being recreated today so that, whilst few are used by livestock, they are a haven for wildlife and an important historic feature of the landscape.

10. Go through the gate here and you will see one such dew pond on your right, where you can take some time to explore the signage and see if you can spot any wildlife here, such as waterbeetles, smooth newts (in the spring and summer), frogs, dragonflies and field voles.



11. The next stretch is glorious, heading down into Thixen Dale (there is also a bench part way down where you can take a refreshment break). Ahead is the junction of three dales - Thixen Dale (heading back), Bradeham Dale (heading left) and the excellently named Worm Dale heading right. Also, at this junction is the art installation - Waves and Time (previously called Time and Flow).

The piece was created by artist Chris Drury, as part of the WANDER project, which also includes the poetry benches in Huggate and South Cave that we have seen on other rambles. This artwork reflects the ancient earthworks of Thixendale and mirrors the curve of the valley when it was formed by the meeting of two glaciers creating a vortex before flowing on down. The artist has drawn these lines of ancient flow in grassed mounds and so the artwork is a subtle one and best seen from above.

12. After enjoying Waves and Time take the Yorkshire Wolds Way footpath back down Thixen Dale along the valley bottom, which is a great stretch for a crazy run around (if you are Bill). Part way down this stretch you will come across a bird hide, which we though may have been used by artist Robert Fuller to get a birds-eye view of owls in the next tree.

13. The Wolds Way path eventually emerges out into fields either side which heads down to a quiet road at the end. Turn right at the road. If, however, you fancied a quick detour turn left and you will come to the Robert Fuller gallery in 1/4 mile. Here, as well as enjoying his fabulous paintings you could use the facilities and have a cup of coffee.

14. Heading right you will come to Thixendale in 1/2 mile taking the road left into the village. Just a note that heading along the road we noticed some round brown markers on gates which we now know to mean that this land is open access. (if you see these markers with a line through then it's no access)

In England and Wales, we have a network of footpaths which everyone has the right to walk on. We also have the right, in certain places, to walk off these paths, across privately owned land. This is known as open access. Open access gives you the chance to walk freely, explore wild, open landscapes and find your own way. Open access land is marked on OS maps as a yellow wash, and coastal margin is marked as a magenta wash.

15. Once in Thixendale you could walk straight on and have a wander about, as it is a lovely village with some very interesting interpretation boards about the history of the village next to the Village Hall.

The Hall is open most Sundays from 11am to 4pm for light refreshments. Volunteers from the village serve tea/coffee/juices and a variety of scones and home-baked cakes. You could also visit the Cross Keys Inn for a drink and a bite to eat at weekends from 12 to late (from 6pm Mon & Thurs / from 4pm Fri) (dogs are allowed in the beer garden)

16. Once you are refreshed and had a wander, head back to the start of the village and the Cross Keys pub. This is a dead-end road that is signposted 'No turning area ahead and is signposted the Centenary Way.

17. Head up this dead-end past the pub on your right and to where the footpath crosses over into a field. Walk to the left of the gate as indicated and keep dogs on a lead. Walk straight ahead but as you come to the end veer off right towards the gate to the road (as otherwise there is an impassable stile).

18. At the road turn left and follow it along (with another open access area on your right - although this looks incredibly steep!) until you come to the way-marked stony path that goes through a 5-bar gate.

19. The path goes up and swings left affording nice views back over the surrounding hills. At the top and at the fence line the now grassy path heads right and skirts around Paradise Cottages. This emerges on a semi-Tarmac roadway that heads off straight ahead.

20. Eventually this roadway comes to Gritts Farm and a quiet road that heads back to Thixendale if you turn right and Fridaythorpe if you turn left. This is where we came a bit of a cropper as I mistakenly turned right instead of left and added a rather steep descent and then re ascent and about 1.5 miles to our route - so TURN LEFT!!

21. But now you can just follow the road all the way back to Fridaythorpe (noting the interesting World War II memorial at the side of the road).

The stone commemorates those lost in the crash of 466 (RAAF) Sqn Halifax NR179 HD-C close to this location, on the night of the 3rd March 1945. The aircraft had departed from Driffield for Kamen, Germany, but on return and awaiting permission to land Luftwaffe aircraft were sighted. The bomber was ordered to leave the area as the runway lights had been turned off. As the aircraft climbed away to search for an alternative destination, it was almost immediately shot down and crashed near to Fridaythorpe. Four of the crew were killed, and three were injured.

In Fridaythorpe you can explore further, including the bus shelter at the pond which is another WANDER art installation, or the fascinating St Mary's Church, or head off to Seaways cafe for a well-earned cup of tea and cheese toastie.

