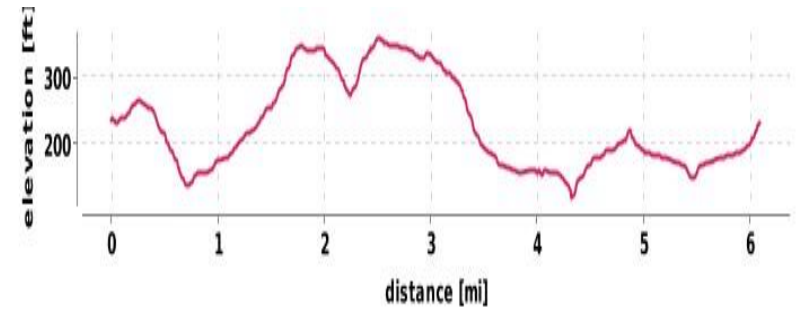


Route Information

Westow Grange

Total Distance **6.1 mi (9.81 km)**
 Elevation **119 ft at lowest point**
357 ft at highest point
 Total Ascent **503 ft**

Elevation Profile



WESTOWGRANGE(MEMBERS)

Starting From: YO60 7NE ///hurry.slowness.once

You can shorten this walk by just over 1 mile by not visiting Westow church at the end but I thought it was a nice detour, but it's easy to exclude it.

1. Park on Main Street in Westow, being sure to not block any access. Continue down Main Street out of the village to where the road bends around to the left and take the green track (High Lane) on the right next to the dog waste bin.

2. Head up the green track, which is really easy to follow as you can't really walk off it. There are some good views over the surrounding countryside at times, in particular if you look back and I did think that we should have done it in the opposite direction!



3. Just before the end, the path is joined by a farm track coming in from the left at Westow Low Grange. On the map of 1805-1845 this farm is called Jenny Miller Grange.

4. The track comes to a road at the end, which isn't too busy. Turn right and cross over almost immediately to the layby on the other side.

5. Here you will find another track heading left. There is a sign in the hedge but not much of it remains so who knows what it said! Head down this track with the hedge on your left. (we immediately passed a very smelly manure heap on our right!).



6. The path here in February was somewhat water-logged and we had to do some tricky manoeuvres to get through rather large puddles by hanging onto trees and branches whilst Bill looked on bemused and/ or stopped for a paddle. The end section is Hanging Hill Lane as you steadily climb up Hanging Hill.

7. Keep on along the lane until you come to another road and turn left towards Leavening.

8. On the way into Leavening you pass the charmingly-named Madeira House.

On the 1801-45 map this is called Madeira Cottage, so maybe at that point it was smaller, today it is a rather impressive grade 2 listed house that is said to have been built in the early 1800's, so who knows?

9. Just after the Leavening village sign take the public footpath on the left through the kissing gate. The path afterwards heads up with a hedge on your left and a metal fence to a field on your right which contained horses. As dogs can get through the fence keep them on a lead here.

(You may want to detour to the Jolly Farmers pub in Leavening which is dog friendly and serves lovely food).

10. Carry on up the path to the next kissing gate and afterwards continue on the path ahead, still keeping the hedge on the left and now an electric fence on your right.

11. At the next kissing gate, a sign says to keep dogs on leads and you go into (in February) a turnip field.



12. Walk along the side of the turnip field and onto the next one. At the end of this stretch you will come to a small wooded area (Guild Wood) which is managed by the Woodland Trust. Here, though, there is a stile and the gate has been padlocked! Luckily dogs (unless they are huge) can scramble under the stile, but you will have to go over it.

13. On the other side walk along the left-hand edge of the wood until you get to the end, where you get to High Penhowe Farm House. Do not go through the gate marked 'no entry' ahead, instead swing left and the path takes you to another stile.



14. Luckily, again, Bill was able to squeeze under this stile as well, but you will have to go over on the two steps (which can be quite slippery - so be careful).

15. Immediately after this stile turn left and head down the stony pathway with the farm buildings on your right.

16. At the end of the path is a public footpath sign post pointing you right. This takes you along the edge of a cow field that at are fenced in by an electric fence. Just to be safe I kept Bill on a lead all the way along here.

17. The path turns right at the metal gates / holding pen to the cow field, and you'll spot another public footpath sign around the corner.



18. With the farm buildings on your right, walk down the path heading for where it turns into the wider farm track. Just before this, you will see a public footpath sign on your right pointing back the way you have just come. This sign has a finger missing that should be pointing left at this point, so turn left to walk down the edge of the field with the hedge on your right.

19. The path swings left and then right to the corner of the field where there are some scrubby trees and a public footpath sign pointing back the way you have just come. You will also find a swing gate with a yellow way-marker pointing straight ahead, which you go through.



20. On the other side of the gate just head down the driveway for Primrose Hill, all the way down to Penhowe Lane.

21. At Penhowe Lane turn left. This is a really quiet road but you still might want to keep dogs on leads, especially at the end of this stretch you come to the busier road at Four Lane Ends.

22. Cross straight over the road towards Westow (1 mile) on Low Lane. This stretch is again quite quiet although a few cars did pass us and you have to be careful to squeeze off the road as there are virtually no grass verges and only the occasional passing place.

You will, on this stretch, pass straight by a long barrow on your right with a tumulus on your left. This is where the road has steep banks either side.

Long barrows were built as earthen or drystone mounds and acted as funerary monuments during the Early and Middle Neolithic periods (3400-2400 BC). They represent the burial places of Britain's early farming communities and, as such, are amongst the oldest field monuments surviving visibly in the present landscape. Where investigated, long barrows appear to have been used for many different people, often with only parts of the human remains having been selected for burial.

This barrow was partially excavated by Canon Greenwell in the 1860s, but it still stands at a height of 1.5m, is 30m long and 25m wide. Greenwell recorded that the original mound contained a single grave chamber containing at least five burials; a later addition to the mound contained four more burials.

23. You eventually come back into Westow, but you can take the 1 mile (ish) there-and-back detour to look at the church by turning right at the sign that says 'Church Only'. Either after this or not, keep heading straight on and you will find yourself back where you started.

You could then visit the Blacksmith's Arms in Westow which is lovely, and dogs are allowed in the outside areas - perfect on a sunny day! (which ours wasn't!!).

