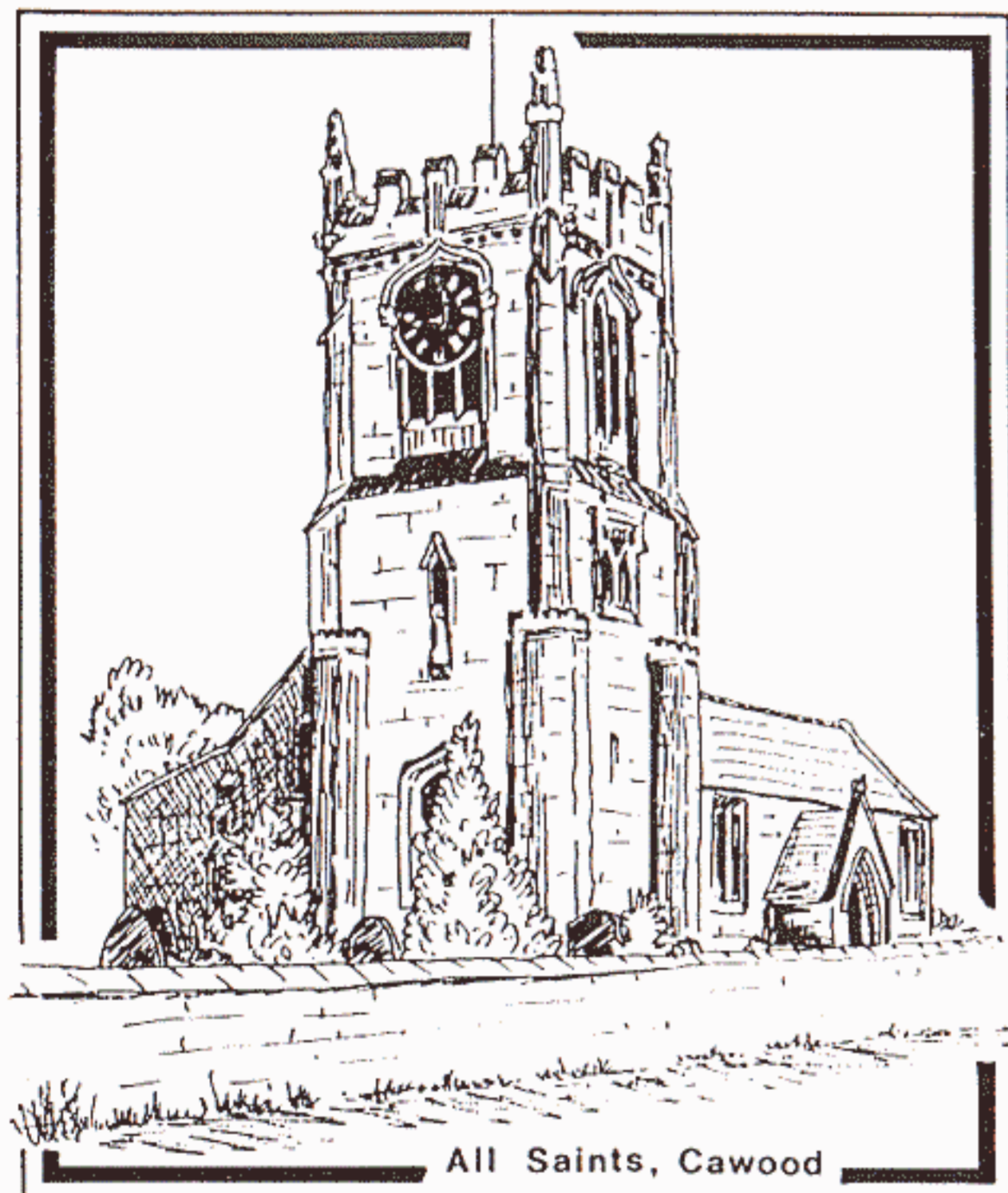


# WOLSEY WALK

## CAWOOD



Situated on the southern bank of the River Ouse a little over five miles from Selby, Cawood is an attractive village with many historic associations.

This circular walk starts from Cawood and has proved to be very popular over the years. Covering approximately five miles in length, it is not strenuous and therefore is ideal for family groups. Several notable landmarks in the area are encompassed on the route and these are mentioned in the enclosed route details.



**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
Serving England's Largest County

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Start Point:** Old Road, adjacent to the River Ouse near Cawood Swing Bridge.

**Distance** Approx. 5 miles (8km.)

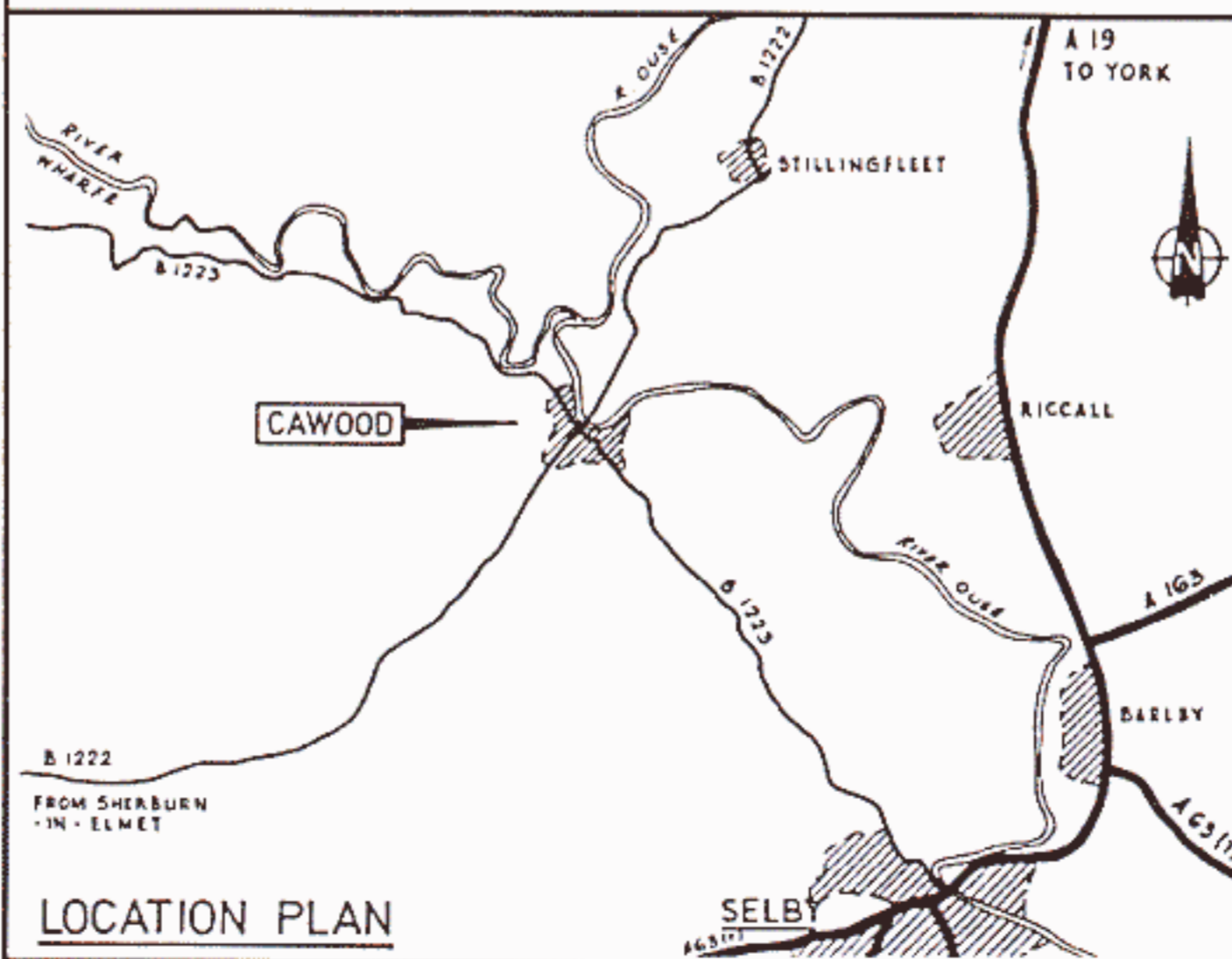
**Approx. Time:** 2 -2½ hours.

**Parking:** Some spaces generally available close to start point at Old Road.

**Terrain:** Minor roads, tracks through arable land and a good stretch of riverside paths. Some parts may be muddy at times, so sensible shoes or boots are advised.

**Public Transport:** Bus service between York and Selby, Monday to Saturday. For details of service times etc. contact Jaronda Travel on Selby (01757) 268229.

**Maps:** The map enclosed should be adequate but, as a useful accompaniment and for more information see map no. 105 in O.S. Landranger Series (1:50,000) or Explorer 290 "Selby & Tadcaster" (1:25,000)



**START:** Walk along Old Road, away from the bridge, noting the remains of a limestone wall on the right which was possibly part of the Cawood Castle perimeter wall. *With a little imagination it would be possible to call this "Humpty Dumpty" wall as it was at Cawood Castle that Cardinal Wolsey "had a great fall" as recorded in the nursery rhyme describing his downfall. He was arrested for high treason in 1530, leaving the castle on November 6th of that year to travel down to London for his trial. However, he died just three weeks later at Leicester Abbey.*

Follow the road round to the right, away from the river, to the junction with Thorpe Lane. Turn right towards the traffic lights. The 15th century gatehouse of the former Cawood Castle is prominent on the left.



*The gatehouse is virtually all that remains of a magnificent building to which Kings and church dignitaries came for centuries until it was demolished in 1646. Some of the stone was then taken up-river to Bishophorpe Palace, where it was used to extend the official residence of the Archbishops of York.*

At the traffic lights turn right along High Street and, before reaching the river bridge, turn left along King Street. Pass the 16th century Ferry Inn on the right.

*As the name of the pub suggests, this is where a ferry used to operate, doing brisk business as it served an important ancient route between East and West Yorkshire. It is claimed that Dick Turpin, riding Black Bess, crossed the river here on his legendary journey from London to York. In 1872 the river swing bridge was opened to carry traffic more easily over the Ouse.*



The Ferry Inn, Cawood.

Following severe flooding during the winters of 1947, 1968, 1978 and 1980 a flood barrier wall was built (completed in 1984) to protect Cawood village. The River Ouse is Yorkshire's major river, flowing nearly 60 miles through the vale of York before it joins the Trent near Goole to become the Humber Estuary, draining into the North Sea past Spurn Point. Even as far inland as Cawood, the river is tidal and a flood tide can reach a height of 10ft and run at about 6 knots. The Ouse has been a viable navigation route for centuries, playing a vital role in the development of Yorkshire. More sea-borne tonnage is still carried further inland in sea-going vessels on this waterway (to Selby a few miles downstream) than anywhere else in the country.

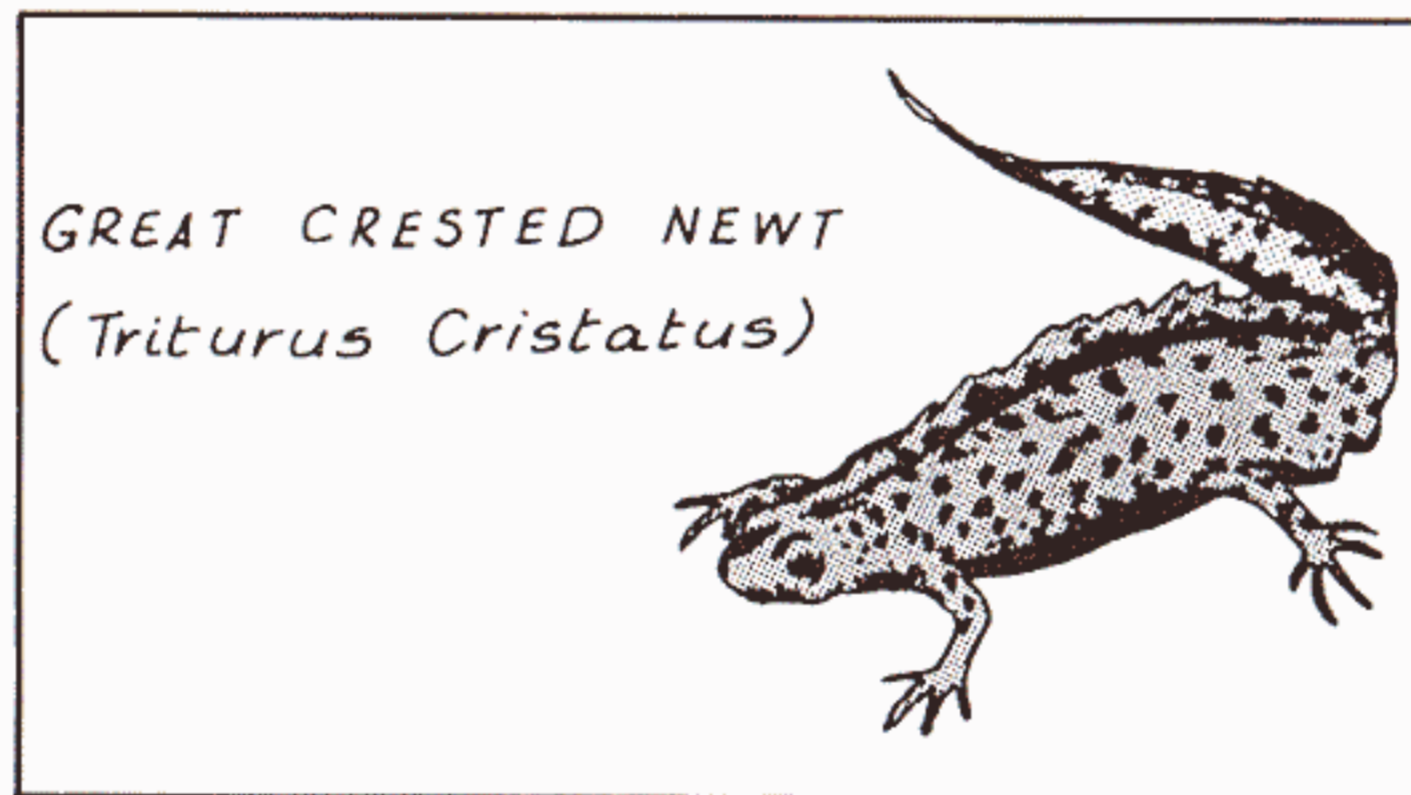
Continue along King Street and take the path between a row of houses and the flood wall until on the right is a brick pumping station. Just past this, go down the steps to the right over the flood bank and on to the riverside.

Turn left (upstream), following the riverbank path. There are two stiles and four footbridges to be crossed before the path reaches the confluence of the two rivers, the Ouse and the Wharfe at Wharfe Mouth. (The River Wharfe rises high in the Pennines on Cam Fell in Langstrothdale and has travelled 110 km. (69 miles) through the beauty of Wharfedale before it finally reaches this point.)

Retrace the latter section of the path back to the first hedgerow by a large tree stump and turn right towards the banks of the Wharfe. On reaching the bank turn to the left and follow the track for about ½ mile to the B1223, Cawood

- Ryther road. Turn left towards Cawood and after approximately ¼ mile turn to the right on a track opposite the Northingales Fish Pond sign. Passing a cemetery on the left, continue on the track as it turns right and then left before reaching a "T" junction with Fostergate Lane. Go to the left along this lane then turn off to the right at the first hedgerow onto a car track. Shortly, turn left to a path which runs between a hedge and a wire fence - this heads towards the western edge of Cawood and emerges onto the Sherburn Road by the Bay Horse Inn. Turn left.

Opposite Moat Cottage, cross a small bridge over Bishop Dyke onto a footpath which skirts the western boundary of the twelve acre Castle Garth on the left. From this path the remains of the banqueting hall and the gatehouse of Cawood Castle may be seen through the trees. *The castle was owned by Archbishop Kemp from 1426 to 1451 and the banqueting hall was built for him, used as living quarters for the castle. Most of the heraldry over the gatehouse belonged to the Archbishop.*

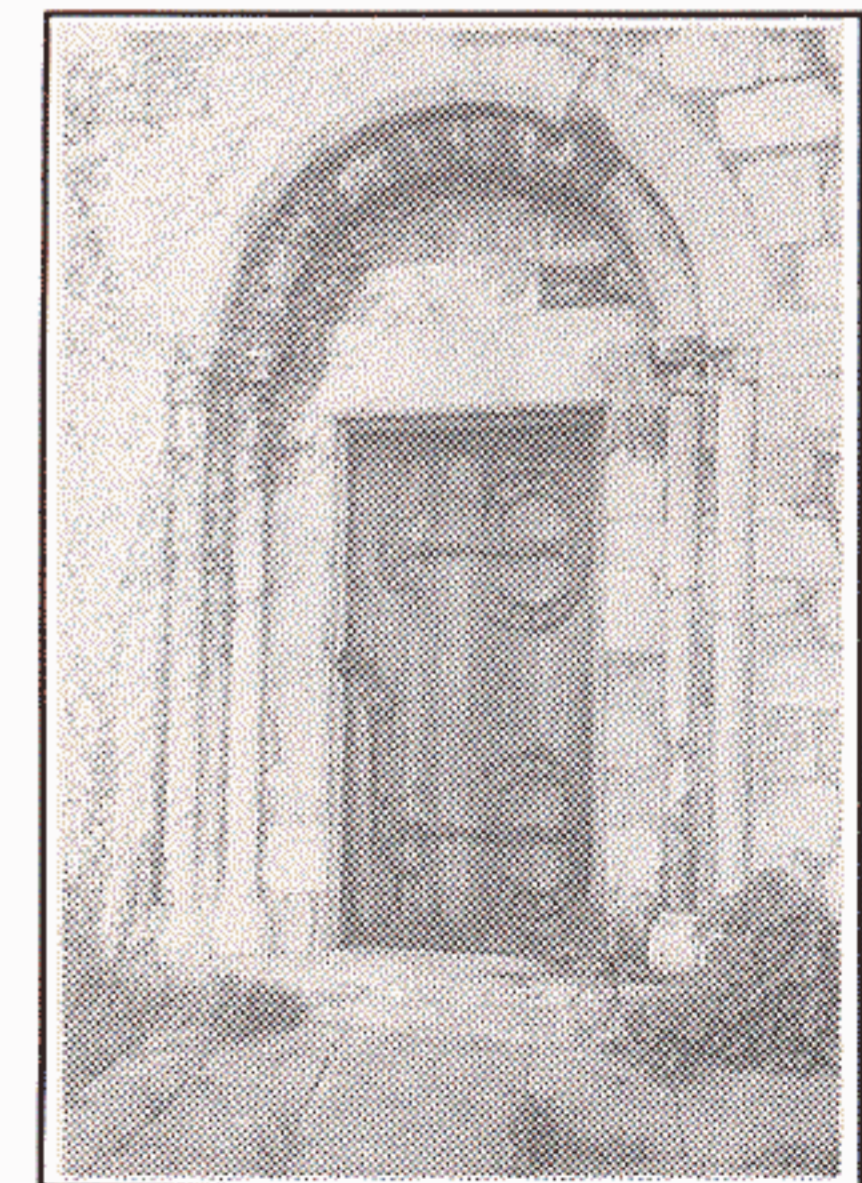


The Castle Garth area is inhabited by the Great Crested Newt, the largest of European newts which, being quite rare, is a protected species. It has a distinctive warty skin, making it very distasteful to predators.

It is suggested that "Bishopdyke" was used by the Romans, to convey materials from the Sherburn in Elmet area to the River Ouse at Cawood. Certainly some 600 years ago limestone was carried on rafts from the Huddlestone quarry near Sherburn to Cawood before being transferred to bigger vessels. The stone was used in the construction of castles, churches and manor houses, including the minsters at Beverley and Southwell. The dike also served as a moat for Cawood Castle and serviced two mills, one in Cawood Market Place and the other at the end of the dike.

Continue along the tarmac path, passing a school on the right, and through a kissing gate onto a road. Cross this, bearing left to a stile on the other side. Over the stile, take the footpath which leads along the hedgeside to the playing fields which are administered by the Parish Council following a part donation and part purchase. Keep to the left of the playing fields, at the far end of which the route turns left into a snicket leading to a small housing estate. Follow this out into Wistowgate (the Cawood - Wistow road) and look for the footpath across the road between house no's 15 and 17. Proceed along a raised wall, part of the flood bank.

At the end of the wall turn right and then immediately left along a raised embankment. On reaching a junction, turn right along a cart track (Oxfield Lane) with a ditch on the left. Where the lane finishes bear half left across a field and then cross the next one, heading towards a pylon in the middle of the field. At the field boundary turn left down a track into the area known as "the beavers", with a hedge to the left and ditch to the right. Carry on along this track to meet up with Marsh Lane, where our route is to the left for about ½ mile, passing beneath an electric power line. Just before the lane curves round to the west towards Cawood, turn right into Ings Lane. Proceed along this lane, passing under the powerline, and immediately after a right-hand bend, take a track off to the left. This leads to the river floodbank. On the right is a water-filled borrow pit (a result of soil excavation for the flood protection scheme) which attracts various species of water fowl.



A Norman Doorway: All Saints, Cawood.

From the floodbank, Kelfield can be seen downstream across the river. Turn left to follow the riverside path back into Cawood, crossing several stiles and veering away from the river near the church to cross over the flood wall via steps at the west end of the church yard.

Occupying a prominent position on the bank of the river Ouse, the Parish Church of All Saints is mainly late Norman although its perpendicular tower dates from the 15th century and there are Saxon gravestones built into the walls. Inside, interesting features include a medieval font, a Jacobean pulpit and an ancient stone used for holding candles. Under an alabaster canopy is a bust of George Mountain, a local farmer's son who rose to become first the Dean of Westminster, later the Bishop of Lincoln and then Bishop of London. In 1623 he became Archbishop of York, but tragically he died during the night which followed his enthronement day.

The steps by the church bring you out onto Church End. Turn right along the pavement, skirting the flood wall, and shortly leave the road. Pinfold Cottage is on the right. In days gone by there used to be a "pinfold" on the other side of the road at this point, and it was here that any stray farm animals were impounded until their owners paid a fee to recover them.



Water Row.

Continue along what now becomes Water Row, where there are some very attractive water-front houses, including some which date from the late 18th/early 19th century. Finally the path emerges into Old Road and our walk is completed.

Cawood is sometimes known as the "Windsor of the North" because of its association with royalty and archbishops in past centuries. The Romans had a riverside camp here, the Saxons and Vikings visited and in the Middle Ages it was famed for banquets and tournaments at the former castle. It is believed that King Athelstan built a castle at Cawood which formed the site for future structures. From the year 930, the residence of the Archbishops of York was here and in 1210 King John used what was probably a fortified manor house as a hunting lodge. In 1255 King Henry III stayed at Cawood Castle and it was the court of King Edward I and Queen Marguerite between 1299 and 1304. Throughout its life the structure of the castle was greatly altered and improved particularly by Archbishop Giffard about 1271 and by Archbishop Greenfield about 1306, with further changes in the 15th and 16th centuries. During the Civil War the castle was an important outpost of the King's Forces, being not too distant from York.

As mentioned previously, the castle was renowned for the banquets which were held there and an example of these was the "Great Feast to Celebrate the Enthronement of George Neville as the Archbishop of York" on the 15th January 1566. It was one of the largest banquets ever to be recorded in England, employing some 2,000 cooks. The menu read like this: "500 partridges; 400 mallards and teales; 2,000 geese; 400 woodcocks; 400 plovers; 2,000 chickens; 104 peacocks; 100 dozen quayles; 200 feasantes; 4,000 conies; 608 pykes and breams; 104 oxen; 304 neals; 1,000 muttons; 12 porpoises and seals; 6 wylde bulls; 500 stags, bucks and roes; 4,000 pasties of cold venison; 304 yorkes; 1,000 capons; 300 q'rters of wheat." All this was washed down with the help of 300 tuns of ale (about 65,000 gallons) and 100 tuns of wine! To follow, there were thousands of jellies, baked tarts and custards.



## WHEREVER YOU GO, FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE



- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.
- Guard against all risks of fire.
- Fasten all gates.
- Keep dogs under close control.
- Keep to public paths across farmland.
- Use gates/stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls.
- Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone.
- Take litter home!
- Help to keep all water clean.
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees.
- Take special care on country roads.
- Make no unnecessary noise.

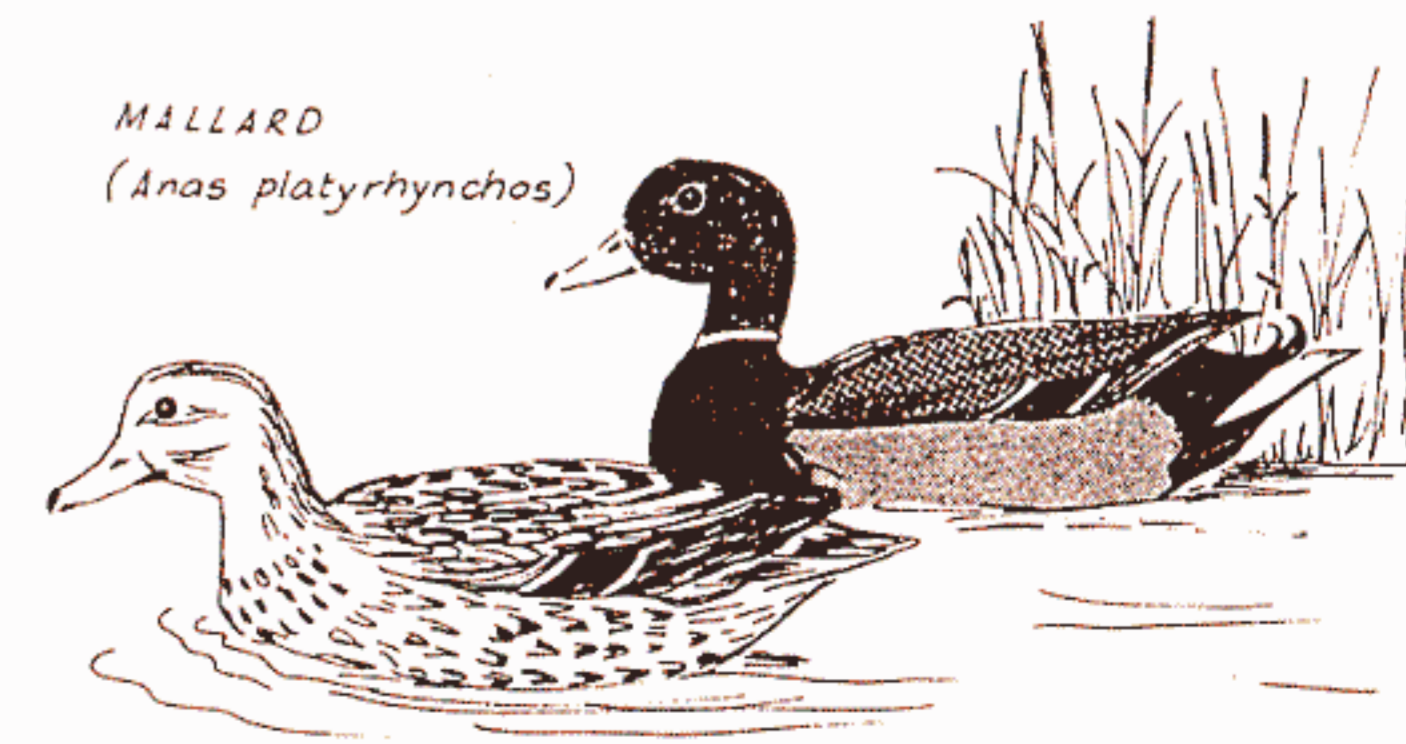


This is one of a series of leaflets produced by North Yorkshire County Council describing recreational walks in the county, making use of the many public rights of way in areas situated outside the two National Parks of the Moors and Dales.

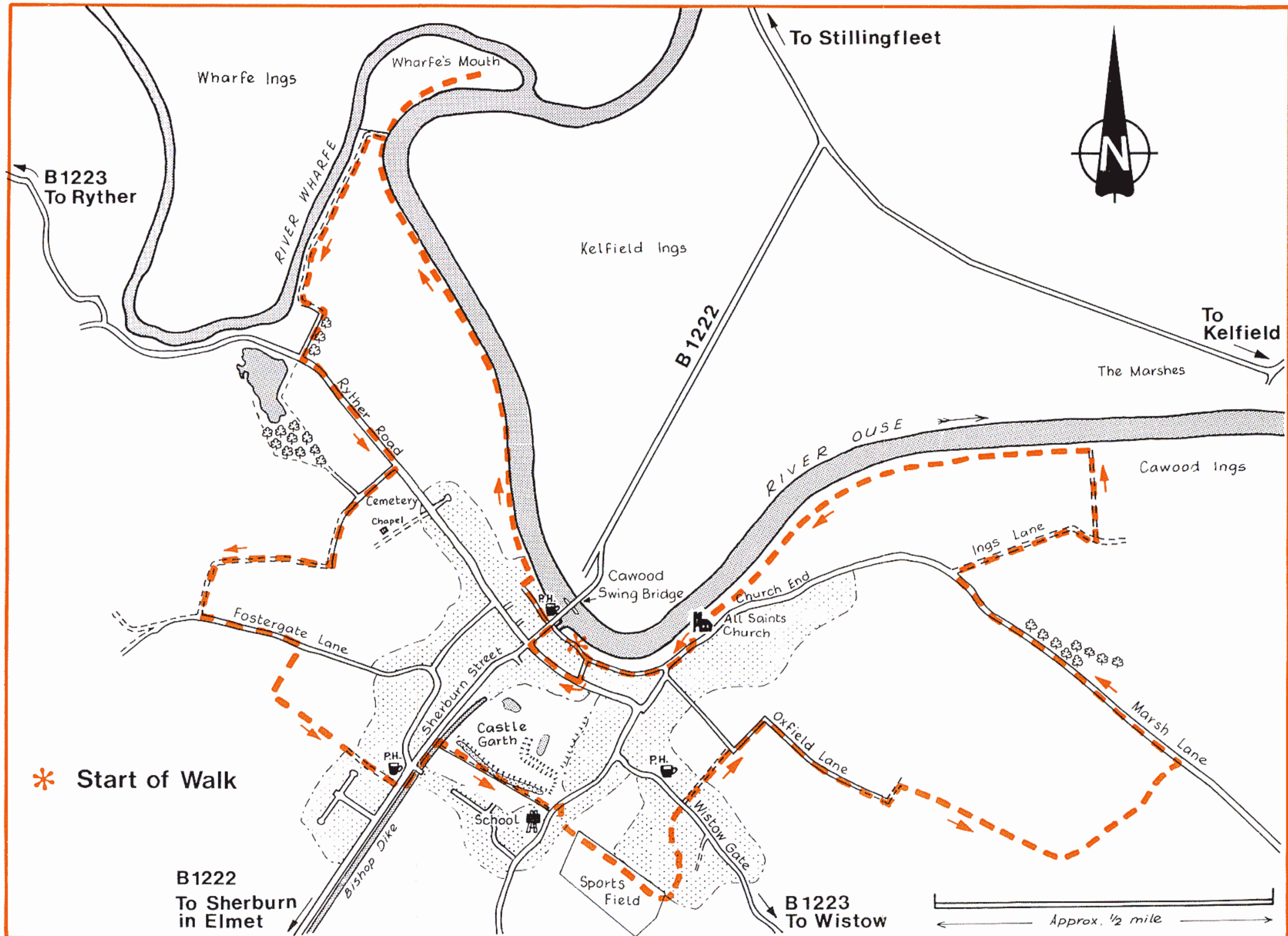
Please keep to the route described in the leaflet - it has been signposted and waymarked at intervals.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to members of Cawood Parish Council and Selby Civic Society for their help with this leaflet.



MALLARD  
(*Anas platyrhynchos*)



To Stillingfleet



B1223  
To Ryther

Wharfe Ings

Wharfe's Mouth

Kelfield Ings

B1222

To Kelfield

The Marshes

RIVER WHARFE

Ryther Road

RIVER OUSE

Cawood Ings

Cemetery  
Chapel

Ings Lane

Cawood  
Swing Bridge

Church End  
All Saints  
Church

Fostergate Lane

Sherburn Street

Castle  
Garth

\* Start of Walk

Oxfield Lane

Marsh Lane

P.H.

P.H.

School

Sports  
Field

Wistow Gate

B1222  
To Sherburn  
in Elmet

B1223  
To Wistow

Approx. 1/2 mile