



Chris' cycle route 1

A 33 mile route on quiet country roads with historic villages

Introduction

This is a circular route on quiet country roads with historic village sightseeing and the interesting small town of Easingwold. It starts in Thirsk Market Place, YO7 1EY.

Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 299, Ripon & Boroughbridge, covers most of the 33 miles (53km) of the route, but a map is included here.

it is flat with slight undulations with short climbs into Coxwold and leaving Hushwaite. There are cafés, pubs and tea rooms in Coxwold, Easingwold, Helperby & Topcliffe.

The route

Leave Thirsk Market Place heading west out of town, past the Ritz Cinema. At the mini roundabout take sharp left to Sowerby Road, leading to Front Street.

Continue for 2.4 miles, under the A168 road, until you take the left turn, signposted to Bagby. After half a mile you reach the main A19 road. Turn right towards York (this takes us half a mile on the A19 road – our only short section of major road).

Turn left signed Coxwold, Helmsley, Caravan route. We now have a 5 mile



Sowerby Front Street

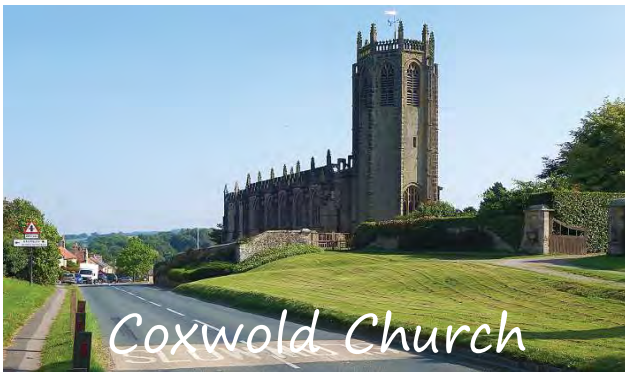


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ride to Coxwold village, with a short climb just before the village.

On the left is Shandy Hall where Laurence Sterne lived and wrote 'The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy' and other books. In Coxwold see St Michael's Church with its octagonal tower and box-pews, the Fauconberg Arms pub & tea rooms.



Continue down the village to the crossroads and take the junction right, signed Husthwaite 1¾ miles, Easingwold 6 miles. We now have an undulating road to Husthwaite.



Husthwaite has been known for many years as the Orchard Village due to its history of fruit growing and jam manufacture dating back for three centuries.

Many of the houses (garths) used to have large fertile gardens with productive orchards. Villagers ensured that fruit growing was effectively utilised.

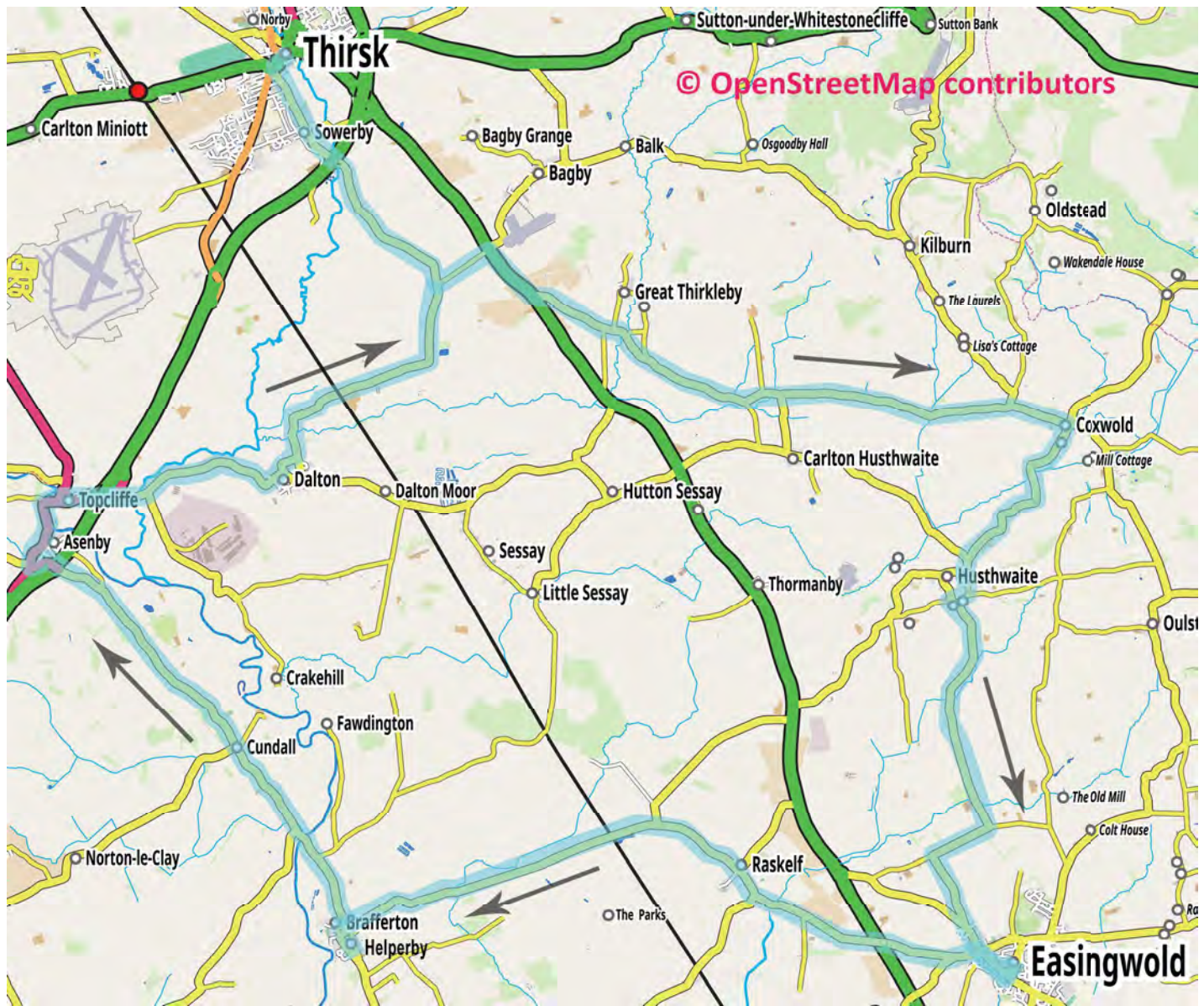
To see the village turn right at the green and then left in the village to join the main route.

At the village green go straight ahead and turn right at the T-junction, then soon afterwards left at the next T-junction. From this point on our route is flat.

We arrive in Easingwold at a T-junction onto Long Street and turn left. After the roundabout, look out for the left turn into the Market Place. The small market-town has pubs, shops and many cafés with cycle stands. It is a good lunch stop.

Note the one way system in and out of the Market Place from the main street.

After refreshments and rest leave the Market Place onto the main street and turn right back towards Thirsk along the street which brought you into town. At the mini-roundabout turn left, signposted Raskelf 2¼ miles. The sign also says Boroughbridge and Alne. Carry on right through the hamlet of Raskelf.





The Oak Tree Inn

Brafferton & Helperby are our next stop. As you enter the village note the Oak Tree Inn on the left. The village of Brafferton is ahead and this is conjoined with Helperby.

The -ton and -by suffixes show that the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings built these historic village settlements. There is a pub and tea rooms.

After a look around these villages return to the Oak Tree Inn as this is the junction that we need for our next destination. Take the road immediately opposite the Inn, signed Boroughbridge and Thirsk.

The flat road now takes us to Asenby via the hamlet of Cundall. After crossing the bridge over the A168 road turn right at the T-junction and then note the Crab and Lobster thatched restaurant on the right hand side. Continue to Topcliffe village with the The Angel pub, post office, and tea room.

Continue along the road and pass under the flyover. After a short left-hand bend take the road off to the right. It is signposted Sessay and Dalton Industrial Estate, but after 500yds turn left to Dalton. At Dalton pass Springfield garage on the left and after 180yds turn left towards Sowerby, Thirsk 5 miles. As we arrive back in Thirsk you will recognise that we have completed a full circle. Continue back along Sowerby Front Street to the mini-roundabout and then right to Thirsk Market Place.



The Crab & Lobster restaurant