**Cod Beck – Osmotherley Moor Circular**

**Background:**
Cod Beck reservoir is a man-made lake in Osmotherley in the North Yorkshire Moors. The reservoir is surrounded by woodland which is lovely to walk through.

Osmotherley’s situation on elevated ground with a good water supply lent itself to the establishment of human habitation from an early period. The first real documentary reference to a settlement here is its listing as “Asmundrelac” in the Domesday Book in 1055, although archaeological evidence suggests human activity in the surrounding moorland from about 8000 BC.

**Route Description:**
We started this walk from the car park at Cod Beck and head North East away from the reservoir and up on to the path around Near Moor. This first part contains a short sharp ascent to get the blood pumping. The path then meets what looks like a dolomite road at Limekiln Bank. Follow the road / path right keeping the wall on your right-hand side. The path is extremely clear and easy to follow and nice to walk on under foot.

Follow this path all the way along Stony Ridge and straight until it meets a crossroad. Turn right onto this crossroad and follow this path past Swainby Shooting House. Continue on this path until it splits. The path then has two options, continue straight ahead or bend round to the left. Follow the path as it bends round to the left. This will then take you all the way down to Snilesworth Lodge. This is a private estate with a permitted footpath through it. Follow the path through until you reach a gate and then the road.

Once you reach the road turn right and follow the road through some beautiful countryside until you reach the car park at Square Corner. Once you reach the car park, take the public footpath on the left and down to Oak Dale following Oakdale Beck. The footpath then comes out to a road, join the road and turn left then a short distance along (a couple of meters) there is a right hand turn up another public footpath (this is sign posted). Follow this a short distance until it splits, left, right and straight. Take the path that goes left, going past Whitehouse Farm and head into a small wooded area, across the footbridge and up out into the village of Osmotherley.

Once you reach the main road through Osmotherley, turn right, following the edge of the road back to Cod Beck Reservoir. Once you reach Cod Beck, take the footpath along the edge of the Reservoir on the left and back to the car park. You could extend this route further and do a lap of the reservoir if you wish.

**Points of Interest:**
Sheep Wash Viewpoint, Cod Beck Reservoir, and Mount Grace Priory.
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