

<p><b>Distance:</b> Approx 5 miles</p> <p><b>Time Taken:</b> 2-3 hours</p> <p><b>Terrain:</b> Clear footpaths, road and farmland.</p> <p><b>Total ascent / descent:</b></p> <p><b>Dog Friendliness:</b> Dogs will need to be on the lead for a good portion of this lead as it goes through farmland which houses sheep and includes some road walking.</p> <p><b>Toilets / Refreshments:</b> There are pubs, cafes and toilets in Osmotherley.</p> <p><b>Parking:</b> Village parking in Osmotherley.</p> <p><b>OS Maps:</b> OL26</p>	<p><b>Osmotherley Circular</b></p> <p><b>Background:</b> Osmotherley is a perfect example of a true Yorkshire village where the people are friendly and welcoming, and visitors return year after year. Nestling in a cleft on the Hambleton Ridge the village manages to preserve a secluded charm while still being within easy reach of some of the major visitor sites and attractions of North Yorkshire.</p> <p>Osmotherley is popular with walkers and has a specialist walking shop in the centre of the village which caters for every need. The village is close to the Coast to Coast path, on the Cleveland Way foot path and is the starting point for the Lyke Wake Walk. With so many visitors passing through, the village offers a range of accommodation including bed and breakfast, self-catering cottages and a youth hostel. In the village centre there stands the old village cross and a stone table which was once used as a market stall and a pulpit for the Methodist preacher John Wesley. The award-winning public toilets in the village are always kept pristine condition, often adorned with fresh flowers and are even covered in thank you notes from tourists.</p> <p><b>Route Description:</b> We started this route in the centre of Osmotherley and took the path that cuts through the row of houses near the war memorial (there is a sign for Osmotherley Methodist Church 1754 above it). This path goes along narrow alley between the houses and then crosses a small road. This part of the walk is part of the Cleveland Way so is well signposted.</p> <p>Cross the road and head through a narrow stile (two stone pillars) which is signposted. This path is very narrow so single file and in the summer can be a bit overrun on the walls with hedges. Once the wall ends go through another stone pillar stile and again the path is enclosed by a fence and hedging. This path is quite long and straight and next cuts through fields but again is fenced off. This is more open fencing so dogs should be kept on leads.</p> <p>Follow the path through the fields and at the end of the fields go through the gate and down into the wooded area. There are steps at this point and they are quite steep so be careful especially in damp conditions. The path goes down a steep descent and can get quite slippery during winter and in wet weather. This path goes all the way down to a footbridge over Oak Dale Beck.</p> <p>Cross the footbridge and continue straight up a nice clear path. The path is then intersected by a gravel road but continue straight (this is signposted). You will then reach a gate (also with signs on), go through the gate and continue straight ahead through the field until you reach a gate at the other end. Continue through the next field (be wary of livestock keeping dogs on lead were necessary). The path through these fields is gravel and easy to follow.</p> <p>The path then comes out onto a wide path that looks like a gravel road. There is a signpost here, veer left following the path until you reach the road. At the road turn left and follow this road for a couple of meters, then turn right and go through the gate (there is a signpost here as well). Follow the path through Big Wood, past lower Oakdale reservoir, over a footbridge and out onto Oak Dale. Go through the gate at Upper Oakdale reservoir continuing on the path past the reservoir. Follow the path until it splits. Take the path on the right as it heads down a wooded area and across a footbridge and it climbs out onto moorland. Follow it across the moorland until it reaches the road at Square Corner.</p> <p>Once you reach the road, turn left onto the road and follow it until you pass Chequers and it starts to bend round left and splits. Veer right onto a single-track road and continue here until you reach a public footpath signpost after you pass the woods.</p> <p>Head into the woods and follow the path straight, you will reach a crossroad of footpaths, continue on ahead past Cote Garth and then on past the Youth Hostel. Go across the footbridge at the Youth Hostel and follow the road from the youth hostel back out onto the main road and back to the village centre.</p> <p><b>Points of Interest:</b> Cod Beck Reservoir, Upper and Lower Oakdale Reservoir, Osmotherley Chapel (1754) and Mount Grace Priory.</p>
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