

Thornton le Dale and Ellerburn

Thornton le Dale



Beautiful Thornton le Dale is one of the most visited villages in the National Park, with its market cross and stocks on the village green and a babbling stream crossed by little bridges. It's an ancient place – farmed by Neolithic man, settled by the Anglo-Saxons and known to have been in existence in its present form since before the Norman Conquest.

At the start of the walk (on the main road, heading towards the bridge) you'll pass the Lady Lumley almshouses, completed in 1670 to accommodate twelve poor people of the parish. The village is also known for its thatched – and much-photographed – Beck Isle Cottage, idyllically sited on a bend in Thornton Beck. It's one of many handsome cruck-framed buildings in the village, all of which would originally have been thatched.

Ellerburn

Following the serpentine course of Thornton Beck leads you to the peaceful hamlet of Ellerburn and the romantically sited church of St Hilda, set in a clearing close to the beck. The church is dedicated to the first abbess of Whitby Abbey and is by far the oldest church in the area. The original building would have been a simple wooden chapel, and while the current church dates back to at least 1050 AD it also incorporates carved churchyard stones of an even earlier date.



Thornton le Dale is regarded by many people as the prettiest village in the National Park, and while its obvious charms make it popular with visitors, it's also full of historic interest. This 2-mile circular walk follows riverside field paths to the hamlet of Ellerburn and its ancient church, before returning along a minor road to Thornton le Dale. It's an enjoyable stroll at any time of the year, but spring and autumn shows the wooded riverside at its best.

Did you know?

There are free concerts on Thornton village green on summer Sunday afternoons, and a quirky scarecrow festival every August bank holiday weekend.

Great for:	riverside rambles, history buffs
Length:	2 miles (3.2km)
Time:	1 hour
Start/Finish:	Thornton le Dale car park
Grid Reference:	SE 834 830
Map:	OS Explorer OL27
Refreshments:	Thornton le Dale
Toilets:	Start/Finish of walk

 There's a wide range of pubs, cafés and restaurants in Thornton le Dale, and plenty more choices in Pickering, 2 miles (3.2km) to the west.

 National Park Information Point in Wardill Bros. village store, on the green.

... riverside stroll to an ancient church ...

Route instructions

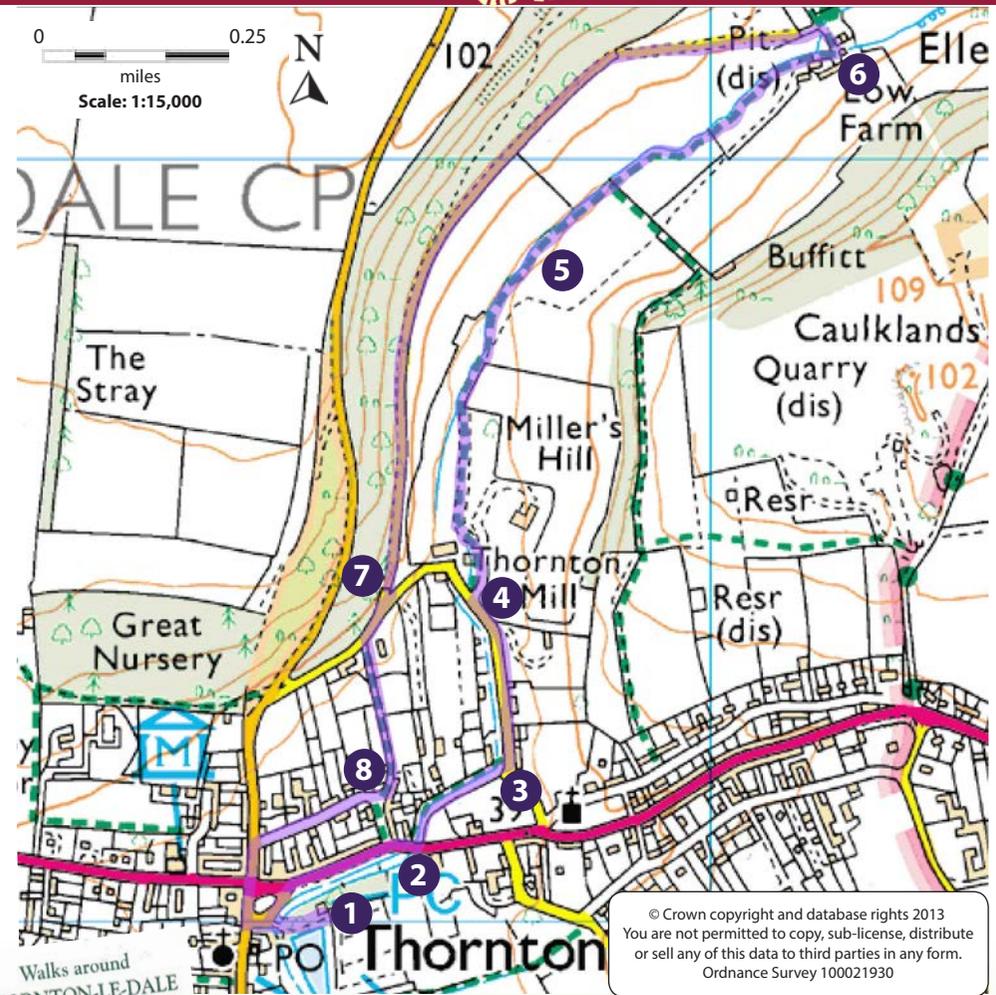
- 1 Follow the signs to the village from the car park and cross the beck to the village green. Turn right, cross the road and follow the A170 towards Scarborough, passing the almshouses (on your left).
- 2 At the bridge turn left to pass in front of the thatched cottage (stream on your right).
- 3 Cross the footbridge and turn left along the road.
- 4 Where the stream passes under the road, turn right and follow the footpath between the stream and the hedge.
- 5 Follow the footpath upstream, keeping Thornton Beck on your left.
- 6 Cross a stile into the farmyard and turn left to walk towards the church. Cross the bridge and turn left along the minor road, back to Thornton le Dale.
- 7 At the junction bear right, then shortly afterwards turn left through a gate at the public footpath sign. Walk down the path.
- 8 Turn right along Brook Lane and then left on the Whitby road into Thornton le Dale. Cross at the pedestrian crossing to reach the village green and the car park.



The paths on this level walk are waymarked, but run through riverside fields and may be muddy in places after rain. There are occasional stiles and gates en route. Take care on village roads in Thornton le Dale and on the narrow road when returning from Ellerburn.



The route runs through farmland and a farmyard. Please keep your dog under control and always on a lead near livestock.



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Ordnance Survey 100021930



Like this walk?

Explore the lovely surroundings of Thornton le Dale with our 'Walks Around Thornton le Dale' guide, available from our online shop or Visitor Centres – you'll enjoy five circular walks and lots of local history.