

Clay Bank and Greenhow Plantation

Greenhow Plantation

The Forestry Commission has a long-term plan to restore the ancient woodland at Ingleby Greenhow and create varying habitats for wildlife and plants. Where conifers have been cleared, their place has been quickly taken by alder, rowan, willow, oak and birch. Eventually, almost half the woodland here will feature native trees – a stark contrast with the past when conifers were planted en masse after World War I to provide a strategic timber resource for the country.

However, natural regeneration and woodland restoration has its own challenges. Birch, for example, grows faster than other the species and needs thinning out so that all the trees can flourish. It doesn't go to waste though. Birch timber from Greenhow is used to build and repair racecourse fences and ends up at racecourses right across Britain.



Tracks, trails and trees

The car park and picnic area at Clay Bank is a popular stop for its dramatic views across the Cleveland plain, with the twin landmarks of Roseberry Topping and the Captain Cook Monument rising in the distance. This circular 3-mile walk makes the best of the sweeping views while also offering a shady route through Greenhow Plantation.

Did you know?

The Forestry Commission in Yorkshire cares for almost 21,500 hectares of land (equivalent to more than 42,000 football pitches) between the Tees and the Humber rivers.

Great for:

woodland wanders, nature nuts, big-sky views

Length:

3 miles (4.8km)

Time:

1 hour 30 minutes

Start/Finish:

Forestry Commission car park at Clay Bank, B1257 Helmsley to Stokesley road

Grid Reference:

NZ 572 035

Map:

OS Explorer OL26

Refreshments:

Chop Gate (2¾ miles/4.4km south)

Toilets:

Chop Gate Village Hall



The Buck Inn at Chop Gate is 2¾ miles (4.4km) south of Clay Bank car park, on the B1257. Otherwise, the nearest cafés and other facilities are in Stokesley (4½ miles/7.25km northwest) or Helmsley (16 miles/25km south).

... tracks, trails and trees ...

Route instructions

- 1 From the car park turn left down the minor road towards Ingleby Greenhow.
- 2 Turn right and pass through a barrier onto a stone forest track heading gently uphill.
- 3 Follow the track as it contours round above the valley.
- 4 Reach a junction with a crossing bridleway (marked by blue arrows). Don't turn right up the bridleway – instead, fork right and follow the forest track uphill between the main track and the bridleway.
- 5 At the junction at the top, turn sharp right and walk uphill.
- 6 Where the bridleway crosses, carry straight on along the forest track.
- 7 Keep right at the junction and continue along the forest track.
- 8 Where the track meets the road, go through the gate on the left into a lay-by and walk along the side of the road (take care) back to the car park.

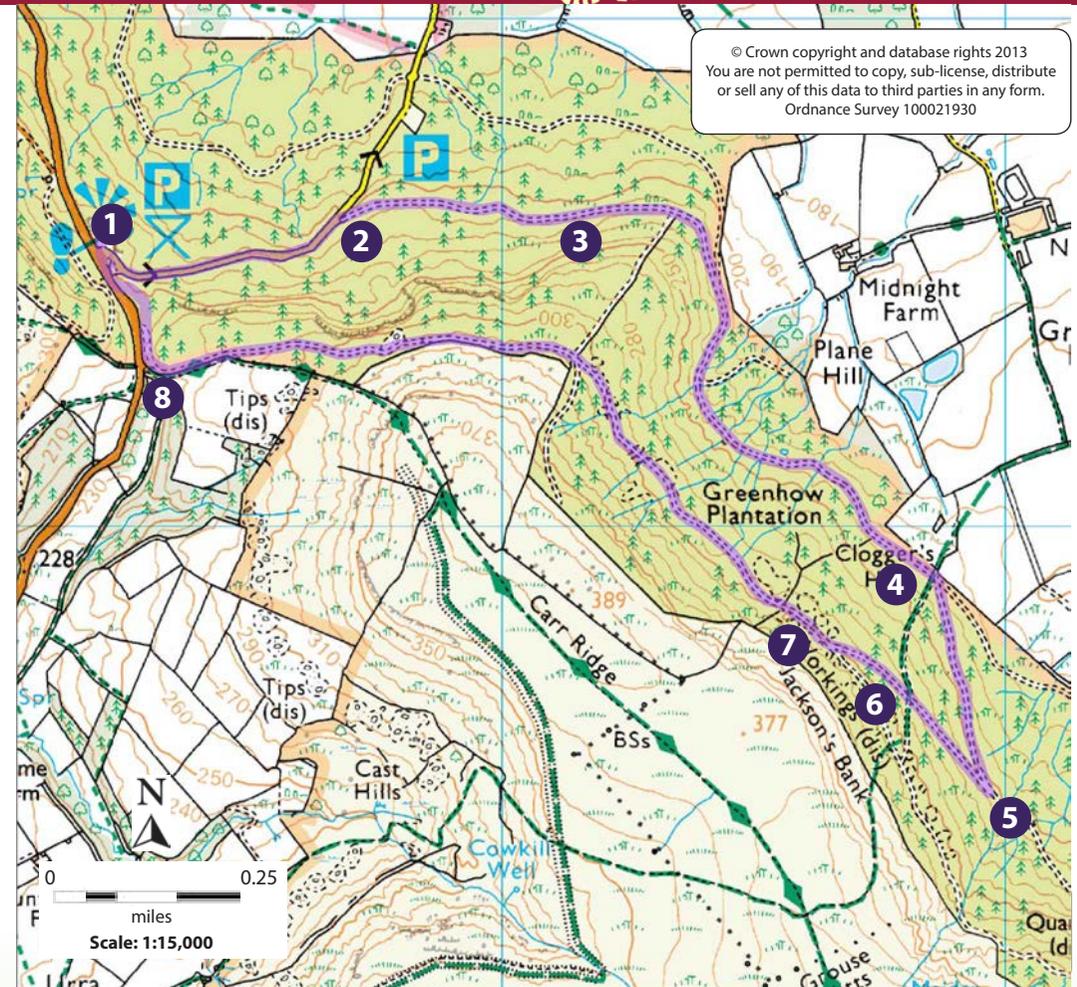


The first short section of the route is along a minor road. The rest of the walk is along well-defined forest tracks, which may be muddy and wet after rain. There are several uphill and downhill sections, but no stiles.

The walk is mostly on Forestry Commission access land, and so tracks may occasionally be closed for tree felling or other operations, although the land is usually always open at weekends.



You can let your dog off the lead in Forestry Commission woods, but always make sure they are under control. Greenhow Plantation is used by horse-riders – please keep your dog on a lead when horses pass.



Like this walk?

Forestry Commission woods are great for dog-walking – so why not also try our walking routes in Newtondale and at Broxa Forest?