

Danby Castle

Duck Bridge

As you return to The Moors Centre, you will pass a very narrow humpbacked packhorse bridge known as Duck Bridge. Like the castle, the bridge bears the coat of arms of the Neville family who owned the manor of Danby in the 15th century. Originally built in 1396, the bridge was rebuilt in the 18th century by one George Duck, and it remained in use for vehicle traffic until 1993 when a ford was built to prevent further damage to the parapet.



Manor, castle and court

Lord Latimer's 14th-century estate stretched as far as the eye could see, but although Danby Castle has a commanding position it was never meant as a fortification. Danby Manor had valuable land and Latimer was a rich man. He built his castle as a sign of his great wealth and it became the centre of a successful farming enterprise. Set around an inner courtyard, the castle had no keep but strong outer walls and angled towers at the four corners. The farmhouse is an extension of the southwest tower, while the building which faces the road houses the banqueting hall or Courtroom, where the Danby Court Leet regularly meet.



Danby Castle – ancestral home of the Danby Estate – lies high up on a spur overlooking the Esk Valley. Down in the dale stands the estate's former hunting lodge, now The Moors National Park Centre, and this pleasant 2-mile circular walk follows a well-trodden path between the two. It's a charming route for a summer's day, on quiet field paths and country lanes, and there's a stop on the way back at Danby's lovely old Duck Bridge. It's only a short walk, but come for the day and you can also enjoy the displays and activities at The Moors Centre – there's plenty of space for a picnic, as well as a café.

Did you know?

In the 16th century the lady of Danby Manor was Katharine Parr, who was to become the sixth and last wife of Henry VIII.

Great for:

history buffs, family walks

Length:

2 miles (3.2km)

Time:

1 hour

Start/Finish:

The Moors National Park Centre, Danby

Grid Reference:

NZ 717 083

Map:

OS Explorer OL26

Refreshments:

The Moors National Park Centre

Toilets:

Start/Finish of walk



The Woolly Sheep tea rooms is open when the National Park Centre is open. There's also the Duke of Wellington pub and Stonehouse Bakery in Danby, half a mile (800m) from the Centre, plus the Fox and Hounds pub in nearby Ainthorpe.



The Moors National Park Centre, Danby.

...castle, bridge and dale...

Route instructions

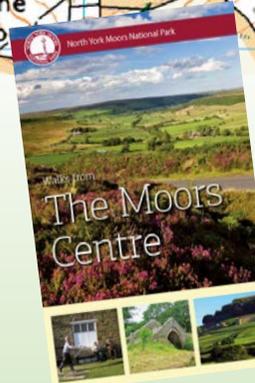
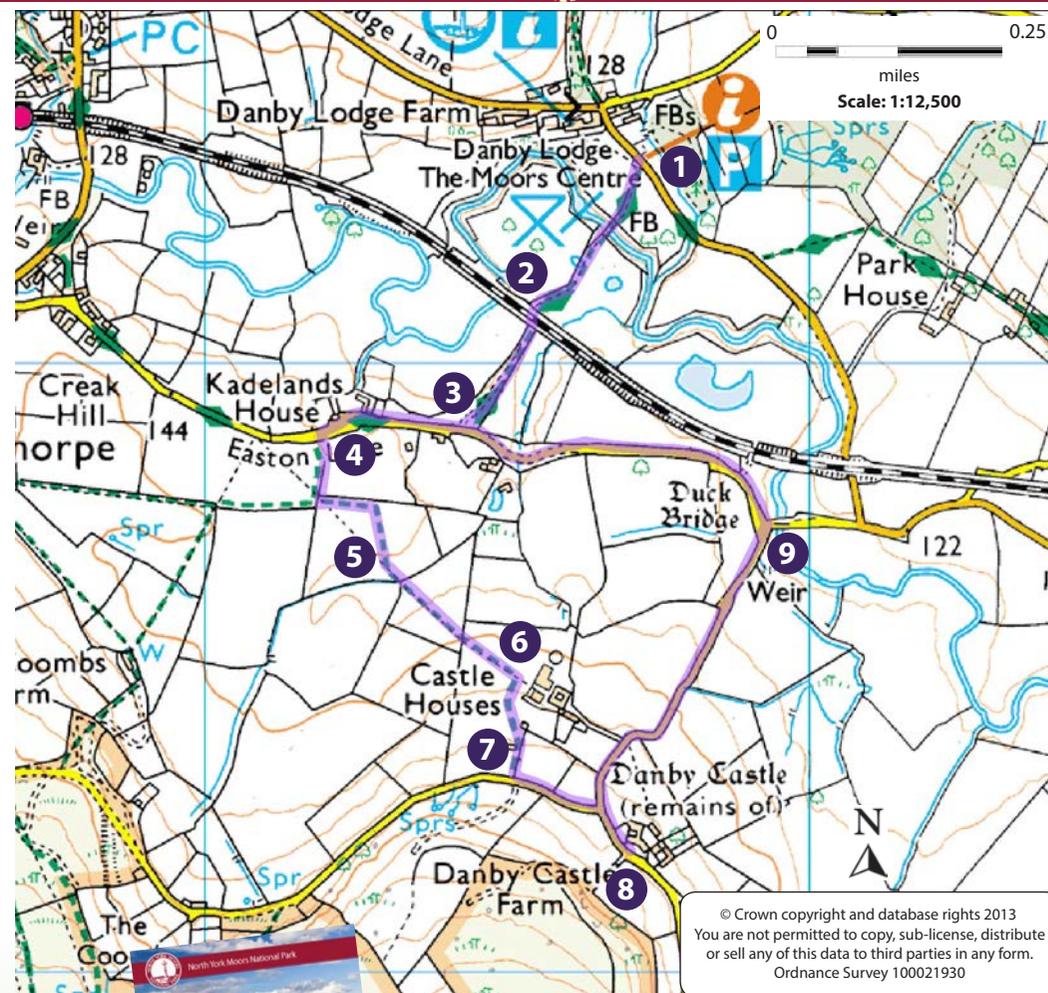
- 1 From the car park, cross the road and follow the path across the field (signposted 'Ainthorpe') and over the footbridge.
- 2 Cross the railway line (beware of trains) and continue ahead through the gate.
- 3 At the road, turn right (signposted 'Ainthorpe').
- 4 Immediately after Kadellands House, turn left through a gate. After a short distance the path turns sharp left (signposted 'Castle Footpath'), then right (along a field edge) to drop into a small valley.
- 5 Bear left uphill towards the farm.
- 6 Just before the farm, turn right – do not go into the farmyard. Walk uphill to the left-hand corner of the field, keeping the old stone barn on your right.
- 7 At the road, turn left towards Danby Castle.
- 8 Return to the junction, turn right and follow the road downhill to Duck Bridge.
- 9 Follow the road round to the left from Duck Bridge to point 3, and return to The Moors Centre.



The walk starts from The Moors National Park Centre in Danby, and follows field paths to reach the castle before returning on country lanes via Duck Bridge. There's a fairly gentle ascent to the castle, and no stiles en route. Please take care when crossing the railway line, and when walking on the road on the way back.



Please keep your dog on a short lead where livestock is present, and be aware of traffic, cyclists and other road users.



Like this walk?

Combine the walk with a visit to The Moors National Park Centre in Danby – it's the perfect choice for a full day out with the family, with fascinating interactive displays, beautiful grounds, children's activities and an art gallery.