

IN AND AROUND THE HOWARDIAN HILLS

The Howardian Hills is an area of woods and rolling hills just north of York, designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This guide covers all the real ale pubs in and near the AONB. It is divided into three sections based on the nearest market town and public transport routes (check before using) and includes some ideas for walks incorporating the pubs. Use OS maps to plan your route: Landranger 100, Explorer 300, 299, OL26.

EASTERN AREA

ACCESS FROM YORK AND MALTON

By car: from A64 York to Malton. By train: York to Malton. By bus: Coastliner on A64 from York to Malton at least hourly or Stephensons 180/1/2/3 York–Castle Howard–Malton via Thornton-le-Clay and Welburn, a few times a day except Sun.

PUBS TO TRY IN MALTON

Blue Ball, Crown (Suddabys), Spotted Cow.

KIRKHAM

STONE TROUGH INN LocAle

YO60 7JS, Tel (01653) 618713

Open all day

Black Sheep Best Bitter; Taylor Landlord, Tetley Cask; 2 guests (at least one LocAle)

Set in a stunning location overlooking the Derwent Valley and Kirkham Abbey. Cosy, beamed bar, small snug, pool room, separate large dining room: popular for food. 🍷 ☺ ♻️ P

TERRINGTON

BAY HORSE INN LocAle

YO60 6PP, Tel (01653) 648416

12–3, 6–11 Tue–Fri; all day Sat & Sun; closed Mon

Up to 3 Storyteller beers

Set in the heart of the area, with the Storyteller micro-brewery on site. The main bar leads to a small snug and separate dining area. Popular for food and with locals. 🍷 ☺ ♻️ P



THORNTON LE CLAY

THE WHITE SWAN INN

YO60 7TG, Tel (01653) 618286

11.45–3, 6.45–close Tue & Wed, Fri & Sat; 11.45–3, 6–close Thu & Sun; closed Mon (except BH)

1 or 2 constantly changing beers

This free house has been owned by the same family for 30 years. Traditionally furnished, single L-shaped bar caters for both locals and diners. Regular quiz and special events. ☺ P

WELBURN

CROWN AND CUSHION

YO60 7DZ, Tel (01653) 618304

5.30–close Mon; 12–2.30, 5.30–11 Tue–Fri;

12–11 Sat & Sun

Tetley Cask; up to 3 guests

The nearest pub to Castle Howard. Re-named after the insignia on Queen Victoria's train when she visited the house in 1850. Bar and small, cosy lounge with separate dining room. 🍷 ☺ P



WESTOW

BLACKSMITHS ARMS

YO60 7NE, Tel (01653) 619606

5–11 Tue & Wed; 12–2.30, 5–11 Thu & Fri;

12–11 Sat & Sun; closed Mon

Copper Dragon Golden Pippin; Tetley Cask; guest beer

Recently re-opened, this 300-year old pub is an interesting mix of old and new. A roaring log burner sits in a brick inglenook next to a traditional bread oven, while the furnishings are more contemporary. Separate smart dining areas.

SUGGESTED WALKS

1. Coastliner to Whitwell on the Hill. Take the road to Kirkham Abbey and on to the Stone-

trough or Westow. Continue north by road or path to reach the Derwent near Menethorpe. Follow the river path to Malton. (7 miles)

2. Take Castle Howard Road out of Malton. Cross over the bypass. Turn south on a path to Musley Bank then west through the woods to Hildenley and Easthorpe and on to Bog Hall. Turn south to Welburn, passing east of Castle Howard. Walk to A64 to catch Coastliner to Malton or York. (8 miles)

3. 181/3 from Malton or York to Thornton le Clay. Take paths north to High Stittenham then Terrington. Continue on paths to Hovingham. 194 to Malton. (9 miles)

NORTHERN AREA

ACCESS FROM MALTON AND HELMSLEY

By car: from B1257 Malton to Helmsley or B1363 York to Helmsley. By train: York to Malton. By bus: Stephensons 194/5 Malton to Hovingham, hourly except Sun, less often to Helmsley, or Moorsbus 13 summer Sundays.

PUBS TO TRY IN HELMSLEY

Black Swan, Feathers, Royal Oak

AMOTHERBY

QUEENS HEAD

YO17 6TL, Tel (01653) 693630

Open from 5 every day (closed all lunchtimes)

Tetley Cask; Copper Dragon beer; guest

A rather unusual mix of a slate-floored bar with pool table to the right, and well-regarded Cantonese restaurant to the left. ☼ P

APPLETON LE STREET

CRESSWELL ARMS

YO17 6PG, Tel (01653) 693647

12–2.30, 6–close Mon–Sat; 12–close Sun

Wold Top Bitter

This recently renovated stone-built inn dates back to the 1800s. Bar, two small, cosy lounges, separate dining room and function room. Wood panelling abounds and shelves are filled with books and curios. 🍷 ☼ 🍷 P

GILLING EAST

FAIRFAX ARMS

YO62 4JH, Tel (01439) 788212

12–3, 6–11 Mon–Fri; 12–11 Sat & Sun

Black Sheep Best Bitter; Tetley Cask; guest in summer

Originally a seventeenth century coaching inn, it retains a strong emphasis on high quality accommodation and dining. The beamed open plan lounge / bar provides several areas for eating.

🍷 ☼ 🍷 P

HOVINGHAM

Charming, stone-built village with a green and a stream. Monthly farmers' market (first Saturday).

MALT SHOVEL

YO62 4LF, Tel (01653) 628264

11.30–2.30, 6–close Mon–Sat; all day Sun

Black Sheep Best Bitter; Tetley Cask

This eighteenth century pub has a cosy, heavily beamed, traditional bar area divided into small sections at the front with a separate wood panellied dining room to the rear. Cask Marque. P



WORSLEY ARMS

YO62 4LA, Tel (01653) 628234

Open all day, food 12–2, 6.30–9

Hambleton beer (usually Stallion)

Georgian country house hotel: small, cosy bar with crick-eting prints and comfortable sofas, Cricketers' informal dining room and a more formal restaurant. 🍷 ☼ P

NUNNINGTON

ROYAL OAK

YO62 5US, Tel (01439) 748271

11.45–2.30, 6.30–11 Tue–Sun; closed Mon

Black Sheep Best Bitter; Wold Top Bitter

Traditional, stone-built pub. Country artefacts and keys adorn the rustically-furnished, long main bar: separate alcoved dining area. Good reputation for food. Nunnington Hall (National Trust) is nearby. 🍷 P



OSWALDKIRK

MALT SHOVEL

YO62 5XT, Tel (01439) 788461

12–3, 6.30–11 Mon & Tue, Thu–Sat; 12–3,

7–10.30 Sun; closed Wed

Samuel Smith's Old Brewery Bitter

This pub is classified by CAMRA as one of Yorkshire's Real Heritage Pubs. It is in a wonderful time warp with both an historic interior and historic beer prices! The building dates from 1610 and retains four distinct rooms linked by a lovely hall and stair lobby. Stairs lead from a stone-flagged room to a cosy bar, complete with a door to a priest's hole. The lounge and dining room feel like settings for a period drama. Wonderful views across the valley. 🍷 📶 P



SLINGSBY

GRAPES

YO62 4AL Tel (Not known)

6–11 Mon & Tue; 12–2, 6–11 Wed–Sat; 12–11 Sun

Black Sheep Best Bitter, Cameron's Strongarm; guest

Situated off the B1257 at the northern end of this large village. Elongated bar area leads to a lounge on the left, while to the right is a large, two-roomed dining area. (Pub is changing hands, so details may vary) 🍷 📶 P

SWINTON

BLACKSMITHS ARMS

YO17 6SQ, Tel (01653) 693629

6–12 Mon; 12–4, 6–close Tue–Thu; Fri–Sun all day

Black Sheep Best Bitter; Taylor Landlord

This roadside village local is bedecked with flowers in summer. It serves both a local and tourist trade. Lounge, with an emphasis on food, and separate bar with pool table. Themed steak or fish and chip nights Wed / Thu. 🍷 📶 P

SUGGESTED WALKS

4. 194 from Malton to Slingsby or Hovingham. Head south up onto the ridge, then east along it through the woods. After Coneysthorpe Banks, drop north off the ridge to Appleton le Street. Take the 194 from there or continue on paths via Amotherby and Swinton to Malton. (4–10 miles)
5. 194/5 from Malton to Stonegrave. Walk east up Caulkley's Bank and continue to West Ness. Take river path west to Nunnington. 194 to Malton. (4 miles)
6. 31X from York or 194/5 from Malton to Helmsley. Follow the Ebor Way south to Sproxtun and on to Oswaldkirk. 31X or 194/5 back to York or Malton. (4 miles)

WESTERN AREA

ACCESS FROM EASINGWOLD AND YORK

By car: from A19 and Easingwold or B1363 York to Helmsley. By bus: Stephenson's 31X York to Helmsley via Easingwold, Hushwaite, Coxwold, Byland, Wass, Ampleforth, Oswaldkirk, hourly except Sunday as far as Easingwold, less frequent to Helmsley; Moorsbus 15 summer Sundays; York to Easingwold Stephenson 29, 31, John Smith 58, Reliance 30, 40 (some to Crayke) – a few on Sunday.

PUBS TO TRY IN EASINGWOLD

George Hotel, Horseshoe Inn, New Inn

AMPLEFORTH

Known for the Abbey and College, under a mile away.

WHITE HORSE

YO62 4DX, Tel (01439) 788378

12–2, 5–11 Tue–Thu; 12–11 Fri; 2–11 Sat; 12–10.30 Sun; closed Mon

John Smith's Cask; Tetley Cask; Taylor Landlord

The bar of this traditional village local consists of several small, connected areas with low ceilings, beams, wooden and flagged floors. There are separate, small dining and pool rooms. No meals Sat lunch or Sun eve. 🍷 📶 P



WHITE SWAN

YO62 4DA, Tel (01439) 788239

11.30–3, 6–11 Mon–Fri; 12–11 Sat; 12–10.30 Sun

Black Sheep Best Bitter; John Smith's Cask

This pub has a strong reputation for its food and is often busy with diners. Formal dining room, a wood- and stone-floored lounge and a smaller, more traditional bar with quarry tiles and beams, all situated around a central oak bar. 🍷 ☺ P

COXWOLD

FAUCONBERG ARMS LocAle

YO61 4AD, Tel (01347) 868214

11–3, 6–11 Mon–Fri; all day Sat & Sun

Hambleton Bitter; Theakston's Best Bitter, 2 guests in summer from local micro breweries

Seventeenth century country inn, close to Shandy Hall and Newburgh Priory. The owners proudly describe it as a traditional country pub with real ales, real fires, real people, and NOT a restaurant selling beer! Small, beamed front bar, rear bar with darts board and piano, separate dining room. The pub incorporates a village shop at the rear. 🍷 ☺ ☹ (Galtres Gold) P



CRAYKE

DURHAM OX

YO61 4TE, Tel (01347) 821506

11–11.30

Black Sheep Best Bitter; Taylor Landlord

Crayke is set on a hill with spectacular views over the Vale of York. This 300-year old pub has won various awards for its food. Two bars with stone floors, beams and oak panelling. 🍷 ☺ ☹ P

KEY TO SYMBOLS

🍷 Real fire

☺ Outdoor drinking area

☹ Accommodation

☹ Real draught cider

P Car park

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HUSTHWAITE

BALMORAL LocAle

YO61 4QA, TEL (01347) 868007

12–12 Tue–Sat; 12–10 Sun; closed Mon

Black Sheep Best Bitter, John Smith's Cask, Taylor Landlord

New owners aim to run this as a traditional village pub. Open plan, with separate areas. A quarry-tiled part at the front formed the original heart of the pub. Further back is a lounge area with comfy sofas, leading to a large conservatory. 🍷 ☺ ☹ (Galtres Gold) P



WASS

WOMBWELL ARMS LocAle

YO61 4BE, Tel (01347) 868280

12–3, 6–11 Mon–Fri (closed Mon in winter);

12–11 Sat; 12–4 Sun (also 6–10.30 summer only)

Theakston's Best Bitter; Taylor Landlord; guest

Recently refurbished village inn has been a pub since 1640. Small, wood-floored Poachers Bar, decorated with breweriana, and another stone-flagged bar aimed more at drinkers. Two dining areas. 🍷 ☺ ☹ ☹ (Galtres Gold) P

SUGGESTED WALKS

7. Any bus to Easingwold. Follow the Foss Walk via Oulston to Crayke. Take the road back to Easingwold. Any bus to York. (10 miles)

8. 31X York to Easingwold. Head north on paths to Husthwaite. Take the 31X back from there or continue to Coxwold. (3–5 miles)

9. 31X York to Wass, Follow a path NW to Cam Farm then head SW to Oldstead, then east past Oldstead Grange to Byland. 31X from there or continue to Wass (4/5 miles)

10. 31X York to Ampleforth Abbey. Head south on a path to Gilling East. Head west to the fish pond. Either explore Yearsley Moor first or head north to Ampleforth. 31X to York. (5/9 miles)

Guide compiled by Elaine & Ed Gathercole

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Details correct at time of compilation