

HDSRL Thirsk

Date: Tuesday 31 May 2022

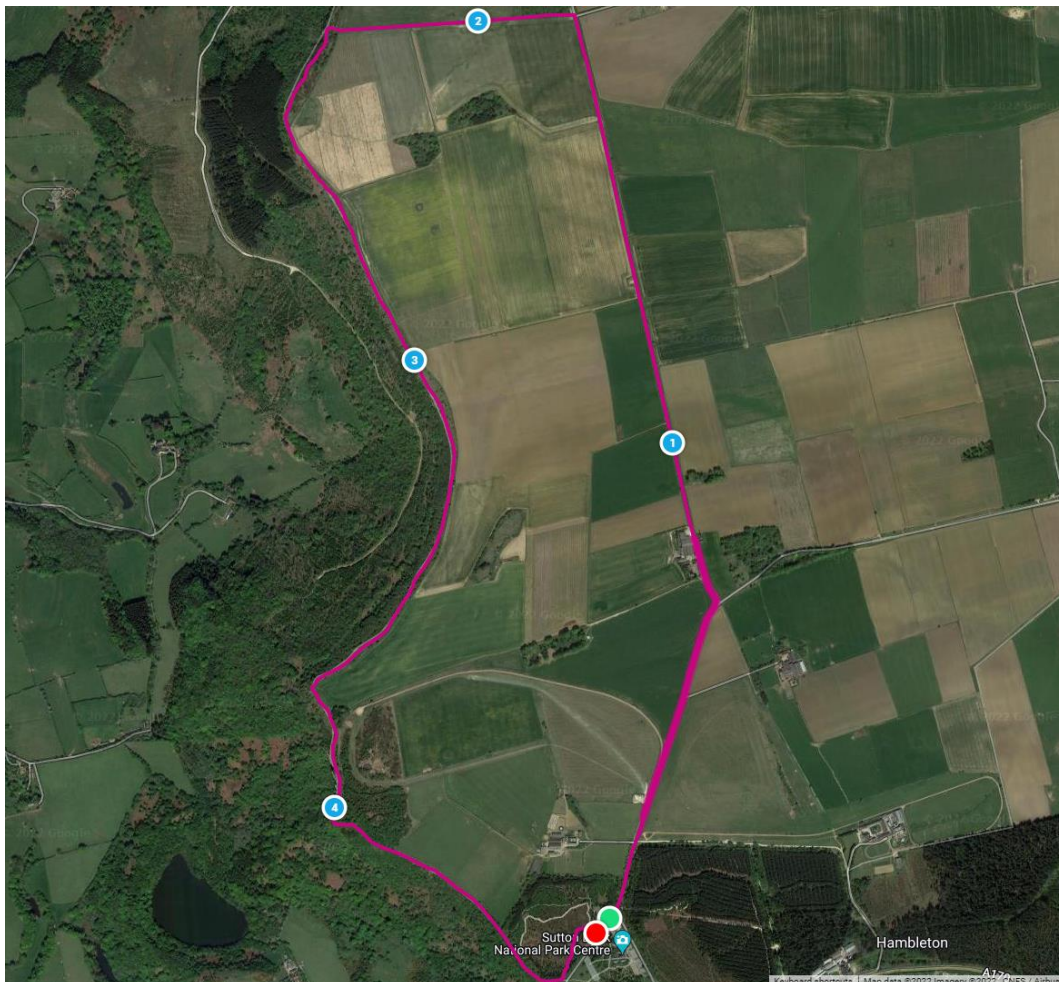
Start/finish location: Sutton Bank Visitor Centre, YO7 2EH.

→ If approaching from the A1, exit onto the A168. Once you are approaching Thirsk, follow the signs for Scarborough. You will end up on the A170 (AKA: Sutton Road) leading up to Sutton Bank. The Visitor Centre is at the top of the bank, with three options for left turnings that all take you to car parks in the same area. (Note: for those bringing caravans, Sutton Bank is not suitable for them with a 25% gradient at times!)

Key stats: ~4.7 miles / 7.6km, ~300 ft elevation, 40% road/ 60% trail

Facilities: There is ample parking at the Visitor Centre (please use ticket machines). The public toilets will be open. We will be joined by "Fred & Bert's" van for coffee and brownies. Please feel free to bring your own picnic – there are plenty of benches and places to eat around the Visitor Centre.

Full route map (showing mile markers):



General route description:

1. Start and finish is located at the Sutton Bank Visitor Centre (ample parking, toilets, hot drinks available from "Fred & Bert's" van).

2. From the start location at the north end of the visitor centre site, head along the northerly road for about 0.6 miles / 1km until you come to a junction. (WARNING: these roads are not closed. Please be alert and keep left, following any instructions from marshals)
3. At the junction, take the **left** road keeping the farm buildings on your left immediately after the junction. You will now be on this straight, undulating road for about 1.2 miles / 2km. (WARNING: these roads are not closed. Please be alert and keep left, following any instructions from marshals)
4. At about the 1.8 mile / 2.9km point, you will come to a small car park on your left, with a road on your right just before the car park. **Turn left**, and join the path that runs alongside the carpark and into a wooded area. You will shortly come to a hand gate. Go through this, and continue on the path, keeping the stone wall on your left and the open field on your right.
5. After being on this path for just under 0.5 mile / 0.7km, you will come to another hand gate. Go through this, and after a few yards you will come to a wooden signpost. At this point, **turn left** and follow the path along the cliff edge. You are now on the Cleveland Way National Trail.
6. You will follow the undulating, rocky trail for just under 1.5 miles / 2.4km, until you will pass a metal circle inlayed on the trail marking 1 mile back to the visitor centre. Just after the metal marker, follow the path around to the left. You will notice a wooden bench and views down to Gormire lake on your right. Continue following the trail, ignoring any turn offs along the way.
7. Around 0.8 mile / 1.3km further on, you will first pass a raised wooden viewing platform, then follow the path around to the left and continue on the path as it turns sharply left to run parallel to the road, under a slight wooded canopy. (**NOTE**: there is a left turning approx. 150 yards prior to this, before the raised wooden platform. **DO NOT TURN OFF HERE**. Continue until you have passed the raised wooden platform and bench on your left. The correct turn off is then approx. 100 yards after this.)
8. Continue on the gravel path running parallel to the road. You will see the visitor centre on your right-hand side through the young trees. Once you reach the signpost & metal floor marker for the "start/finish", the finish line will be in the gravel car park just off this path – 50 yards, if that.