

The priory had grazing for over 200 sheep and a fish pond . At the dissolution on Aug.23.1539 there were 10 nuns under the prioress,Anne Luton.She later moved to Malton

7- Leaving the walled garden area proceed along the farm access road passing the former priory pond on the right then up past the cottages on left and on for approx. 1/2 mile to the Warren and South Town Lane.

8- Turn left along Sth Town lane and after about 100 yards turn right on to track leading to Highfileds Farm (NZ.732167) . Follow the way mark sign towards Loy Lane .

9- Turn left into Loy Lane.

This lane was probably used by Sir Charles Palmer and his family, owners of the Grinkle Estate , to access Easington railway station . The lane continues through Loftus Cemetery on to the A174 , Easington Road.

Cross road then turn right and then left on to a footpath running on right hand side of beck.

This path leads into Micklow Terrace then East Crescent . Turn right then uphill to Loftus Market Place.

Refreshments

Stonehouse Bakery - Market Place

References

1-Birds of Cleveland, Martin Blick ,Tees Valley Wildlife Trust ,



St Mary's Church and Priory at Handale

Handale (also known as Grendale) priory was founded by William de Percy, (son of Richard de Percy) in 1133. It housed a small community of nuns, though. There is very little left of Handale Priory itself. In 1540 the property was leased to Ralph Beckwith, Goldsmith of York and subsequently sold by the crown in 1543 to Ambrose Beckwith. The property remained with the Beckwith family until 1748 when it was sold to Mr. Sanderson of Staithes. For a while the buildings were used for the manufacturing of cotton which one source suggested stopped in the late 18th and early 19th century with the lack of demand during the Napoleonic War. In 1808 it is said the remains of the west end of the chapel was still present and in 1846 the remaining buildings were demolished with the stone being used for the nearby Handale Abbey Farmhouse and Handale Abbey Walled Garden which is now Grade II listed and marks the location where the nunnery once stood.

In 1830 sixteen human skeletons were found at the priory which then linked it with Scaw and the legend of the dragon. The exact details of what was found is slightly unclear and differs depending upon the source you read. Essentially though the finds included a stone coffin, a stone pedestal of a font or cross and a sword which measured either 4' or 5'. The skeleton with the sword was associated with Scaw. One source suggested the stone coffin lid had a sword carved on it and 'snake slayer'.

Source:

- (1) <http://www.mysteriousbritain.co.uk/england/cleveland/legends/handale-priory-scaw-and-the-serpent.html>
- (2) <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/yorks/north/385-388>

DESIGNED BY LOFTUS ACCORD
WALKING GROUP



CIRCULAR WALK HANDALE ABBEY TRAIL

Distance 6 miles



Spectacle of spring flowers

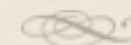
Description

A walk through Rosecroft Wood to Liverton then to site of Handale Abbey and return to Loftus Market Place via Loy Lane.

Time 4 hours

Terrain: Gradual ascent to Liverton then level terrain

Strong boots and a waterproof are recommended





O.S. MAP: OL 27

TRAIL MAP

Point No.

1

2

3

4

5

9

8

7

6





Pack Horse Train

Directions

1-From the Angel cafe in Loftus Market Place walk west down to the traffic lights at Station Road. Cross the road at pedestrian crossing into Station Rd., then turn left adjacent to Station Hotel .

2-Continue uphill over the railway bridge then before reaching St. Josephs school turn right into Rosecroft Wood at NZ 717177 and follow the path upstream to the road at Waytail Gate .

All of the usual woodland birds can be found in Rosecroft and nearby woods including Great Spotted Woodpecker , Spotted Flycatcher, Chiffchaff, Blackcap, Garden Warbler, Marsh Tit and Tawny Owl. A few pairs of Grey Wagtails breed along the steams. (i)

3-At Waytail Gate turn right and proceed up Rosecroft Lane towards Liverton Village. Turn left onto the B1366

4-Approaching Liverton village pass a restored pinfold on the left. You are advised to cross the road for safety purposes .St Michael’s Church may be seen down a path

LONG DISTANCE PANNIER WAYS FROM LOFTUS

Along Rosecroft Lane there are remnants of a long distance pannier way connecting the coast to major northern cities , towns and monastries. Some were established by Cistercian Monks after 1133 and some by the Romans over 1000 years earlier. They carried salted fish inland and returned with lime fertiliser and coal



to the right. It is one of three in England which has a perfect Norman arch. Continue through the village then turn left on to the bridleway opposite Moorsholm Lane. You will soon pass Liverton pond on your right. Birds you can find here include Canada Geese which arrive in large numbers in Sept. and Oct. to feed and rest with the resident Mallards . Continue past the racing gallops and weigh bridge on right

5-Turn right on to the footpath before reaching Handale Bank Farm (NZ722158) at and follow the perimeter fence around the rear of farm then follow blue sign over the farm track passing the silos on left into the field keeping close to the right hand perimeter. A gate on the right leads down to a bridge over Handale Beck. This was the main entrance to the former priory from the west and south.

6-Continue uphill then turn left at gate on left to enter the walled garden area

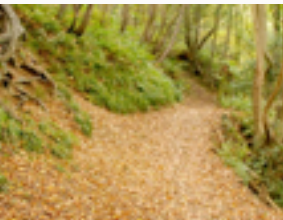
The walled garden on the site of the priory is a symbolic reminder of the Cistercian nuns who resided here for nearly 400 years. They provided rest and recovery to the monastic travellers and daily worship at St. Mary’s church on the same site.



Spotted Flycatcher



Grey Wagtail



Rosecroft Woods



Liverton Pond



Abbey information board



Loftus Cemetery Road

