

WALK 4 NORTH YORKSHIRE

MAX DISTANCE: 3 MILES

SITE GUIDE

Grid reference: SE 599 498

Postcode: YO23 1NZ

How to get there: You can either follow Bishopthorpe Road out of York or come through Bishopthorpe from the A64, turning left once in the village down Church Lane, then left again onto Bishopthorpe Road.

Where to park: On-street parking by the Terry's factory on Bishopthorpe Road, or in Bishopthorpe village, on either Church Lane or Main Street.

Distance and time: Three miles. Allow two hours to include Knavesmire Wood.

Terrain: The landscape is mostly flat but the footpaths on the ings get muddy in wet weather.

Opening times: Year-round access, but avoid race days.

Facilities: There are shops and places to eat in Bishopthorpe and further into town.

Public transport: Number 11 bus every half hour between Bishopthorpe and York city centre. First York: 01904 883000.

Site nearby: For a longer walk, you can combine this route with the Bishopthorpe-Acaster walk (*Bird Watching*, Summer 2011). Also try Askham Bog reserve (January 2013).

Club contacts: Nigel Stewart, 01904 690349, or Andy Walker, 07968 162134, recorder@yorkbirding.org.uk

County recorder: Geoff Dobbs geoffdobbs@aol.com

Maps: OS Explorer 290, OS Landranger 105.



Paul Brook

Nun Ings & Middlethorpe

Surprising birds on the edge of historic York

WITH THE CLOCK tower of the former Terry's Chocolate Factory at one end, the Archbishop of York's palace at the other, and featuring York Racecourse, this walk is flanked by local landmarks.

The birds you can see on this very pleasant stroll across floodplains by the River Ouse are perhaps not what you'd expect from an edge-of-town location, though. They include the trio of Curlew, Lapwing and Yellowhammer and their distinctive calls, evocative of the countryside rather than somewhere within walking distance of a city centre. Linnets may also be seen.

In spring, Sand Martins burrow in the riverbank along this route. Great Crested Grebes and Kingfishers are occasionally seen, while in winter Goosander is possible.

The most common raptor is the Kestrel, which can be seen hunting over the ings or by Bishopthorpe Road.

Common warblers including Whitethroat and Chiffchaff can be found in scrub on the ings and in Knavesmire Wood, along with tits and finches, including Bullfinch. Trees and bushes by the racecourse and Bustardthorpe



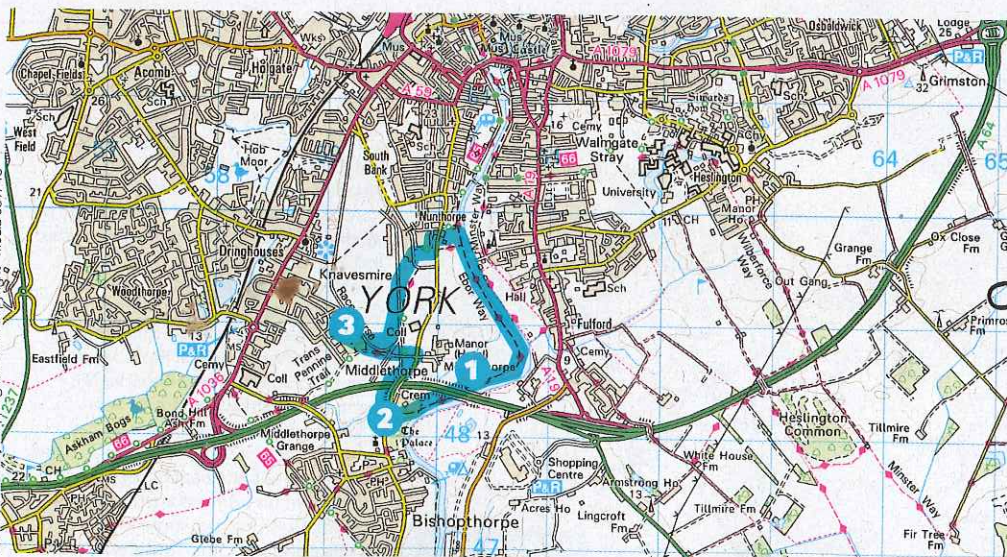
Kingfisher

Calum Dickson (A&P)

Allotments are also worth checking.
Paul Brook

TOP TIP

Although spring offers most species, a winter walk can be rewarding, when floodwater attracts gulls and geese.



- 1 Middlethorpe Ings is the widest part of the ings and its meadows are where you're most likely to encounter Curlew, Lapwing and Yellowhammer.
- 2 The grounds of Bishopthorpe Palace include a small lake, which you can see from the path alongside the Crematorium, or by turning left at the end of the path. It's worth a look for a possible glimpse of a Kingfisher.
- 3 Knavesmire Wood, a short detour from the route, gives a chance to add some woodland species to your list. This small wood managed by the Woodland Trust has a number of good paths and is also worth a visit for its spring flowers.