

Witton Gilbert Walks No. 4

Horn's House/Fulforth Farm 3.19 Km / 1.98 Miles

Grade: moderate

Time: 1hrs.

Start location: NZ 234 457

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Directions

1 Starting from the entrance to Cooper Hall/School drive bear left to go west between the houses and through a kissing gate then **2 turn left** to follow the edge of the field and cross the stile in front of you, continue on then bear right to cross the field to the far hedge. **3 There** are two options here, cross the stile and go diagonal left to the gap in the hedge then exit onto Norburn Lane via the stile or gateway, or turn left and go to Norburn Lane going through the gateway.

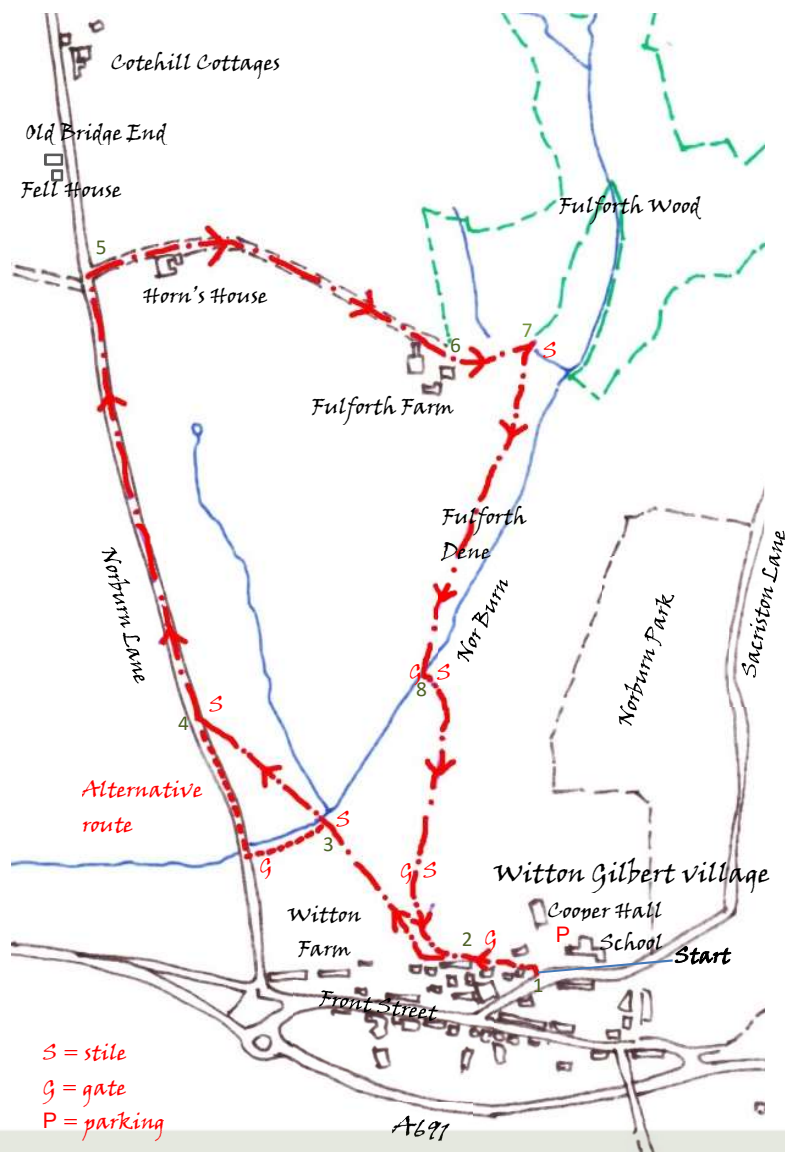
4 On Norburn Lane turn right to head uphill for 850 metres **5 then turn right** to go passed Horn's House and on to Fulforth Farm, to your right you can look out over the valley towards Langley Park and beyond, **6 when you reach the farm** there is a track to the left which goes downhill, follow the track until you reach the stile on your right, **7 cross the stile** and turn right to go across the field below the farm and head diagonal left for the far corner about 500 metres. **8 Cross the stile/open the gate** and head diagonal left uphill to the hedge and follow the track along to the gate and **9 turn left** through the gap then turn right to follow the path round the field and back to the kissing gate on your right, go through this and return to the starting point.

Points of interest

Thomas Horne built Horn's House before 1641. Originally a cross-passage long house, it had a centrally placed entrance leading on one side to family living space and on the other stalls for animals. Later generations separated farm buildings and gave the four-roomed house its own front door in the 18th century. The Smith family around 1900 had six children, and a brick-built extension was added in 1908 on the north side nearest to the footpath.



Fulforth Farm occupies the site of the ancient settlement of Ffulforth or Foulforth meaning "foul ford" The earliest record of the settlement or manor house was in 1183 and is shown on maps of 1610. Fulforth was anciently held by a family bearing the local name and then the property of the Eshes, Hildyards and Wrays and is now the property of the Earl of Durham.



The walk skirts the edge of Fulforth woods which is registered as ancient woodland.

The Nor Burn follows the line of a Subglacial channel system which channelled glacial melt water under the ice at the end of the Devensian period (last ice age) it is one of the protected geological sites in Durham.