

The Marton-cum-Grafton Eight

This figure-of-eight walk around the twin settlements of Marton-cum-Grafton shows you some glorious panoramic hilltop views, tells you a tale of two churches and stands you next to a map-making high point.



Keep an eye open for corn bunting on the Country Loop.

References to this area go back at least as far as the Domesday Book where lands at Marton were listed as belonging to the Priory of Nun Monkton and an entry can be seen for the Archbishop of York's estate at Grafton.

But today you'll be exploring two small but thriving villages on the Village Loop, using some of the extremely ancient pattern of roads and paths which has been carefully maintained here, and taking an easy stroll out into the countryside to the south on the Country Loop.

To your right, across the road, is Grafton's village green where your position on the Millennium Sundial will show you the time. For the walk, turn left from this panel, up Thorney Hill Lane.

Near the brow of the hill look for a fingerpost on your right where the woodland starts. The footpath brings you to Grafton Hills which are, along with nearby Wood Hills, the highest point for 20 miles around. The flock of handsome Soay sheep may be about. Pause for a look back across the lovely Vale of York and the lower Ure Valley.

As the route continues, you'll enter Marton, passing the 16th century Ye Olde Punch Bowl Inn. As you head out onto the Country Loop you'll see the school, built in 1861, before you follow the track down to cross Goker Beck which flows down into the River Ure. Going uphill from the beck you'll climb through a type of stile known as a 'squeeze' stile.

Ye Olde Punch Bowl Inn.



Ye Olde Punch Bowl Inn.



Great views can be had from the Trig Point.

Look out across the fields for birds such as skylark, yellowhammer, pheasant, partridge, redwing and fieldfare, depending on the time of year. If you're really lucky you might spot a corn bunting.

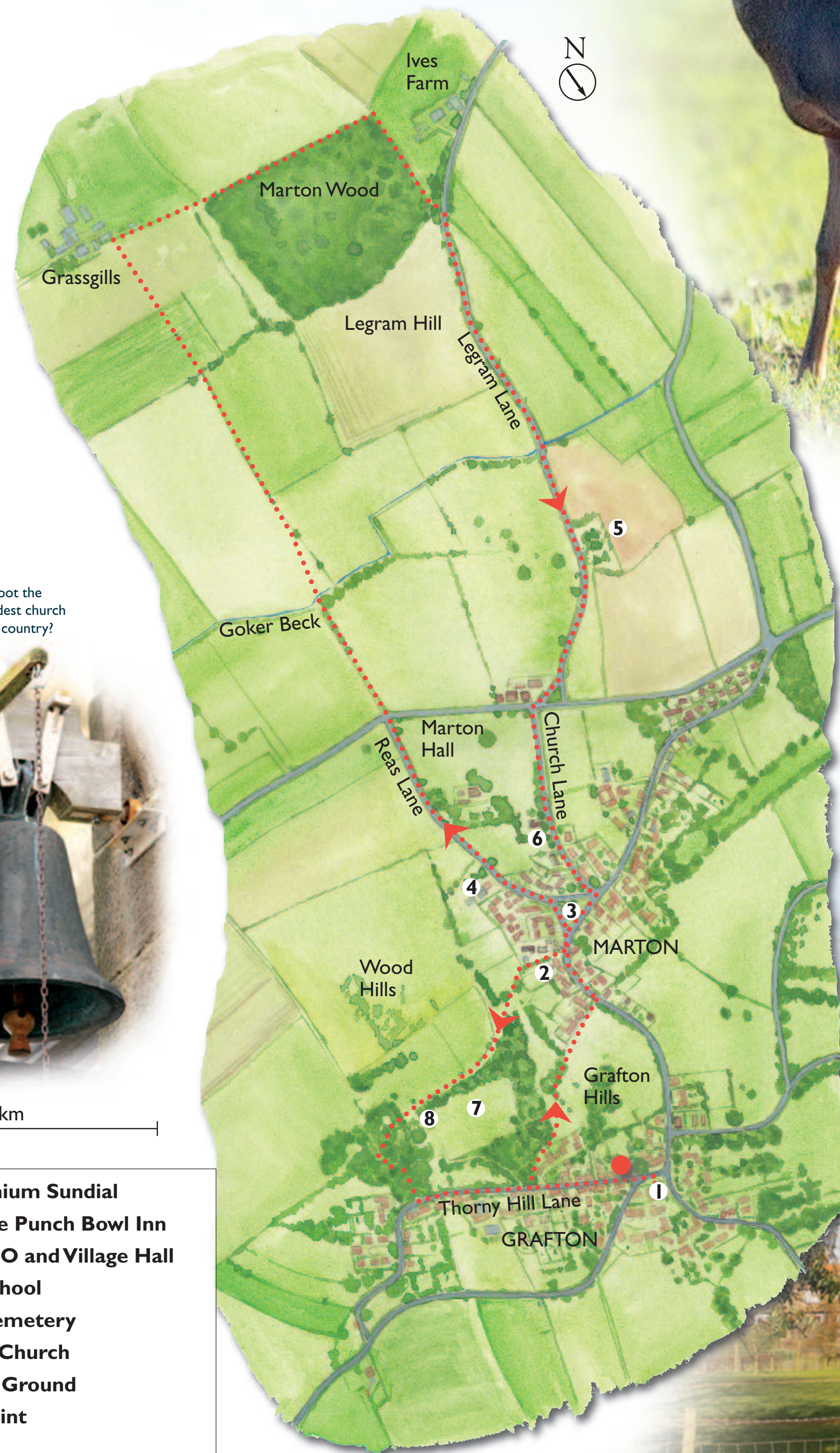
The route continues past farm buildings at Grassgills and then behind Marton Wood before bringing you onto Legram Lane. Look for the cemetery on your left which was once the site of Marton's church. It is now also a nature reserve.

The church was demolished in 1873 on the orders of the Reverend John Lunn, and you'll see the replacement he built further on as you cross over into Church Lane. Christ Church was built in 1875 using much of the carved stone from the previous building. It houses the second oldest church bell in the country on the side of the church above the sundial. Inside, the font dates from 1320, and is well worth seeing.

Continue into the village past the shop/PO and Village Hall, back onto the Village Loop, and head down the right hand side of the pub car park. As the route continues you'll find yourself reaching a high point on a path by the Sports Ground which gives you spectacular views across to the White Horse of Kilburn, as well as York Minster.

With ups and downs, the result of this ground having been used to quarry gravel, you'll pass a white Trig Point. Standing at 75 metres above sea level, this is one of thousands of high-point markers used by the map makers of the Ordnance Survey. This was once the site of an Iron Age Hill Fort and you, like those ancient ancestors, can enjoy some excellent views.

Finally, take the stepped pathway down to Thorney Hill Lane. The shops, pub and businesses which used to be here are long gone, but their names can still be seen on some of the houses as you return downhill to the start.



Can you spot the second oldest church bell in the country?



0.5km

The Reverend John Lunn was responsible for the building of Christ Church. Much evidence of him exists both inside and outside the church.

Produced by Adrian Bury Associates 01937 590541

Key

- The Marton-cum-Grafton Eight
- You are here

The full walk is three miles (5km) and should take around two hours at a steady pace following the route shown by the purple waymarkers. The Country Loop is just under two miles (3km) and should take an hour. The Village Loop is just over one mile (2km) and should also take around an hour.

A hilly walk with stiles and, on the Village Loop, a number of steps. Ye Olde Punch Bowl Inn past the church and along Legram Lane is suitable for wheelchairs and scooters.

OS Map Explorer 299 covers the area.

www.marton-cum-grafton.fsnet.co.uk www.martoncumgraftonhistory.com

- 1 Millennium Sundial
- 2 Ye Olde Punch Bowl Inn
- 3 Shop/PO and Village Hall
- 4 The School
- 5 The Cemetery
- 6 Christ Church
- 7 Sports Ground
- 8 Trig Point

URE WALKS THROUGH TIME

Boroughbridge and the Lower Ure Valley are steeped in history and support fascinating wildlife. Ure Walks Through Time enable the people who live here, and the visitors who come here, to explore and enjoy the riches that surround us.



Walks leaflets are available from local outlets. For further information, visit the Tourist Information Point, 1 Hall Square, Boroughbridge or call 01423 323373.

www.boroughbridge.org.uk
www.yorevision.org.uk

FOLLOW THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under close control.
- Consider other people.

YORE VISION

Yore Vision is the regeneration partnership body for Boroughbridge and the Lower Ure Valley. Its objectives are:

- To provide the necessary framework, structure, and organisation to reinforce the role of Boroughbridge as a service centre for residents, businesses, and rural communities within the Lower Ure Valley.
- To contribute, in the widest possible way, to improving the quality of life for the benefit of the whole community.
- To work in partnership with like-minded bodies such as town and parish councils, community groups and individuals to deliver on a wide range of initiatives.

Membership of Yore Vision is open to any resident of Boroughbridge and its surrounding rural communities and to any others who are interested in furthering its work. For more information call 01423 323373 or go to www.yorevision.org.uk

