

Title: Another great day out with EYMS and the ME1

Author: Colin Lynch

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What looked like it was going to be a miserable wet day first thing, turned out to be a very warm, (somewhat humid) but dry day. We got on the ME1 (another double decker!) and on the way heard the jovial banter of passengers downstairs. What a jolly crowd we are!

Pickering: a nice stroll eastwards across arable field with ripening crops; *(please see my warning further down) to Thornton le Dale for a rather large piece of cake and a strawberry milkshake. Super Cool vintage cars and motorcycles on display at Mathewson Classic Car Auctions, and the North Yorkshire Motor Museum. Thornton le Dale was bristling with holiday makers, sightseers and day trippers.

Finding a shady footpath, we headed north, passed the redeveloped Thornton Mill and up the side of the Thornton Beck, passing pleasantries with others; and onto a pasture at Kirkdale Slack, a slightly muddy track uphill through the woodland and onto the Dalby Forest Road. A modest walk passed the toll booth and along a wooded footpath to a fantastic view point looking over a wooded valley within Dalby Forest.

We took the decision to head west back in the direction of Pickering and so we did, through the woodland and onto Low Kingsthorpe Farm. Now, the dogs bark a lot, but the main problem is that to get to the Howl Dale Wood, one has to go through a field of very enthusiastic bullocks. Luckily the farmer was on hand and noticing our hesitation, escorted part way through until the pesky beasts were far enough behind us for us and the beasties to be out of sight of one another. A very long field led us to a really charming woodland walk in Howl Dale Wood – but watch the occasion nettle which sweeps out into the track and can catch one unawares.

*Leaving the southern end of the Wood there is a choice. The footpath officially leads right between the line of trees and the fence, but the trees are low and overgrown and the fence in part is electrified making it quite a dangerous proposition which is not immediately noticeable until a quarter of the way along. So it is permissible and advised to go through

the gap slightly to the left when reaching the corner of the fenced off field and then turn right to walk on the other side of the line a trees. It's a grass meadow then a copse of trees and back onto Ruffa Lane (track) and back into Pickering.

We stopped at the railway station for a glass of milk and a bag of crisps before walking the bus stop to wait for the ME1 to once again whisk us home. Another great day out with EYMS and the ME1.

Colin Lynch Sunday 20th July