

# HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING HERITAGE WALKS

## FIELD HOUSE FARM WALK



Map extract from Google Maps | <https://www.google.co.uk/maps>

The Market Place was the original site of a Saxon fortified village through which ran a freshwater stream - Houghton Burn. The stream was culverted in the 1920s and the houses and confectionery factory on the north side were demolished and replaced by modern buildings in the 1950s, so the features of the original village are now hardly recognisable. The walk takes you on a gentle climb over good surfaced roads or farm lanes almost to the top of Warden Law. Pause frequently as you ascend to look back on the views of Houghton which become increasingly dramatic. The walk then returns to the starting

**NAME:** Field House Farm Walk

**LENGTH:** Approx 3km (1.88 miles)

**START POINT:** Houghton Market Place

**VIA:** The Green / Field House Farm

**END POINT:** Houghton Market Place

**DURATION:** 1 - 2 hours

point along the sides of arable fields and, in the last stage, along the side of Houghton Burn. It is suitable for all ages and is an ideal family walk.



1. Leave the Market Place at the east end (OS Explorer Map 308 Ref 346491) via a small road (The Green) between the new houses. The road soon bears right and gently ascends to the left of Field House.

2. You soon arrive at the end of Field House Farm buildings where the road (now signposted Haining) veers left by a weigh bridge.

3. Continue ahead, still gently ascending, on a gravelled road until you arrive at the entrance of McCall's quarry.

4. Turn right here, and continue to follow the farm track until you arrive at a wooden stile on the right of a wooden gate.

5. Here, turn right from the track, via the stile, onto a path overgrown with long grass on the edge of a field. Continue ahead to the right of a small copse with a wire fence on your right for about 100 yards, when you arrive at another stile.

6. Climb the stile, turning right, and then continue down the field with a wire fence, and later a hedge, on your left.

7. Pass into the next field via another stile and continue downhill on the wide grassy edge of the field.

8. At the bottom of this field, you arrive at a sandy patch above Houghton Burn. Except after very heavy rain, the burn may not be obvious since it lies at the bottom of a deep ditch, overgrown with vegetation. Turn right here, and follow the line of the burn to arrive back at Field House Farm (see No. 2).

9. Turn left and re-trace your steps back to the Market Place.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With thanks to Dr Jack Morley for sharing this route from his childhood.

## DISCLAIMER

All walkers following a Houghton Heritage Society walk/route do so at their own risk. You are responsible for your own risk assessment and health and safety. Public Rights of Way are not depicted in this document; measurements are approximate; you should have the land owner's permission before attempting any walk which crosses private property.

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