

Fishergate, Fulford & Heslington (York)
Local History Society

WALKING TRAIL FULFORD SOUTH

Fordlands Road, Forest Lane
and Germany Beck

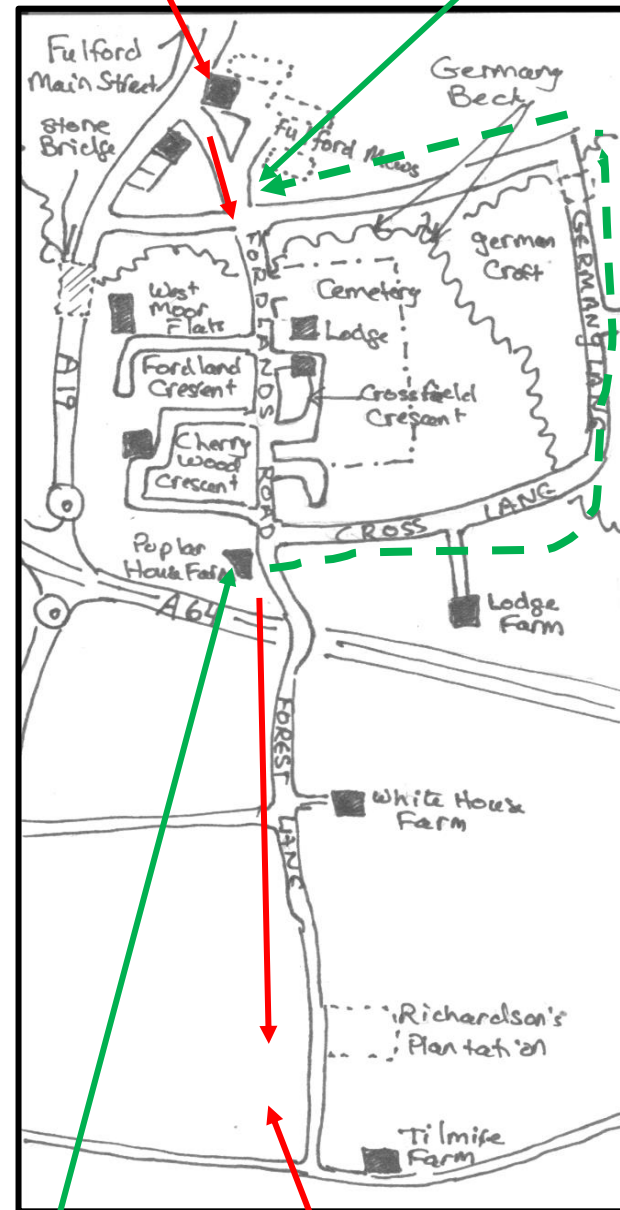


VISIT our website
<http://ffhyork.weebly.com>

MAP

START HERE

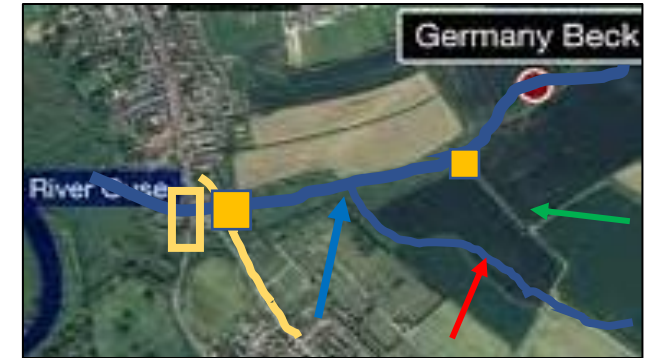
END HERE



TURN AROUND HERE

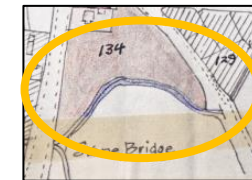
Suggested route back to start

BACKGROUND: GERMANY BECK



The theory is that the Beck (blue arrow) was formed at the end of the last Ice Age and its course has been modified by humans on several occasions.

There is a tributary (red arrow) which carves out the curved shape of a field which in the 1200s was owned by a man named German de Bretgate. It is thought he gave his name to the field (purple oval, right), the Beck and nearby lanes and pathways (green arrow, above).



There are 3 bridges over Germany Beck (yellow squares, map at top): a simple plank on Germany Lane; a modern one on Fordlands Road and a stone-arched one

on the A19 (right). A ford was recently discovered by archaeologists (yellow oval above). This may be the 'foul' or muddy ford which gave its name to Fulford. It is thought that this the location of the Battle of Fulford in 1066.



Fordlands Road used to be called DAMLANDS LANE. This suggests there was a dam here, perhaps part of a medieval drainage system to make the land more suitable for farming. The large field to the east where the cemetery is now was called the Damlands.

START ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF MAIN STREET, SOUTH END OF THE VILLAGE

THE DOWER HOUSE built around 1840. This name is usually given to a home reserved for the widow of a Lord of the Manor whose heir would live in the manor house. When Samuel (VI) Key became joint manor lord in 1961, his widowed mother Margery moved back



Behind the old brick wall to the left of the Dower House was a Blacksmith's Forge run by Edwin Hick until his death in 1973. Behind the house on the south side is a new development called Fulford Mews.



Just south of the junction with Fordlands road is **PINFOLD COTTAGES**. Built around 1865 they may have been the farmhouse for a farm belonging to a succession of families: Ridsdales, Wilsons and Hardys. Farm buildings are now Fulford Mews and their 'stackyard' was on the other side of Fordlands Road where the sheltered housing complex is now.

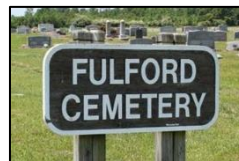


The word '**PINFOLD**' is a clue to the location of the Village pen (pin or pound) where stray cattle, sheep and pigs were impounded until their owners paid a fine for their release. The 1907 map (right) shows that the pound was just north of Pinfold Cottages.



DOWN FORDLANDS ROAD

A new **Cemetery** with military burial ground was laid out in 1915 on Damlands Field; and this is when the road and bridge were improved. Now covering



28 acres, the grounds are pleasantly landscaped and is a lovely place of repose.

The **Cemetery Lodge** was built in the 1920s for the caretaker. Two storeys of red and orange brick. The steeply pitched roof has a central chimney stack.



The post WWII years saw development in the area such as the range of terraced housing in **Crossfield Crescent**. Reddish brown brick, 2-story and with bays projecting under a gable roof.

West Moor Flats in Fordlands Crescent were built in the late 1950s. Similar in style to Ings Flats in Main Street, most flats have 2 bedrooms lit by large windows and a lounge with a fireplace.



by this date. Some of the back gardens are extensive.

Cherry Wood Crescent was laid out in 1966. Most houses are bungalows, some with upper rooms in the attic space. The driveways and garages show most people had cars

There are also more recent houses.

DOWN & BACK FOREST LANE

Pause at the junction of Fordlands Road and Cross Lane and look around at the fields and pastures bounded by hedgerows. This was the landscape all around York until relatively recently.

There are a few widely scattered farmhouses. In the distance to your left is **Lodge Farm** off Cross Lane (right).



Walk forward a short way and you'll come to **Poplar House Farm** (left). Continue down Forest Lane (the name will become clear soon) .

Cross over the A64 noting the fields on your left which, for the most part, preserve the size and shape of the fields shown on Enclosure map of 1759.



You will come to **White House Farm** (right) when the roadside becomes more wooded. This is the remnant of the medieval forest which was cut down to make fields called 'Intacks'. These and 'New Fields' are shown on the 1759 map.



Walk further on to **Tilmire Farm**. Tilmire was the name of a wetland or marsh which extended from Fulford into Heslington township. Today most of the mire has been drained, but a portion remains and is designated a place of Special Scientific Interest

Walk back the same way, but you might want to turn right on CROSS LANE and come out on GERMANY LANE.