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Stoupe Beck Sands to Robin Hood's Bay

Starting point and OS Grid reference	Stoupe Beck Sands (NZ 958034) – small honesty box car park.
Ordnance Survey map	OL27 North York Moors – Eastern Area
Distance	3.3 miles
Date of Walk	8 June 2021
Traffic light rating	

Introduction: This is a shortened version of my Ravenscar to Robin Hood's Bay walk for those who want an easy short walk but still with a chance to explore Robin Hood's Bay. The route is pretty much the same but with a diversion off the Cinder Track, the route of the old Scarborough to Whitby Line to return you to Stoupe Beck Sands.

Stoupe Beck Sands has fond memories for me because when my children were young, we would come to this beach to let them enjoy the lovely sands, paddling etc, without the crowds, before walking along the beach to Robin Hood's Bay for the obligatory ice creams and returning via the cliff path (or vice versa depending on the state of the tide). On the way there are many rock pools to explore. If you choose to do this, you must be very certain of the tide as it is easy to become trapped. Also, keep clear of the cliffs as they are 'crumbly' and prone to collapse. For that reason, I describe the outward route along the top of cliffs but with a return partially via the Cinder Track and a pleasant diversion to a pretty stream.

Robin Hoods Bay is the picturesque, quintessential fishing /smugglers' village on the East Yorkshire coast. It is a maze of narrow passages and steep streets. It has both a rocky foreshore and a sandy beach. It would be a real shame not to spend some time exploring it. Sadly, a lot of the properties are holiday homes, indicated by the numerical key boxes. Few people actually live in the old part.

The walk starts at a small, private car park at Stoupe Beck Farm. There is an honesty box but the charge is very modest - so pay! To get there, turn North East off the A171, at the Falcon Inn, about 4 miles North of Burniston, signposted for Staintondale and Ravenscar and follow the signs for Ravenscar. After two miles, keep a look out for the tower of an old windmill on the right, ahead of you. You can see this from some way off. As you get to the sharp, right hand bend by the windmill, branch left (effectively straight on) along the dead end road. Follow this to its end, about two more miles, where you will find the car park. This road is narrow in places and you may need some manoeuvring, if you meet oncoming traffic but it is normally a very quiet road.

Start: At Stoupe Beck Farm (NZ 958034) descend the steep path to Stoupe Beck Sands. There are some slab steps to help.

Cross the sturdy footbridge (NZ 958035) over Mill Beck and continue to follow the finger post for "Cleveland Way" and "Boggle Hole" which is marked by a National Trust sign.

The path drops down to the Youth Hostel at Boggle Hole. Cross the bridge and climb the steps to continue on the Cleveland Way. "Robin Hood's Bay ½ mile" is also signposted.

At NZ 952045 join a footpath at a 'T' junction and turn right for Robin Hood's Bay. The path forks right to the small promenade, or you can continue ahead descending some steps to the main street (New Road) by the Bay Hotel.

Explore Robin Hood's Bay as you wish, then climb the steep main street, to the roundabout. Cross straight over and opposite the Victoria Hotel, turn left along Thorpe Lane. Pass a road to the right signposted for "Station Workshops" and "Village Hall". The next turn on the left takes you on to the Cinder Track, indicated by a fingerpost (NZ 947053).

When the Cinder Track crosses a road (NZ 947043), turn left along the road, soon passing the end of Mark Lane.

Continue until you catch sight of the ford over Mill Beck. Follow a footpath on the left, indicated by a public footpath fingerpost, which will take you to a footbridge bridge, to avoid paddling! Within a few yards, at a section of rough walling/stile, turn left for the bridge.

Once over the footbridge, turn left to continue following the lane.

Arrive at South House Farm and continue to follow the lane between the buildings.

At a 'T' junction, where there is a small car park for the Boggle Hole Youth Hostel, keep straight ahead, following the blue bridle path arrow and fingerpost (NZ 952037).

When the track opens into a field, follow the left hand boundary, to join a steep gravel section back down to Stoupe Beck Sands. Turn right to return to the car park.

