

This circular walk of 2.5 miles is open to the public by kind permission of the Estate, during daylight hours only.

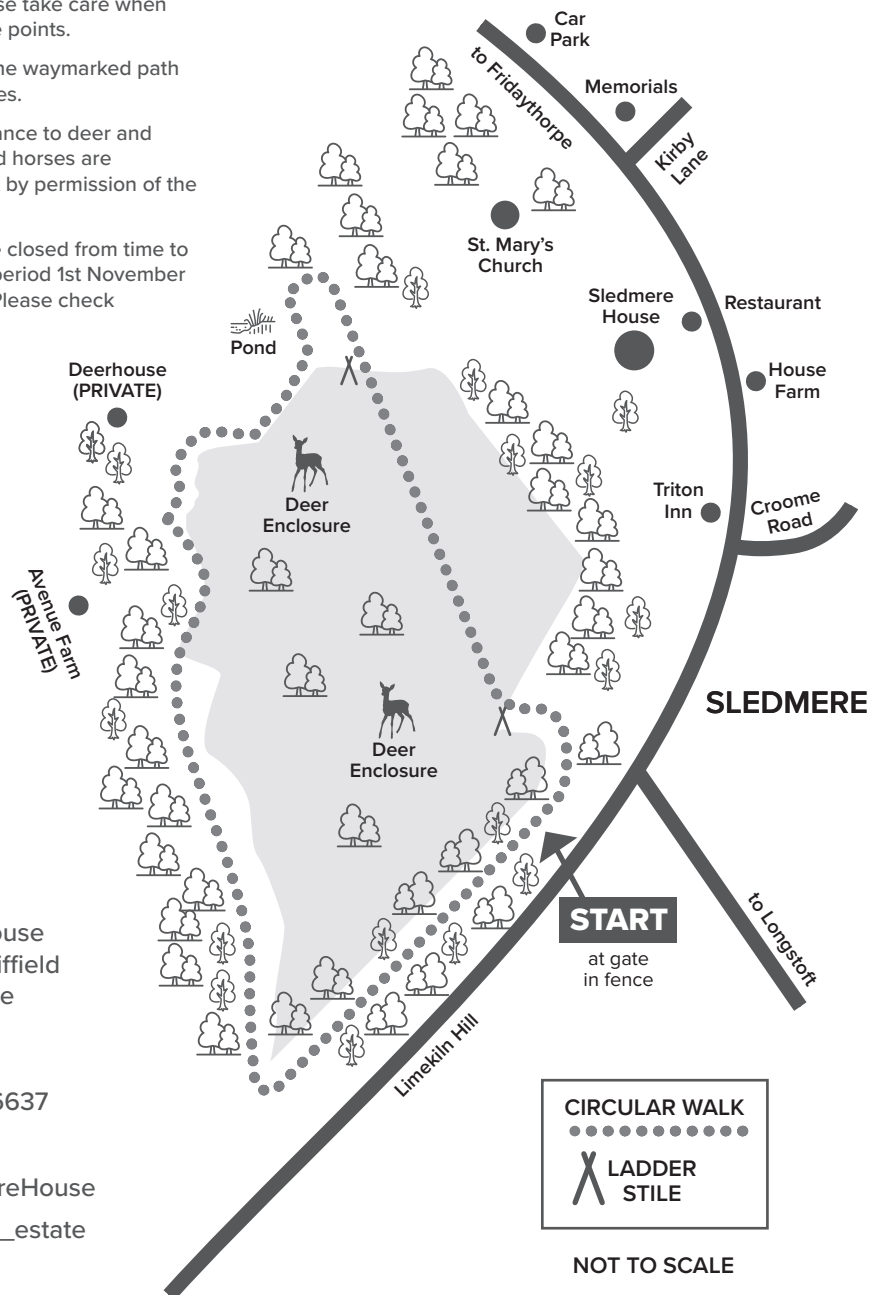
There are 3 tall ladder stiles (about 7ft high) on the path where it crossed the deer fence. Please take care when crossing at these points.

Please keep to the waymarked path and close all gates.

To avoid disturbance to deer and wildlife, dogs and horses are excluded, except by permission of the Estate.

The walk may be closed from time to time during the period 1st November to 1st February. Please check beforehand.

SLEDMERE PARK CIRCULAR WALK



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SLEDMERE CIRCULAR WALK



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Sir Tatton Sykes Bt, the owner of the land over which the walk passes, is not aware of any particular dangers apart from the ladder stiles mentioned later and of course the permanent caveat with regard to any classes of livestock that you may meet in the paddocks.

The easiest starting point for direct access is from the gate shown at the start of the map attached, but parking here is quite limited. There are large Estate car parks either at Sledmere House (in season), or at the Malton Road junction-both are free.

The walk may be taken either clockwise or anti-clockwise – this leaflet is clockwise.

From the start follow the mown pathway in the trees adjacent to the road up Lime Kiln Hill. The mainly beech avenue is about 200 years old, but many trees are now towards the end of their life and each major gale brings more casualties. Many of the gaps so created are replanted, mainly with beech.

To the left (east) is Sledmere Castle - a vista- from Sledmere House. The façade is castle like but behind is an ordinary farmhouse. It dates from about 1778 and was part of the Capability Brown grand plan for Sledmere Park.

Turning right into the main ride through Avenue Wood some of the original (1751) planted trees were marked with signs and numbers - these are now wearing off. They were part of a Forest Authority woodland health survey - now moved to another part of the Estate. This part of the belt is very thin from north to south and so as to preserve the visual amenity of the park in the future, Sir Tatton Sykes (the present owner) has created a new wood on the crest of the wolds to the south. The remainder of the belt is much thicker and has been underplanted. There is doubt as to the age of this part of the wood as it does not appear to be old enough to date from the original plantings, even though they were spread over some 80 years, but there is no record of later planting.

There are one or two points where the ride gives a very good view of Sledmere House. The reverse of Brown's proposed vistas.

Take the right fork out of the wood into what was originally deer park, remnants of the iron fence are on the wood edge. This land is now arable and has been upwards of 60 years. Some of the field margins have been left uncultivated to create beetle banks. There are also patches of wild bird mixture between some of the Park clumps. Whilst the Home Farm has never

believed in high chemical input these measures may help both vertebrates and invertebrates. The measures are part of a Countryside Stewardship Scheme which is supported by the England Rural Development Programme.

The track then turns sharp right. To the immediate front is the Deer Shed. Not thought to be one of Brown's original proposals it was added in 1792. The building had recently been completely re-roofed in its original mixed Westmoreland and Welsh slate, apparently the original design. Now brick, it seems likely that it was either rendered in mock ashlar stone or colour washed. It was never used to house deer but may have been used to store feed for winter.

The route, now northerly, takes you past one of the original park plumps. These too are nearing the end of their natural life and pose interesting management problems for the owner if the character of the park is not to be lost.

The road turns west past a small pond, one of only two in the park (the one in front of the House was created by Sir Richard Sykes in 1958). Mr Brown must have been very disappointed that he could not create for Sir Christopher Sykes, who commissioned him, lakes, waterfalls and fountains but this

part of the wolds has no surface running water.

The path divides at the corner of the next young wood – part is a cul-de-sac spur to a monument to family pets, the other into the deer park over the first of three ladder stiles which are about 7 feet high - please take care.

You are now in the remainder of the original deer park of about 70 acres. It is divided into three parts to allow management for breeding. Within are two herds (without are wild roe deer). The smaller paler animals are fallow deer, the larger are red deer. Don't be deceived by the reds. Particularly the stags can be very aggressive as can does if you trespass near a fawn.

The final ladder stile is near the farm buildings known as Cowpens – originally to provide milk for the House. Across the end of a recently re-planted wood you now go up the side of a traditionally boarded Sledmere Stud paddock past some small stud boxes and out onto the road through a boarded at what it the start.

Sir Tatton hopes that you enjoyed walking through the park. More details about Sledmere can be found in the guidebook obtainable from the Visitor's Reception.