

## Report for Fellwalk 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019.

Our expedition to the North York Moors started in Osmotherley. It is likely that Osmotherley means the clearing or 'ley' (pronounced lee), belonging to a Viking called 'Asmund' or a Saxon called 'Osmund'. There have been a number of spellings of the Osmotherley over the centuries: the name appeared in the Domesday Book as Asmundrelac; it has also been known as Osmundeslay and Osmonderlay.

We headed east on a section of the Cleveland Way, across Cod Beck and alongside two reservoirs (no temptation to swim there!) up to Square Corner, where the road makes a right angle. We followed the road for ½ mile, then turned north across the wild, open moors with views all around of heather and rolling hills. We followed the track to the lonely shooting lodge, and down into Scarth Nick. Our climb back up to join the Cleveland Way was rewarded by wonderful views across Teesside and out to sea. The return path to Osmotherley was delightful with views across the A19 towards the Pennines, completing an enjoyable ten-mile walk.

Fanciful local legend says that Osmotherley was named after the mother of a villager named Oswald or Osmund, who supposedly went out to gather firewood in the winter. When she did not return her son became anxious and went out to look for her. He found her lying in the snow, dead or dying from the cold. Because he was not able to carry her back, he lay down beside her and died himself. It is where **Oswald's mother lies**, hence Osmotherley.

Come and join us for our Lake District walk along the Roman Road of 'High Street' on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July, starting in Hartsop. More details from Phil Clarke.