

After a bit more than half a km pass a track coming in from the right and you will soon come to a T junction – turn right - note (**Pioneer Drive –bitumen**) through the trees on the left.

After a couple of hundred metres you will arrive back at the crossroads where you first crossed the bitumen. Remember to walk briskly over ant colonies as they don't like people tramping on their territory. Continue downhill, more or less parallel with the bitumen.

After another 300 + metres come to a T junction, turn left to head back to the TRIANGLE. See a fence and (**Chandos road**) again.

Soon you will arrive at the TRIANGLE with a house on your right.

And then another 1.6 km back down to the River and the swinging bridge.



To enhance your enjoyment of this walk, the following pamphlets and booklets are available at moderate prices from the York Visitor Centre in the York Town Hall :

Booklets –

- Overview of York's 175 year History.
- York Cemetery Historical Walk Trail - see a slice of York's 175 year history as you see selected tombstones.

Full colour Brochures –

- Bush Birds of the Shire of York.
- Wildflowers of the Shire of York (Season late July to October)

Mt Brown Walk

310 m above sea level

Total walk approx 7.5 km
Can be shortened by 3.2 km if you drive further before starting to walk.

PLEASE NOTE

THAT YOU TAKE THIS BUSH WALK ENTIRELY AT YOUR OWN RISK.

The tracks that you will use on this walk are gravel fire breaks and maintenance tracks –

**NOT DESIGNATED WALK TRAILS
“PLEASE TREAD GENTLY “**



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SUMMARY

Swing Bridge to triangle	1600 mt
Triangle via Chandos to Attfield & return	
via bush to Pioneer Road	1700 mt
From Pioneer Drive and back to triangle	2730 mt
	6030 mt

NB if walking back to the Swing Bridge you will need to add 1600 mt
7630 mt

If you start your walk from TRIANGLE the round trip is approx 4430 mt

It is suggested that you wear suitable enclosed footwear for walking, and in summer - sunscreen, sunhat and carry water.

- A basic first aid kit could be worth carrying.
- A camera.
- A pedometer could be a handy measuring tool if you have one.

Park cars in Avon Park at the town end of the swinging bridge. Cross the Avon River and soon come to the Anglican precinct. The rectory with its long-abandoned tennis court is on the right and Holy Trinity Church (1853) on the left. The tower houses a tuned set of 8 bells, the second in W.A. Continue straight ahead, taking care at crossroads (**Panmure Road**), which is the main road to Northam. Continue on to a T junction turn left to go past the Cemetery (**Herbert Rd**). Continue on until you come to a crossroad then turn right (**Steere Rd**) going up the hill.

Come to a Y fork (approx 1.6 km from the swinging bridge) and take the left fork (**unsealed - Chandos Road**). In the TRIANGLE formed by the two roads, there has been two years of planting of native vegetation in an effort to replace some of the plants that have gone over the years of white settlement.

Steere Road becomes Pioneer Drive at the triangle.

This is a spot where vehicles could be parked while you walk on if the shorter route is your preference.

Continuing along the left fork will take you along the border of Mt. Brown with large town blocks on your left. Eventually come to a sealed road, at crossroads, (**Attfield Road**). The way ahead is barred, turn right and almost immediately right again onto an unsealed firebreak track into the bush of Mt. Brown.

Continue on this track. As well as some colourful flowers, you might see on Mt. Brown the fragile climbing stems of yams – great food for the early aboriginal inhabitants - the Barlardong groups.

The animals you might see on Mt. Brown: kangaroos, echidnas and at night - possums. Sadly you might also see feral animals such as cats, rabbits and foxes.

At about 1.7 km from the TRIANGLE you will come back to the sealed road (**Pioneer Drive**) going to the top of Mt. Brown. Watching out for traffic, cross the road and after 8 – 10 metres of rough ground come to another firebreak track, turn left and follow this uphill.

At about 161 metres from where you crossed the sealed road observe on your left some marker posts and plastic ribbon where local volunteers who are concerned about the vegetation on Mt. Brown are doing some trials about killing weeds. One of the treatments is using sugar because the native plants like sugar but the weeds do not like the sugar in the soil.

There are quite a few new young Jam trees (*Acacia acuminata*) germinating and growing naturally which is good.

The Jam trees are so called because when the fresh wood is cut, it smells like raspberry jam. The wood is very durable and was used extensively for fence posts in the early days of the colony. Some of the posts still standing could well be over 100 years old.

The taller trees with dark rough bark are York gums (*Eucalyptus loxophleba*).

You might notice very narrow trails in the undergrowth – these are made by the scurrying feet of the black ants. Some of their colonies of nests straddle the track. Do not stop on their territory – they do not like intruders and the soldier ants will come out to get you, so keep moving!

Ignore a track going off to the right and after about 100 m more you will arrive at the picnic area with BBQs, toilets etc. Here there is a Memorial Grove provided by Bowra and O’dea. Go diagonally across the open area heading towards the lookout on the top of Mt. Brown.

Some of the Jam trees here are infected by a plant parasite Mistletoe. It is spread by a beautifully coloured Mistletoe Bird and will eventually kill off the trees.

Pause at the base of steps up to the lookout and enjoy the view over the town and across the valley to Mt. Bakewell. Follow the path and steps upward, note the words “Green Corps ’07” written into the concrete. These steps were made with a great group of unemployed young people helping a shire worker. Among the rocks you will notice some regrowth of the wattle *Acacia microbotrya*, some wild pittosporum and mulla mulla.

Further up is a large memorial rock erected to commemorate early pioneers of the district after Ensign Dale discovered this part of the Avon River Valley in 1830.

Go on up and spend a bit of time on the Lookout platform with great views over the town, cemetery and Valley. Look across Mt. Bakewell and the Dyott Range to where the next town of Northam would be. If you have the information about the Nyungar legend, this is the place to read it. Now turn your back on the taller mountain and look south to Mt. Matilda on which you will see an amazing geological feature looking like a man-made road that the aboriginal people attribute to their mythical Serpent the Wargul.

Before descending to the car park, notice a seat on the left, this spot of high ground is where the Christian churches of York gather for a dawn service on Easter Sunday and also where the ANZAC dawn service is held.

Go down and straight across the car park, over about 8 -10 metres of uneven ground to an unsealed firebreak track. Turn left into this.

You will arrive back at the bitumen (**Pioneer Drive**) (you are now nearly 1 km from where you first crossed this road.) Don’t actually go onto the road; veer right along a firebreak track. After approx 80 m come to cross roads, take the right track. Note the interesting rock formations on the right that you may like to explore – at your own risk of course!

Continue on the well-formed firebreak track through a lovely grove of York Gums.

After another couple of hundred metres come to Y shaped crossroads with a triple fork - 3 possible tracks.

Take the left fork and after another couple of hundred metres come to yet another fork – take the left fork again along a winding track. You will start to see old motorcar tyres set into the ground on either side of this track. It used to be a track for motor sports of some kind.