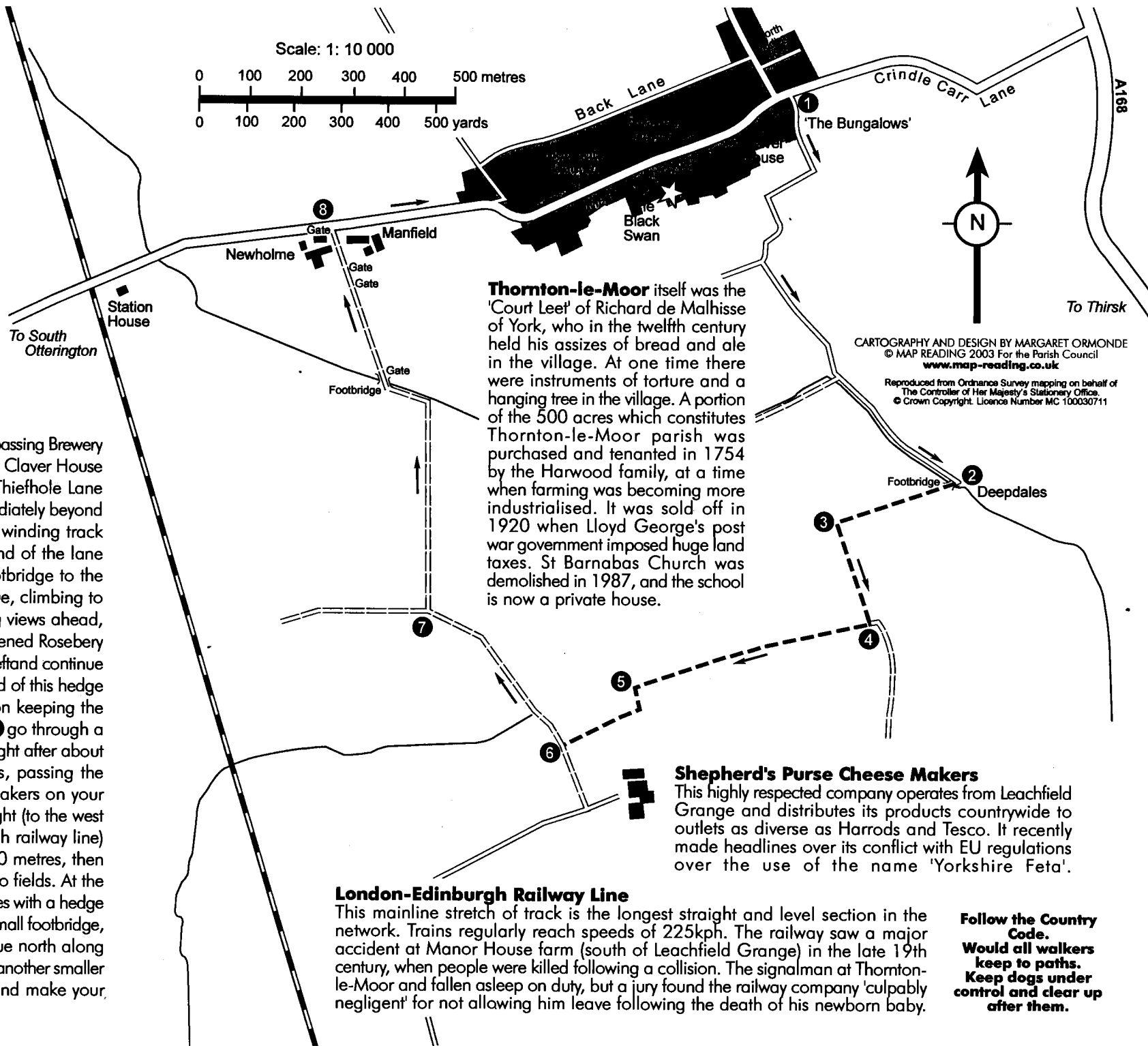
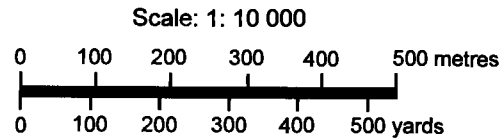


# THORNTON-LE-MOOR MILLENNIUM WALKS

Thornton-le-Moor, a small Yorkshire village midway between Northallerton and Thirsk, offers two leisurely waymarked walks through mainly arable land. They begin and end at The Black Swan public house in Main Street, which has its origins in the early eighteenth century. The southern walk, 4.5 km (2.8 miles) long lasts about an hour and takes you close to the renowned Shepherd's Purse cheese makers. The northern route 5.8 kms (3.6 miles) long would take about an hour and threequarters. For those wishing to undertake both walks on the same day, The Black Swan makes a convenient stopping off point for lunch (Tel: 01609 774117).

## Southern Walk Directions

Leaving the pub, walk east along Main Street, passing Brewery House on your left and continuing on to pass Claver House on your right. Walk past the junction with Thieffhole Lane and take the wide track on the right ① immediately beyond two bungalows. Carry on south along this winding track southwards for about a kilometre, to the end of the lane and a steel gate. ② Cross the wooden footbridge to the right and continue west, alongside the hedge, climbing to the highest point of the walk. (Commanding views ahead, of The Dales, and Pen Hill looking like a flattened Rosebery Topping.) At the corner of the hedge ③ turn left and continue south, with the hedge on your right. At the end of this hedge turn right ④ and head in a westerly direction keeping the hedge on your left. At the end of this field, ⑤ go through a gap in the hedge facing you, turn left, then right after about 50 metres. Carry on for about 150 metres, passing the buildings of the Shepherd's Purse cheese makers on your left. When you join the wide track, ⑥ turn right (to the west of this track is the main London to Edinburgh railway line) and continue in a northerly direction for 400 metres, then turn right ⑦ along a green track between two fields. At the end of this track turn left. Continue for 50 metres with a hedge on your right. At a gap in the hedge cross the small footbridge, pass through the gate and bear left. Continue north along this path, passing through two farm gates and another smaller gate to rejoin the main road. ⑧ Turn right and make your way back to the start point.



**Thornton-le-Moor** itself was the 'Court Leet' of Richard de Malhisse of York, who in the twelfth century held his assizes of bread and ale in the village. At one time there were instruments of torture and a hanging tree in the village. A portion of the 500 acres which constitutes Thornton-le-Moor parish was purchased and tenanted in 1754 by the Harwood family, at a time when farming was becoming more industrialised. It was sold off in 1920 when Lloyd George's post war government imposed huge land taxes. St Barnabas Church was demolished in 1987, and the school is now a private house.

## Shepherd's Purse Cheese Makers

This highly respected company operates from Leachfield Grange and distributes its products countrywide to outlets as diverse as Harrods and Tesco. It recently made headlines over its conflict with EU regulations over the use of the name 'Yorkshire Feta'.

## London-Edinburgh Railway Line

This mainline stretch of track is the longest straight and level section in the network. Trains regularly reach speeds of 225kph. The railway saw a major accident at Manor House farm (south of Leachfield Grange) in the late 19th century, when people were killed following a collision. The signalman at Thornton-le-Moor and fallen asleep on duty, but a jury found the railway company 'culpably negligent' for not allowing him leave following the death of his newborn baby.

**Follow the Country Code.**  
**Would all walkers keep to paths.**  
**Keep dogs under control and clear up after them.**

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