

## What you can see

The small and ancient Cathedral City of Ripon is rich in history. It's Market Square is lined with several buildings of interest and the splendid Cathedral attracts many visitors. The crypt of the Cathedral was built over 1,300 years ago and is believed to be the oldest complete Saxon Crypt in England.

The walk can be extended into the grounds of Studley Park and onto Fountains Abbey, both are well worth a visit. Fountains Abbey, south west of the city, was founded in 1132 by a group of dissatisfied monks who moved from York for a more peaceful existence in the wooded valley of the River Skell. Today the Abbey is the largest, most complete ruin in Britain. Studley Park is home to three species of deer, the fallow, the larger red deer (pictured below) and the sika deer. There are also very fine examples of trees throughout the park, many being hundreds of years old. Particularly interesting are the huge sweet chestnuts with their spiral deep ridged barks (a sign of great age). Other tree specimens include beech, oak and lime.



## At a glance

How far?	<b>6 miles (9.5km)</b>
How hard?	<b>Easy/moderate</b>
Which map?	<b>OS Explorer 299</b>
Starting at?	<b>Ripon SE 313 711</b>
Buses?	<b>traveline 0871 2002233</b>
Parking?	<b>Ripon</b>
Any facilities?	<b>A wide range of local facilities</b>

**Starting from the beautiful Ripon Cathedral this is a fairly easy six mile circular walk with some steps and gates.**

## Contact us

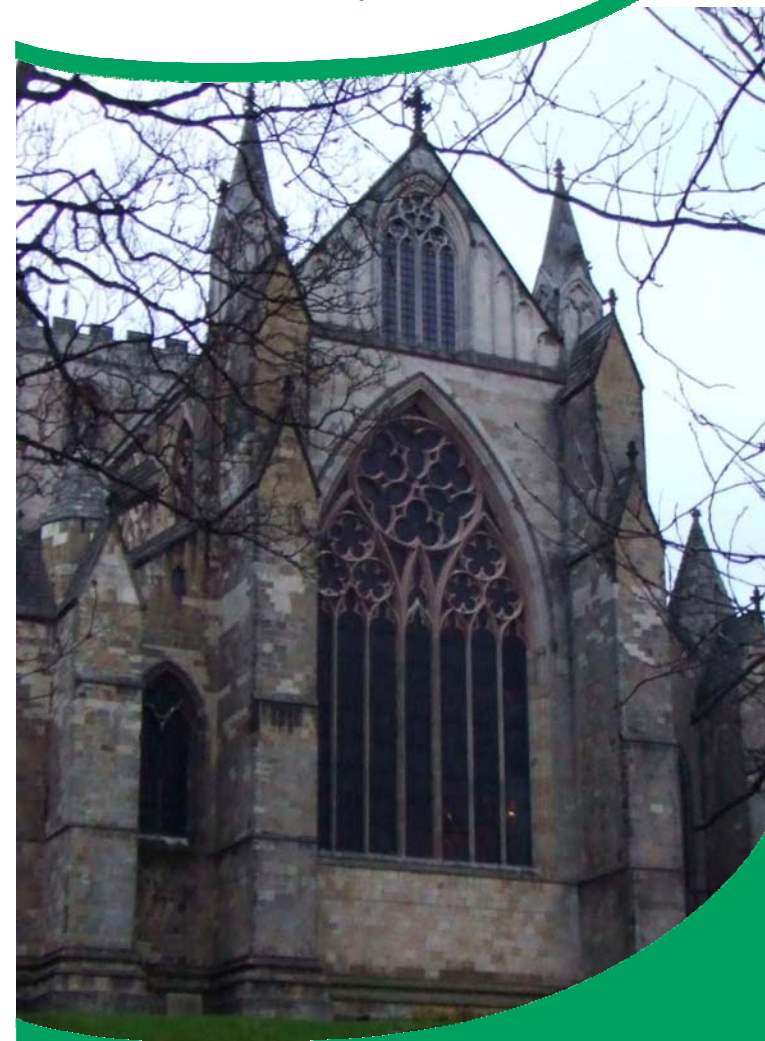
**North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8AD**  
Our Customer Service Centre is open: Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5.30pm (closed weekends and bank holidays). Tel: **0845 8727374**  
Email: [paths@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:paths@northyorks.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.northyorks.gov.uk/paths](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/paths)

If you would like this information in another language or format such as Braille, large print or audio, please ask us. Tel: 01609 532917  
Email: [communications@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:communications@northyorks.gov.uk)



# ny walks

A ramble from Ripon





1. From the front of Ripon Cathedral, walk south down Bedern Bank turning left at the roundabout to join the B6265. After crossing New Bridge take the small opening on the left and down the steps to join the riverside path on the southern bank. The path leaves the river and joins Barefoot Street for a short distance. Turn left at the junction with Harrogate Road and continue along the path for a short distance before turning right into Borrage Green Lane. The tarmac surface changes to a rough track as it runs alongside the river. Follow this until

reaching Willows footbridge where the route crosses the river to High Cleugh at the convergence of the River Skell and Laver.

2. The path follows the river until it meets Mallorie Park Drive at the top of several steps. Turn left and continue until you reach a roundabout. Take the first exit (signposted to Fountains Abbey) crossing over the road to the safety of a footway. After about ¼ mile the footway finishes at a sharp bend near a caravan park and quarry entrance. Take great care when re-crossing the road to take the public footpath

3. At the road in the village, turn left and head out of the village along Plumpton Lane, eventually passing Plumpton Hall on your right. Continue along the bridleway and down through the woods and into the valley bottom. Cross the River Skell at the metal footbridge (which has steps at both ends) and head up the wooded valley to a “crossroad” of paths near the valley top.

4. Take the sharp left hand path which runs up a slight incline and then exits the wood through a bridle gate into a field. Follow the old hedge line (now defined by mature hawthorn trees). A gate leads out onto Whitcliffe Lane just south of Whitcliffe Hall/Farm. Turn left and walk in front of the farm buildings. From here there are good views over farmland and woods to Ripon Cathedral. After walking along the lane for about ¾ mile you reach the outskirts of Ripon. Take the first turning on the left and then left again onto Hell Wath Lane, passing a sports ground and leisure centre on the right. Where the tarmac surface finishes by a solitary house there is a bridleway ahead, but our route is to the right on a footpath through shrubs and trees high above the River Skell. The path continues in roughly the same direction through a meadow following the river. Shortly before meeting up again with the Willows footbridge over the river at High Cleugh, the path forks off to the right slightly away from the water’s edge and goes down some steps to join the track by the bridge. Retrace the path back into Ripon.

