

## What you can see

Helmsley began as a small village with a church and burial ground, aligned either side of a road.

In the 12th century, crusader Robert de Roos built a castle and new town with buildings laid out around a central market place, where rents and tolls would be charged. The castle would also have controlled the river crossing, probably with an earlier version of Rye Bridge, giving further opportunities for income from tolls.

An industrial area existed for several centuries where the Borough Beck meets the Rye, using the water to power a variety of mills and for tanning.

On maps, parish boundaries south of the town have many loops and bends, suggesting they followed an earlier river course and hinting that they are several centuries old.

A bronze age round barrow cemetery lies on low ground on the other side of the railway line, north of Rye House Farm.

Along the riverbank, watch for clouds of insects hovering above the water—these provide food for fish and birds. You may see ripples and hear a splash as a fish grabs an insect meal, or glimpse a flash of bright blue as a kingfisher flies past.

Where the river meanders you might see herons overhead or standing by the river looking for fish. At the fish farm the tanks are covered in netting to stop birds snatching an easy meal.



## At a glance

How far?	3¼ miles (6km)
How hard?	Easy / moderate
Which map?	OS Explorer OL26
Starting at?	Helmsley SE 614 836
Buses?	traveline 0871 2002233
Parking?	Helmsley (pay & display)
Any facilities?	Plenty of choice in Helmsley

**A circular walk through fields beside the River Rye. Lots of gates / kissing gates, one stile, one short road section.**

## 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 along the River Rye



1. Follow Ryegate for a short distance until you see the Public Footpath sign pointing down Saw Mill Lane. Follow Saw Mill Lane until you reach the corner by the North York Moors National Park workshops.
2. Follow the path along the rear of the workshops until you reach the footpath junction signed the Ebor Way.
3. Turn right and head towards the river, following the track. On your left here are the remains of the former North Eastern Railway line between Thirsk and Pickering.
4. Leaving the track, cross over the field to walk next to the river Rye. Follow the river's meanderings generally south east until you once again meet up with the old railway line at the disused railway bridge.
5. When you reach the old railway bridge (don't

go under it) turn right, go through the gate, across the field and follow the riverside edge of the fields to a gate leading onto a track.

6. Once through the gate you need to turn right and follow the track towards the fish farm. Follow the path up onto a bank between the fish farm and the river until you reach the bridge.
7. Cross the river and continue straight on to the field edge bank.
8. From the field edge bank turn back towards the river and again follow its wandering course back towards Helmsley.
9. At the finger post you have a choice of routes to return to Helmsley – you can continue following the riverbank (9a), or you can turn left and head up the hill to follow the farm track (9b).
- 9a. Opposite the saw mill, by the bend in the river, the riverbank path can be muddy and slippery, with a steep drop on your side down to the river. After the bend in the river go through a gate and into a field. Cross the field, head for a gate by the bridge, which leads onto the A170 at 10.
- 9b. If you are returning to Helmsley via the farm track, turn left at the finger post and follow the path up the hill. At the farm track turn right and follow it until you reach the main A170 road. Turn right along the road back to Helmsley. There is a pavement on the other side of the road, please take care crossing this busy road.
10. Follow the road back into Helmsley, taking care when you cross the river on the road bridge. Turn right into Ryegate (start of the walk), or carry straight on to the town centre.

