

EASY COUNTRYSIDE TRAIL: NEWBURGH PRIORY AND COLLEY BROACH ROAD



A 3 mile (5km) there and back walk near Newburgh Priory in North Yorkshire.

This route has plenty to offer with superb views of famous landmarks including Newburgh Priory, Byland Abbey and Kilburn White Horse plus a chance to get close to nature and farm life. This walk is part of the Howardian Hills Easy Countryside Trails collection, published through a collaboration between iFootpath and the Howardian Hills AONB Partnership, with the aim of providing countryside access for all in the Howardian Hills.

There are no benches or other facilities along the route. If you are looking for refreshments, you will find tea rooms and a pub in Coxwold (0.5 miles north).

This walk follows a public road through public and private land. Please show respect for landowners and other visitors and remember the Countryside Code. OS Explorer Map 299: Ripon and Boroughbridge.



Easy Terrain

3 Miles
1.5 hours

090417



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Access Notes



1. The walk follows Colley Broach Road for its full length, a well-made wide tarmac vehicle lane which is usually very quiet (being an access road for just a handful of properties), but do take care of occasional cars.
2. Access to the start of Colley Broach Road from the parking lay-by involves crossing a grass verge (with a 15cm kerb) or following the edge of the main road for about 80 metres. Alternatively, it would be possible to park temporarily at the end of Colley Broach Road to unload less able members of your party, before parking in the lay-by.
3. The walk is generally flat with a few gentle or moderate gradients, and can be lengthened or shortened to meet your own requirements. There are no stiles or steps on route. An early half mile stretch of the track crosses a pasture that may sometimes be holding beef cattle. The pasture is accessed via wide farm gates (or by crossing the cattle grids alongside) at each end.
4. The first 0.6 mile stretch (up to the second cattle grid at Long Beck) has an estimated maximum gradient of 1:20 or 5%. By following this shorter version of the walk (1.2 miles, there and back), the route would be suitable for most wheelchairs and pushchairs, assuming you are ok with any cattle.
5. The remainder of the full route has an estimated maximum gradient of 1:8 or 12.5%. This full route would be suitable for rugged pushchairs and rugged disability buggies for most of the year.
6. Breakfree Surface and Slope Ratings A1 (shorter version) and A4 (full version).

Howardian
Hills
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Getting there

The walking route starts close to Newburgh Priory, about half a mile south of Coxwold in North Yorkshire. There is no public transport access. There is a parking lay-by on the main road, directly alongside the large lake, with space for about six cars.

Approximate post code **YO61 4AS**.

Walk Sections



Start to Bye Wash Crossing



The walk begins in the parking lay-by alongside the large lake, part of Newburgh Priory. The lake would originally have served as the fish pond for the priory. On the opposite side of the road is the site of Newburgh Mill.

Standing in the lay-by facing the lake, turn left and walk along the grass verge for about 80 metres. (If you choose to use the road edge instead, do take care of traffic). Where the road bends left, turn right into the tarmac access road for Fox Foot Hay Farm (this is the start of Colley Broach Road). Almost immediately you will be rewarded with beautiful views all around. To your left are the woodland hills in the north and to your right you will be able to see Newburgh Priory, with its topiary yews, on the far side of the lake.

Originally an Augustinian priory, Newburgh Priory was founded in 1145 and became a family home following the dissolution of the priory in 1538. It is now a family-owned stately home set within the magnificent scenery of the Howardian Hills. It is open to the public for a few days every year in late spring and is also a venue for weddings and filming. Productions with scenes filmed at Newburgh Priory include the 2002 film *Possession*, starring Gwyneth Paltrow, and the 2008 NBC series *Crusoe*.

Just a little further along, take a moment to glance back over your left shoulder. You will have a lovely view of the Kilburn White Horse, a chalk figure carved into the woodland hills.

You will come to a farm gate and cattle grid ahead. NOTE: You may come across cattle in this pasture. Go through the gate (or you could cross the cattle grid if you prefer) and continue along the tarmac lane leading you through the pasture. Ignore the two footpaths (signed left and right) and a few paces later the lane leads you over a small stream, Bye Wash.



Bye Wash Crossing to Stone Farmhouse



Beyond this first stream crossing, continue on the tarmac lane which leads you ahead (with a fence on your left) and then swings sharp right to cross a second stream, Long Beck. If you wish to avoid the steeper gradients still to come, now is the time to turn around and retrace your steps back to the start.

For the full walk, go through the next farm gate (alongside the second cattle grid) and follow the tarmac lane climbing steadily with open fields each side. The lane swings left and begins to climb more steeply. Look over to your left at this point and you will see the ruins of Byland Abbey, nestled at the foot of the woodland hills.

The lane now levels off, leading you past some fenced pastures and barns on your left (where you may see the beef cattle, if you haven't come across them already) and then a stone farmhouse (dating from 1915) also on your left.



Stone Farmhouse to Turning Point



Continue ahead on the gently undulating lane, passing the entrance drive for Fox Foot Hay Farm on your left and then heading through a dip where the lane crosses another stream (this time within a woodland belt).

Our route continues for a further 500 metres, following the lane as it climbs and swings right. The lane is now lined on both sides with pretty, dense hedgerows that provide an excellent habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Continue just to the junction with an access drive on your left (this has a wooden gate across the entrance and is the drive for New Pilfit Farm, although this is not signed). This marks the furthest point of this Easy Countryside Trail.



Turning Point to End



Turn around and you will notice you have another good view of the chalk white horse, across the field gate at about 1 o'clock.

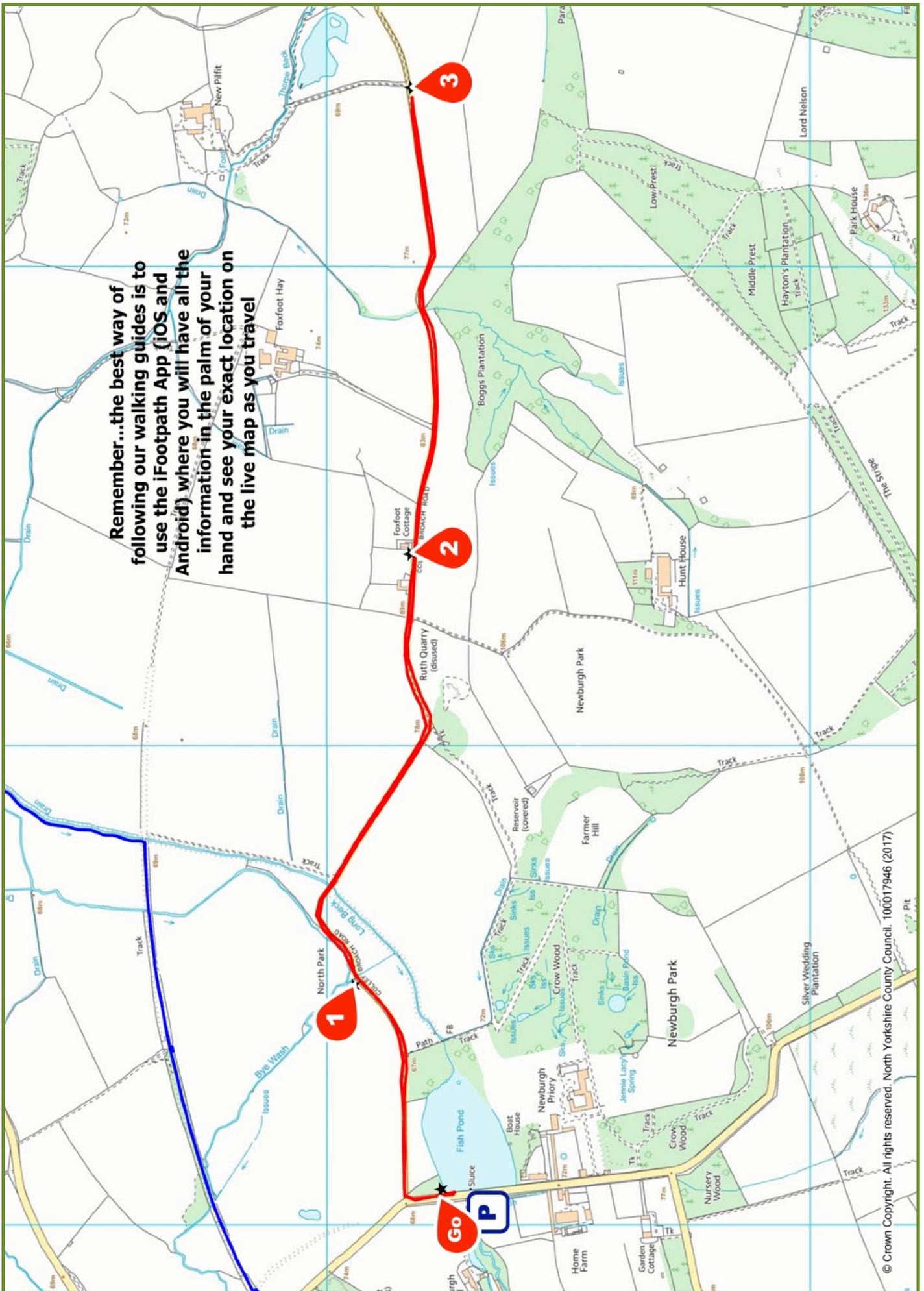
Now it is simply a case of retracing your steps back to the start. Follow the tarmac lane, heading back past the farm buildings, crossing the streams and passing through the pasture. You will emerge back to the junction with the road. Turn left for just 80 metres and you will reach the parking lay-by where the walk began.

Disclaimer

This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

Walking Safety

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and an Ordnance Survey map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking on the coast make sure you check the tide times before you set out.



Remember...the best way of following our walking guides is to use the iFootpath App (iOS and Android) where you will have all the information in the palm of your hand and see your exact location on the live map as you travel

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