

# EXPLORING YORK



## Haxby to the City Centre beside the River Foss trail

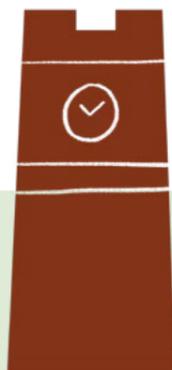
 Distance  
 4.5 miles

 Est. Time  
 1:30 hrs

If you're planning to travel to, from and through York we want to make sure you have access to travel information that will help keep you safe and be able to plan your journey.

You can explore information about active travel and its benefits by downloading our Cycle route maps, Walking Guides and information on our popular Urban Cycle Skills Sessions at [www.itravelyork.info](http://www.itravelyork.info)

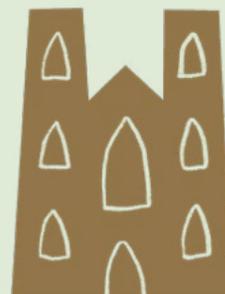
For further information on how to explore York safely go to [www.visitork.org](http://www.visitork.org)



Exploring York and all that it has to offer has never been so easy.

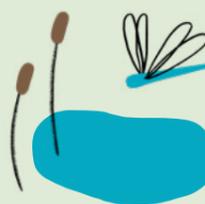
We've routes for all ages and abilities, ready and waiting for you to explore.

Whilst you're out and about, remember let's be respectful and patient of others. Let's keep as safe as possible by following social distancing measures.



### The River Foss

The name 'Foss' is likely to have come from the Roman word 'Fossa', meaning ditch. Between 1793–1806 a stretch of the river was canalised for a distance of 12km between York and Sheriff Hutton bridge. This involved building several bridges, six locks, two reservoirs and straightening several sections. Barges carried coal, lime, brick, potatoes, corn, and even whale blubber on one occasion!



### Earswick Village Pond

The village pond can be found adjacent to the riverside footpath and close to Earswick Village Hall. It's home to ducks, moorhens and dragonflies which patrol the area around the pond and along the course of the river.

### Did you spot any birdlife on your walk?

- Blackbird
- Blue tit
- Bullfinch
- Chaffinch
- Chiffchaff
- Goldfinch
- Great tit
- Great-spotted woodpecker
- Greenfinch
- House martin
- Robin
- Swallow
- Swift
- Whitethroat
- Willow warbler
- Vulture!?
- .....



### Fish

On a sunny day, shoals of fish can easily be seen swimming in the river. Fish found in the river include pike, dace, chub, gudgeon, roach and perch.

### Arrowhead

Look out for this plant which can be found in the River Foss. It has leaves shaped exactly like the head of an arrow and is a favourite resting spot for dragonflies and damselflies.



### Community Action for Nature

The path through New Earswick passes through a nature area managed by keen local volunteers from Community Action for Nature. The group are striving to create and manage an area rich in wildlife that can be visited and enjoyed by all.

### Bug hunt! What critters can you find?

- Spider
- Snail
- Worm
- Woodlouse
- Millipede
- Shrimp
- Leech
- .....



### All Saints Church, Huntington

A picturesque small church can be found on the banks of the River Foss in Huntington. Although the current church is relatively modern, there is evidence that a church has existed here since Saxon times.



### Nestlé

Along Haxby Road is the Nestlé factory. Originally Rowntrees, the company was founded in Castlegate in 1862 and has since invented many kinds of sweets including Aero, KitKat and Fruit Pastilles. Rowntree's was taken over by Nestlé in 1988 but continues to invent new kinds of sweets here.

### Bats

Look out for old trees with a hollow trunk – they're often used for shelter by bats. Bats in York can often be seen at dusk, they eat insects and are harmless to people.



# Haxby to the City Centre beside the River Foss trail

## 1 Start

Start from Folks Close bus stop (bus 13). Turn right into Landing Lane.

## 2

Look for a public footpath sign on the left. Follow this path which leads to the River Foss.

## 3

Cross the River using a small bridge, then turn right following the riverside path as it heads south.

Earswick Pond can be seen at this point, home to ducks, moorhens and dragonflies.

## 4

Cross the river using the bridge. The bridge is quite narrow and has steps. Then follow the footpath as it passes under the Outer Ringroad.

Alternatively, remain on the east bank of the River and follow a track until reaching Church Lane. Cross an old brick bridge and continue along the west bank of the river. The exit into Church Lane is currently too narrow for wheelchair users.

Look out for water voles here. They have disappeared from many parts of the country but can still be seen along the River Foss.

## 5

Cross Church lane at this point and continue to follow the footpath beside the river.

## 6

The footpath now passes through New Earswick. The footpath briefly follows Willow Bank at this point.

## 7

The route returns to being an off-road footpath.

## 8

The footpath passes under Link Road.

Just a short distance from the riverside is New Earswick Nature Reserve. The reserve was formerly a brickpit and is now a wildlife-rich pond.

## 9

The footpath passes Yearsley Swimming Pool at this point, before passing under Huntington Road and Fossway.

Nestlé – one of the largest sweet factories in the UK, is located close to the River Foss along Haxby Road. The factory was originally opened by Rowntree's in 1890.

## 10

The footpath passes under the Foss Islands cycle path, before ending on Huntington Road.

The former railway line was converted into an off-road cycle path and is now popular with walkers and cyclists looking for a quiet way to cross the city.

## 11

Bus stop to City Centre. Bus 12. Catch a bus here to return to the city centre.



## Accessibility

The walk is accessible to wheelchair users between Church Lane, Huntington and Layerthorpe. The footpath passes through some meadows which could be muddy at times.

## Buses

To reach the start of the walk take bus 13 to Haxby, Landing Lane. At the end of the walk take bus 12 to Station Road and change buses there to complete your journey.