

Sutton Bank to Rievaulx 5 miles, allow 2 hours.

Transport **M4**

Map 1:25,000 OL26 or 1:50,000 Malton and Pickering 100

Start

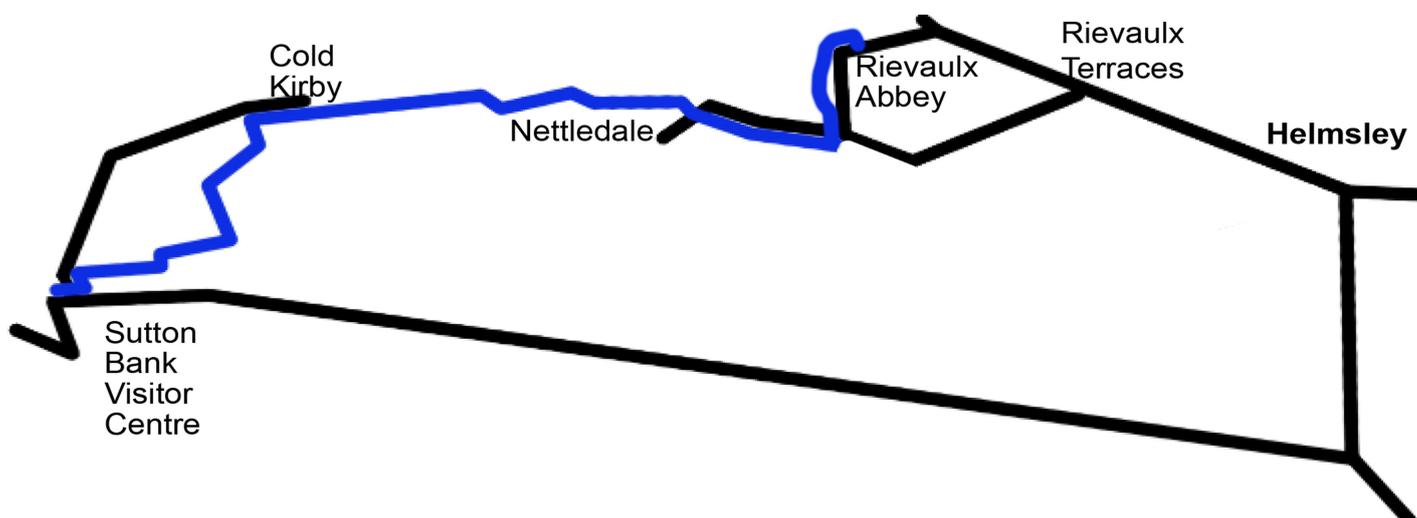
Sutton Bank Visitor Centre

Points of interest

Take in the remarkable panorama from Sutton Bank before you start. This is England's finest view, proclaimed Alf Wight of Thirsk, better known by his pen name, James Herriot. Sutton Bank was sculpted by a mass of ice pushing down between the North York Moors and the Yorkshire Dales 20,000 years ago. The Cleave Dyke is believed to be a boundary marking, although not necessarily defensive, of the late Bronze/early Iron Age, perhaps 3-3,500 years old. The views after Hambleton Stables are superb, with buzzards and hares common. Cold Kirby is a very pretty village with only one road in and out. Nettle Dale is a conservation area with some superb wildlife on the old monks' fish ponds (now fishing lakes). Admire the views of the Abbey as you approach; JMW Turner painted and sketched them often.

Route

From the bus stop walk across the car park and the bridge over the Cleave Dyke. Turn left then as you reach the road take the track on the right. You are soon diverted left on to a small winding track, soon joined on your left by a cycle track. At the next track the cycle track moves to your left. At the next track join the Cleveland Way by turning left then soon right through a gate and you follow it all the way to Helmsley. It is generally well marked and obvious but after you have gone past the exercising tracks of the Hambleton Stables and turned left along a field edge the next right bend of the track towards Cold Kirby has no sign. At Cold Kirby turn right to walk down the main street. As you start to take a right fork near the church, take a footpath left across a dry valley and on through fields. This leads to a gate into Flassendale. At a T junction near a new hut and picnic tables go left on a clear track. In about ½ mile take a left turn off through a gate to a conservation area where you cross the little beck on stepping stones. Please keep to the path to conserve the special flora here. Join the track going left through Nettle Dale to join a road. Follow this to Rievaulx Bridge then turn left to reach Rievaulx. Take care, the road can be busy, but you can walk on a good path by the river for some of the way.



With thanks to Wendy Smith.