

Rievaulx to Helmsley 3 miles, allow 1 1/2 hours.

Transport **M4**

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

Start

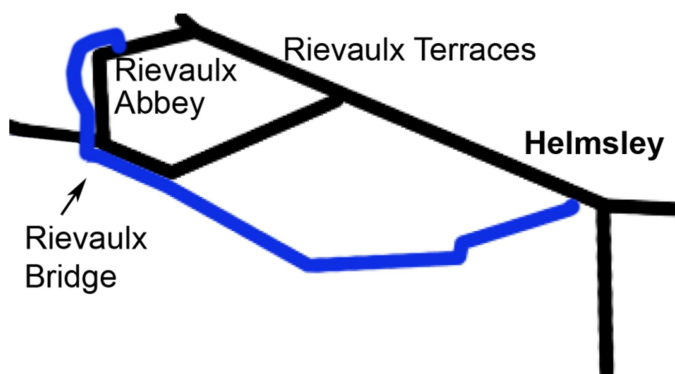
Rievaulx Abbey entrance

Points of Interest

Rievaulx Abbey was built by the Cistercians between 1152 and 1538. This now idyllic scene was briefly shattered by iron making, with possibly the first blast furnace in the north of England, in 1577. Rievaulx Terraces were created by Thomas Duncombe in about 1758. Rievaulx bridge has a tank – crossing ramp and Turner painted here from 1801 - 1836. Griff Farm started to receive water in 1768 through a remarkable 13 mile watercourse built by Joseph Foord. Griff itself is now a lost village. At the start of the steps crossing a small but deep valley in Blackdale Howl Wood you'll find an old brick base on your right, another relic of the WWII armoured divisions based here three-quarters of a century ago. Duncombe Park with its house was built between 1713 and 1730 by Thomas Duncan, father of the creator of the Rievaulx terraces. Helmsley Castle, built in wood around 1120 was rebuilt in stone from 1186 onwards but destroyed in the Civil War in 1644. There are lovely views of both on the last part of the walk. A carved stone near the entrance to the Helmsley long stay car park marks the official start of the Cleveland Way and The Walled Garden provides tea and a tranquil place to wait for the bus home.

Route

Turn left out of the Abbey car park, walk down the road, with care, to the T junction at Rievaulx Bridge. Turn left and follow the road, again with care, until you meet a parallel footpath on your right after ¼ mile or so. Follow this into Quarry Bank and then Whinny Bank woods. Follow the Cleveland Way signs past Griff Lodge choosing the left fork here. The path follows Blackdale Howl Wood edge then across fields, bringing you gently down in to Helmsley.



With thanks to Wendy Smith.