

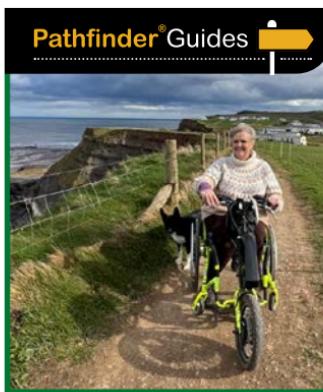
NORTH YORKSHIRE

Accessible Walks for All

Pathfinder® Guides 



NORTH YORKSHIRE



Accessible Walks for All

Compiled by
Debbie North

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Route Grades

The 'Miles Without Stiles' route grades are divided into three categories, and are determined by gradients and surface conditions. It is important to note that these grades are only a guide, so it is advisable to consider your route choice carefully.

FOR ALL: the paths are suitable for everyone, including families with pushchairs and manual wheelchair users. Path gradients will not exceed 1:10, and the surface will either be tarmac or smooth, compacted stone (stone diameter 10 mm or less). The path width will be a minimum of 1 metre, with passing places.

FOR MANY: the paths are suitable for assisted wheelchair users and families with more robust, all-terrain buggies. The existing gradients will not exceed 1:10, although newly-built path gradients may be up to 1:8. Path surfaces may be rougher stone (diameter 4 cm or less).

FOR SOME: the paths are suitable for strong and confident wheelchair users and their helpers. Paths may also be suitable for off-road mobility scooters. There are no limitations on gradients but slopes greater than 1:8 will have improved surfacing or handrails. There may be some low steps or breaks in the surface up to 10 cm in height, and the stone surface material may be up to 10 cm in diameter.

Top tips for a wheelchair-friendly adventure

Selecting the right all-terrain wheelchair is a big decision, especially if you're venturing beyond improved pathways into more rugged countryside. Think of it as choosing your walking boots – the options are numerous, tailored to various terrains and preferences – so your wheelchair should match the challenges you'll face.

Understanding your all-terrain wheelchair is crucial. Beyond knowing its theoretical capabilities, familiarise yourself with its mechanics. Trust your machine implicitly, anticipate its reactions in different scenarios and always have a backup plan in case of mishaps.

When embarking on journeys, ensure your battery can sustain the entire trip. Like any seasoned traveller, have contingency plans in place. It's wise to be accompanied by someone. As well as the safety implications, there is someone with you who will open (and close) the gates. Dress appropriately. While walkers generate heat through movement, wheelchair users may face discomfort in the cold and rain, necessitating extra precautions like hand warmers.

Organisations like Access the Dales (access-the-dales.com) and Outdoor Mobility (outdoormobility.org) offer all-terrain wheelchairs for hire, facilitating access to otherwise unreachable areas in the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors. Seek out these resources to expand your walking horizons.

Above all, relish the adventure and create lasting memories.

Grading**FOR ALL****Start/finish**

Cawthorn Roman Camp

Getting there

The car park is 4.5 miles (7.2km) north of Pickering. Signed off the minor road 3.2 miles (5.1km) west of Newton-on-Rawcliffe, the car park is at the end of a forest drive

Parking

Cawthorn Roman Camp car park

Public transport

None

Facilities

Nearest accessible public toilets and refreshment are in Pickering

Distance

0.7 mile (1.1km)

Time

½ hour

Terrain

Firm tracks

Accessibility

Level access to the viewing platform

Dogs

A popular dog walk

OS map

Explorer OL27 (North York Moors – Eastern Area)

Travelling north from the charming town of Pickering towards the Tabular Hills leads to the remarkable Cawthorn Roman Camp, an archaeological wonder nestled within the North York Moors National Park. Excavated in the early 20th century, these ancient earthworks offer a fascinating glimpse into life almost 2,000 years ago. This ancient military stronghold is believed to have played a pivotal role during the Roman conquest of northern Britain, serving as a vital hub for soldiers and supplies as they ventured into the region.

 The walk begins at the far corner of the car park; just follow the marker posts that display a beautifully carved head of a Roman soldier. This short there-and-back stroll to an information board and viewing platform **A** is perfect for those seeking an easy walk or those in a manual wheelchair. For those people using a sturdier all-terrain wheelchair, on the return leg soon after leaving the viewing platform, on the left **B**, there is the option to complete a circular walk that travels over a grassy bank. Again, the route is simple to follow – just look out for the Roman soldier! Whether you opt for the short or longer walk, Cawthorn Roman Camp will not disappoint.



Ribblehead Viaduct

Constructed with meticulous precision between 1870 and 1874, the Ribblehead Viaduct was

conceived as an essential component of the Settle-Carlisle Railway, a renowned route that weaves through the rugged landscapes of North Yorkshire to the historic city of Carlisle in Cumbria. Its graceful arches, crafted from stone, soar majestically above the valley floor, each boasting an impressive span of 45 feet (14m) and a towering height of 104 feet (32m). Designated as a Grade II-listed structure, the viaduct commands attention, dominating the horizon with its imposing presence.

More than a mere feat of engineering, the Ribblehead Viaduct continues to serve as an important component of today's railway infrastructure. And drawn by its architectural splendour and the timeless beauty of the surrounding countryside, visitors flock to Ribblehead to marvel at this wonderful landmark. Gazing in awe at the viaduct, you can't help but feel a profound sense of reverence for the visionaries who brought this marvel into existence.



Yorkshire Dales National Park

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Grading
FOR MANY**Start/finish**
Esk Valley**Getting there**

Esk Valley lies approximately 1 mile (1.6km) south of Grosmont and 2.2 miles (3.5km) east of Egton Bridge

Parking

Small parking area at Esk Valley, Y022 5BG

Public transport

There is no public transport to Esk Valley. National rail services run to Grosmont, Y022 5QE: thetrainline.com; from here you could take the North York Moors Railway to Goathland and do the walk in reverse: nymr.co.uk

Facilities

There are public toilets at Goathland, on Beck Hole Road, Y022 5JR. Goathland has a pub, The Inn on the Moor, and a tea room, based at Goathland Railway Station (seasonal opening)

Distance

5.2 miles (8.3km)

Time

3 hours

Terrain

Firm track for most of the walk. There is a grassy section prone to being muddy

Accessibility

The trail is mostly flat, though the climb from Beck Hole to Goathland is steep. The walk is suitable for a user of an all-terrain mobility scooter. There are several gates

Dogs

Welcome but keep on a lead

OS map

Explorer OL27 (North York Moors – Eastern Area)

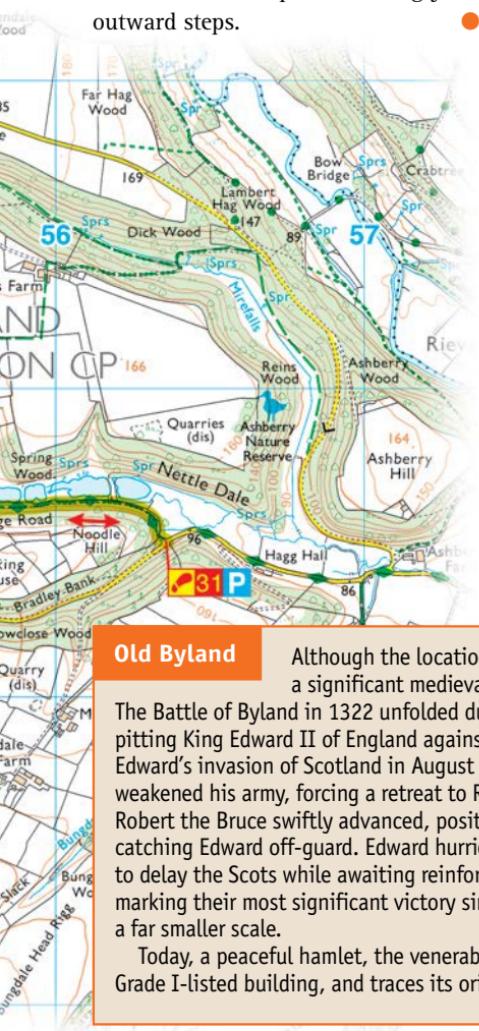
Nestled deep into the North York Moors National Park, the Esk Valley Rail Trail meanders through picturesque woodlands and alongside the serene waters of the River Esk. Tracing the historic path of one of the nation's earliest railways, established in 1835, this route prompts reflection on a pioneering era for public transport when railway engineer George Stephenson unveiled the new Whitby to Pickering line. Initially, horse-drawn carriages were used, and the railway linked the secluded valley to larger settlements such as Pickering, Grosmont, Goathland and Whitby, catalysing the growth of local industries like ironstone and whinstone mining.

During May, fortunate visitors are greeted by a breathtaking display of bluebells adorning the surrounding woods.



Keeping to the old railway line, this walk is easy to follow all the way through to Goathland. From the parking area at Esk Valley, pass through the gate, and follow the signed trail to Goathland and Beck Hole. The path will lead you through the woods and along the restlessly winding Murk Esk river. You'll cross three bridges before arriving at the charming hamlet of Beck Hole A. Here you have the option to either explore the hamlet, perhaps stopping for refreshment at the Birch Hall Inn, or keep walking

beyond **A** for another 0.25 mile (400m) to a track junction **E**. Here the Cleveland Way goes left, but the route to Old Byland is to the right on a pathway through Nettle Dale Wood. Stay with the broad, clear track, ignoring all side paths. Curving round a sweeping right-hand bend **F**, the track leads up through Tanker Dale, and then in 0.4 miles (0.6km) meets the lane **G** to Old Byand. Go sharply right here and follow the country lane for just over 1 mile (1.8km) to the charming old hamlet. It is just over 3 miles (5km) back to the Nettledale car park retracing your outward steps.



Old Byland

Although the location is uncertain, Old Byland was the scene of a significant medieval battle between the Scots and English.

The Battle of Byland in 1322 unfolded during the Scottish Wars of Independence, pitting King Edward II of England against King Robert I, (the Bruce) of Scotland. Edward's invasion of Scotland in August 1322 proved futile as disease and famine weakened his army, forcing a retreat to Rievaulx Abbey by mid-October. Meanwhile, Robert the Bruce swiftly advanced, positioning his forces near Northallerton, catching Edward off-guard. Edward hurriedly fortified the Hambleton Hills, hoping to delay the Scots while awaiting reinforcements. The Scots won the battle though, marking their most significant victory since the Battle of Bannockburn, though on a far smaller scale.

Today, a peaceful hamlet, the venerable All Saints' Church in Old Byland is a Grade I-listed building, and traces its origins back to the late Saxon period.

Scawton

Originally noted as 'Scaltun' in the Domesday Book, where it was documented as belonging to Count Robert of Mortain, the village's first record of its modern name, Scawton, dates from 1536. This name derives from the Old Norse word 'Skál', signifying 'hollow', indicative of its geographical setting within a valley. The etymology unveils the village's rural character, as 'Scawton' implies a place of rustic tranquillity – a farmstead cradled within the gentle embrace of the surrounding landscape, echoing centuries of pastoral heritage. Scawton has The Hare, a charming pub, and a venerable 12th-century church dedicated to St Mary. Erected by monks who eventually resided in Byland Abbey, the church underwent extensive renovation in 1892.



On the Nettledale track

Accessible Walks in NORTH YORKSHIRE

33 beautiful walks, ranging in distance from 0.5 to 8 miles, across North Yorkshire from the Dales to the North Sea coast, including Richmond, Ripon, Thirsk and York. Each all-abilities route is graded for wheelchairs according to one of three accessibility ratings: for all, for many and for some. By design, these routes are all pushchair friendly and make delightful, reasonably gentle walks for everyone to enjoy.

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OS maps and walking guides for the surrounding area



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