

Make a pilgrimage from Helmsley Castle to Rievaulx Abbey

Map: OL26 North York Moors Western area

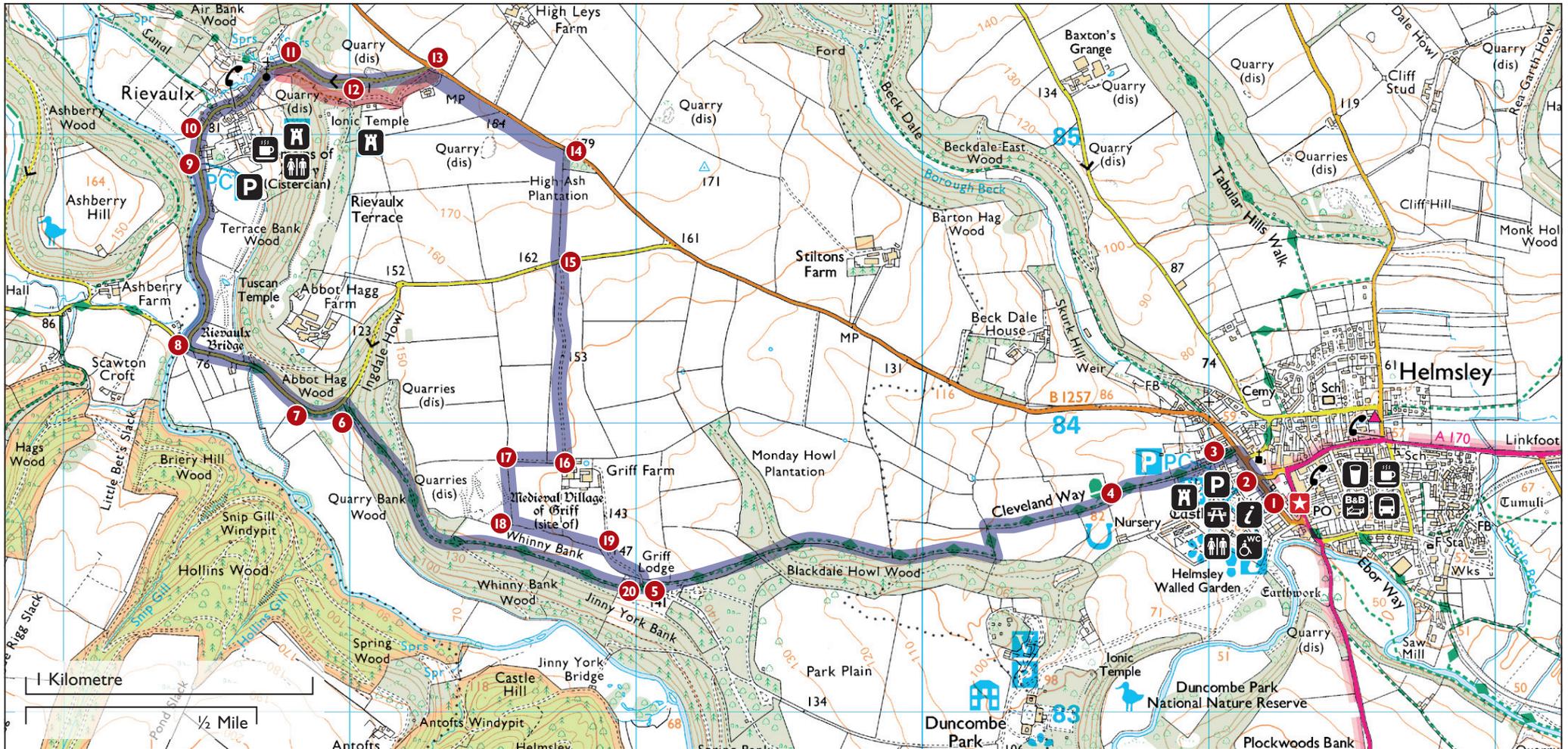
Suggested main route:  Suggested alternative summer route: 

 Start: Helmsley Market Square  Distance: 11.3 km (7 miles)

 Time: 3½ hours plus time to visit the sites of Helmsley Castle, Rievaulx Abbey and Rievaulx Terraces on the map

FACILITIES:

-  Toilets  Accessible Toilets  Refreshments  Pub  Picnic areas
-  B&Bs  Bus service  Camping available  Parking available
-  Tourist Information Centre (TIC)  Heritage site/Other site of interest



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Great days out along the Cleveland Way

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NATIONAL TRAIL 

Make a pilgrimage from Helmsley Castle to Rievaulx Abbey

Follow in the footsteps of Saint Aelred of Rievaulx, one of Yorkshire's most famous abbots, on this historic walk from Helmsley Castle to Rievaulx Abbey. The route takes in magnificent woodland, the valley of Blackdale Howl and stunning views from the top of Jinny York Bank.



- 1 Starting from the top of the Market Square in Helmsley pass the Black Swan Hotel on your right and head alongside the church.
- 2 Turn right on Church Street and shortly left where there is a metal sign stating Footpath to Rievaulx.
- 3 At the turn for the long stay car park head straight on along the track, stopping to admire the stone feature that marks the start of the Cleveland Way.
- 4 Continue along the well signed Cleveland Way.
- 5 Pass Griff Lodge on your right and continue on the Cleveland Way dropping down through Whinny Bank and Quarry Bank Wood.
- 6 Turn left and follow the footpath alongside the road.
- 7 Join the road and follow this for 500 metres.
- 8 Turn right to follow the road to Rievaulx Abbey.
- 9 After enjoying Rievaulx Abbey you can retrace your steps to Helmsley or continue on a route using concessionary paths and passing Rievaulx Terrace.
- 10 If continuing then carry on along the road as it winds through the beautiful village and up the hill.
- 11 Soon after the last house turn right and follow the signed path that climbs through the woods up to Rievaulx Terrace. This is only available in Summer; at other times continue along the road and rejoin at point 13.
- 12 If you can, then extend your walk to enjoy the glorious Rievaulx Terraces, then join the lane that takes you to the B1257 Helmsley/Stokesley road.
- 13 At the main road turn right along the verge for 30 metres then through the gate ahead and follow the field edge path, with the hedgeline and sometimes stone wall on your left.
- 14 Continue on the path as it reaches a wooded copse and turns right and away from the road.
- 15 Cross the road and follow the farm track leading to Griff Farm.
- 16 Just before Griff Farm turn right on the track and through the field gate ahead.
- 17 Go through the next gate, then turn left along the field edge. Look out for the lumps and bumps that mark the medieval village of Griff, which would have originally served Rievaulx Abbey.
- 18 Go through the bridle gate and left around the field edge.
- 19 Take the small metal gate on the left and join the track leading to Griff Lodge.
- 20 Turn left to rejoin the Cleveland Way back to Helmsley.