

Walks to the North



This riverside and farmland walk is 7.4 kilometres (4.6 miles) in length and will take up to 3 hours. The route follows surfaced paths or roads and can be undertaken without walking boots at all times of the year. The route consists of two relatively level sections, separated by an ascent of 20 metres (65 feet) in 1 kilometre (3,000 feet), a gradient of 1:40, after point 1, and a corresponding descent along Frankland Lane. At two points along the walk it is possible to take a short-cut back into the city centre.

The route crosses a number of roads and you should take care when crossing these roads. Where possible you should walk on pavements or pedestrian paths.



Turn right outside the Galle Theatre (A on the map) and walk to the end of Millennium Square. Go down two flights of steps through the Walkergate Complex to Freeman's Place, cross Freeman's Place and turn right. At the end of the Bowling Alley take the path to the left beside the car park, which leads to Pennyferry Bridge. Cross the bridge over the River Wear and, in front of the Radisson Hotel, turn right and follow the pavement beside the river.

Pennyferry Bridge was opened in April 2002 and it was named after the ferry that crossed the river near the site until the early 20th century. The Radisson Hotel is built on the site of Durham's gas works, which was established in 1823.



At a road junction cross the road, keep right, and follow the pavement passing Crook Hall on your left.



Crook Hall is one of Durham's hidden gems, an early 14th century manor house linked by a late 17th century stone-built block to a mid 18th century brick Georgian house. Where the roadway passes between two houses it bears left (do not take the right fork into the sewage works). With the sewage works on your right follow the road which soon begins to run through open farm land. Turn left onto a surfaced farm track which comes in on the left about 250 metres after the sewage works (B-A 1.4 kilometres (1,500 yards)).

Follow the track (with the East Coast main railway line over to your left) as it gradually climbs and bears sharply right at Frankland Farm. Cross a stile and continue along the track in front of the farm buildings and you will get a distant view of Durham Cathedral and Castle silhouetted against the sky on your left. At the end of the farm buildings turn sharp left and walk between Frankland Farm and Frankland Park Farm (on your right). At this point it is possible to return to the city centre (see short-cut 1 below). Pass through a large metal gate and continue straight ahead until you come to a bridleway on the left (C-B 770 metres (830 yards)).



The bridleway forms part of a cycleway between Newton Hall and the city centre, and you should be prepared for riders to approach you from either direction. You may also encounter cyclists through the Local Nature Reserve and on Frankland Lane. Turn left onto the bridleway, which runs between fields, bears to the right and gradually climbs up towards the railway. When the bridleway begins to run through bushes a path turns off to the right. (If you begin to cross the railway bridge you have gone too far!) Take the surfaced path to the right and follow it through a cutting. This path follows the route of the old railway line which once carried express trains running from London to Edinburgh. You are now walking through Low Newton Local Nature Reserve.

The path you are following is on the line of the Leamside-Bishop Auckland branch railway, opened in 1857 in 1872 a section of the branch became part of the East Coast main line, but when the branch was closed in 1964 the opportunity was taken to re-align the main line to its present route further to the left.

Low Newton Nature Reserve is maintained by Durham County Council and was opened in July 1994. It comprises the area between the present railway line and the surfaced path you are following, and in the past sand quarries occupied part of the site. It is significant because, in a relatively small area, there is a wide range of different habitats - rough grassland, scrub, meadow, woodland, bare sand and gravel, heath, open water and marsh. As with all such sites, nature is gradually working to reclaim the land, and if left to run its course the ponds would silt up and the whole site would revert to scrub and eventually to woodland. Therefore, in order to ensure the survival of the wide range of habitats that are now present it is necessary to manage the site.

Where you pass a wooden post numbered 13 the route of the original railway main line from Durham to Newcastle bore off to the left of the Leamside-Bishop Auckland branch line. Continue following the surfaced path which bears gently round to the right through farmland. After passing through a boom gate you will come to the remains of a set of level-crossing gates, and here the 1857 railway originally ran straight ahead (C-D 1.3 kilometres (1,400 yards)).

The railway line ran on to cross the River Wear at Brasside Viaduct, which is soon to be renovated and re-opened to carry a footpath and cycle route. To the left is Frankland Prison, a category A prison opened in 1962. At the site of the level-crossing turn right onto Frankland Lane, a track which winds through woodland and gradually descends until you pass the end of the bridleway, which you used earlier, on the right (D-C 1.1 kilometres (1,250 yards)).

Continue straight ahead and walk between the two farms again, but do not turn off at Frankland Farm, instead continue along the road which runs downhill. The road then levels out and winds through farmland with the river a short distance to your left. You will pass the end of the other farm track to Frankland Farm, which you used earlier, on the right (E-B 770 metres (830 yards)).



You are now returning on the route which you walked earlier. Before you pass the sewage works, you can see the remains of a brick kiln and, to its right, the gasworks of the medieval Kepler Hospital on the other side of the river. You pass the sewage works on the left and Crook Hall on the right, and reach a fork in the road. Take the road to the left, which runs beside the river, and you will return to Pennyferry Bridge. At this point it is possible to return to the city centre (see short-cut 2 below). To complete the walk, pass the end of the bridge and continue along the riverside path with the Department of National Savings and Passport Office on your right.

The path then passes under a modern road bridge (Millburgate Bridge) and runs between the Gates Shopping Centre and the river, past a series of weirs in the river. Immediately before you reach the medieval Framwellgate Bridge take the two flights of steps on your right. These steps bring you out in front of the Shopping Centre, and you turn left at the top of the steps and then left again after passing under an archway. You now cross Framwellgate Bridge, with one of the classic views of the Cathedral and Castle to your right.



Framwellgate Bridge is Durham's oldest bridge; first built in the early 12th century. It was probably one of the first medieval stone bridges in the country. It was extensively rebuilt in the early 15th century following flood damage, and widened in 1859.

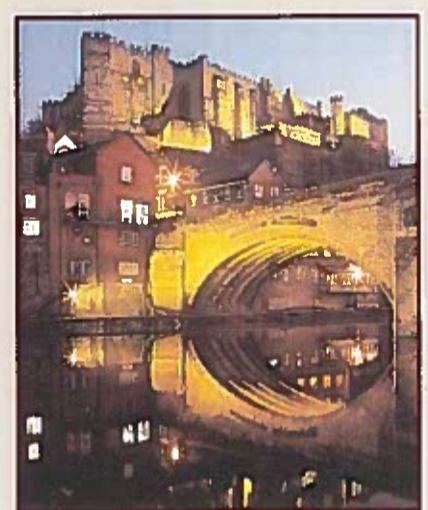
At the end of the bridge bear left and go up Silver Street into the Market Place. Walk past the east (right-hand) end of St. Nicholas church to reach Millennium Square (A-B 2 kilometres (1.2 miles)).



Short-cut 1
Turn right onto the road between the two farms and follow it downhill. The road then levels out and runs a short distance from the river, which is on your left. You will soon pass the other farm track to Frankland Farm on your right, and you follow the road past the sewage works (on your left) and Crook Hall (on your right). When you reach the fork in the road, take the road to the left, beside the river, and you will come to Pennyferry Bridge. Cross the bridge and when you reach Freeman's Place, opposite the new swimming baths, turn right. After passing the Premier Hotel on the other side of the road on your left, you will need to cross the road to climb the two flights of steps which bring you back up to Millennium Square.

Short-cut 2
Turn left and cross the bridge and when you reach Freeman's Place, opposite the new swimming baths, turn right. After passing the Premier Hotel on the other side of the road on your left, you will need to cross the road to climb the two flights of steps which bring you back up to Millennium Square.

Wheelchairs and buggies cannot complete the whole route since there are stiles. However, a shorter version is possible and begins at the bottom of the fits in the Walkergate Complex. It then follows the route above, using short-cut 1.



Durham Riverside Paths

The tranquil riverside is only minutes away from the bustling city centre. Don't forget your camera as you will come across stunning views of the Cathedral, particularly from Prebends Bridge.

The riverside also provides a wonderful backdrop to pieces of public art: Kathedra is a stone representation of the seat of judgement of the Bishop by Colin Woburne former artist in residence at the Cathedral. Revealed by Richard Cole uses recycled stone from the Cathedral and shows the changing light experienced in the Cathedral. Further along the river by the bandstand lies Durham Cow by Andrew Burton, a reminder of the legend that is told about the founding of Durham. Monks searching for a suitable site to house the remains of St. Cuthbert had been told, in a vision, to go to Dun Holm. They did not know where this was until they overheard a woman being directed to Dunholm (or Hill Island) in search of her lost cow.



The Gardens of Durham 2008

Crook Hall & Gardens
Skegates, Durham City. Tel: 0191 394 8028
www.crookhallgardens.co.uk
Open: Easter weekend then daily except Fri & Sat (6 April - 28 Sept 2008) 11.00-17.00. Also open Halloween (25-26 Oct) 16.00-18.00; and Christmas (6-7, 13-14 & 20-21 Dec) 13.00-16.00.
Admission: Adults £5.50, children £4.50, concs. £5, Family Ticket £16.
Medieval hall, reputedly haunted, Jacobean drawing-room, turret and gallery. Set in 4 acres of themed gardens with large pool and maze. Cream teas.

Croxdale Hall
Croxdale, Durham
Tel: 0191 378 0911.
Open by appointment only. May to Sept.
A private family home since 1402, Croxdale has walled gardens, an 18th Century orangery and lake.

Old Durham Gardens
Restored formal 18th century gardens, designated as a Grade II Historic Park & Garden by English Heritage. Features include a gazebo, terraces and walled garden with restored planting. Only the lower garden remains publicly accessible at all times, just as it did in the mid 18th century. The rest of the garden is fully open annually as part of Heritage Open Days in September. Further information from Durham Tourist Information Centre (see back page)



University of Durham Botanic Gardens
Hollingside Lane, Durham City. Tel: 0191 334 5521
www.dur.ac.uk/botanic.garden
Open: Mar-Oct, daily 10.00-17.00; Nov-Feb 10.00-16.00.
Admission: Adults £3, children £2, concs. £2.50
18 acre garden features specimens from around the globe and rainforest plants in the glasshouses. Short through themed areas: the Bamboo Grove or Woodland Garden. See tropical bugs, scorpions and tarantulas. Children can follow the Science Trail - investigating some of the fascinating specimens around the garden.
New from Spring 2008
2 hectare wildflower meadow and trail through beautiful unspoiled woodland at the southern boundary of the garden.

Wharton Park
North Road, Durham
Tel: 0191 301 8689
A wonderful gift to the City in 1858 by W.L. Wharton Sheriff of Durham, the park offers unrivalled views, much admired by Ruskin. Multi games area, children's mini cars and track (summer only) pitch and putt golf, children's playground and the Battery - a Grade 2 listed viewing area for the Cathedral.

World of Trees & Houghall Gardens Centre & Houghall Open Farm
Houghall Community College, Durham City. Tel: 0191 375 4764/47 & 0191 386 4020 www.houghall.co.uk www.houghall.blogspot.com
Open: daily 10.00-16.00 Admission: free to Garden Centre; Charges apply to farm and animals (Farm: reduced opening hours in Winter)
Extensive gardens, part of East Durham & Houghall Community College. Over 500 species of trees can be seen in the gardens, also glasshouses, a woodland garden and the national collections of meconopsis and Sorbus. Coffee & Farm Shop.
Join the 2 1/2 mile Houghall Discovery Trail - (leaflets available from Houghall Farm Shop)



Looking ahead...

Durham Necklace Park
The Necklace Park is 12 miles of riverside from Finchale Priory to Sunderland Bridge, part of Durham 2020 Vision.
Over the next two years, the Necklace Park team will be working in partnership with local people, agencies, interest groups, businesses and authorities to develop projects of lasting value, increasing participation and access to those special places within our spectacular City of Durham. One of the biggest projects will be Belmont Viaduct.

Belmont Viaduct
These are plans to transform the former railway viaduct into a footpath, cycle route and bridleway linking Belmont and Newton Hall, avoiding the city centre. Thousands of walkers and cyclists in Durham City will benefit. Sustrans - the sustainable transport charity - whose Connect2 bid to transform local travel opportunities across the UK, including in Durham City, won in The People's £50 million contest. The new route will also provide a much quieter and safer cycle route from Belmont to the city centre itself, avoiding the busy A690.



Details correct at time of going to press. City of Durham cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions. May 2008. Photographs credits: Durham County Council, Stephen Marshall, Graham Peacock, Osbert on View, Durham University. Designed and printed by Hunter Johnsons Marketing Solutions. Tel: 0191 230 1588.

to the South of Durham

This riverside and woodland route is 8 kilometres (5 miles) in length and will take up to 3 hours. It mainly follows surfaced paths or roads and can be followed at all times of the year without walking boots. The route is generally level, but there is an ascent of 40 metres (130 feet) in 500 metres (550 yards), an average gradient of 1:12, in Great High Wood, between points C and H, and a corresponding, though more gradual, descent between points H and I. At three points along the route it is possible to take short-cuts back into the city centre.

The route crosses a number of main roads and you should take care when crossing these roads. Where possible you should walk on pavements or pedestrian paths.

Go from outside The Gata Theatre in Millennium Place (A on map), turn right and go past St. Nicholas' church into the Market Place. Either go through the Prince Bishop's Shopping Centre and use the lifts or the stairs next to B.H.S. to reach the riverside path, or bear left at the end of the Market Place and walk along Saddler Street. At a fork in the road where there are some steps (Magdalen Steps), take the left-hand road (Elvet Bridge) and walk towards the River Wear until you reach the last shop on the left. Beyond that shop are steps which will take you down to the riverside path (B, A-B 340 metres (370 yards)).

The riverside path is also a cycleway so you should be prepared for riders to approach you from either direction. When you reach the riverside path, go between the shopping centre and the Boat House Bar. For the next 2 kilometres (1.5 miles) the river will always be on your right. The path will take you under a modern road bridge (New Elvet Bridge) and past a pedestrian bridge on your right (Baths Bridge). Continue along the path, with the grounds of the College of St. Hild & St. Bede on your left. After the first boathouse a footpath, which turns off to the left and climbs between the buildings of the College, enables you to link to The Caldecotes Circular Walk (leaflet available from the Tourist Information Centre). Shortly after passing the second College boathouse cross a bridge over a small stream (Pelaw Wood Beck) which is a tributary of the river (C, B-C 810 metres (880 yards)).

The riverside path now becomes more rural. There are the steep tree-covered slopes of Pelaw Woods on your left and sports fields across the river. Looking beyond the river and sports fields you will see the silhouettes of the Cathedral and Castle against the sky. Eventually you will see the premises of Durham Rowing Club on the other side of the river and you come to an open field (D, C-D 610 metres (660 yards)).

At this point there is a choice of routes and only the second alternative is suitable for buggies and wheelchairs, although it is possible for them to follow the first route as far as Old Durham Gardens and then return to this point and take the second route.

1 At the beginning of the open field go straight ahead on the left-hand of the two paths. At the end of the field, the path bears left at the corner of Old Durham Gardens. Immediately after the corner take the path on the right, which runs through an old railway embankment. The path then crosses a narrow bridge (unsuitable by buggies or wheelchairs) over the Old Durham Beck. Continue across playing fields to reach a bridge over the river (E, D-E 540 metres (590 yards)).

2 At the beginning of the open field take the right-hand of the two paths which runs beside the river and cross the Kingfisher Bridge over the Old Durham Beck. The path continues alongside the river, under an old railway bridge, with the steep slopes of Maiden Castle Woods on the other bank, and enters the University playing fields. Shortly afterwards on your right, you reach a bridge over the river (F, D-E 540 metres (590 yards)).

Please note: the route leading to Point E across the playing fields is NOT a public right of way and neither is the pedestrian bridge (University of Durham permissible route).

At the pedestrian bridge the two alternative routes converge. Cross over the bridge, and at this point it is possible to return to the city centre [see short-cut 1 below]. To continue the full route turn left to walk beside the river and follow the path alongside the grounds of the University Graham Sports Centre to reach Shindliffe Bridge. Do not go over the bridge but cross straight over the A177 (G, E-F 610 metres (660 yards)).

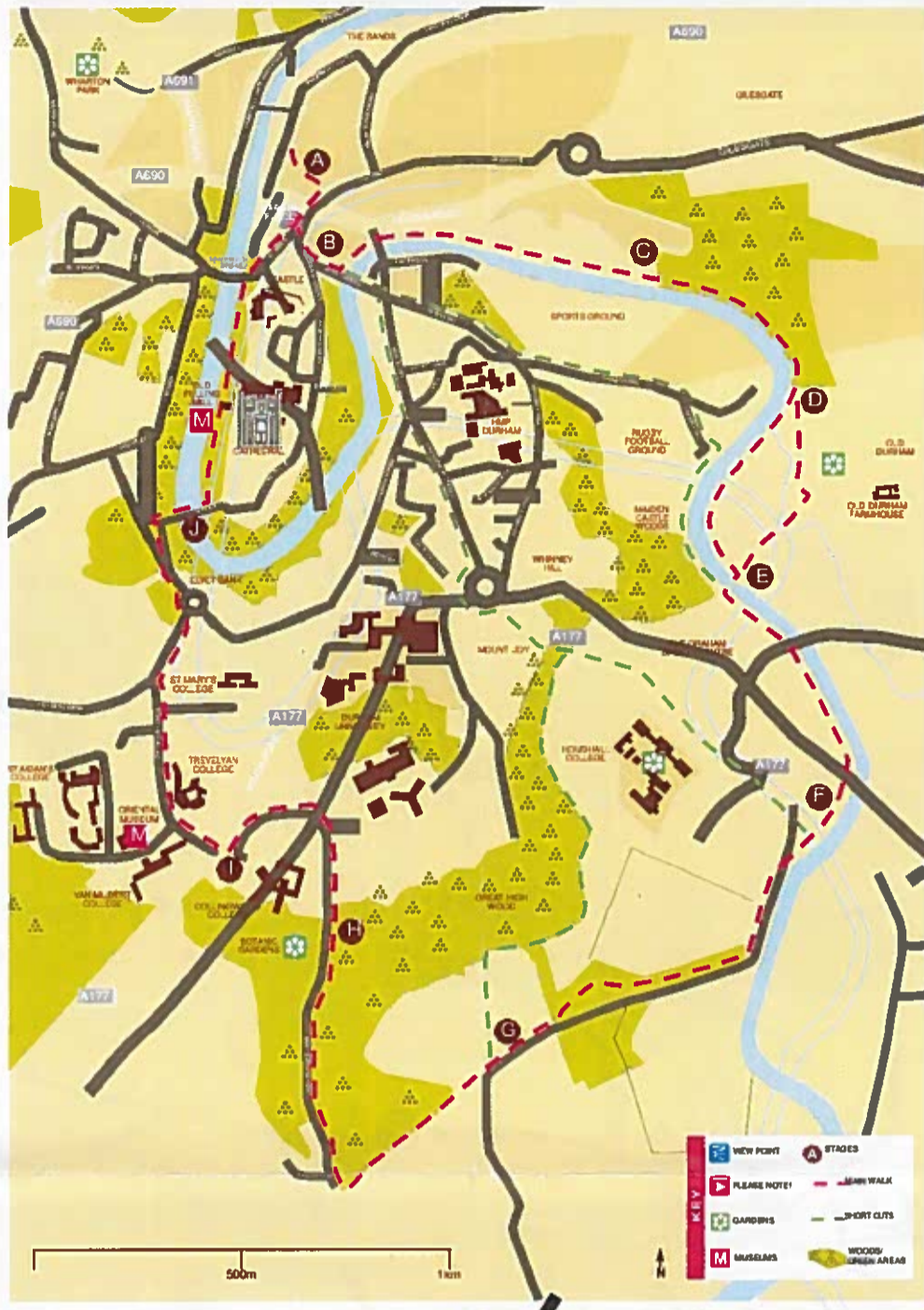
Take care crossing this road as the bridge rises on your left. At this point it is possible to turn right to return to the city centre [see short-cut 2 below] and buggies or wheelchairs should follow the short-cut. It is also possible to turn left to link to the Shindliffe Parish Walks (leaflet available from the Tourist Information Centre). To continue the full walk go ahead into a small copse. Where the path meets a road at the buildings of the Pump House, turn left and continue along the road.

This road has no pavements and is used by traffic to/from Houghall Farm. You should follow the Highway Code and walk on the left-hand side of the road. Just before the road bears to the right you will find a stile on the right. Cross the stile and take the path which winds between trees parallel to the road. The path gradually climbs, and where it forks take the right-hand fork. The path then descends by a series of steps to meet a farm track at a stile. Turn left along the farm

track until you meet a road at a boom gate, go through the gate and you will be on the Houghall Farm road. Turn right and continue past a riding school paddock on the left, until you reach a road junction (H, F-G 1,150 metres (1,250 yards)).

Access to Houghall Farm, turn left to enter the Farm areas. Entrance charge to the Farm. Open: Easter to Oct 10.00 - 16.00 daily and Oct to Easter Weekends and school holidays 10.00 to 16.00 or dusk. At this point it is possible to turn right to return to the city centre [see short-cut 3 below] or to continue straight ahead at the road junction and cross a stile to the right of a letter box. Follow the path through the trees and, when it reaches Great High Wood, follow the path that continues straight ahead. The path climbs steps to reach Hollingside Lane. Turn right and follow Hollingside Lane, passing Hollingside House and the University Botanic Gardens on the left.

The Gardens are open to the public and have a café which you can use even if you do not visit the gardens (opening hours: March-October 10.00-17.00 daily, and November-February 10.00-16.00 daily) (I, G-H 1,290 metres (1,390 yards)).



After you pass Fountains Hall on the right the road bears left and passes between the buildings of Grey College, with a spectacular view of Durham Cathedral to the right. When Hollingside Lane meets South Road turn left to cross South Road at the pedestrian crossing, and a few paces to the left will take you to the end of Elvet Hill Road (H) H-I 540 metres (590 yards).

Turn right onto Elvet Hill Road, and just after Van Mildert College there is a road on the left leading to the Oriental Museum (opening hours: Monday-Friday 10.00-17.00 and weekends and Bank Holidays 12.00-17.00). Continue along Elvet Hill Road past Trevelyan and St. Mary's Colleges on the right. Where the road meets Potter's Bank turn right to walk down the hill to a roundabout. Cross over Potter's Bank just before the roundabout and then cross Quaryheads Lane at the stone cottage by the White Gates. Go through the gates and follow the track, which bears to the right and continues downhill to cross Prebends' Bridge (I, I-J 1,020 metres (1,100 yards)).

As you cross the bridge you get one of the classic views of the Cathedral on your left. On the far side of the bridge turn left onto the riverside footpath, which will take you past the Old Felling Mill Museum (opening hours: April-October 11.00-16.00 daily, and November-March 11.00-15.30 Friday-Monday). At the end of the footpath, there is a flight of steps to the bottom of Silver Street. Turn right and walk up Silver Street into the Market Place. Walk past the right-hand end of the church (A) J-A 1,020 metres (1,100 yards).

Short-cut 1 At the west end of the bridge turn right and follow the riverside path (with the river on your right) below Maiden Castle Woods. After the woods the path continues with the grounds of Durham City Rugby Club on your left, then swings left and joins Green Lane. Turn left down Green Lane, with the City, and then University cricket grounds on your right. At the end of the University grounds, a road joins from the left. Continue straight ahead into Old Elvet and walk past the red-brick Old Shire Hall on your left and the Royal County Hotel on your right. At the traffic lights, cross over New Elvet and walk up Elvet Bridge. At Magdalen Steps turn right into Saddler Street and continue straight ahead into the Market Place and then into Millennium Place.

Short-cut 2 On the west side of the A177 turn right and walk north along the roadside path. You will pass East Durham & Houghall Community College on your left, and the Graham Sports Centre on the right. The path climbs through trees and you reach the outskirts of the city at a roundabout. Take the road ahead, Hallgarth Street, and continue until you reach traffic lights. Continue straight ahead down New Elvet, with university buildings on your left. At the next set of traffic lights, turn left and walk up Elvet Bridge. At Magdalen Steps turn right into Saddler Street and continue straight ahead into the Market Place and then into Millennium Place.

Short-cut 3 At the road junction turn right and follow the track for a short distance between hedges until it reaches a stile. Cross the stile and continue through the field with the hedge on your left until you reach trees and another stile. Cross the stile and you meet a track, turn right and follow the track which bears to the left and then to the right before it meets the A177. Turn left and the path climbs through trees and you reach the outskirts of the city at a roundabout. Take the road ahead, Hallgarth Street, and continue until you reach traffic lights. Continue straight ahead down New Elvet, with university buildings on your left. At the next set of traffic lights, turn left and walk up Elvet Bridge. At Magdalen Steps turn right into Saddler Street and continue straight ahead into the Market Place and then into Millennium Place.

Wheelchairs and buggies cannot complete the whole route since there are stiles. However, a shorter version is possible and uses the lifts in the Prince Bishops Shopping Centre to get to the riverside path (I). It then follows the route above, using alternative 2 and short-cut 1 or short-cut 2.

At the beginning of the open field go straight ahead on the left-hand of the two paths. At the end of the field, the path bears left at the corner of Old Durham Gardens. Immediately after the corner take the path on the right, which runs through an old railway embankment. The path then crosses a narrow bridge (unsuitable by buggies or wheelchairs) over the Old Durham Beck. Continue across playing fields to reach a bridge over the river (E, D-E 540 metres (590 yards)).

At this point it is possible to turn right to return to the city centre [see short-cut 2 below] and buggies or wheelchairs should follow the short-cut. It is also possible to turn left to link to the Shindliffe Parish Walks (leaflet available from the Tourist Information Centre). To continue the full walk go ahead into a small copse. Where the path meets a road at the buildings of the Pump House, turn left and continue along the road.

This road has no pavements and is used by traffic to/from Houghall Farm. You should follow the Highway Code and walk on the left-hand side of the road. Just before the road bears to the right you will find a stile on the right. Cross the stile and take the path which winds between trees parallel to the road. The path gradually climbs, and where it forks take the right-hand fork. The path then descends by a series of steps to meet a farm track at a stile. Turn left along the farm

track until you meet a road at a boom gate, go through the gate and you will be on the Houghall Farm road. Turn right and continue past a riding school paddock on the left, until you reach a road junction (H, F-G 1,150 metres (1,250 yards)).

Access to Houghall Farm, turn left to enter the Farm areas. Entrance charge to the Farm. Open: Easter to Oct 10.00 - 16.00 daily and Oct to Easter Weekends and school holidays 10.00 to 16.00 or dusk. At this point it is possible to turn right to return to the city centre [see short-cut 3 below] or to continue straight ahead at the road junction and cross a stile to the right of a letter box. Follow the path through the trees and, when it reaches Great High Wood, follow the path that continues straight ahead. The path climbs steps to reach Hollingside Lane. Turn right and follow Hollingside Lane, passing Hollingside House and the University Botanic Gardens on the left.

The Gardens are open to the public and have a café which you can use even if you do not visit the gardens (opening hours: March-October 10.00-17.00 daily, and November-February 10.00-16.00 daily) (I, G-H 1,290 metres (1,390 yards)).

At the pedestrian bridge the two alternative routes converge. Cross over the bridge, and at this point it is possible to return to the city centre [see short-cut 1 below]. To continue the full route turn left to walk beside the river and follow the path alongside the grounds of the University Graham Sports Centre to reach Shindliffe Bridge. Do not go over the bridge but cross straight over the A177 (G, E-F 610 metres (660 yards)).

Take care crossing this road as the bridge rises on your left. At this point it is possible to turn right to return to the city centre [see short-cut 2 below] and buggies or wheelchairs should follow the short-cut. It is also possible to turn left to link to the Shindliffe Parish Walks (leaflet available from the Tourist Information Centre). To continue the full walk go ahead into a small copse. Where the path meets a road at the buildings of the Pump House, turn left and continue along the road.

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