

EXPLORING YORK

Exploring York and all that it has to offer has never been so easy.

We've routes for all ages and abilities, ready and waiting for you to explore.

Whilst you're out and about, remember let's be respectful and patient of others, and let's keep as safe as possible.

Heworth Holme and Tang Hall Beck trail

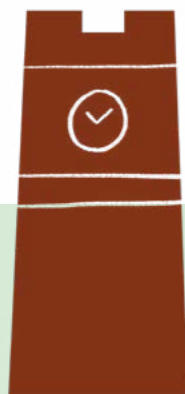
 Distance
1 mile

 Est. Time
30 mins

If you're planning to travel to, from and through York we want to make sure you have access to travel information that will help keep you safe and be able to plan your journey.

You can explore information about active travel and its benefits by downloading our Cycle route maps, Walking Guides and information on our popular Urban Cycle Skills Sessions at www.itravelyork.info

For further information on how to explore York safely go to www.visitork.org



Heworth Holme

Heworth Holme is formed of six acres of wet grassland alongside the Tang Hall Beck and a small wood on higher ground. It's a remnant of old countryside in the town, protected from development by its regular winter flooding. Look out for tawny owls hunting over grassland, kingfishers along the beck, spotted woodpeckers drumming on hollow trees and water voles rustling amongst the long grass.



Ladybirds

Along the trail you're bound to spot a ladybird. Amongst the best known and most popular insects, ladybirds are easy to recognise, with the most familiar species having a bright red colour with either two or seven spots. The bright colour warns predators that ladybirds have a bitter taste.

Did you spot any birdlife on your walk?

- Blackbird
- Blue tit
- Bullfinch
- Chaffinch
- Chiffchaff
- Goldfinch
- Great tit
- Great-spotted woodpecker
- Greenfinch
- House martin
- Robin
- Swallow
- Swift
- Whitethroat
- Willow warbler
- Vulture!?
-



Wanted dead or alive!

Whilst living trees are important for wildlife, dead and dying trees are just as important. Bats nest in the cavities of old trees, and woodpeckers feed on the insects found under the bark of decaying trees. At Heworth Holme you'll see many fallen logs – these are home to many beetles, fungi (mushrooms) and a host of other small creatures.



Is it a bird?

You may hear some singing coming from the undergrowth... it's not a bird, but a grasshopper! With strong back legs for jumping, they rub them against the sides of their body to produce a song which they use to attract a mate. Grasshoppers have their ears at the tail-end of their body (the abdomen) but their weird relatives, crickets, have ears in their front legs!

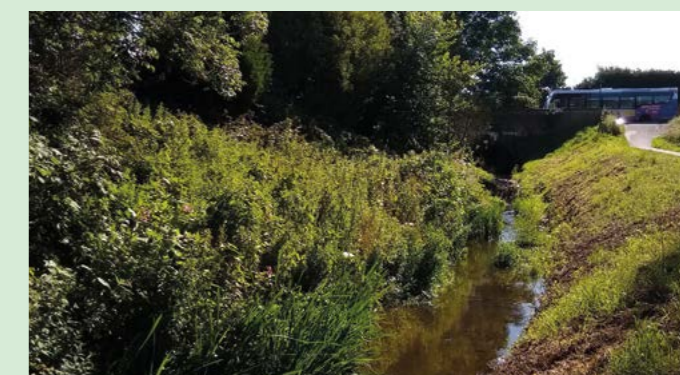
How many different types of leaves can you find?

- Alder
- Ash
- Beech
- Rowan
- Sycamore
- Oak
- Birch
-



Living history

When the Romans came to Britain they brought their favourite crops and medicinal plants with them as well as livestock and even pets. Later invaders brought more. Victorian plant collectors undertook dangerous journeys for spectacular plants – many of these can now be found growing in the wild. Common introduced species include the grey squirrel and the butterfly bush – also known as buddleia.



Tang Hall Beck

The trail follows Tang Hall Beck. The name 'Tang Hall' is derived from the Anglo Saxon 'Tang', which means the meeting place of two becks (Osbalwick and Tang Hall beck).

Heworth Holme and Tang Hall Beck trail

1 Start

Start the walk at Tang Hall Lane. The nearest bus stop is Walney Road (bus 11).

2

Walk past the entrance to Walney Road. Upon reaching Bad Bargain Lane turn left and look for a sign indicating the entrance to Heworth Holme. Enter Heworth Holme here.

Look out for large Weeping willow trees which can be found growing at Heworth Holme. Originally from northern China, they get their name from the way that raindrops dripping off the branches resemble tears.

3

Upon reaching Burnholme Drive, turn left, cross a bridge and then immediately turn right into an off-road lane.

4

Continue to follow the track running beside Tang Hall Beck.

5

Continue walking straight ahead at this point.

Look out for the Red Admiral butterfly – a very distinctive large butterfly with bright red, black and white markings. These amazing insects migrate to the UK every spring and can fly to York from as far away as North Africa.

6

The footpath forks at this point. Take the right fork. The other path leads to Hempland Primary School. The footpath passes through a mown field.

7

Use a small bridge to cross Tang Hall Beck. Then turn left and continue to follow the path.

If you catch a glimpse of an iridescent blue object moving very fast close to a stream the chances are that you have just seen a kingfisher. These colourful birds can be seen feeding in streams, ditches and rivers across York.

8

Upon reaching Stray Road it is possible to catch bus 11 here to return to the city centre.



Accessibility

The walk is accessible to wheelchair users. When leaving Heworth Holme to reach Burnholme Drive the path passing through a wooded area has the most accessible exit gate.

Buses

Bus stops served by bus 11 are found at the beginning and end of this walk. The buses travel to and from Station Road or Rougier Street in the city centre.