



# Jervaulx Abbey to Thornton Steward, near Masham



**Nidderdale**  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

## Introduction

This beautiful walk starts and ends at the fascinating ruins of Jervaulx Abbey. It takes you through stunning parkland, over lush pasture fields and through the historic village of Thornton Steward. You'll pass the impressive Danby Hall and cross the River Ure over two historic bridges.

## Map

OS Explorer 302:  
Northallerton and Thirsk

## Distance/Time

7 miles (11.25km)  
3-4 hours

## Starting Point

Jervaulx Abbey car park (SE 169857).

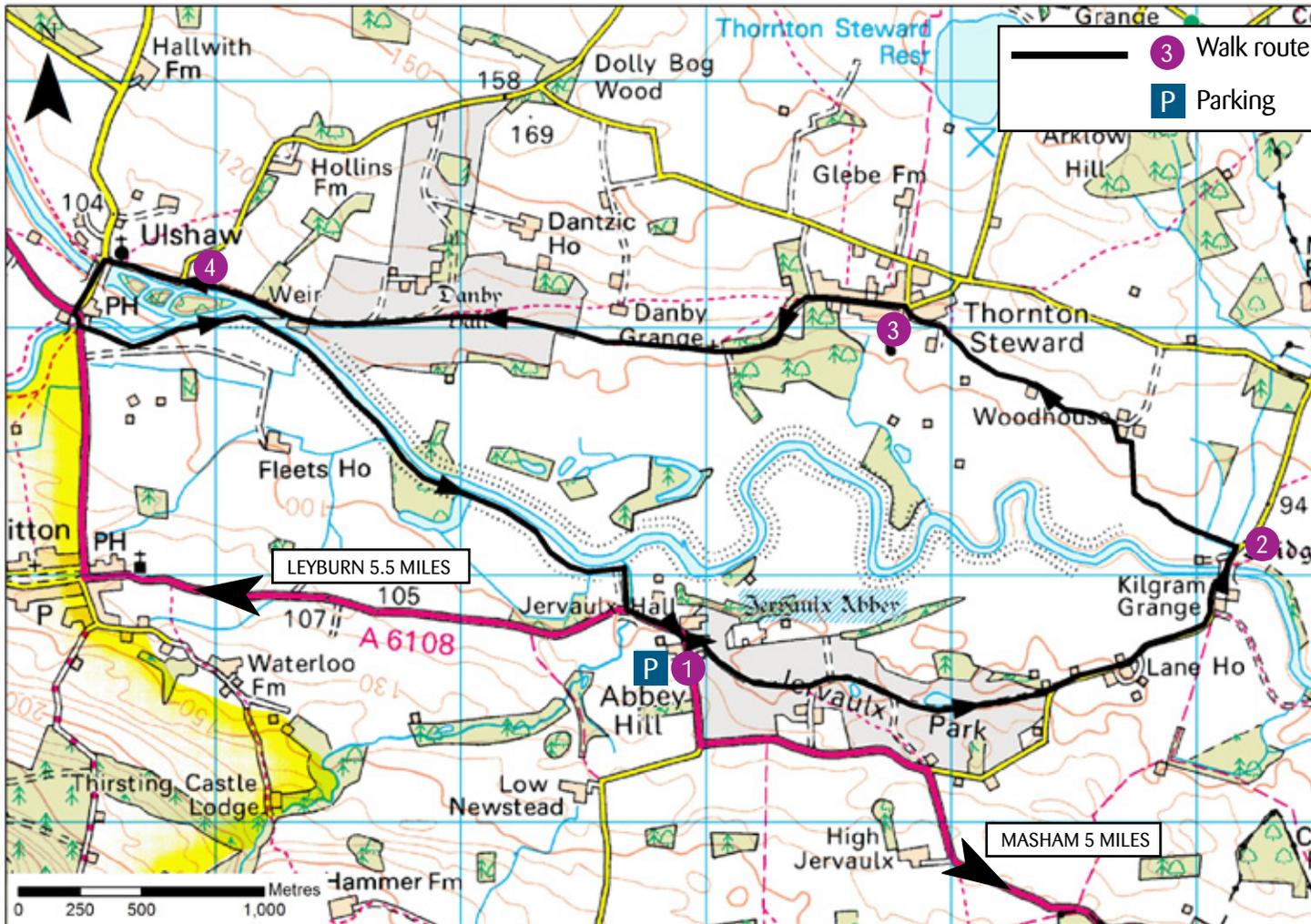
## Terrain

A moderate walk across mainly flat pasture and parkland with several stiles.

## Useful Information

The Abbey is open all year round during daylight hours. There is an honesty box at the Abbey entrance.

Refreshments: available from Jervaulx Abbey tea rooms at the start/end of the walk and the Coverbridge Inn en route.



## The Route

1. From the car park cross the road carefully and go through the gates heading towards the Abbey. Pick up a track heading right through the park. Follow the track all the way through the park, over the cattle grid, and to the road. At the road turn left. You will be on the road for approximately ½ mile.

2. Shortly after crossing the river look for a footpath on the left. Once into the open field follow the way markers. Cross this field and the next field before turning right and heading up to woodhouse. Follow the way markers, which take you to the left of the buildings. Head northwest along the edge of a field keeping the hedge to your left. Keep following the line of the hedge until you pass a small plantation on your left. Just past the plantation cross the stile and head over the field bearing to the right, to the corner of Thornton Steward village. After this field there are four stiles in short succession leading you to a small section of walled lane. The lane joins a track bringing you up to a road in the middle of the village.

3. Joining the road turn left following it through the village. At the end of the village go through a gate and follow the track past Manor Farm and

down through a wood to St Oswald Church. Go through the gate at the end of the car park and walk along the edge of the field keeping the fence to your right. After two fields go through a gate with a small stream just beyond it. Follow the line of the wall but this time, keep it to your left. Just past a small plantation on your left go through a gate. Beyond the gate follow the same wall but keep it on your right. At the end of the field go through the gate and turn left. You will join a track below Danby Hall, which takes you past Danby Mill and onto a road.

4. Join the road turning left. At the T-junction turn left over the bridge. When you reach the Coverbridge Inn turn left and over another bridge. Just beyond the bridge join a path on the left heading downstream to Jervaulx Abbey. The path brings you onto the road, where turning left will bring you back to the car park.

## Features of interest

### Jervaulx Abbey

This is one of the very few privately owned Cistercian Abbeys open to the public. The Abbey and Jervaulx estate was bought by its present owners, the Burdon family, in 1971.

Founded in 1156 by Cistercian Monks who had arrived from France following the Norman Conquest, this enchanting Abbey eventually became one of the busiest and wealthiest religious houses. It takes its name from the medieval word for valley, and the River Ure or Yorre, 'Jur'.

This beautiful site is now carefully managed with conservation in mind and it is noted for more than 180 species of wild flowers and shrubs growing amidst its ruins. It is a place of great beauty, tranquillity and history and is a wonderful site to visit.

The Abbey is open all year round during daylight hours. There is an honesty box at the Abbey entrance.

More info at [www.jervaulxabbey.com](http://www.jervaulxabbey.com)

### Thornton Steward

The walk takes you past this quiet village which can be traced back to 1041 in a pre-Conquest Saxon Land Charter. In 1890 it is recorded as being a small parish lying on the north bank of the river Ure comprising of a township of its own name and the hamlet of Danby.

At that time the village had a postmistress, a cowkeeper, joiner, Joiner's shop, sexton, shopkeeper, boot maker, miller, blacksmith,

schoolmistress and gardener.

St Oswald's Church is reputed to be one of the oldest in Wensleydale. Its doorway is Norman and is embellished with a war memorial from the 1st World War. However, as a result of an archaeological dig in 1966, human remains date the church site back to as early as 680 AD.