

Walk for April

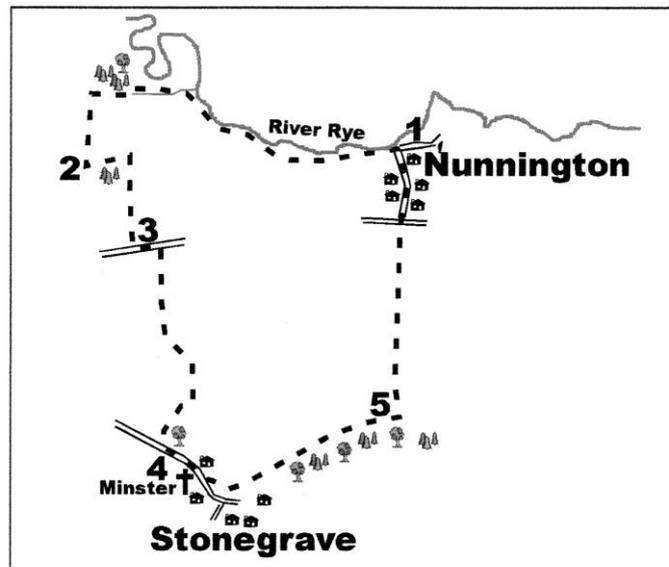
Nunnington, River Rye, Stonegrave

Here we explore the countryside to the west of Nunnington, a section of the River Rye and Stonegrave. A visit to Stonegrave's ancient Minster can be included. The pull uphill out of Stonegrave is quite steep but the effort is rewarded with views over the fields to Hovingham and beyond.

Nunnington Village can be reached from the B1257 via a junction about 1½ miles north of Hovingham. Before reaching the bridge, turn left. You are then on Low Street which, after a double bend becomes Church Street. Park on the roadside leaving room for farm vehicles to pass.

Start – Church Street, Nunnington.

Distance – 3½ miles **Duration** - 1½ -2 hours



1. From where you park the road bends to the left and immediately you turn sharp right through a kissing gate (not the larger gate leading across the river bridge) at a signpost 'Half Mile Lane 1 mile' to join a path across fields with the river on your right. The path follows the course of the river for about ¾ mile and, about 200 yards beyond the bridge marked 'No entry', goes over a wooden bridge across a drainage beck then turns sharp left with a hedge on the left towards the corner of a mature pine wood. Follow the waymarks round with the wood on your right and turn left when the path meets a more distinct track.
2. Turn left at the waymark at the corner of the next wood then right at the next junction of tracks. (*Yes, you have just walked round three sides of the same field but there is no right of way across the fourth side!*) The track rises to meet the tarmaced road.

3. Turn left and walk along the road for about 120 yards then turn right up the waymarked track signposted 'Stonegrave $\frac{3}{4}$ mile' with the hedge on your left. At the summit the track is well waymarked turning left then skirting round the next field boundary before descending quite steeply to meet the Hovingham to Helmsley Road.
4. Turn left, taking care with the traffic for 150 yards before the start of the footpath through Stonegrave village. As the road starts to descend into the village turn left along a grass track bridleway signposted 'Caulkley's Bank'. *(If you want to take a short detour to see Stonegrave Minster go down the road another 50 yards then turn right down the lane to the Minster.)* The track passes a new house on the left then rises steeply for $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. If you walk on the top of the banking to the right of the track there are good views down over the village and fields towards Hovingham. Pass through a gate at the summit and the hardest work is over. The track levels along the plateau with a wood on your right. You arrive at the waymark signposted 'Nunnington 1 mile'.
5. Turn left and enjoy the gentle descent. Another seat around $\frac{1}{4}$ mile along provides good views over Nunnington and beyond to the North York Moors. At the road carry on straight across by the church, going downhill past the Royal Oak pub to arrive back at your starting point.