

Walk for December

Nunnington, Caulkass Bank, Ness, River Rye

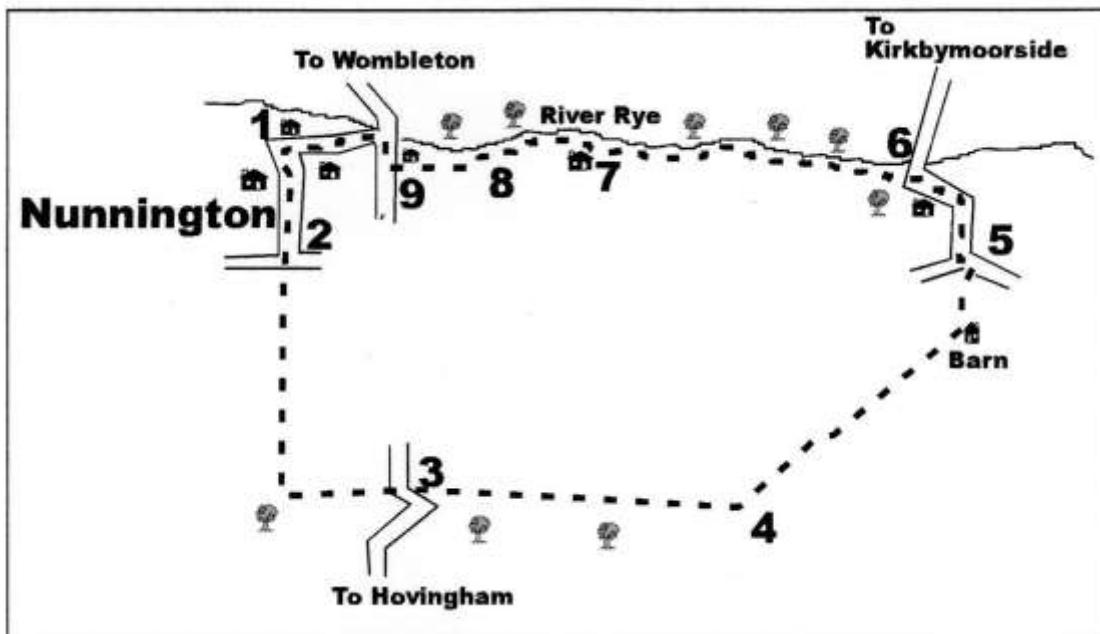
This route takes us to the top of Caulkass Bank, a spur of the Hambleton Hills. The exceptional views on both sides of the ridge are best appreciated during the gradual descent to the River Rye. The final stage is a pleasant stroll along the banks of the river. The climb to the top is quite long but fairly gentle after leaving the village; almost as demanding is negotiating the many stiles along the riverside. Try and pick a clear day for this walk, as the views are excellent.

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 – 4½ miles

Duration – 1¾ -2¼ hours



1. The road bends to the left and immediately you are climbing a fairly steep hill. Your route passes the Church, at which it meets another road.
2. Go straight across the road to join a waymarked bridle path which rises steadily. At the summit it meets another grass bridle path. Turn left and walk along this until you arrive at the road which is the top of Caulkass Bank. A seat there gives the chance for a well-earned rest and offers excellent views across the valley.
3. From the seat carry on along the adjacent bridle path. The next half mile or so provides some of the best views around with the Howardian Hills to the right and the Vale of Pickering and North York Moors to the left. The grass path descends gradually until it meets a stoned road.

4. At the road turn left and 30 yards along take the clearly marked bridle path that goes off to the right. The path descends past a group of barns until it meets the road between East and West Ness.
5. Turn left and follow the road as it bends right towards Welburn and Kirkbymoorside.
6. After the next left hand bend at the bottom of the hill, just past the former Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, and before the river bridge, a stile on the left leads to a waymarked public footpath. A short detour to the bridge often offers a glimpse of trout in the River Rye. The footpath is now crossed with a series of stiles. After the third, a fourth is immediately on your right. Pass over this to take you for a short distance on to the open banks of the river. After passing under the arched bough of an old hawthorn hedge go over the next stile and head at 1 o'clock towards a gate in a fence. With the gate and fence on your right, go over the stile ahead and walk towards Mill Farm which is now visible.
7. The approach to the farm is over a stile and through a gate, followed by another stile to the right of the farmhouse. Continue with a large ditch and a line of trees on the right towards a now visible seat alongside yet another stile. (Take extra care here if there are children in your party as the seat overlooks a weir).
8. From the stile by the seat head for a gate with a stile alongside at 10 o'clock, to the left of the stone wall facing you. Negotiate that and go straight ahead past the pair of tall trees with Nunnington Hall on the right. Nunnington Hall, a 17th-century manor house, is now owned by the National Trust and is open to the public.
9. Exit from the field through a gate on the right, join a tarmaced drive and turn left. The drive emerges on to a road. Turn right and, at the bottom of the hill just before the bridge, turn left and follow the road round to return to your vehicle.