



River Folk

Rediscover the Rye with this unique audio walk

Interweaving conversations with communities who live, or have lived by the riverside, with historic scenes from the river's rich past, this audio walk is a love letter to the River Rye.

Created by audio theatre artist Helena Fox, in partnership with the local community, it explores people's relationship with this historic watercourse over time.

Make sure to download the audio walk to your phone before reaching Rievaulx!

Distance: 2.3 miles

Time: 1 hour

Start/Finish: Rievaulx Abbey. Parking available at Rievaulx Abbey car park (pay and display)

Grid Reference: SE 57500 85037

what3words: ///glove.today.annual



Scan the QR code to download the audio and walk
www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/riverfolk



5 The stoned track takes you over the Grade II listed Bow Bridge, before you turn off left through a field gate and head south-east into a rough wooded pasture. The current bridge replaced a timber one that was washed away in floods in 1754. In the evenings, this section is great to see foraging bats.

6 After crossing the field, pass through the gate into woodland and follow the track as it starts to rise. There is a lot of hazel in this woodland, which would have been used for tools and charcoal. Today, a section of wood is cut each year to make a constant supply of poles and fence hurdles.

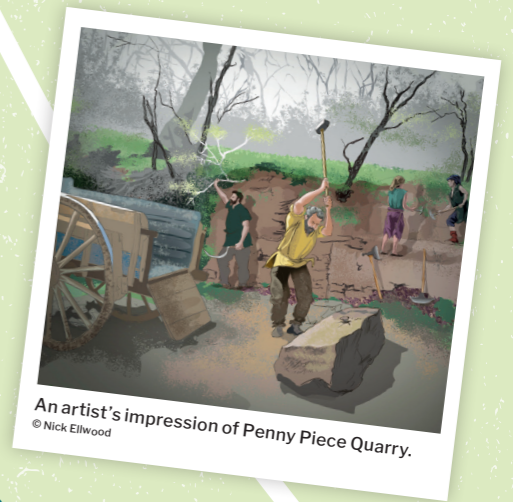
7 As the woodland path reaches the top, there are great views of Rievaulx Abbey and it is a good spot to imagine the ancient wooded valley before the arrival of the monks. Make use of the bench on this stretch to finish listening to the audio drama.

8 Following the path around Ashberry Hill, you emerge at Ashberry Farm.

9 The next section follows the road east until you cross over the Grade II listed Rievaulx Bridge. Please ensure you have completed listening to the audio before the road as there is no pavement!

4 Before you pass through the next gate to join the stoned track, look back and behind the hedgerow you have just walked beside. You can make out the indentation of the ancient canal made by the monks to divert the river.

3 After going through the first hand-gate, there is another short field section. Look out for the stones set into the landscape here – this is part of Penny Piece Quarry, named after the tradition of paying quarrymen a penny a day for their work. This quarry was an important source of stone for Rievaulx Abbey.



2 This section of the route follows the line of an ancient canal established by the monks to divert water from the River Rye to the abbey. **Start listening here.**

1 From the start point at Rievaulx Abbey, head northwest through horse fields. On your right, as you enter the fields, you will see Rievaulx Mill (now a residence) – it is located on the site of the original medieval mill built by the Cistercian monks of Rievaulx Abbey.

10 Now turn left to head back into the village. Listen to the natural flow of the river as you walk.

