

ROSEDALE ABBEY WALK

Enjoy Lastingham and the Rosedale Valley

Visit my website for full details: <https://www.paulbeal.com/rosedale-abbey-walk>

Introduction to the Walk

This Rosedale Abbey walk links together some of the North York Moors' most enjoyable scenery and villages. Starting near the village green in Rosedale Abbey, you soon gain height and are treated to big views over the Rosedale valley from the White Horse Farm Inn and the paths along the edge of Spaunton Moor. The route then leads you through peaceful moorland and farmland towards High Askew, before dropping into the beautiful village of Lastingham with its historic church, remarkable crypt, and village landmarks. Later, the open expanse of Spaunton Moor and the approach to Ana Cross give the walk a real sense of space, and the final descent of Rosedale Chimney Bank brings more sweeping views as you return to Rosedale Abbey.

Highlights of the Walk

You'll enjoy long stretches of scenic walking along the moorland edge, with views towards farms on Pry Hills Lane and Hartoft Bridge Farm. There are pleasant paths beside dry stone walls, the historic 'Spaunton Estate' marker stone, and a restful spot overlooking Lastingham. In the village itself, the Church of St Mary, its remarkable crypt, and St Cedd's Well offer plenty to explore before you return to the moor. The approach to Ana Cross, set on a prehistoric burial mound, is a real focal point, and the steep descent of Rosedale Chimney Bank provides sweeping views as you head back towards Rosedale Abbey.

Rosedale Abbey is a small historic village shaped by its former Cistercian priory. Although little of the original priory survives, its carefully cut stone lives on throughout the village in walls, lintels, churches, and other buildings. These reused materials, along with features inspired by monastic architecture, give the village its distinctive character and a strong connection to its medieval past.

Additional Information

- **Distance:** 9½ miles (15 kilometres).
- **Duration:** Approximately 4½ hours (excluding stops and breaks).
- **Difficulty:** Moderate. Great for walkers with a reasonable level of fitness. The gradients are mostly steady rather than sharp, but the overall distance, exposure on Spaunton Moor, and the climb out of Rosedale Abbey mean it is more demanding than a simple low-level stroll.
- **Trail Conditions:** A mix of quiet village roads, stone tracks, grassy bridleways, and moorland paths. Generally clear and easy to follow, with some uneven and rocky sections, a short steep climb out of Rosedale Abbey, an exposed stretch across Spaunton Moor.
- **Recommended Map:** OS Explorer OL26 – North York Moors Western Area.
- **Parking:** Near the village green in the centre of Rosedale Abbey.
 - **Google Maps Link:** <https://maps.app.goo.gl/D3UNYFsMPMnJBVAa7>
 - **What3Words:** //hack.toned.boots

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Paul Beal



Step-by-Step Directions

Start your Rosedale Abbey walk by parking near the village green, right in the heart of **Rosedale Abbey (1)**. From here, head up the road, passing the Abbey Tea Room and Abbey Stores on your left. The road soon curves to the left. As you reach the junction with the main road, take the smaller road to your right, signposted for Thorgill. This is the road leading up to Rosedale Chimney Bank. Cross the bridge over the River Seven and continue uphill along Gill Lane, which climbs steeply for a short stretch.

After about a quarter of a mile, turn left into the **White Horse Farm Inn (2)**. Walk past the inn, keeping it on your right, and follow the well-maintained stone trail that leads south-east. After about a mile, you'll come to the **entrance of Hollins Farm (3)**. Here, take the grassy bridleway to your right and start ascending the hill. At the top, you'll encounter a fork in the path. Stay on the left-hand path, keeping the dry stone wall on your left as you continue.

For the next mile, your Rosedale Abbey walk follows this easy-to-navigate path, which is marked by North York Moors bridleway signs. The direction **gradually shifts to the south (4)**, and the trail remains clear. Stay on the main path for another mile and a half, resisting any temptations to veer right about halfway along. You'll come to a small wooded area, enclosed by a dry stone wall.

Keep walking along the edge of the wood, with **High Askew on your left (5)**. The stone track eventually transitions into a tarmac road. Follow this road for about a third of a mile until you see some gates ahead. **Just before the gates (6)**, turn right and follow the path onto the moorland. The dry stone wall will once again be on your left as you make your way around the field. The trail descends into a shallow valley where you'll **cross Tranmire Beck using a ford (7)**. Then, follow the path as it ascends out of the valley.

Continue along this path, keeping the dry stone wall on your left. The route heads west for about half a mile before widening into a broader track. You'll eventually reach a large **marker stone and a bench (8)**, providing a perfect spot for a short rest. From here, bear left onto the road known as High Street, which leads south into the picturesque **village of Lastingham (9)**.

Take time to explore Lastingham, with its fascinating church and crypt. When you're ready to leave, retrace your steps along High Street, back to the large marker stone. From here, continue straight ahead, keeping the marker stone on your right. The trail is signposted for Rosedale and heads north across the open expanse of **Spaunton Moor (10)**.

The stone track is easy to follow and offers stunning views as you walk for roughly two miles towards Ana Cross. Once you reach **Ana Cross (11)**, continue north on the track for another half a mile until you reach the road at the **top of Rosedale Chimney Bank (12)**. Turn right and follow the road all the way down, leading you back to Rosedale Abbey.

Map of the Walk

