

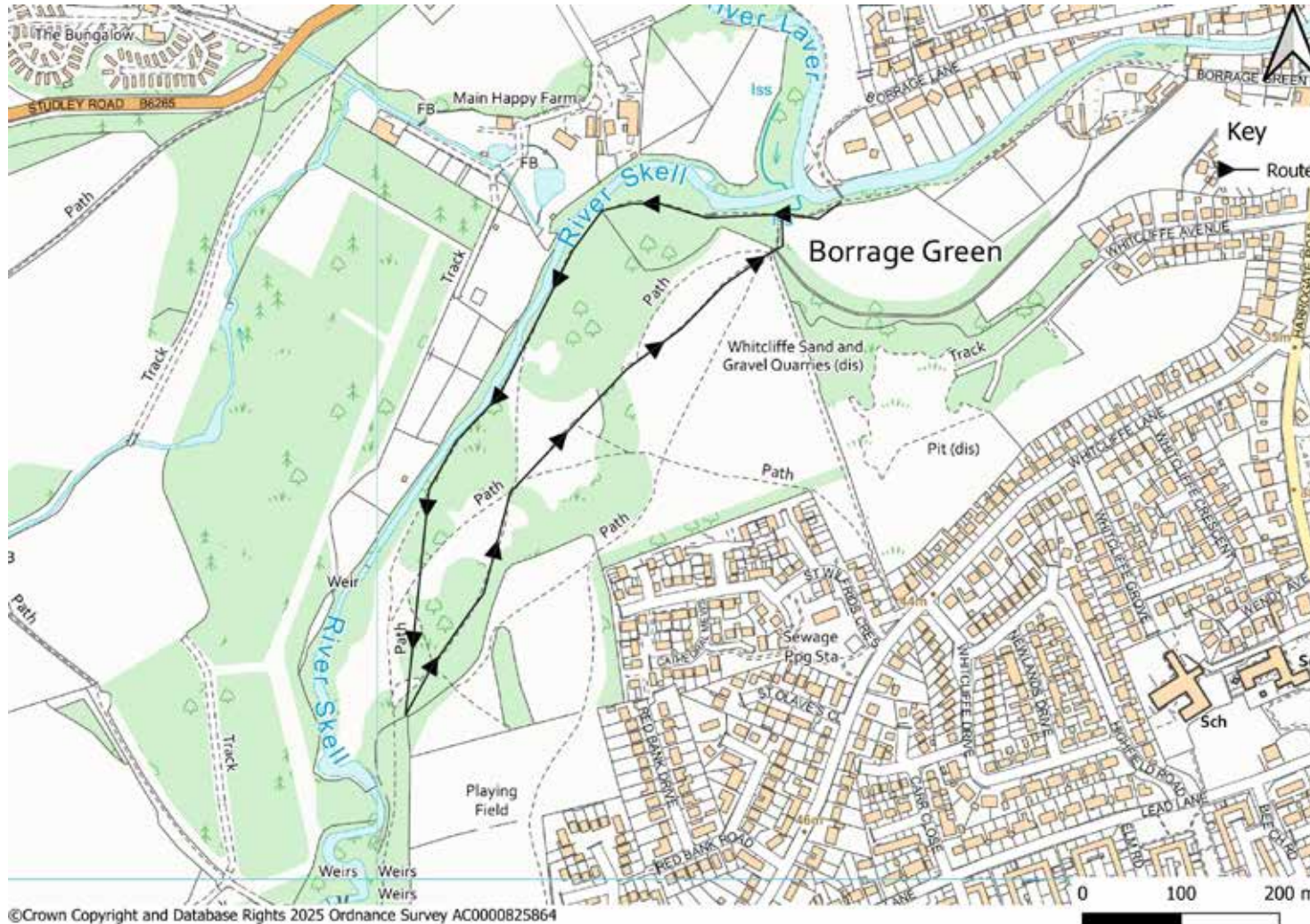


Hell Wath Nature Trail, Ripon



Wander down Hell Wath path in Ripon, along the River Skell, through woodland glade, meadows and hedgerows. Peer into ponds, scramble overwoods and look out for the remains of a First World War camp in the woods too.

The Hell Wath nature trail has been clearly waymarked so you can decide which route and direction to take.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION



DISTANCE
1 mile (1.6km)



TIME
1.5 hours



MAP
OS Explorer 298: Nidderdale



STARTING POINT
Hell Wath Nature Reserve. Grid ref: SE304707.
[///chucked.caller.screening](http://chucked.caller.screening)



TOILETS
The nearest public/accessible toilets are in Ripon town centre or Studley Royal Deer Park.



REFRESHMENTS
A variety of cafes and pubs in Ripon and cafes at Fountains Abbey.



IS THIS WALK RIGHT FOR YOU?
This walk follows bridleways and footpaths through parkland. The terrain is fairly easy walking and mostly flat. There are a variety of different paths and routes which have been clearly waymarked so you can decide which route and direction to take.

WALKING WITH DOGS



This is a wonderful place to explore with your dog, however loose dogs pose a real danger to livestock and birds. A few simple steps can make a big difference:

- Always keep your dog on a short lead, especially around livestock and on moorland, where rare birds nest on the ground.
- Always stick to footpaths.
- Check signs for local restrictions.
- Always clean up after your dog.
- If you feel threatened by cows let your dog off the lead.

SKELL VALLEY PROJECT

Co-led by



THE ROUTE

Follow your own trail.

The Hell Wath nature trail has been clearly waymarked so you can decide which route and direction to take.

1. The name Hell Wath comes from the old Norse language and means 'flat stone ford'. Look for this convenient river crossing nearby.

2. Over 400 species of plants, big and small, call Hell Wath their home.

3. It's hard to imagine now, but Hell Wath was part of an enormous army camp during the First World War. It grew from an existing summer camp used by the territorial army into part of a vast army camp with 2000 timber huts housing 42,000 men and 10,000 horses. Wilfred Owen, a famous war poet, was one of the soldiers. He and 1.5 million other men passed through the camp between 1914 and 1919.

4. Before World War One farmers grazed cattle here when this land belonged to the Fountains Abbey estate. After the war, Ripon Racecourse took over part of this site, while a nearby gravel quarry employed local men.