



## **Green for Now & The Future**

### **River Foss Nature Walk/ Amble/Ramble**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2024 after 9am to 4pm.**

As part of the York Environment Weeks' celebrations, we invite you to explore nature along the path beside the River Foss between Strensall and Haxby.

The walk starts on the Foss bank in Strensall behind the Ship Inn YO32 5XS and ends at The Landings in Haxby YO32 2SJ. The Ship Inn is opposite the Methodist Church.

You can do the whole trip or walk just as far as you want. You don't have to do the whole journey. You could also do the walk down the Foss to Towthorpe Bridge, then return to Strensall on the other side. This sometimes gets overgrown, though, so be careful.

There's an activities sheet to go with the trails. If you'd like to get involved and share your finds, please post on

Strensall Methodist Church

Haxby and Wigginton Methodist Church

Or email to [strensallmethodistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:strensallmethodistchurch@gmail.com) so we can create a montage of the day!

Remember a lot of people might see your posts so please only share what you want to.

Parking is limited, why not show your support for the environment & take the bus instead? You can pick up the number 5 from the city centre.

## Why not be a Citizen Scientist?!

Every observation can contribute to biodiversity science, from the rarest butterfly to the most common backyard weed. Inaturalist share your findings with scientific data repositories like the [Global Biodiversity Information Facility](https://www.inaturalist.org/) to help scientists find and use your data. All you have to do is observe  
Go to the website to sign up or download the app – it looks like this



<https://www.inaturalist.org/>

## Staying safe on your walk

1. There's a lot of traffic in the villages. The roads are busy.  
Please take care when crossing any roads and take special care with any children or animals with you.
2. Wear suitable footwear, especially if it's been raining.
3. Near the Foss, stay on the riverside paths.  
Please don't go near the edge of the bank.  
Look after children & animals.  
Don't take unnecessary risks
4. In an emergency, phone 999.

## The River Foss Society

For more details on the plant life and wildlife along the Foss, or any more about the Foss in general, visit

<https://www.riverfossociety.co.uk/>

They will be at Strensall Methodist church between 10am and 12pm if you want to find out more.

They will also be giving a talk on bug life on the Foss at Haxby Methodist Church at 2pm on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>. Go to this webpage to book on or find out about all of the other activities. [www.hwmc.org.uk/ecochurch](http://www.hwmc.org.uk/ecochurch)



## Things to do on the Foss Walk/ Amble/Ramble

1. It's autumn now, what can you see on your walk? I wonder how this would look different in other seasons. You will have to come back and see!
2. Can you draw a picture of something you see? Or take a photo.
3. Can you spot some interesting footprints? Are they from wellies, dogs or maybe something else?!
4. Can you see any trees, flowers or grasses? Do you know what they are? Can you take a picture and look it up?
5. Can you see any birds, animals or mini beasts? Can you find out any interesting facts about them? Are they native species?
6. Can you find out what differences there are between a dragonfly and a damselfly?
7. Use some of your other senses – what can you hear, see, touch or smell?
8. At the end, write down or draw what's your favourite thing on your walk today?  
Why do you like that best?

**Have you spotted any of these creatures or plants?  
Tick off what you have seen.**



**Female Common Darter**



**Kingfisher**



**Egret**



**Heron**



**Coot**



**Moorhen**



**A Little Grebe**



**Swan**



**Canada Geese**



**Greylag goose**



**Otter**



**Otter Footprints**



**American Mink**



**Water vole**



**Water plantain**



**Yellow water lily**



**Water forget me nots**



**Amphibious bistort**



**Yellowcress**



**Great willowherb**



**Water figwort**



**Meadowsweet**

**Giant Bellflower**

**White Willow**



**Grey willow**

**Weeping willow**

**Alder**



**Southern Hawker Dragonfly**

**Damselfly**

**Water Beetle**



**Caddisfly**

**Mayfly**