

	Durham City, Cathedral & River Wear (PT 339 - 11Km)		
START VENUE	Small unsigned parking area (parking bays at side of minor road) situated just off the A177 on Farm Lane, Houghall, Durham, DH1 3PJ just north of Shincliffe Bridge. The parking area is situated to the south of Durham adjacent to the East Durham Collage, Houghall Campus and opposite the Durham University Graham Sports Centre. Walkers arriving by rail or taking advantage of the various Park & Ride sites are advised to begin the trail at an alternative starting point of Market Place, Durham, DH1 3NJ. The alternative starting point is 0.7Km from Durham Railway Station and 0.3Km from the nearest Park & Ride bus stop at Milburngate Bridge which is serviced by all Park & Ride buses. NB: Park & Ride services do not operate on Sundays or Bank Holidays.		
CAR PARKING	The parking area is free but is quite small and can be busy at times. There is also a small private car park about 100 metres on the right further along Farm Lane which is next to, and part of the 'Pump House Tearoom' and 'Armani at the Pump House' restaurant. Please seek permission from the tearoom/restaurant before leaving your car.		
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	Shincliffe Bridge is serviced from the north and south by buses on route numbers 56, 56A, 58 and X12 between Durham and Bishop Auckland, Middlesbrough and Hartlepool. Durham is on the East Coast Main Line railway and is well served by trains from the London, York and Darlington in the south and Newcastle, Edinburgh, Inverness and Aberdeen in the north.		
GEOCACHING	There are several geo-cache locations in Durham City centre.		
DISTANCE/GRADE	11Km Grade 2		
TERRAIN	The route is a combination of woodland and riverside paths, roads, footpaths and uneven cobbled surfaces. Woodland paths may be muddy and slippery during or after rainfall. Cobbled surfaces maybe slippery during or after rainfall. The route is not suitable for pushchairs or wheelchairs.		
GENERAL INFORMATION	Durham, is a cathedral and university city in northeast England south of Newcastle upon Tyne and is the ancestral home of the powerful Prince Bishops. Founded in AD995 by Anglo Saxon monks seeking refuge from Viking raiders, Durham was later strengthened by the Normans. It is built on the River Wear which loops around the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Durham Cathedral and Durham Castle. NB: Several roads forming the route are closed for several days each year to cater for traditional events for example, Durham Regatta is held annually on the second weekend of June and the Durham Miners Gala takes place on the second Saturday of July every year. Please check the Durham Tourism website for further details - https://www.thisisdurham.com/whats-on		
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES	River Connections: There is a River Connection on this PT.		
	Royal Connections: There are several Royal Connections on this PT.		
REFRESHMENTS	There are several places to buy food and drink (take away and eat in) along the route, particularly within the city centre.		
TOILETS	Public toilets are available at Durham Services on the A1(M) near Bowburn (accessible from both carriageways), about 5.5Km from the start venue. Participants are advised to take advantage of this facility before starting the trail. Public toilets are also situated in Palace Green near Durham Cathedral. Restaurant and cafes along the route also have toilet facilities for customers.		
BWF / IVV	This trail is registered until 31st December 2026. BWF declaration on next page.		
ROUTE DESCRIPTION CHECK / UPDATED	5TH August 2025. Please make sure you are using the most up to date version, particularly if you printed this off a while ago). Admin update 05/04/2026.		
DATA PROTECTION	The data provided on this form will be retained until 1st February 2027 for statistical analysis and will then be securely destroyed.		
ENTRY FEE	£1.50 per walker. Payment preferred by Bank Transfer to Metro Bank Account: 45237087; Sort Code: 23-05-80; Name: IPA Region 3 (NB: Metro Bank do not operate "Confirmation of Payee" so a warning indicating this account cannot be checked is likely). Please use PT 339 + Surname as payment reference. Cheques, payable to Mrs J A Smith, accepted only by exception when bank transfer is not possible please.		
TRAIL ORGANISER: (TO CLAIM IVV STAMPS)	Judith Smith (BWF), 13 Chantry Road, East Ayton, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO13 9EP. Email: judith.a.smith@btinternet.com Please use this form (page 2) to submit your entry and claim IVV stamps		
BWF DECLARATION	The organisers are not liable for accidents, thefts and/or damage to property. Every effort will be made by the organisers to make this a safe, enjoyable and memorable event.		

PERMANENT TRAIL COMPLETION & IVV STAMP CLAIM FORM

(Please print details clearly)

PT NAME:	DURHAM CITY, CATHEDRAL & RIVER WEAR PT	PT NUMBER:	PT339
DATE WALKED:		ROUTE UPDATED:	05/08/2025 Admin – 29/12/2025

NAME:			
ADDRESS:			
POSTCODE:		TELEPHONE: *	
E-MAIL: *			

NAMES OF <u>ADDITIONAL</u> WALKERS:		

AWARD & SOUVENIR STICKER:	At the present time, there is no award available for this trail. If you wish to be notified if an award (cloth badge) is produced, please indicate YES / NO . Please ensure your E-mail address is entered above.
	A free Souvenir Log Book sticker is available YES / NO

Please put my IVV stamps on a new set of insert cards.	YES / NO
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ENTRY FEES:		Walkers @ £1.50 each=	£
		Awards @ £2.50 each =	£ Not Applicable
	Total transferred / enclosed (delete as necessary) =		£

ANSWERS	
Q1:	Q5:
Q2:	Q6:
Q3:	Q7:
Q4:	

If you wish to make any comments, please add them to a separate sheet.
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If you have a problem with this trail, please try to resolve it with the trail organiser. If you are unable to resolve the problem, please contact the BWF Trails Officer.
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The details on this form will only be used in order to process your claim for IVV stamps and will not be used for any other purpose. Your details will not be passed to any third party.
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*These Details will only be used in the event of a query relating to this claim for IVV stamps.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

TL = TURN LEFT; TR = TURN RIGHT; SO = STRAIGHT ON

Start in the car park with your back to the A177 road, and walk SO along the narrow road passing signs 'Single Track Road with Passing Places' along Houghall Discovery Trail. The River Wear is to the left. Take care and beware of traffic as there are no footpaths! You will soon pass the Pump House Tea Room which is on the right (closed on Mondays). The road meanders a little but soon after, you will pass a woodland area on the left. This is the site of the former Houghall Village and Colliery, the outline of which can still be seen. You will then pass the Houghall Equine Centre on the left.

After about 1.00Km from the start, the road bends to the left (Farm Road) and you will see a Post Box on the left with a wooden pedestrian gate signposted Public Footpath ahead. Continue through the wooden gate and walk SO along the path which continues along the edge of light woodland taking note of the 'The Old Waggonway' information board on the right along the way.

QUESTION 1: What is the name of Oliver Cromwell's Chief of Staff, responsible for setting up an HQ at Houghall Hall, during the Civil War?

Continue SO along the woodland path descending into a dip where there is a fallen tree. Ignore the narrow path to the right and walk around the tree. Continue SO along the main path up the gradient and earth steps.

You will soon arrive at a junction with a Marker Post for Public Footpaths in both directions. TR and follow the path down a slight gradient. The path twists and turns but keep SO through woodland.

After climbing a moderate, short, uphill gradient, you will reach a 'T' junction. TR and follow the path downhill. This path keeps to the edge of the woodland with fields to the right and continues passing ponds, sports fields before reaching the A177.

At the end of the woodland path, where it meets a main road (A177) you will arrive at a classic wooden 5 bar gate with a pedestrian access to the side. Turn left onto the footpath at the side of the road and continue SO uphill keeping the main road to the right.

At the roundabout, TL at the first exit onto Stockton Road (no sign), also known as Mount Joy Crescent, signposted Darlington, A177, City Centre and stay on the left-hand footpath with the road to your right. At the minor junction into the Palatine Centre of Durham University [#1], use the pedestrian crossing to cross the road safely and continue SO keeping the modern and contemporary building constructed of wood and glass to your left.

The answer to the next clue is situated at the opposite end of the university building complex.

QUESTION 2: After which famous American-British journalist and author is the University library named?

At the next major road junction, you need to continue SO into Quarryheads Lane (no sign). Use the pedestrian crossing signals to cross the A177 Stockton Road towards the public house. Then, using the signals and traffic island, cross Church Street Head (no sign) onto Quarryheads Lane. Continue SO along the right-hand footpath keeping the road to your left along a slight uphill gradient and then around a right-hand bend to a roundabout. Follow the path around to the right and continue SO along Quarryheads Lane.

Where the road splits at a white painted 5 bar wooden gate, walk through the pedestrian access to the right of the gate and keep right, descending downhill on the approach to Prebends Bridge [#2]. Cross the bridge. At the northern end of the bridge, set into the left-hand parapet as you walk past, is a stone tablet.

QUESTION 3: During which years was Prebends Bridge restored?

Continue to the right towards a white 5 bar gate signposted Cathedral & Castle/World Heritage Site Visitor Centre/National Cycle Route and walk through the pedestrian access to the side of the gate into South Bailey, a partly cobbled street. Follow the road to the right keeping the Church of St. Mary the Less to your left.

Take note of the blue plaque (**HINT: Royal Connection**) on the wall of Bowes House, No 4 South Bailey (on the right), the former family home of Dame Elizabeth Bowes (1651-1736), a pioneer in the coal mining industry and ancestor of HM King Charles III, who lived here and lies buried in the Chapel of St Mary the Less.

Continue SO and pass St. John's College which is on the right and then Durham Cathedral which will be on the left.

TL onto Dun Cow Lane and walk to the end of the lane into Palace Green which is full of historically interesting buildings and architecture. On the left of Dun Cow Lane is the north façade of Durham Cathedral [#3] (**HINT: Several Royal Connections – research required**). Look out for an 18th century panel which depicts the story of the Dun Cow. The Cathedral itself houses the Bishop's throne, said to be the highest Bishop's Throne in Christendom. Also of interest, on the Cathedral's northern door is a replica of the medieval 'Sanctuary Knocker', which played an important role in the history of the Cathedral. Those who had committed a grave offence, such as murder in self-defence or breaking out of prison, could grasp the knocker, and they would be given 37 days of sanctuary within which they could try to reconcile with their enemies or plan their escape!

On one side of Palace Green is Bishop Cosin's Almshouses, the Old University Police Office and a Victorian Post Box. Opposite is the County Court which was in use until 1811. This is where the Assizes for the County of Durham were held twice a year. There is also the Palace Green Library, the Music School, the Durham Light Infantry Victoria Cross Memorial, Cosin's Hall and Moneyer's Garth, the site of the Prince Bishop's Mint, established in 1135 by Bishop Geoffrey Rufus.

If you wish, spend some time in this area to visit the magnificent Durham Cathedral and explore other buildings in Palace Green which all form part of this incredible UNESCO World Heritage Site.

You will be leaving Palace Green onto Owengate, a cobbled street near the Victorian Post Box diagonally opposite the Cathedral's northern door.

NB: Public toilets are available close the Victorian post box before you exit onto Owengate.

Exit Palace Green onto Owengate and follow the road downhill to the junction with Saddler Street. TL, signposted Market Place. Continue SO. NB: This road has the appearance of being a pedestrian street but it is still used regularly by traffic so please keep to the footpaths at the sides which are made of different coloured stone.

Enter Market Place, the focal point of Durham City has medieval origins and hosts Durham Town Hall, the Guildhall and several monuments.

QUESTION 4: Who sculpted the memorial to the Durham Light Infantry?

Take a few minutes to explore the architecture and statues of Market Place including the Heritage Timeline [#4], a series of granite stones stretching 42 metres across the Market Place and depicts 1,000 years of time and history. Unfortunately, the Heritage Timeline is not visible on Saturdays (Market Days).

Leave Market Place onto Saddler Street (the way you entered) and continue SO to the second junction on the left. TL onto Elvet Bridge, signposted 'Riverbanks, Cruises & Boat Hire/Police Station, Courts & Prison/The Racecourse' and walk downhill onto and across Elvet Bridge (**HINT: River Connection**), another stone medieval bridge across the River Wear. Midway across Elvet Bridge, there is plaque on the right-hand parapet.

QUESTION 5: How many arches does Elvet Bridge have?

Just after crossing Elvet Bridge, you will arrive at a road junction (New Elvet). TR and continue SO along New Elvet keeping to the right-hand footpath with a high brick wall which is part of a building that houses the English Language Centre – Modern Languages & Cultures) to the right and the road to the left. At the end of the English Language Centre, use the pedestrian crossing to cross new Elvet towards the Police Station. Take note of the traditional blue police lantern hanging over the front door. Having crossed the road, continue walking in the same direction to the next junction at the end of the Police Station. TL onto Court Lane, signposted 'Crown Court & County Court'. The Crown Court building is ahead and to the right. At the entrance to the Crown Court, TL and follow the crescent shaped road around to the right, keeping St. Cuthbert Church on the left.

At the junction with a small triangular grass island, follow the road to the left to Old Elvet. Cross Old Elvet towards the stone built Masonic Hall on the opposite side of the road. TR and walk a few metres to No. 30 Old Elvet where you will find a large black cast iron balcony. Said to have been constructed in 1816 specifically for the purpose, it is known locally as the 'Hanging Balcony', a place where the owner of No 30 was said to have sold tickets to those that could afford them, to witness executions by hanging on the green space opposite, or New Drop as it was then known.

Keep walking along Old Elvet SO up a slight gradient and, where the main road starts to bend right, TL into Green Lane and walk a few metres to the end of the footpath. At the lowered footpath, cross Green Lane to the footpath on the opposite side, TL and then continue SO along Green Lane keeping Durham Justice Centre on the right.

QUESTION 6: At Railway Cottages (blue plaque on right), in what year did passenger services cease?

Continue SO along the footpath following signs for Durham City Cricket Club. Where the road narrows, continue SO but please take care – no footpaths.

At signs for Durham Amateur Rowing Club 1860 Bar & Kitchen where there is also a sign for 'Patrons Only', TL towards a grass playing field then almost immediately TR. Follow the gravel track around to the left and pass the Durham Amateur Rowing Club 1860 Bar & Kitchen which will be on the right (Refreshments & toilets)

After passing the rowing club buildings, the gravel surface improves to become a hard surface and continues to bend to the left with the River Wear (**HINT: River Connection**) on the right.

Continue SO and follow the path past Durham bandstand.

Keeping the River Wear to your right, continue SO to the next pedestrian footbridge (Baths Bridge). Use Baths Bridge to cross the River Wear (**in the event of Baths Bridge being closed use the diversion shown at the end of the route description). After crossing the river, turn right along the river bank and continue SO along the Riverside Path (**HINT: River Connection**), following the route instructions and keeping the River Wear to your right for about 2.3Km.

After about 200 metres, you will reach a memorial seat.

QUESTION 7: Which Durham University College is referenced on the brass plaque 1984-1987?

Continue SO following the River Wear through Pelaw Wood. At a junction of the path, take the right-hand fork and follow the path over a long wooden pedestrian footbridge known as Kingfisher Bridge (over Old Durham Beck). Walk under a brick arch. The arch is all that remains of a railway bridge that carried a new line branching from the Shincliffe line at Sherburn House and Durham Elvet Station. It was used by passenger trains and goods trains that transported coal across the River Wear between from Durham Elvet and Sunderland.

Continue SO until you reach a major road. This is the A177 and you are now close to the point where you started. Before crossing the busy A177, TL and walk along the left-hand footpath to the junction with traffic signals. At the junction, use the pedestrian crossing signals to cross the A177 safely before turning back along the footpath on the opposite side of the A177 to the start point keeping the A177 on your right. Continue SO past the Rose Tree Public House, with the public house on the left and walk over the stone hump-back bridge back to the car park where you started.

Welcome Back. The Section UK IPA Walking Group hopes you enjoyed the Durham City, Cathedral & River Wear PT and that you have enjoyed exploring this fascinating city with its many interesting historical connections, only a few of which have been mentioned during this walk.

****** In the event that Baths Bridge is closed, continue SO along Elvet Waterside passing Territorial Lane on the left and underneath the arch. Then walk along the path with gold pointed railings on one side and black railings on the other to reach the paving stone path at New Elvet Bridge. TR and cross the bridge. After crossing the bridge, turn right downhill along an asphalt path and at the bottom of the gradient, make a sharp right turn and continue for about 50 metres. TL down steps to the river bank. TL and continue SO with the river to the right. After about 250 metres, reach Baths Bridge and return to the planned route, i.e. SO. The diversion will add approximately 600 metres to your route.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

#1 The Palatine Centre opened in Summer 2012 and houses key student services and the University's headquarters on one site, along with Durham Law School. Designed with sustainability in mind, materials such as solar thermal collectors, photovoltaic panels, air source heat pumps, solar shading, rainwater harvesting and sedum roofing are used in the building. The integration of these elements has already been recognised with an 'excellent' rating on the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method.

#2 The Bridge, completed in 1778, is a Grade 1 listed monument and one of three historic stone-arched bridges that cross the River Wear in Durham. It forms part of the Durham Cathedral Estate and is situated on a wide, peaceful part of the river that offers magnificent views of the Cathedral. The bridge, although capable of accommodating vehicles, is now primarily used as a footbridge. It was originally used by the Dean and Chapter of Durham as a private road and even now, according to church leaders, may only be driven over by church leaders and the reigning Monarch. Cross the bridge.

#3 Durham Cathedral, formally the Cathedral Church of Christ, Blessed Mary the Virgin and St Cuthbert of Durham, is a Church of England Cathedral in the City of Durham. The Cathedral is the seat of the Bishop of Durham and is the mother church of the diocese of Durham. It also contains the shrines of the Anglo-Saxon saints Cuthbert and Bede. There are daily Church of England services at the Cathedral. It is a Grade I listed building and forms part of the Durham Castle and Cathedral World Heritage Site. The cathedral is the successor to the Anglo-Saxon Lindisfarne Priory, which was established circa AD635 but abandoned in AD875 in the face of Viking raids. The monks settled at Chester-le-Street from AD882 until AD995, when they moved to Durham. The Cathedral remained a monastery until it was dissolved in 1541 since when it has been governed by a Dean and Chapter. The Cathedral precinct formed part of Durham Castle from the eleventh century. During the Wars of the Three Kingdoms the Cathedral housed 3000 Scottish prisoners of war, 1,700 of whom died in the building. The present building was substantially completed between 1093 and 1133, replacing the Anglo-Saxon 'White Church'. It is a significant example of the Romanesque architectural style, and the nave ceiling is the earliest surviving example of a pointed rib vault. The Galilee chapel was added to the west end of the cathedral in the 1170s, and the western towers built in approximately 1200. The east end was expanded in the Early English Gothic style in the 1230s, and the Perpendicular Gothic central tower was built in two stages in the fifteenth century. Important furnishings include the medieval Bishop's Throne and Neville screen, Prior Castell's Clock, and the seventeenth-century choir stalls and font cover installed by Bishop Cosin. Many of the monastic buildings survive; the monks' refectory now contains part of the Cathedral Library, which holds significant collections dating back to the sixth century.

#4 The timeline was created as part of the Heart of the City refurbishment project, completed 2011.