

FIVE ROWNTREE WALKS IN YORK

FROM
CHOCOLATE
COMES CHANGE



Anyone who has enjoyed KitKat, Black Magic, Smarties, Fruit Gums and Polos will know the name of Rowntree...

But what many won't realise is that **Joseph Rowntree**, the man who made Rowntrees into a household name, was an extraordinary figure in his own right—a philanthropist far ahead of his time, a progressive employer, a radical thinker, and a social innovator.

His son, **Benjamin Seebohm Rowntree**, continued in the same tradition—his studies of poverty helped lay the foundations of the welfare state and he was a pioneer in modern industrial management.

But these two men were part of an even wider family and our purpose in this book is to introduce you to the whole family of the '*Rowntrees of York*'.



These unique walks will show you some new aspects and hidden corners of Rowntree York.

You can learn about the 19th and early 20th century city, its chocolate industry, and the reforming passions of the Rowntree family who tried to change things for the better for all citizens. And you can visit the places where Joseph and his family lived and worked, as well as the garden village they developed.

Because Rowntree history is spread over several locations the walks can't all be done in one go. So we have created five walks. Each can be done separately, or even just place by place.

The walks also draw attention to some landmarks that relate to York's wider social history (e.g. Quakerism or Poverty) that help put the Rowntree story into a wider context. For more detailed historical information go to our website: www.rowntreesociety.org.uk and you can delve further into the fascinating and multi-dimensional world of Rowntree—and think of your walk next time you eat a KitKat.

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1

City Centre

- Boer War memorial
- Explore York Library
- Museum Gardens
- Tanner's Moat
- Friends Meeting House
- Pavement
- Lady Peckitt's Yard
- Fossgate
- Foss Bridge
- Straker's Passage
- Rowntree Wharf
- Hungate
- Black Horse Passage

1 hr

2

Clifton

- 49 Bootham
- Bootham School
- Top House
- Bootham Park Hospital
- Clifton Lodge
- Rawcliffe Holt
- The Pavillion
- Clifton Estate
- Ouse Lea
- Homestead Park
- The Homestead
- YHA York
- Clifton Bridge

1.5 hrs

3

Out of Town

- The Retreat
- Quaker Burial Ground
- University of York
- Rowntree Park
- The Mount School
- Blossom Street
- Bishophill Quaker Burial Ground

2-3 hrs

4

Haxby Road

- Rowntree Halt
- Chocolate Factory Buildings
- Nuffield Hospital
- Memorial Library
- Joseph Rowntree Theatre
- Yearsley swimming baths
- Rowntree war memorial
- Nestlé York
- Rowntree Sports fields

1 hr

5

New Earswick

- The Village
- Folk Hall
- Western Terrace
- Station Av
- Ivy Place Shops
- Ivy Place
- J.Rowntree School
- Hartrigg Oaks
- Rowan Avenue
- New Earswick School
- Red Lodge
- Elm Tree Mews
- Nature Reserve
- Derwenthorpe

1.5 hrs

Maps

It should be possible to follow the walks using the instructions linking up the stops in each walk. But you may wish to pick up a city map at **York's Visitor Centre in Museum Street**, or you may wish to use a GPS map if you have a mobile device.

Cycling

Some of the walks are a delight to do on a bike. With a Cycling Map of York you'll see that some of the stopping points overlap, so you can create your own route by bike.

Guided walks

To supplement this self-guided walk, we occasionally offer a guided walk for specialist groups for a small fee.

Walks for children

We recommend that you break down the walk into small segments when doing it with children, looking also for the 'chocolate' facts that we've included at some of the stopping points.

Dog Walkers

Your dog may also enjoy a bit of Rowntree history!

Disabilities

Please get in touch if you'd like extra personalised help or information about doing the walk: **info@rowntreesociety.org.uk**.

Safety

Take great care along river banks especially in wet and slippery conditions, and note that some of the locations are occasionally quite isolated. Please note that the walks are undertaken at your own risk and that the Rowntree Society does not accept any liability in the event that any incident should occur in the course of the walks.

Your comments

We always welcome comments which we will take into consideration in any future versions of this book: **info@rowntreesociety.org.uk**. And when you've finished with this book perhaps you'd be kind enough to pass it on to someone else you think might enjoy using it.





City Centre walk

This walk takes you round some of the hidden corners of Rowntree history in central York. It gives a sense of the family's origins and business interests as well as their main philanthropic concerns. It begins by the main doors (west front) of York Minster, but it can be joined at any point.

Duration

1 Hour

Calories

(in KitKat fingers)
2 fingers

Boer War memorial

Walk down Duncombe Place on the left side, noting on your left the war memorial dedicated to the soldiers who died fighting the Boers (Afrikaners) in the second phase of the Boer War (1899-1902). The Liberal Rowntrees took a strong stance against this war.

Imagine

The Rowntrees' relatives in Scarborough, drapers and grocers, who were victims of a mob attack (known as the *Schreiner riot*) in 1900 for their support of the Afrikaners' cause.

Look out for

In passing note the redbrick building with a corner turret (now Gray's Solicitors). This was the former York Dispensary for the poor that moved here in 1899 and provided early hospital services.

Chocolate fact

In 1899, Queen Victoria wanted to send a gift of chocolates to her troops in South Africa. She commissioned Fry, Cadbury and Rowntree to fill the order for 123,000 tins. As anti-war Quakers, all refused to accept payment, and donated the chocolate instead.

Link to next place

At the traffic lights **cross the road** and continue walking in the same direction on the right side of the road. Stop at the square in front of the **City Library** in **Museum Street**.

Explore York Library

The Rowntrees actively campaigned for a public library against opposition by the city fathers, who thought money should be spent on bridges rather than on free newspapers for the Irish immigrants. In 1881 the first library was built at Clifford Street—you will pass this building later on your walk. The present library site was opened in 1927, designed by Brierley and Rutherford.

Look out for 🔍

The plaque just inside the main door giving the name of Joseph's youngest son, Oscar Frederick Rowntree, who was Lord Mayor of York at the time of the library's opening.

Link to next place 🔗

Continue walking towards the river, pausing to note **Museum Gardens** on your right.

Museum Gardens

The home of Yorkshire Philosophical Society. Joseph and his father were founding members.

Imagine

How in 1896 Seebohm Rowntree asked that the Museum Gardens be opened as an experiment free of charge on the afternoon of race days, while the factory was closed. He argued that an alternative leisure activity would help prevent drunkenness and gambling.

Link to next place 🔗

At the **main entrance of the gardens take the crossing** to the other side of the road and continue walking towards the bridge. **Lendal Bridge** was built between 1860 and 1863 with support from William Tuke. As you walk over the bridge look at the present day **Aviva HQ**. Imagine this view in the past (*see image below*), where the first Rowntree factory once dominated the cityscape.

**Link to next place** 🔗

Turn **left at the lights** and straight away **sharp left** in the direction of the river into **Tanner's Moat**. Follow the road round to the right into **Wellington Row**.

Tanner's Moat

You are standing on the original site of the Rowntrees' factory, bought from the Tuke family by Joseph's younger brother Henry. Joseph joined the business in 1869 and took over after his brother's early death in 1883.

Look out for

The gap in the wall at North Street Gardens. This riverside walk was once part of the original factory grounds.

Chocolate fact

Actually, it's not so much about success built upon chocolate—but rather upon fruit pastilles. Frenchman Claude Gaget offered his services to Joseph Rowntree on the promise of finding the formula for fruit jelly sweets. Joseph initially thought his early efforts were fit for nothing but to be flung into the River Ouse. But Fruit Pastilles came to be unrivalled in the country. Gaget's boiling pans turned out four tons of gums and pastilles a week and in 1887 a flat horse-drawn lorry was needed every day to take the output to York station.

Imagine

This area once comprising the few scattered buildings of the first factory: an iron foundry, several cottages and a tavern, all alongside the old railway station which until 1877 was situated on this side of the city walls.

This area adjoins Skeldergate, the area in York that Seebohm Rowntree identified as having the highest level of population density in the city (349 people and 91 houses per acre).

Link to next place

Continue along the pedestrian riverside walk. As you leave **North Street Gardens** on the side of the Hotel note the plaque to John Snow, a contemporary of the Rowntree family, born in North Street. Called the '*Father of Epidemiology*' he worked on tracing the sources of cholera. (Quite close nearby, opposite the Royal York Hotel next to the railway station, is the **cholera burial ground** still visible today with its graves from the outbreak in 1832.)

At **Ouse Bridge** cross back over the river. Follow the road round to the right into **Nessgate** and then into **Clifford Street**. On the right note the former York Institute (today **York Dungeon**) which was the location of York's first library. Turn left into the small lane called **Friargate**.

Friends Meeting House

The most important Quaker building in the city, and one of the largest 'meetings' in the country outside London. Quakerism in York, well-supported by institutions such as the Quaker Schools, The Retreat and the Rowntree factory, had flourished since the late seventeenth century. The present Meeting House dates from 1884 and is on the site of the first Meeting House founded in 1674.

The Rowntrees' life and work was underpinned by their Quaker faith, which emphasised quiet service, public responsibility, and trustworthiness. As non-conformists, they remained outside the establishment's mainstream and they viewed the world with a dissenting eye.

Look out for 🔍

The cast-iron columns on the exterior that once formed part of the gallery which was built to accommodate a fast growing membership. At its height up to 1200 Quakers came here for regular meeting.

Imagine 🗨️

Attending the silent Quaker Meeting for Worship which Joseph attended thousands of times, yet he is only remembered for speaking publicly ('ministering') once.

Chocolate fact 🐟

As a good Quaker, Joseph Rowntree thought that the trustworthiness and quality of his products would be sufficient to sell them, so he was initially suspicious of the need for advertising. Later he changed his mind, and Rowntrees came to have some of the most sophisticated advertising in the country.

Link to next place 🔗

At the top of **Friargate**, turn left onto **Castlegate**. Behind you is the site of the original Quaker girls' school (see [Out of Town walk](#)) and the site of the Tuke cocoa, chocolate and chicory business. This was sold to Henry Rowntree in 1862 before he moved to Tanners Moat. Turn right into **Coppergate**. Follow the road past **All Saints' Church** and through the lights at the junction with **Piccadilly**. Continue until you reach **12 Pavement** (today **Pizza Hut**) on your right.



Joseph Rowntree's birthplace, Pavement

Before the new street Piccadilly was made, no.12 was no.28 Pavement. This building stands on the site of the birthplace of Joseph Rowntree where his father was a master grocer.

Joseph and his elder brother John took over the business after their father's death in 1859, and by 1872 they had been joined by another partner, Thomas Hills. They also occupied 26 and 27 Pavement (formerly Herbert House—today Jones's Bootmakers).

Architectural evidence suggests that the original Georgian building was replaced around 1870. Though it is never explicitly stated, this situation must have brought some mental anguish for John Rowntree as he fell into debt—an unacceptable state of affairs for a Quaker businessman. He asked to bring back his son Theodore who had been apprenticed in Scarborough and with the intention of changing '*the fortunes of this once prosperous business*'. The upper floor image (*pictured below*) shows the central stairwell as it looks today. (No public access)

Look out for

The blue plaque to the left of the restaurant's front door, celebrating the site of the birthplace of the building's most famous occupant.

Chocolate fact

Several early Rowntree products were sold from the Pavement address, such as 'H.I. Rowntree's Lichen Islandicus, or Iceland Moss Cocoa', or 'H.I. Rowntree and Co's Improved Homeopathic Cocoa'. The address 28 Pavement is printed on the labels of these products. Many Rowntree products advertised their healthy qualities as being '*rich and nourishing*' or as '*building bone and muscle*'.



Imagine

The ground floor as a thriving grocery store, with a dozen or so apprentices (including George Cadbury, the founder of Cadbury's of Birmingham) living in the upper floors. Imagine too lively conversations about Liberal politics, business practice, sugar, tea and coffee prices.

Link to next place

Turn down the **passageway** next to the building into the medieval alley running alongside the shop.

Lady Peckitt's Yard

Joseph Rowntree Senior owned many of the buildings in this interlocking warren of buildings, separated into four parts, including the grocery premises, a drapery premises, shops and warehouses. In several of the upstairs rooms in this Yard, the Rowntrees taught literacy skills at their Adult Schools. One man in five and one woman in three in Victorian York could neither read nor write. Part religious, part educational, the Adult Schools were also concerned with leisure—embracing the moral education of the whole person.

Look out for

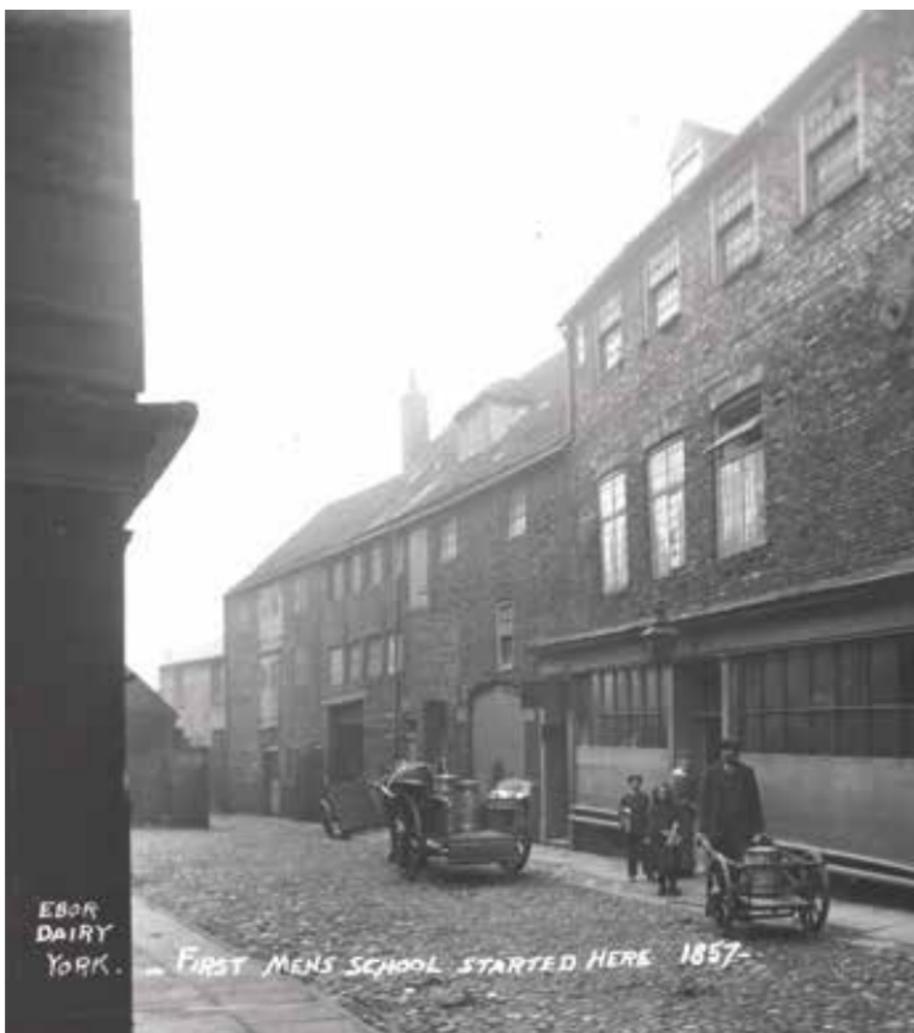
As you go down the side of the present day building you can see how extensive the footprint of the original premises was.

Imagine

Joseph at the age of 21 when he first took charge of a class of nine men—he was nearly 60 when he finished teaching at the Adult School every Sunday morning. In this way he remained close to the life of the poor and illiterate of York and took an interest in their everyday ups and downs.

Link to next place

Follow **Lady Peckitt's Yard** as it turns left and pause when you reach **Fossgate**.



Fossgate

Fossgate, one of the main routes into the city from the east, is on the boundary of what was one of the poorest areas of York.

Seebohm Rowntree's maps of this area show '39 public houses, one for every 174 of the population ... many of the yards in the courts are unpaved, and the brick ash pits and midden privies (toilets), cleared only at intervals, abound.'

Look out for

The **Blue Bell Inn** to your left, one of the original Edwardian pubs dating from Seebohm's time. Also, on the opposite side of the road look out for the building dating from 1911 that was York's first purpose-built cinema, the Electric Cinema, popularly known as the *Laugh and Scratch*—a 'flea pit'.

Chocolate fact

Joseph Rowntree wrote widely on temperance and '*the drink misery*', and part of the reason he went into the manufacture of chocolate was to provide an alternative drink to alcohol.

Imagine

A slum area filled with the din of slaughter houses, pigsties, breweries, overcrowding, insanitary conditions and inadequate water supply in a low-lying part of the city. It was cleared in the 1930s, at the same time as a new estate was created at Tang Hall, the layout of which was inspired by garden villages such as New Earswick (see [New Earswick walk](#)). Two reports by Seebohm Rowntree, in 1899 and 1941, show the improvements that were made in that period. He calculated that the proportion of the population living in abject poverty had been reduced by more than a half.

Link to next place

Continue a little further as far as the **Foss Bridge**.

Foss Bridge

The Foss Bridge (*pictured right*) was rebuilt in 1812 replacing the earlier one built in 1403.

Imagine

When he became an honorary freeman of the city in 1911 Joseph looked back on the improvements that had taken place in the city's infrastructure. '*Before 1866 the Foss was little better than an open drain. I distinctly remember how, as a child, I used to run quickly over the Foss Bridge to escape the stench from the water.*'

Link to next place

Retrace your steps and turn right into the small alley called **Straker's Passage** (opposite the **Merchant Adventurers' Hall**).



Straker's Passage

One of the few remnants of the back-to-back houses of the Hungate area, this yard gives a sense of the density of housing and conditions in this part of York.

Imagine 🗨️

The growth of York's Irish population between 1841 and 1851 from 500 to nearly 2000 as part of mass immigration from Ireland to Britain. The 1881 figures show that one in every three children born in this area would die before their first birthday. Seebohm Rowntree wrote in 1901: *'A few of the women work in the fields during the summer time ... many of the young persons, both girls and boys, are employed in factories ... a number of narrow and often sunless courts and alleys branch from larger streets and it is here that the poverty is chiefly found.'*

Chocolate fact 🐟

No chocolate drinks here—bread, dripping, onions and tea were more likely staple fare for the poorest in these streets.

Link to next place 🔗

From Straker's Passage, **turn right** by the **BT telephone exchange building** and look for a small gap to the right of the curved brick wall ahead of you. Join the **walkway alongside the River Foss**, past the multi-storey car park until you see the stylish **steel foot-bridge** (opened 2011) crossing the river. Pause here or perhaps go up onto the footbridge to take in the views of the former Hungate site.

Rowntree Wharf

The foremost industrial landmark in York, the former Leatham's flour-mill towered over the slums of Hungate. In 1935 it became the Rowntree Company's navigation warehouse, but this use declined in the 1960s with the rise in road transport.

Look out for 🔍

The building's five stories and nine-storey water tower, converted into flats and offices by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation in 1989.

Imagine

River transport, and the unpacking and loading from this warehouse, which continued to receive gum arabic and cocoa beans directly from the Hull docks until the 1960s. Today this part of the river is not navigable.

Hungate

Hungate has been the subject of archaeological investigation in recent years, and Seebohm Rowntree's maps have shed nuanced light with their records of the individuals who lived and worked here and variations in house sizes. Research has revealed the diversity of the community of a proud, tight-knit place *'where people scrubbed their front doorstep every day, and certainly didn't think of themselves as living in a slum'*. Today the Hungate is a new residential quarter.



Link to next place

Don't cross the footbridge, but walk back the way you came, as far as the **BT building**, and then continue by walking straight ahead up **Black Horse Passage**.

Black Horse Passage

In the nineteenth century this was a clandestine connection between the commercial centre of York and the slums of Hungate, and an area known for poverty, crime and prostitution.

Look out for

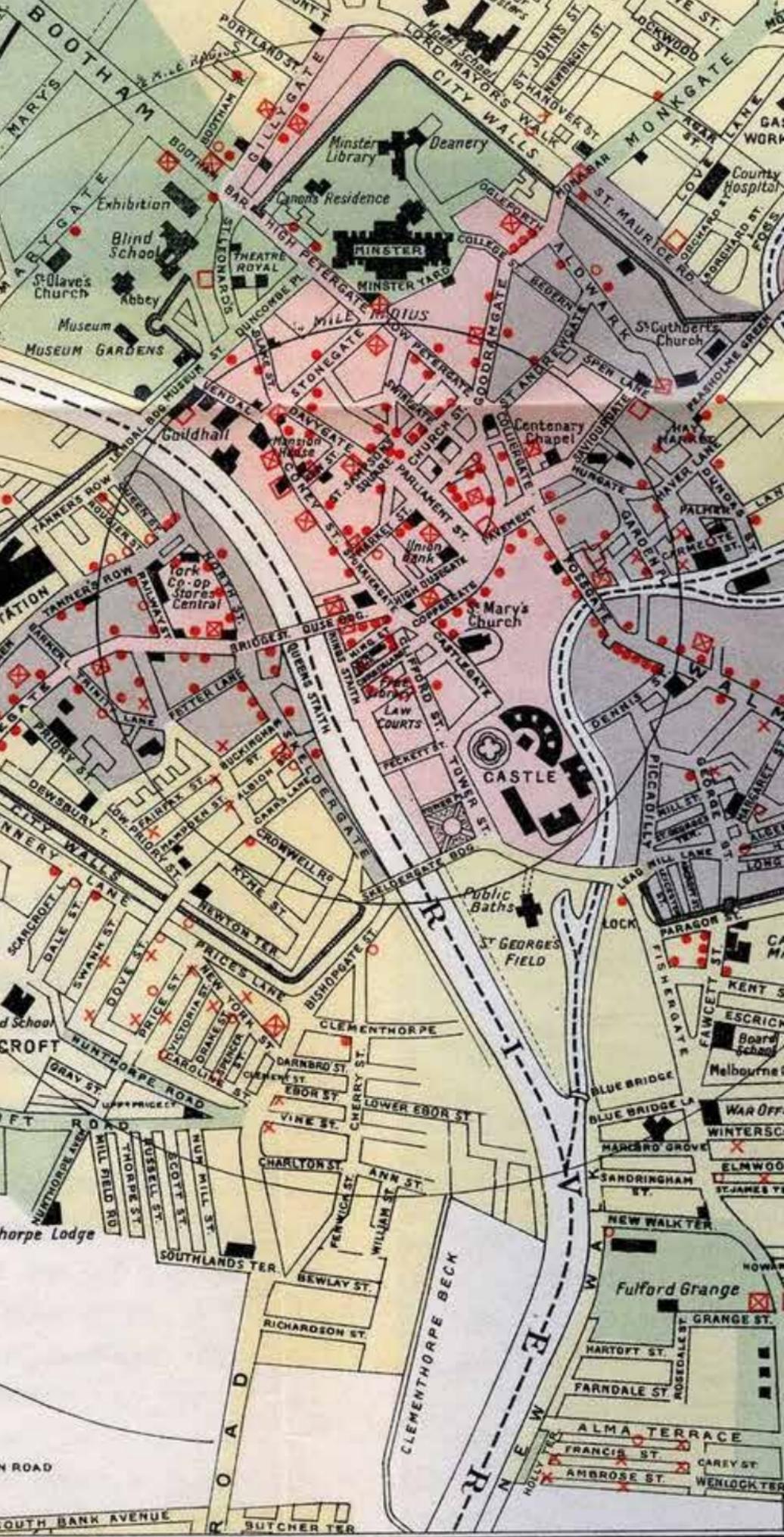
The high wall to the left demarcating the respectable commercial city centre, and note the archaeology of the ground-level brickwork.

Imagine

This unkempt passageway in the harsh winter of 1845, when Joseph Rowntree Senior somewhere nearby established a soup kitchen to feed the desperate poor. This soup kitchen was immortalised in his son's Memorandum of 1904 setting up his Trusts that insisted on addressing the root causes of social evils: *'The soup kitchen in York never has difficulty in obtaining adequate financial aid, but an enquiry into the extent and causes of poverty would enlist little support.'*

Link to next place

You'll now be on **Stonebow**. Turn left to return to the city centre **market and shopping area**.



SCALE - 6 INCHES TO ONE STATUTE MILE.

FEET 1000 500 0 1000 2000



2

Clifton Walk

A circular walk from Bootham Bar that goes northwards away from the city, and returns by the riverside footpath to Lendal Bridge. It takes you to some of the Rowntree's homes in Clifton which in their days lay right on the leafy outskirts of the city.

Duration

1.5 Hours

Calories

(in KitKat fingers)

3 fingers

Link to next place 

Begin on the right side of **Bootham**, walking away from the Bar. Pass the plaque to the Dr William Arthur Evelyn (1860-1935) who created a significant photographic archive of historic York. Pass **Wandesford House**, an 18th century alms house (a reminder of the care of the needy in earlier periods in York). Pause at **no. 49 Bootham**. (No public access)

49 Bootham

This row of splendid Georgian buildings is today all part of Bootham School, a co-educational independent school. In this house Joseph Rowntree Senior lived with Sarah and family. They moved here in 1848 when young Joseph was twelve.

Imagine 

All the little children—John, Joseph, Henry, Hannah, and the youngest, Sarah, who died of scarlet fever, aged four (see [Out of Town walk](#)), just before the family moved here.

Look out for 

The plaque praising Joseph and his contributions to York.

Link to next place 

Continue a little further and stop in front of **51 Bootham**.

Bootham School

Founded by Quakers in 1823 initially in Lawrence Street with help from Joseph Rowntree Senior. The school was attended by Joseph Junior and his sons. In total 45 Rowntree boys attended, including the sons of the Rowntrees of Scarborough. Arthur Rowntree (son of Joseph's cousin John from Scarborough) was headmaster here from 1899 to 1927.

The school buildings and playing fields that spread behind the street façade include buildings in the Arts and Crafts style, including the library, rebuilt after a major fire caused by an experiment with boiled snails in the Natural History room in 1899. The architect was Fred Rowntree (son of John Rowntree of Scarborough).

(No public access)

Imagine 🗨️

Boys taking part in a progressive Quaker education, where science and natural history prevailed over classical subjects, and competitive sports and writing '*lines*' (called '*columns*') replaced corporal punishment. Many outstanding natural scientists were educated at the school, including Joseph's brother-in-law, Henry Seebohm.

Look out for 🔍

The plaque for Silvanus Phillips Thompson, nationally renowned physicist, water-colourist, and author of the classic *Calculus made Easy*. He taught several of the Rowntree boys.



Link to next place 📌

Continue to the end of the block of Georgian buildings and **cross to the other side of Bootham** using the pedestrian crossing.

'Top House'

The austere building on the corner of Bootham and St Mary's was built by Joseph Rowntree Senior in c.1850, The architect is unknown. It was known as '*Top House*' by the family, because of its position at the top of St Mary's.

The house had two entrances, and was ingeniously divided to allow two generations to live separately under the same roof. The main entrance with the portico on St Mary's belonged to Joseph's widowed mother, Sarah. The entrance door on Bootham was home to her son Joseph and his first wife Julia in 1862. After her untimely death, leaving a young daughter who died soon afterwards, Joseph lived here with his second wife Antoinette until 1905. He acquired the whole house on his mother's death.

Now privately owned, the house was donated by Joseph to Bootham School early in the 20th century and it became a boys' boarding house. Several members of the extended Rowntree family also had houses down St Mary's at various times.

Look out for 🔍

Look out for the plaque commemorating Seebohm Rowntree, who was born in this house.

Imagine 🧠

Seebohm Rowntree using the house as an office in the early 20th century, researching and writing his studies on the life of the urban poor.

Link to next place 🔗

Continue along **Bootham**. As you reach the pillar box look over the road at the imposing **redbrick building** in the distance.

Bootham Park Hospital

York's grand 18th century '*County Lunatic Asylum*' (architect John Carr) was in its day among the first purpose-built institutions for the treatment of the mentally ill.

The mistreatment of patients here and death of a Leeds woman, Hannah Mills, would later prompt local Quaker groups, including Joseph Rowntree Senior, to reassess the treatment of the mentally ill and to establish The Retreat (see [Out of Town walk](#)).

Link to next place 🔗

Continue along **Bootham**, passing some more 18th century almshouses, then walk **under the concrete footbridge**. You will see **St Peter's School** on your left. On your right notice the **Clifton Bingo building**, previously a cinema, opened in 1937.

At the **Clifton shops** cross the road using the crossing and **returning to the right side**. Keep **straight ahead over the traffic lights**. At the point where the road splits into **Shipton Road** (left) and **Rawcliffe Lane** (right), cross the road to look at the gates of **Clifton Lodge**.

Clifton Lodge

In the house beyond these gates Joseph Rowntree created a peaceful haven for his retirement years. He lived here from 1905 until his death in July 1925. Gone from the stables were the hunting horses of the previous owner, replaced by sedate carriage horses and his bicycle. The 1911 census lists just a housemaid and kitchen maid in charge of the 16-roomed house while the Rowntree family were abroad. (No public access)

Look out for 🔍

Views of the house from the main gates at the front and at the rear, just up Rawcliffe Lane.

Imagine 💡

Joseph setting out from here on his way to his office right up until only five days before his death.

Link to next place 🔗

Continue up **Rawcliffe Lane**, and when you reach the **first entrance** walk a few steps up the driveway towards **Rawcliffe Holt** and **Joseph's Nursery**.

Rawcliffe Holt

Joseph Rowntree built Rawcliffe Holt, adjoining Clifton Lodge, in 1907 for his youngest daughter Winifred Rowntree Naish (pictured); there was a communicating door to the Lodge on the first floor. Winifred was a nurse, but sadly she died in 1915 aged 30, possibly in childbirth.

After Joseph's death Clifton Lodge and Rawcliffe Holt were left to the Joseph Rowntree trusts. Clifton Lodge was sold into private hands in 2011. (No public access)

**The Pavillion**

The thatched roofed garden Pavillion (pictured) (today Joseph's Nursery, No public access) was designed by Fred Rowntree in 1908 and equipped with tables and chairs. It was used constantly by young people's organisations for their regular group meetings; at one time an average of 36 different organisations held meetings here.



Link to next place

Continue along **Rawcliffe Lane** and turn left at **Malton Way**. Walk down this tree-lined wide avenue.

Clifton Estate

You are now passing through the Clifton Estate that backs on to the old landscaped grounds of Clifton Lodge. The estate was part of a scheme devised by the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust to demonstrate that larger houses could be built in a well-planned manner. Barry Parker (architect of New Earswick) designed the layout and the houses. The scheme was developed from 1926 but built over quite a long period because of the inter-war slump and the Second World War.

Imagine

How several of the houses were occupied by Rowntree managers. Note the relative modesty of these houses and the emphasis on the greenery, cul-de-sac and shared space.

Link to next place

Join **Shipton Lane** taking great care when crossing over. Turn left past the **Sports Club** and large villas to enter **Homestead Park** on your right. As you enter look out for the housing development on your left.

Ouse Lea

Originally the site of the home of Joseph's daughter Agnes who married the Haxby Road Cocoa Works doctor, Peter MacDonald. The building was later offered to the Joseph Rowntree Memorial Trust and demolished in 1961 in order to build the new estate, designed by Michael Butterworth, that still occupies the site today.

Link to next place

Turn left into the **park**, and keep straight on all the way to the **exit at Water End**. The park is a good place to take a short rest!

Homestead Park

Today, the park houses a hugely popular children's playground, in a garden setting and a wildflower meadow managed by expert gardeners. It was little more than a field when first opened to the public in 1908 (pictured right).

Imagine

The Monkey House and Aviary that existed in the park until they were destroyed during a wartime air raid in April 1942.

Chocolate fact

The gardeners sometimes put on chocolate-related displays in their planting, and there is a horse see-saw in the park dating from the 1950s that still passes Health and Safety regulations (even though the horse had to lose his legs in the process!).



Look out for 🔍

The Heritage boards documenting the history of the Park and the work of the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust in particular. They are situated by the entrance to the children's playground.

Link to next place 🔗

As you approach the **Water End** exit, beyond the herbaceous borders you will see a **private driveway**. Beyond that is a **redbrick house**.

The Homestead

The redbrick building (No public access) is a fine Arts and Crafts styled house, yet modest in size, built for Seebohm Rowntree and his family. It was designed by architect Fred Rowntree. This, along with the more modern buildings nearby, is the national centre for all the Joseph Rowntree trusts (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, and Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust). Each of the trusts is completely separate from the others, but all share a common thread in Joseph Rowntree's Founding Memorandum of 1904.

Imagine 🗨️

Seebohm Rowntree and family living in this brand new Edwardian villa. The Prime Minister David Lloyd George visited him here in 1920, as did Nancy Astor, the first female MP to sit in the House of Commons.

Link to next place 🔗

Leave the park and turn right along the main road. Turn right into the drive up to **YHA York** and follow it round to the rear of the building.

YHA York

This building was originally known as Cliff Villa but when Seebohm Rowntree purchased about 3 acres of land in 1905 adjacent to his home he renamed it Haverford, in memory of his brother John Wilhelm Rowntree (a Quaker theologian) who died prematurely and was buried at Haverford College in Pennsylvania in 1905. His death deeply affected their father Joseph.

In 1945 the property was sold to the (then-named) Joseph Rowntree Village Trust, who leased it to the Youth Hostel Association. It has been enlarged and adapted over the years, but it still retains its character as a family residence, and there are display boards internally that commemorate the building's Rowntree connections.



Imagine 🗨️

The reaction of Lydia Rowntree, Seebohm's wife, to a Zeppelin raid in Clifton in November 1916, while he was away with the Friends Ambulance Unit. She wrote to him: *'It came so quietly ... I stood at the door and watched, it was coming from the Mount ... the gun was splendid, it hit more than once and seemed to turn turtle. There were enormous cheers from the crowds ... then they came and told us it had been brought down.'*

Look out for 🔍

As you exit, notice the small tree stump plaque in the grass on your right in memory of *'Peter Rowntree, for many years' service to the YHA'*. Peter was Seebohm's son.

Link to next place 🔗

Cross to the other side, using the crossing near **Clifton Bridge**.

Clifton Bridge

In the Rowntrees' days there was no bridge here, and the River Ouse had to be crossed by ferry a little further downstream. Access to Clifton was improved when Clifton Bridge was opened in 1963. The bridge was built on the site of the old ferry crossing from 4,000 tons of concrete and 50 tons of reinforced steel. A couple of years before, the Army built a temporary bridge as a trial for the permanent bridge and to ease traffic flow for the wedding of the Duchess of Kent at York Minster.

Link to next place

Go **down the slope** to the left of the bridge, **turn left** and enjoy a relaxing walk alongside the **River Ouse** to return to **under the railway bridge**, passing on the paths called the **Joseph Rowntree Walk** and the **Dame Judi Dench Walk**. Finish the walk at **Lendal Bridge**.



3

Out of Town Walk

This walk takes you to some significant establishments and resting places connected with the Rowntree family.

Begin at Walmgate Bar with the walls and city centre behind you. Turn right onto Paragon Street and shortly after turn left onto Barbican Road. At the crossroads turn left onto Heslington Road and follow this up the hill until you reach the entrance to The Retreat.

The sites on this walk are rather far flung, so get your walking shoes on!

Duration

2-3 Hours

Calories

(in KitKat fingers)

5 fingers

The Retreat

The Retreat, still today a Mental Health Care Provider, was opened in 1796 by Quaker William Tuke to provide a place where the mentally ill (initially Quakers only) could be treated with respect and dignity. This happened after the tragic death of Hannah Mills in York Lunatic Asylum (see [Clifton walk](#)).

The Retreat was groundbreaking. Tuke tried to create a '*community*' rather than an asylum, where there were no doctors, only '*attendants*' who lived with the patients, encouraging a familial atmosphere.

The 19th century saw the emergence of the new discipline of psychiatry, and the 'moral treatment' practised at The Retreat was influential on the developing treatment of mental illness.



Look out for 🔍

Many of the buildings date from the 18th and 19th centuries and include work of several of the foremost architects of the city. The architect Walter Brierley added extensions, including the adjacent building Lamel Beeches, originally the home of the superintendent of the hospital.

Link to next place 🔗

Retrace your steps briefly down **Heslington Road** and look for a **green metal gate just before no.103**. Go through this and follow the country path downhill onto **Walmgate Stray**. **Turn left** at the bottom and **follow the high wall** along until you reach the **white 'milestone' post**.

Quaker Burial Ground

The quiet oasis that is York's historical Quaker burial ground (pictured below) lies behind this wall (No public access). It was created here after the closure of Bishophill Quaker burial ground in 1855 (that you will visit later on this walk).

Look out for 🔍

The plaque stating: *'Behind this wall in the ground of The Retreat is a Quaker burial ground with the graves of many York friends including Joseph Rowntree.'*

Link to next place 🔗

Retrace your steps on this footpath and follow it across the **Stray** and away from the **University of York buildings**.



The University of York

As you cross this stretch of open land, you will leave behind the main campus of the University. Two key names in the founding of the University, Oliver Sheldon and John Bowes Morrell, were both Directors of Rowntree & Co. The University was founded in 1963 with the help of a £100,000 joint donation from the Joseph Rowntree Trusts. The Social Sciences building is named after Seebohm Rowntree.

Link to next place

Pass through the **gate at the far side of the Stray**. **Turn right** to pass by **York Barracks**. Continue straight on over **Fulford Road**, and into **Hospital Fields Road** opposite. Continue ahead until you emerge at the side of the **River Ouse**. **Turn left** towards **Millennium Bridge** and **cross over the bridge**. **Turn right** and continue citywards along the river bank path until you reach the **large wrought iron gates of Rowntree Park** on your left.

Rowntree Park

These 25 acres were a major gift donated to the people of York by Joseph Rowntree in 1921 as a memorial to the members of the Cocoa Works' staff who had fallen in the First World War. They became York's first public park, designed by Fred Rowntree and J.W. Swain to be a '*quiet restful memorial park*', where people could remember their loved ones. Some of the original planting was selected from the Quaker James Backhouse's nursery, then located at West Bank, Acomb.

Look out for

The park's beautiful shallow curving lake spanned by a lych-gate and dovecote, formal gardens, playground, tennis courts and the Rowntree Park Reading Café. Find the memorial plaque under the dovecote which dedicates the area to the company's workers who died during two World Wars.

Imagine

The flood of January 1920, described by Joseph Rowntree '*the water flowed over the entire ground, the lower portions of which were covered to a depth of 5 to 6 feet*'. Flooding is something sadly still known to today's residents around the park.



Link to next place

Head to the **Richardson Street entrance** of the park (up the slope and behind Explore Café). Look for the **small audio post** that is embedded in a flower bed right opposite the gates. Here you can experience the Rowntree Society's '*Minute Memories*' using the wind-up handle.

Listen to fascinating selections from our 'York Remembers Rowntree' interviews and hear the real voices of ex-Rowntree employees remembering the factory at work in the mid-20th century.

Link to next place 

Continue along **Richardson Street** and straight on to **Southlands Road**. Turn **right** into **Millfield Road**, **left** into **Scarcroft Road**, and **left** into the main road called **The Mount**. **Cross The Mount** and walk a short distance until you reach the right hand turning into **Dalton Terrace**. **Walk along Dalton Terrace** until you reach **The Mount School**.

You might like to know that further out of town on this side of York, beyond The Mount, was the home of Joseph's nephew, Arnold Rowntree MP—a house called Chalfonts in the Dringhouses area, which is no longer there.

Chocolate fact 

Arnold was popularly known as '*Chocolate Jumbo*' apparently because he had a '*great liking for the products of the industry*'. He had a jovial character, was a great raconteur, and full of huge compassion. He had a horse that he rode on The Mount, called '*Business*', and when people called his servant could rightly say he was '*Out on Business*'. He introduced some imaginative advertising schemes at Rowntree's, such as a huge mechanical swan on the Thames pulling an outsize tin promoting Rowntree's Elect Cocoa. Arnold was MP for York for the duration of World War 1.

The Mount School

Another vital establishment in York's enduring Quaker community, responsible for the education of women. Founded by Esther and William Tuke, its first location was Castlegate (see [City Centre walk](#)) before it moved to the present site in 1857. (No public access)

Imagine 

The women of the Rowntree family being taught here throughout the nineteenth century. In more recent times the authors Margaret Drabble and A.S. Byatt, the actress Judi Dench and the astrophysicist Jocelyn Bell Burnell were pupils here.

Link to next place 

Head back down to the main road, **The Mount**, and **turn left** towards the city centre. This becomes **Blossom Street**, and you will see **Micklegate Bar** dominating the road ahead.

Blossom Street

Watched over by Micklegate Bar, this street was the location of another Rowntree home (number 11, no longer there).

Imagine 🗨️

Nine-year-old Joseph moving to this area in 1845. The grander residential buildings of this area contrasted with their previous home on Pavement, giving the children far more space to play. Their house had a large garden.

Link to next place 🔗

Continue **under the Bar** and down **Micklegate**. Take the **second turning on the right** into **Trinity Lane**, and at the end at a five-way junction **continue straight** on into **Bishophill Senior**. **Walk past the graveyard** of St Mary's Bishophill Senior, and **exactly opposite the Golden Ball pub**, you will see a block of flats called **Tuke House**. By the **plaque** mentioning John Woolman and the Tukes there is a **gate** that is the entry to the garden.

Bishophill Quaker Burial Ground

This piece of land was purchased in 1667 and used as the first burial ground in York for Quakers. The grave of American John Woolman (friend of Benjamin Franklin and early advocate of the abolition of slavery) is here. Now it is a serene garden with lime trees, terrace and flower beds, and 32 round-topped headstones fixed around the edges along the old walls.

Look out for 🔍

The grave of Sarah Rowntree (daughter of J and S Rowntree. Died 19th of 12 month 1847 aged 4 years) (see [City Centre walk](#)). Note the simplicity of the Quaker headstones and note how the Quakers shunned the names of the months (in this case December) because of their pagan associations, using instead the sequence of the month in the year (in this case 12 month).

**Link to next place**

Now **take Carr's Lane**, the little cobbled lane beside **Tuke House**, down towards the river and at the bottom **turn left** to rejoin **Micklegate**. **Cross Ouse Bridge**, and you will now be back in the city centre.



4

Haxby Road walk

This walk reveals the area around the former Rowntree factory (today Nestlé York) towards the North East side of the city. It begins at the site of the old Rowntree Halt. And on a good day you'll enjoy a most distinctive element of York's Rowntree history—its delicious confectionery aromas that bring back many a nostalgic memory to local residents.

Duration

1 Hour
(from city centre)

Calories

(in KitKat fingers)
2 fingers

To reach the start of the walk take the bus or walk from Exhibition Square by the Art Gallery. Take bus number 1 or 5 to the Haxby Road stop, or if walking, go along Gillygate and Clarence Street, then Haxby Road. From the Haxby Road bus stop walk toward the old Chocolate Factory site. As you approach the bridge over the modern day cycle track briefly divert down Hambleton Terrace and stop by the blue railing.

Rowntree Halt

The opening of the Foss Islands rail line in 1879 connecting the Scarborough Line to the power station at Foss Islands made the land to the north of it an attractive site for the Rowntree Company. In 1895 Rowntree's bought its first locomotive and had one-and-a-half miles of standard gauge track laid.

As the factory grew a halt was constructed in 1927 at Hambleton Terrace. It was called Rowntree Halt and enabled workers from Selby and Doncaster to commute to the factory. The Halt closed on the 8th July 1987 and tracks were lifted by 1992. Even today a number of abandoned platforms are still visible and incorporated into the present factory architecture (No public access)

Imagine

The start of the day and thousands of workers spilling off the train.

Link to next place

Back on **Haxby Road** continue a little further along and **pause at the bus stop** beside the old factory entrance marked by a clock.

Chocolate Factory buildings

In 1890 Joseph Rowntree bought 29 acres of land on this site and built a state-of-the-art industrial complex similar to one that had earlier been developed in Birmingham for Cadbury's at Bournville. A few years later an additional 31 acres were purchased as the factory expanded.

By 1907 all the company's production had moved here from the original Tanner's Moat site (see [City Centre walk](#)). By 1920 the factory employed 6,000 people.

The carefully landscaped setting, with ornamental planting and handsome clocks at the site entrances, attest to the Rowntree philosophy of providing an attractive environment for employees.

Under the direction of Joseph and his son Seebohm the factory played a huge role in pioneering the development of employee benefits and working conditions. These achieved national and international attention as a model employer (even as far away as in Japan, where Seebohm had a reputation). The factory was also regarded as a sort of '*laboratory*' for good business management.

Today the production of some lines of chocolate continues by Nestlé on the same site that is covered in this walk and today York is the heart of the company's confectionery research worldwide.

Imagine

In wartime the 9 feet high '*Rowntree*' letters on the factory made from engineering bricks on a glazed cream brick background were painted out in order to prevent aerial identification.

Chocolate fact

The buildings were popularly known by their functions—such as the Elect Block, Melangeur Block, Almond Block, Cream Block, and Cake Department. There were interconnecting tunnels and cellars beneath these, two floors below ground level.

Look out for

The original buildings (such as the first factory building on your left, now disused) were designed by architect Fred Rowntree in 1904, and considered very advanced for their prototype steel-frame design. Seven storeys high, they were known locally as the '*skyscraper*'.

Link to next place

When you reach the **bus shelter**, **look over the road** towards the **Nuffield Hospital**.

Dining Block, today Nuffield Hospital

From the York Press, 4 June 1913: *'Today was an important one for Messrs Rowntree and Co Ltd...The ground floor was to be mainly devoted to scholastic work. On the north side were the woodwork, science, and other rooms planned as the boys' classes, the lecture and concert room, and two girls' dressmaking classrooms. The central portion comprised two cookery classrooms, and club rooms for men and boys. The south side would be devoted to the gymnasium and baths. Adjoining the boys' gymnasium were six sets of shower and foot baths, and a dressing room. The girls' gymnasium had a large dressing room with twenty porcelain slipper baths. The whole of the first floor was to be devoted to a dining room for girls. The men's dining room was on the north side of the second floor.'* (No public access)

Imagine 🗨️

Beneath you the cavernous subway that once connected the factory with the dining facilities and the echoing clatter of feet as employees went on their lunch breaks.

Link to next place 🔗

Note the small **Arts and Crafts style building** on the street situated **between the two factory gates**.

Joseph Rowntree Memorial Library

Joseph Rowntree started a library for employees in 1885 by donating £10 of his own money, raising £10 from another source, and docking a penny a week from workers' pay.

The Memorial Library to commemorate its founder was planned after Joseph's death in 1925 and opened in 1927. It was designed by architect Fred Rowntree. It is a Grade II listed building.



Imagine 🗨️

The scope of the library: *'Supposing all the books in this library were piled up one on top of another, they would reach to a height of eight times the Elet Block. The task of reading every book ... at the rate of two volumes per week would occupy 996 years.'* (Cocoa Works Magazine 1930).

Look out for 🔍

The name plaque above the doorway.

Link to next place 🔗

Look at the **building on the opposite side of the road**.

Joseph Rowntree Theatre

The Joseph Rowntree Theatre was designed by the architect Barry Parker who was a favoured architect of the Rowntrees, and paid for by one of the Rowntree Trusts. It was opened in November 1935 by Seebohm Rowntree, then Company Chairman, with the aim of *'providing a hall which may be a fitting centre for those recreational and educational activities which make for a full and happy life'*. Like the library it is Grade II listed for its historical significance.

Imagine 🗨️

How the simple architectural features, combined with a warm colour scheme and hidden lighting, were all designed to give an intimate and welcoming atmosphere to the 450-seat auditorium.

Apart from a period during the Second World War, the theatre has been in constant use for the enjoyment of the public. The theatre is run by volunteers so it is closed between performances—all the more reason to book up for something so you get to see the interior (information on programmes at the York Theatre Royal).

Link to next place 🔗

Carefully **cross the road** and head towards **Yearsley swimming baths**. Note in passing the distinctive Gothic detailing of the house on the corner that belonged to Samuel Haley, York's Chief Constable (1862-88).

Yearsley swimming baths

Originally an open air swimming baths for the Company, this building was also designed by Fred Rowntree. It was presented to the city of York by Joseph Rowntree for public access on 4th May 1909. *'Length 150 feet, width 50 feet, depth from 3 feet to 6 feet 9 inches, capacity 250,000 gallons of water, supplied by the York Waterworks. Ladies Days, Monday 1p.m. to close. Free admission is a condition of Mr Joseph Rowntree's gift; this is a great boon to the boys and girls of York who attend in hundreds.'* The roof was added in 1965. Today it remains as the only 50-yard pool in the north of England, a gem of Edwardian architecture.

Look out for 🔍

On the exterior wall (the wall facing the factory) look for the inscription and date of foundation, 1909.

Imagine 🗨️

The previous baths, '*Old Yearsley Bathing Place*' (pictured below) constructed in 1860 in the River Foss, and situated a short distance below Yearsly Bridge. The bed of the river was cemented for a space of 100 yards, and dressing sheds erected: total cost about £300. Admission Free.

Chocolate fact 🐟

Until very recently the pool was heated from the excess steam from the power plant at the factory.



Link to next place 🔗

Cross the road to look at the **war memorial** on the factory exterior. This replaced a collection of older rolls of honour and two carved wooden memorials on display at the factory when this part of the site was in use.

Rowntree war memorial

Joseph Rowntree's reaction to the outbreak of the First World War was a fear of jingoism and a concern for the reconstruction of society, a wish to improve present conditions in order to improve the welfare of the population into the future.

Seebom Rowntree served as Director of the Welfare Department at the Ministry of Munitions at the behest of David Lloyd George. He worked on the implementation of the principles of '*scientific management*' in the munitions factories and safeguarding the well-being of factory workers. In 1916 Rowntree was appointed to the government's Reconstruction Committee.

Rowntree's workers took a keen interest in raising money and making parcels to be sent to the 'lads at the front' or given to wounded soldiers. The following is a list of items purchased by the Cocoa Works Wounded Soldiers Collection Fund in one month in 1915:

- 300 packets of woodbines (cigarettes) • 24 packets of Gold Flake (cigarettes) • 80 (1/2 oz) packets of tobacco • 144 clay pipes
- 144 boxes of matches • 14/- worth halfpenny stamps (3 packets)
- Stamped envelopes (69) • 12 lbs Whipped creams • 12 lbs Cracknels
- 16 lbs Norway gums • 9 lbs Best wastes • 11 lbs Venetian creams
- 42 lbs Plums • 42 lbs Cooking apples • 14 lbs Eating apples.

Imagine

How the factory in the Second World War was affected by restrictions on sugar imports and rationing. Much of the office block was converted for use by the Royal Army Pay Corps. The cream department was reconfigured for the production of munitions, Ryvita, dried egg, powdered milk and chocolate rations, while the Smarties Block was converted into a secret fuse factory, named County Industries.

Chocolate fact

Girls who were employed in munitions wore protective make-up against TNT. They were known as the '*canary girls*' because of their yellow appearance caused by the work.

Nestlé York

In 1969 the company merged to become Rowntree Macintosh Ltd. In 1988 the company was bought out by the Swiss giant Nestlé. It is today the largest employer in York.

Imagine

That generations of multiple family employees have worked at the factory since the 1890s, and one family can even claim a continuity back to the 1860s.

Chocolate fact

KitKat was an original Rowntree product developed in 1935 as '*a chocolate bar that a man could take to work in his pack-up*'. Today five million a day and one billion KitKats a year are made at this plant.

Link to next place

Keep walking onwards and **past the main entrance to the factory** and at the next entrance peep at the **Product Technology Centre Confectionery**—the science lab of future sweets! (No public access) Continue **down the Haxby Road** to see the **Rowntree sports fields** on your right.

Rowntree Sports fields

The company's original 57-acre sports park includes playing fields, a bowling green, tennis courts and allotments. It is now owned by York St John University.

Link

You can choose to end your walk here. Retrace your steps or take a bus back into town. Or else **carry on along Haxby Road towards New Earswick**. It will take about 20 minutes on foot. Or just jump on a bus and alight at the **Folk Hall**.



5

New Earswick walk

This circular walk gives you a glimpse of a unique Garden Village situated three miles north of the city. From the city centre take the bus no 1 (there are stops at the station, Museum Gardens, or Exhibition Square) and alight at the Folk Hall. If travelling by car there is free parking at the Folk Hall. There are good cycle track links from the city centre to the village as well.

Duration

1.5 Hours

Calories

(in KitKat fingers)

3 fingers

New Earswick Village

In 1901 Joseph Rowntree bought 123 acres of land next to land already owned by the Rowntree Company, with the intention of building a new village. He employed the renowned architects Barry Parker and Raymond Unwin who went into partnership as Parker and Unwin in 1896 to plan the project.

The estate was built in four phases, with 30 houses built before the founding Trust Deed (1901-1904); then a more expansive phase of building (1905-1914); followed by the government subsidised 'Homes for Heroes' and inter-war development (1919-1936); and finally housing where new ideas were introduced with a new aesthetic (1950), largely to the plan of Louis de Soissons who was consultant in the post-war period.

The original plan of the village can still be well observed today and broadly speaking this walk follows Joseph Rowntree's original plan.

In creating a village Joseph Rowntree was matching Lever Brothers in Port Sunlight and Cadburys in Bournville. But New Earswick was more experimental with the ideas that came out of the garden city movement. It was less paternalistic than these places, not philanthropic housing for the relief of slum occupation, but social engineering designed to change the way people lived. The village was created in large part as a direct response to Seebohm Rowntree's groundbreaking study of poverty in York, published in 1901.

Its purpose was '*the improvement of the condition of the working classes...by the provision of improved dwellings with open spaces and, where possible, gardens to be enjoyed therewith, and the organisation of village communities with facilities for the enjoyment of full and healthy lives*'.

Contrary to a common assumption that the houses were intended for rent only by employees at the Cocoa Works, tenancies were available to 'artisans and mechanics ... and all persons who earn their living, wholly or partially, or earn a small income, by the work of their hands or their minds...' By 1954 only a third of the residents were company employees, the remainder from York itself, thus ensuring the mixed community that had been envisaged by Joseph Rowntree.

Imagine

As you walk through the village how Joseph stipulated that the houses should be '*well built, convenient, healthy and artistic in design*'.

Link to next place

Start your walk in the car park at the back of the **Folk Hall**.

The Folk Hall

The Community Hall at the heart of the village was built in 1907 and extended in 1935. While in the car park look around you for a sense of the integrated community, with the Doctor's Surgery, Quaker Meeting House, a children's playground, tennis courts and a swimming pool, all surrounded by a lot of green space.

The Hall was intended to meet the needs of the community and social life of the village and provided '*facilities for recreation, billiards, popular lectures with the magic lantern, musical gatherings, debating or literary societies and photographic exhibitions*' as Joseph Rowntree stated at its opening on 5 October 1907.

Imagine

How Seebohm Rowntree noted that by 1936 there were many forms of recreation that had been unknown to workers in 1899, such as the cinema, wireless and bicycles. He believed that providing leisure opportunities would ensure fewer drunken people in their homes and in the streets. And of course there has never so far been a pub in New Earswick!

Look out for

The large framed photograph of Joseph Rowntree that hangs in the café. There are information boards about events and facilities, and a café inside the Folk Hall, open to all.

Link to next place

From the car park, cross carefully over Haxby Road and take the right path behind the bus stop along the beck (**Westfield Beck**) from where you get a good view of the first houses, **Western Terrace**.



Western Terrace

Western Terrace has the very first houses, built in 1902.

Link to next place 

Go back to join the main road, Station Avenue.

Station Avenue

The houses in this part of the village were part of the first phase of building, and despite modernisation they still retain their original character, built in blocks of four houses. A lot of innovations were introduced in these early houses. They lacked a bathroom upstairs and had an outside earth closet. It was probably the first time that '*social housing*', as it was later called, was planned with true consideration of the needs of tenants. Innovations in the design included a cupboard under the stairs large enough to house a pram, and the first '*through*' living rooms allowing the house type to be orientated in different ways. These became a model for thousands of workers' homes across the country.

Imagine 

Having a garden that was the right size, with two fruit trees, for you to cultivate after finishing a day's work, according to Joseph's wish.

Look out for 

The '*pleasing irregularity*' of the designs of the houses as you walk through the village. Each conveys a personal character. Also note how some of the roads follow the natural features of the land, also demonstrating the architects' principle that roads should be purposeful and not '*mere aimless wiggles*'.

At the bottom of Station Avenue you'll see a small bridge over the beck. This is the River Foss that runs alongside the Rowntree factory towards the city centre (see [City Centre walk](#)). A grove of cherry and almond trees was once created here.

[Link to next place](#) 

Turn back up **Station Avenue** and right at the signpost for **Ivy Place** and **Chestnut Grove**. Here you will see a little **cluster of shops**.

Ivy Place shops

Today there is a bakery and cobblers with living accommodation provided. As far as possible local shopping has always been encouraged in the village.

Ivy Place

These roads (1907-10) illustrate how the motor car was catered for only later, in the 1960s, by laying new roads to the rear of the properties with parking bays and garage blocks. The front entrances were pedestrianised, with pleasant outlooks over their gardens.

Imagine 

Joseph and Seebohm deeply immersed in all the detail of the planning. Acknowledging the natural features they tried to retain as many existing trees as possible, and all the roads were named after trees.

[Link to next place](#) 

Walk past some small shops and into the pedestrianised **Chestnut Grove**. Continue past **Sycamore Avenue**. At the end, go left and walk up towards the main road, noting the **allotments** on your right.



Joseph Rowntree School

The redbrick building in the distance beyond the field is the Joseph Rowntree secondary school. It was completely rebuilt with exciting new premises in 2010.

Imagine

The opening of the original school on this site by the Education Minister Rab Butler in 1942.

Link to next place

At the main road turn right and cross over. At the roundabout take the turning on the left, walking into the area of **Hartrigg Oaks**.

Hartrigg Oaks

Demographic changes in the second half of the twentieth century led to new accommodation that was opened in 1998. A care scheme of bungalows for independent living for the retired and elderly was supported by central supported care as need arises. The central building, the Oaks Centre, also contains facilities for the whole community.

Look out for

The statue of The Hart in the forecourt outside the Oaks Centre, by the sculptor Sally Arnup (1930-2016).

Link to next place

Take the path away from the **Oaks Centre** crossing **Lucombe Way** and walk back in the direction of the village. Turn left at the footpath (**Millennium Path**), bearing right until you reach a road (**Rowan Terrace**). Turn right.

Rowan Avenue

The first bungalows were built here in 1920. The road layout was generally culs-de-sac off a main feeder road rather than the linear form as found on the eastern side of the village.

Look out for

The cul-de-sac is a noted characteristic of the Parker and Unwin planning concept and was first used at Hampstead Garden Suburb in 1906.

Imagine

How experts from all over the world regularly make visits here to learn about the trailblazing ideas that were put into practice by Joseph Rowntree and his son.

Link to next place

Continue past **Rowan Place** and **Rose Tree Grove**. At **Almond Grove**, turn left and walk towards the school building with the **Clock Tower**.

New Earswick Primary School – The Open Air School

Initially, pupils had to walk the 1.5 miles to Haxby Road School near the factory four times each day. So Joseph Rowntree persuaded the local education authority to approve the building of a school at the Trust's expense. It was built in 1911-12 to better standards than existing school building standards, with more space per pupil in the classroom, and classrooms facing south with large windows which could be folded back to allow in fresh air and sunlight. National standards did not catch up with New Earswick Primary School until the 1944 Education Act.

Look out for

Some of the original architectural features are still in evidence.

Imagine

The scenes captured in the early educational films from this ultra-modern school, today held in the Yorkshire Film Archive.

Link to next place

Carry on along the path past the school and when you reach the main road (Hawthorne Terrace) turn right towards the Folk Hall noting the Explore Library that adjoins the school buildings. Note also the row of shops on your left, and the Methodist Church on the right, built in 1926 on land provided by the Trust and with financial support from it.

Red Lodge

Next you'll pass Red Lodge, the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust's first sheltered flexible care housing scheme built in the 1970s with 60 flats or bedsits with an on-site warden, communal dining room and community room—but residents could be independent if they wished.

Link to next place

As you re-enter the car park note the large modern building on the corner of Haxby Road.

Elm Tree Mews – Eco Houses

Built in 2008, this is a mixed tenure scheme of houses and flats that has trialled modern heating systems with underfloor heating and solar panels. Its timber frame panels give a high level of thermal insulation.

Imagine

The continuity of the Rowntree legacy. Today the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust holds the freehold of the greater part of all the properties in the village and acts as landlord to the residents and supports the village with community and educational activities. But New Earswick village constantly continues to be adapted and new work initiated in response to contemporary demands and needs.

Link to next place 

The walk ends here. You may also wish to know about some further places of interest and relevance.

New Earswick Nature Reserve

On the south side of the village is the site of the original brickworks that supplied the bricks and roof tiles for the village. It closed in 1933 and all that remains are the clay pit, the concrete base of an old pump, a well and area of brick pavement. It gradually filled with water and is now designated as an Educational Nature Reserve that monitors local wildlife. There are and plenty of unusual birds and trees and plants of interest. (Entry is by appointment only, or look out for the regular guided walks—information available at the Folk Hall.)

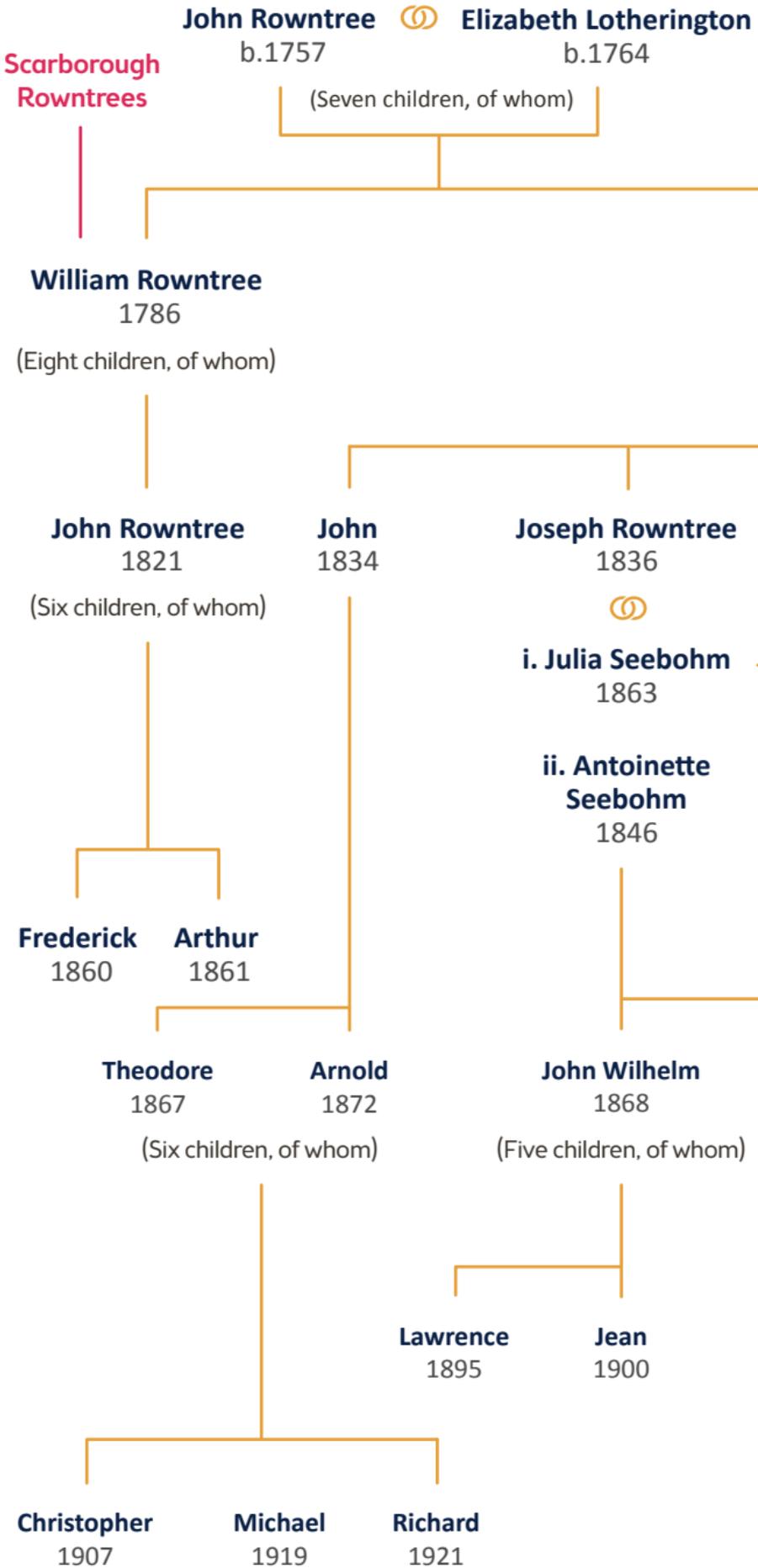
**Look out for** 

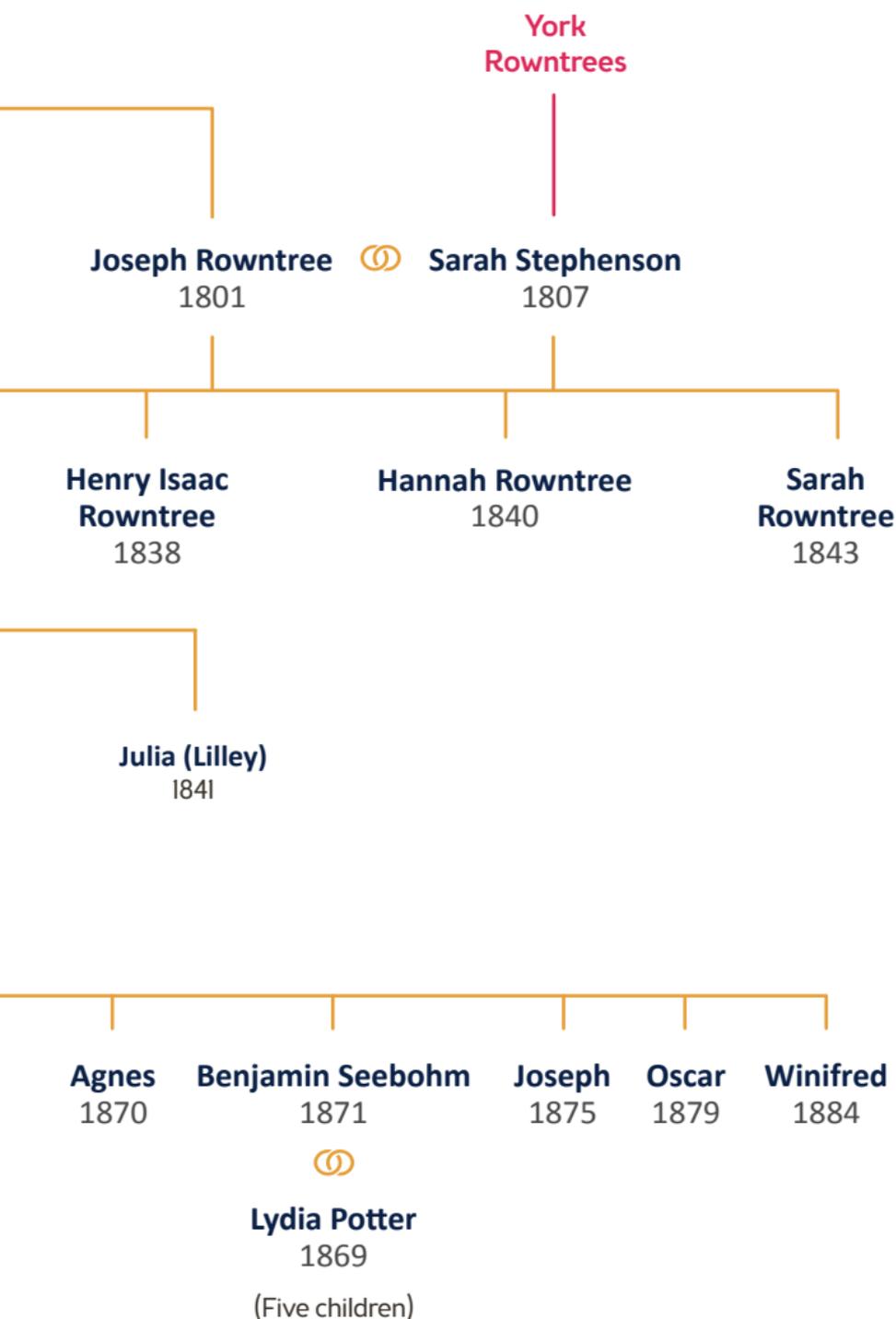
A series of Nature walks all over the village, along the beck and in the woodland areas, and old railway line path. If you're very lucky you might see a kingfisher.

Derwenthorpe

You might now like to travel to south-east York near Osbaldwick, to the new mixed-tenure development of over 500 homes created by the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust for the 21st century. The Trust continues to be at the forefront of new forms of housing for the future.







The Rowntree family history

This table has been greatly simplified to include only those members of the family who are mentioned in this book.

The Rowntree family is very large, both on the Scarborough branch as well as the York branch!

For more information see:

www.rowntrees.tribalpages.com

Donations

The Rowntree Society is a small charity working locally in York. We provide reliable information to wide-ranging audiences about the Rowntree heritage and legacy, and we help others promote the Rowntree story in new and imaginative ways.

Please consider making a donation to our costs so that more people will be able to enjoy the Rowntree Walks as we hope you have done.

Here's how you can donate towards our reprinting costs:

- Through **localgiving.com** (Search '*The Rowntree Society*')
- By cheque, made payable to 'The Rowntree Society'
- By regular giving or electronic transfer—please email: **info@rowntreesociety.org.uk** for further details.
- If you are a UK taxpayer, your donation may be eligible for **Giftaid**; please contact us for a Giftaid form.

All correspondence should be sent to:

**The Rowntree Society, Clements Hall,
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**Thank you to everyone who has helped us in
the creation and production of this book.**

Use of material in this book

Please acknowledge '*The Rowntree Society*' for any materials used, whether you adapt them for your own guided walks, or reproduce them in written form.

Further Reading

You can visit our website for further information about each stopping point on these walks and Rowntree history in general at **www.rowntreesociety.org.uk**

- Deborah Cadbury, **Chocolate Wars: from Cadbury to Kraft. 200 Years of Sweet Success and Bitter Rivalry**, *Harper Press (2010)*
- Robert Fitzgerald, **Rowntree and the Marketing Revolution** *Cambridge University Press (1995)*
- Peter Robson, **Fred Rowntree: Architect** *Newby Books (2014)*
- Sarah Rutherford, **Garden Villages** *Shire Publications (2014)*
- Chris Titley, **Joseph Rowntree** *Shire Publications (2013)*

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