

A classic Yorkshire scene at Bank Top

Shire DELIGHTS

Elizabeth Fowler explores historic York and its wonderfully diverse surrounds, using four Club sites as bases



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Yorkshire is a wonderful county, offering quite an amazing diversity of countryside and places to visit. For this article we turn our attention to the north-eastern area comprising the historic city of York and its surrounds.

The extensive flat, rich land around the city explains why it has always been a major population centre. York was built by the Romans some 2,000 years ago, over an existing settlement of the

Brigantes tribe. It was later conquered by the Anglo-Saxons, then ruled by the Vikings, and a wealth of archaeological remains documents these different periods.

Enough of history for now – this is a holiday! I started by pitching up at The Caravan Club's attractive York Beechwood Grange site. Easily accessed from the main York ring road, this is a perfect base for exploring the area. The good playground will keep the youngsters amused while you relax after sightseeing, and a large field is perfect for energetic dogs. >>

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED SITES

BRIDLINGTON
See p174 of the *Sites Directory & Handbook 2013/14*

YORK BEECHWOOD GRANGE
See p185 of the *Directory*

THE HOWARD, ROSEDALE ABBEY
See p182 of the *Directory*

THIRSK RACECOURSE
See p183 of the *Directory*



Bridlington Club site

FOR THE FAMILY



Full steam ahead

The **National Railway Museum** in York houses exhibits from the earliest steam engines through to more modern examples, such as the Japanese Bullet Train.

T 0844 815 3139 **W** nrm.org.uk
Nearest featured site York Beechwood Grange



House call

Listed **Sewerby Hall**, Bridlington, has something for all the family. The house is open daily plus the gardens boast a small zoo, an adventure playground, woodland walks and a tea room.

T 01262 673769
W weastriding.gov.uk/sewerby
Nearest featured site Bridlington

SOCIAL STORY



That's all folks!

A wonderful look at life through the ages, **Ryedale Folk Museum** features rescued and reconstructed buildings, artefacts and small exhibitions, with good descriptive boards throughout.

T 01751 417367 **W** ryedalefolkmuseum.co.uk
Nearest featured site The Howard, Rosedale Abbey

Animal magic

A great place for younger children, **Monk Park Farm** has lots of cuddly animals and many unusual ones, with regular feeding times. There are also go-karts and quad bikes, playgrounds, picnic areas and a café.

T 01845 597730
W monkparkfarm.co.uk
Nearest featured site Thirsk Racecourse



FOOD + DRINK



Your lucky day

In the heart of York, **Lucky Days** café offers coffee and cake, tea and light meals. It has fabulous salads, meat and fish as well as gorgeous cakes and puddings.

T 01904 733992
Nearest featured site York Beechwood Grange

Hearty fare

In the centre of Flamborough, **The Seabirds Inn** is a restaurant with a wide selection of hearty food: steaks, lamb shank, fresh fish, lovely soups and good-value Sunday roasts.



TASTYTREAT

T 01262 850242
W theseabirds.com
Nearest featured site Bridlington

Go green

Graze on the Green in Rosedale Abbey is a delightful café serving excellent local food. If you want to eat on your own in your caravan, it does a comprehensive take-out menu.

T 01751 417468
W rosdalecoffeeshop.co.uk
Nearest featured site The Howard, Rosedale Abbey

Roaring trade

Just a short stroll from the site, **Black Lion Bar & Bistro** serves a good selection of tasty food in a pleasant environment. The chicken and warm beetroot salad was excellent.

T 01845 574302
W blacklionthirsk.co.uk
Nearest featured site Thirsk Racecourse



Lovely Hutton-le-Hole



“A strange, haunting call drew my attention to... puffins!”

The nearby Monks Cross Shopping Centre (with swimming pool) is convenient for stocking up and you can walk from the site to the Toby Carvery.

SO MUCH TO DO...

If you want to leave your vehicle on the site, an hourly bus will take you into York. Once there, you're spoiled for choice in terms of things to do. A lovely introduction is a river trip accompanied by a knowledgeable guide who will explain the glories of the city.

For me, visiting York was full of nostalgia. From previous trips, I remembered the tame squirrels in the beautiful Museum Gardens by the river, as well as the fascinating crooked little streets in the centre, providing occasional glimpses of the magnificent Minster.

Walking through the ancient streets known as the Shambles,

I passed an open-fronted shop with teapots on warmers, and an invitation to sample the different brews – it just felt so right for a medieval street. Not wanting to stop for lunch, I instead selected a delicious picnic from Henshelwoods' 'Picnics to Go' menu, a lovely idea on a sunny day.

Before leaving the area, I had one last 'must visit'. In the evening, I drove down to Naburn Lock – I had once sailed into the city by riverboat, and had lovely memories. I wasn't disappointed and spent the evening chatting to the fisherman by the pretty canal locks and weir, watching salmon leap and kingfishers streak by.

BESIDE THE SEASIDE

Moving east, my next stay provided an entirely different experience. A bustling holiday resort for more than 200 years, Bridlington offers a sandy beach, promenade, harbour and traditional seaside entertainment.

The Club's site is a little out of town, towards Flamborough. It enjoys a lovely rural location boasting extensive views, well-spaced pitches that are mostly hardstanding, plus top-grade facilities. A short walk away is Marton Manor Farm Shop, home to a lovely café.

On my first evening, I drove to North Landing and stopped in the car park. At the foot of a series of steps was a little deserted beach, so down I went. The evening sunshine was beautiful, highlighting the small fishing boats drawn up on the shingle. As I walked across the flat rocks, I realised the cliff beside me was full of seabirds and a strange, haunting call drew my attention to... puffins! These fabulous little birds were nesting all around so I stayed watching them until it was too dark to see.

The coast here is truly beautiful – sandstone cliffs carved into wonderful shapes with tiny bays and deep caves.

York Beechwood Grange Club site



The Howard, Rosedale Abbey Club site

OUTDOOR FUN

PLEASURE CRUISE



All aboard!

You can enjoy a variety of river cruises with **YorkBoat** from its King's Staith and Lendal Bridge landings. There are trips of varying lengths, including lunch, dinner and floodlit evening cruises.

T 01904 628324
W yorkboat.co.uk
Nearest featured site York Beechwood Grange

Cycling

Try the **Yorkshire Wolds Cycle Route (National Cycle Network Route 166)**, part of which links Bridlington and York. **National Cycle Network Route 65**, the **Trans Pennine Trail**, heads north from York and skirts the western edge of the North York Moors National Park.

W sustrans.org.uk



Cliff riches

Bempton Cliffs RSPB reserve is world renowned for the vast numbers of sea birds that nest there, including puffins, guillemots, razorbills, gulls and gannets. There are viewing platforms, nature trails, RSPB events and wild-flower meadows.

W rspb.org.uk
Nearest featured site Bridlington

Walk tall

Visit **Blakey Ridge** in the North York Moors National Park for a walk that feels like you're on top of the world. Listen for the call of grouse and look out for old industrial ruins. There is an infrequent bus service to the start of the walk at the Lion Inn.

T 01751 417320
W lionblakey.co.uk
Nearest featured site The Howard, Rosedale Abbey



CULTURE



Royal appointment

One of the country's leading theatres, **York Theatre Royal** has been providing entertainment for 250 years. It has an eclectic programme throughout the year and boasts a good café/bar.

T 01904 623568 W yorktheatreroyal.co.uk
Nearest featured site York Beechwood Grange

Light relief

Flamborough Lighthouse is set in a magnificent location overlooking dramatic cliffs and tiny bays. Enjoy walks through wild-flower meadows and climb the 119 steps to the top of the tower as part of a guided tour.

W trinityhouse.co.uk
Nearest featured site Bridlington



Take your pick

Pickering Castle is a splendid early Norman ruin. From the top of the motte, built to dominate the countryside, there are dramatic views across the town of Pickering and moors beyond.

T 01751 474989
W english-heritage.org.uk
Nearest featured site
The Howard, Rosedale Abbey



Get the abbey habit

One of the great Cistercian establishments, **Byland Abbey** was once home to more than 200 monks. Now an impressive ruin, a compact museum holds site finds and information panels.

T 01347 868614
W english-heritage.org.uk
Nearest featured site
Thirsk Racecourse



Farm Inn, winner of 'Yorkshire's Favourite Pub 2012'.

Hiking up Bank Top hill next morning, I was gazing at the glorious views when a string of Austin Sevens came over the top, into the car park. They took a 'cool the engine rest' before setting off again down the notorious hill. I don't think I would be too comfortable on that hill in a veteran Austin! From the car park there is a superb level walk passing old iron workings. A short way along, you come across an intriguing bench featuring a tall carved stone one end and engravings along the sides, recalling the men who worked the local mines.

RACING CHANCE

Driving across heather-clad moors you come to Hutton-le-Hole, where sheep wander through the village beside a pretty stream. This is also where you'll find the Ryedale Folk Museum, well worth a visit.

I then followed the A170 to Thirsk where The Club's site is found on the racecourse – a supremely convenient location. It is level and quiet, offering a quick and easy walk into town for a meal, or a pleasant stroll along the river path.



Thirsk Racecourse Club site

Shopping could not be easier as there is a supermarket just across the road for all the basics. Thirsk also has good shops and a market in its cobbled centre.

A visit to The World of James Herriot attraction may appeal before setting off into the beautiful surrounding countryside. Here you will find the huge and wonderful ruins of the great monasteries that abound in this area, evidence of the county's historic wealth.

With opportunities to discover history, relax by the sea, enjoy superb bird watching, ride down glorious cycle paths and explore miles of high dramatic moorland, Yorkshire simply has it all. ■

MEMBERS' VIEWS

Graham and Sylvia Patchett from Skegness, who were staying at the Bridlington site, commented, "This is our fourth visit this year. It is such a lovely site to come to, especially with our dogs, as there is plenty of good walking and the site is quiet and dog-friendly. This is one of the nicest sites we've visited, beautifully clean and the showers are like those in a five-star hotel."



Mr and Mrs Stringer from Sunderland were staying at the Thirsk Racecourse site. They enthused, "We just love it here; in fact, we probably spend more time here than at home! We like being able to leave the motorhome and easily walk where we want. Thirsk is a lovely town, with a really good market and nice places to eat."



To read even more member views, see our fantastic online forum at caravanclub.co.uk/together



Brian and Pat Fullatron from Co Durham were staying at the York Beechwood Grange site. They said, "We like this area, and being close to the lovely city of York, so we have come down for a relaxing long weekend. It is a site we have visited before, so we know what is here and can just enjoy the peace and quiet, and the sunshine."

