

WALK 3

The Castle, Easby Abbey, Maison Dieu, Frenchgate

DISTANCE = APPROX. 5.5 KM

A pleasant stroll east of Richmond along the river Swale to Easby Abbey returning on a higher route with panoramic views across the town. Note the route via Easby Low Road is not Access friendly whereas the old railway track via the Station is

The route

From the Castle, walk into the **Market Place (IP 12)** and **TR** and **R** again into **Millgate**. Walk down Millgate **TL** into **Park Wynd** and the **Batts**. Follow the

footpath past the old Grammar School through to the main road. Cross the road with care into **Lombard's Wynd**. *Lombard's Wynd is an ancient route linking the river Swale to the top of Frenchgate.*

Continue along Lombard's Wynd to a T junction. **TR** and follow this lane signed to **Easby**. Along the way is the **Drummer Boy Stone, (IP 16)** where there is a plaque telling the story of this unfortunate young boy.

From the Drummer Boy Stone you can either walk alongside the river by **TR** at the gates to the **Boat House**. Note there is a set of steep steps at the far end. OR continue past the Drummer Boy Stone on a narrow, sometimes muddy path. Both routes meet at a kissing gate going into a field. Once in the field keep follow the fence line to Abbey Mill House. Go through the gate and continue along the access drive to **Easby Abbey. (IP17)**

From the Abbey **TL**, passing on your left **St Agatha's Church: (IP 18)** and the ruined Abbey Gate on your right. Head uphill, **TL** at the junction into the quaint hamlet of **Easby (Note the engraved plaque on the front of one of the cottages)**. Continue along this gently rising lane to a junction with a main road. As you do so look for the Castle Keep emerging from the valley. Pause to admire the views of Richmond Castle and town with the higher moors of Swaledale in the background.

As you approach the road junction, ahead on the left is St Nicholas House **(IP 19)**. Cross the main road with care, **TL** along the raised pavement heading back into Richmond. At the junction with **The Avenue**, cross the main road (Maison Dieu) for several impressive views of the Castle and town. Continue along Maison Dieu. At the junction of Maison Dieu and the

Darlington Rd is Anchorage Hill. **(IP 7)**. You may wish to cross the road to look at this historic area.

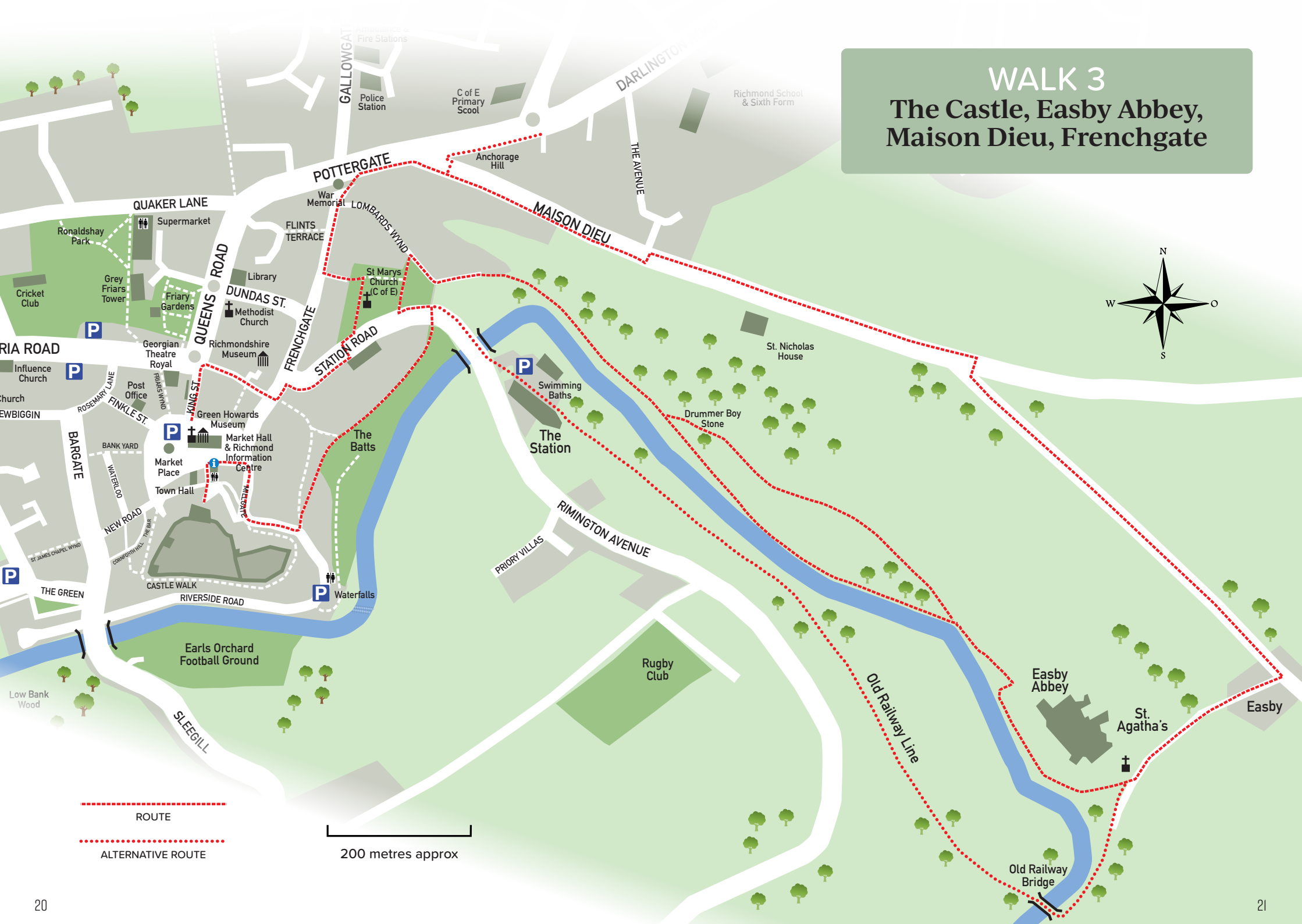
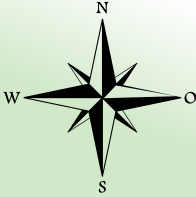


At the road junction **TL**, walk 200m to the traffic lights and The Green Howards Monument. Walk down **Frenchgate (IP 6)** to **Church Wynd** on the left. Go through the church yard bearing **R** to the main road and a set of pedestrian lights. Cross the road, **TR** and at the junction follow signs to the Market Place. This area is known as **The Channel (IP 15)**. **TR** into **Ryders Wynd** past **Richmondshire Museum**. At the roundabout **TL** into **King Street** and the **Market Place**.



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Points of Information

1 The Bar: Bar means gateway. Built in 1311, The Bar is the only remaining of 3 postern (pedestrian) gates into the old town. Notice the remains of the town wall and the ramparts (wall /& ditch) making it a good defensive site.

2 The Green: This was an important industrial area for leather tanning, production of woollen cloth, corn mills and blacksmiths using water and power from the Swale.

3 Richmond Bridge: Until Station (Mercury) Bridge was built in 1846 to access the railway station, Richmond Bridge was the main crossing point of the Swale for traffic from Wensleydale. After crossing the bridge, traffic would have entered the town via Bargate and Finkle Street Bar.

4 Earls Orchard: Now the grounds of Richmond Town Football club, in Medieval times this may have been where knights practised their jousting and horsemanship skills.

5 St Mary's Church: established in 1125 as the Parish Church for Richmond. Although renovated in Victorian times, medieval glass, tombstones and two Norman arches can be seen.

6 Frenchgate: In Norman times Frenchgate was a suburb beyond the Castle's outer bailey. It derived its name from Franci (French) and the word "gate" being Danish for street. This area developed to house those civilian French for whom there was no room at the castle. The housing is mainly Georgian built on the footprint of medieval burgage plots.

7 Anchorage Hill: Named after late-medieval anchoresses. An anchoress

(ancess) was a religious woman who lived in a small chapel as a hermit. They didn't belong to any specific religious order. The chapel at Anchorage Hill was dedicated to St Edmund after Edmund, King of East Anglia. He died in 868 following a raid by the Danes. He is laid to rest at Bury St Edmunds. In 1607 the chapel became the Bowes Hospital providing housing for three widows. The chapel styled building is still one of Richmond's almshouses but now only for one person.

8 Greyfriars and Friary Gardens: The site of a Franciscan Friary (Greyfriars) founded in 1258. See interpretation plaque. There were several springs in the grounds which provided drinking water for the people of Richmond.

9 Friar's Wynd: One of two postern gates the other being The Bar. Friar's Wynd enabled townsfolk to access clean water from Greyfriars.

10 Finkle Street and Bar: Finkle means crooked. About half way along there is a noticeable kink which marks the place of Finkle Bar. Look for a small rectangular plaque on the right hand side just above head height. The Bar was demolished in 1777 to make room for traffic. Traffic from Swaledale would come down Hurgill Road and into Richmond via Rosemary Lane and Finkle Street Bar.

11 Newbiggin: The name means new buildings. This area was the second suburb outside the Castle bailey and was the site of Richmond's first market place mentioned in Charters from 1100's onwards.

12 The Market Place: In Norman times this was the Outer Bailey for the castle so was a

military area until the 14th Century. The town's various open air markets located here after that date. It is incorrect to refer to it as the Market Square as its shape is more like a horseshoe due to it once being the Outer Bailey. It is the largest cobbled area in England and the round; smooth cobbles came from the River Swale.

13 Holy Trinity Chapel: Serving the Outer Bailey this was one of four chapels built within the grounds of the Castle, the other three being in the Inner Bailey. Holy Trinity was restored in Victorian times.

14 Burgage plots: These were long and narrow plots of land with a house, shop or outbuildings fronting a road. Burgage is a medieval land term used in Great Britain and Ireland, well established by the 13th century. A burgage was a town ("borough" or "burgh") rental property (to use modern terms), owned by a king or lord. Over the centuries many burgage plots have been infilled with housing.

15 The Channel: Site of defensive gate where Frenchgate and The Channel meet. Traffic travelling from east via the Great North Road and Northallerton would have entered the town here.

16 The Drummer Boy Stone: Legend has it that some centuries ago soldiers found a narrow tunnel underneath Richmond Castle. A small drummer boy entered the tunnel and was told to keep beating his drum. When he got to this spot the drumming stopped and the boy was never seen again.

17 Easby Abbey: founded by Roald, Constable of Richmond Castle around 1152. It belonged to Premonstratensians order or White Canons. The grounds are open to the public and are free of charge.

18 St Agatha's Church: has well preserved 13th Century wall paintings and a replica of an 8th century carved stone cross. The original Easby Cross is now on display at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. It is the only original cross they have.

19 St Nicholas House: Founded in 1171 as a medieval hospital. It was run by a religious community who cared for people who were elderly, poor or in ill health. It is now a private residence. Artefacts found in the grounds are on display at Richmondshire Museum and St Mary's Church.

20 St James Chapel Wynd: In the 12th Century St James was a popular medieval saint whose Shrine at Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain was the third most important Christian site for pilgrimage after Jerusalem and Rome.

21 Culloden Tower: Built in 1746 as a folly to commemorate the Battle of Culloden. It is on the site of the old Hudswell Pele Tower. Peel towers (also spelt pele) were small fortified keeps or tower house.

22 Westfield: One of three areas of open pasture, Gallowfields and Eastfield being the other two. The open field system gave individual peasants land in the form of strips scattered among the different fields. Crops such as rye, barley and vegetables would have been grown using a system of crop rotation. Cattle would also have been grazed. Westfield is south facing and has several springs so farming could take place throughout the year.

23 Sleegill: At some time in this area there was a leper chapel dedicated to St Thomas but its location is unknown.