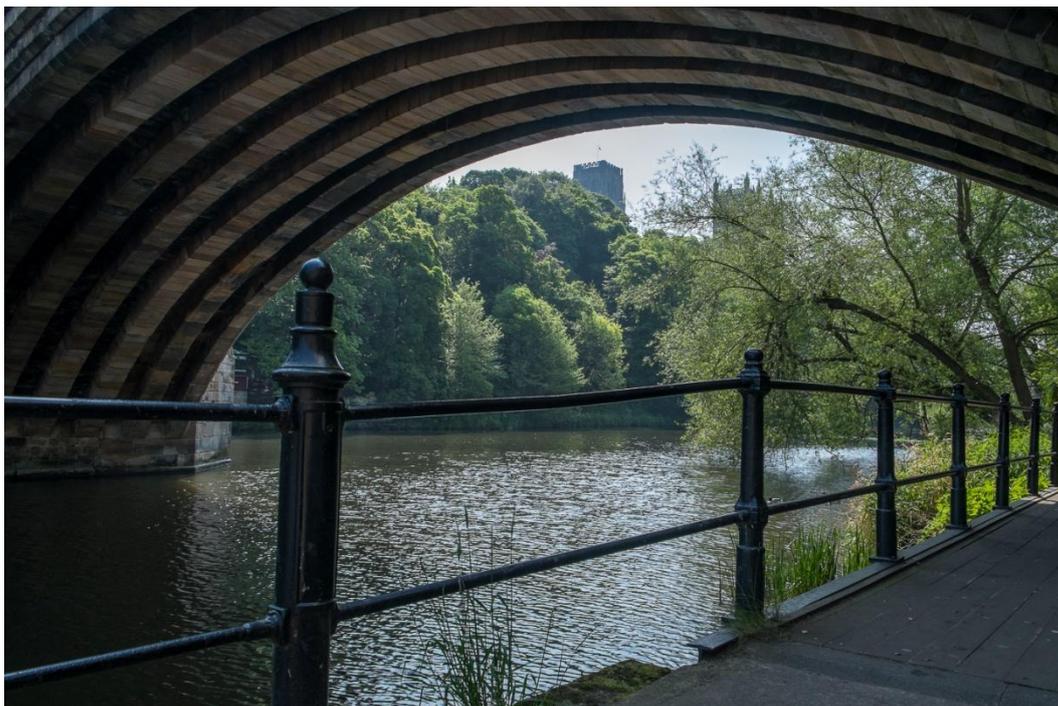


# Riverside Wheelchair Walk

Durham is a hilly place, and even the riverside walk has a few gradients, which should be no problem for a power chair or scooter, but will require a reasonably strong pusher or self-propeller. Paths generally are sound although after rain can be a little muddy in places.

Parking for this walk is most convenient along Framwellgate Waterside, or in the multi-storey car park under the Gates shopping centre or on the left of Framwellgate Waterside.

Start the walk at the riverside, heading right in a southerly direction, keeping to the riverside and heading towards Milburngate Bridge, passing the Central Thai Restaurant, and then passing under the bridge. The path surface is firm and reasonably level. This stretch of the path gives wonderful views of the Castle and



Cathedral up to your left.

You will see a weir across the river and on the opposite bank, the Old Fulling Mill, now a museum of archeology. You have an iconic view of the Fulling Mill and the Castle and Cathedral from here.



At this point the path rises quite steeply ( but only for a short distance) to pass behind a house and then descends again to the riverside, where you will see the ancient Prebend's Bridge spanning the river. The path rises rather more gently to the bridge which you use to cross the River Wear. You may well see the River Cruiser, rowing boats and scullers on the river here.

On reaching the far side of the bridge turn sharp right, the signpost says "Riverbank Footpaths". Follow the path down the slope to rejoin the riverside. Note as you pass the Little Count's House, a small Palladian style stone building (visitors to the Town Hall on the market place may be familiar with the story of the little count). You will pass boat houses belong to the University colleges and Durham School. The left side of the path is heavily wooded on the steep slope rising to the Cathedral.

As you proceed you will see high above you the concrete footbridge leading from the modern Students Union on the right bank towards the Cathedral and Castle. There is another slope with a slightly rough surface. as you pass under the footbridge you will see Elvet Bridge with its four arches, framed in these you will see the serried ranks of Brown's Boats for hire and the River Cruiser. There are some attractive old buildings at the right hand end of the bridge. There is a short quite sharp ascent under the bridge, rewarded by the possibility of refreshments or an ice cream overlooking the river.



The walk can now be extended by continuing along the river bank, passing under the road bridge on a good level and well-maintained surface. On the opposite bank, you will see some town houses with balconies overlooking the water; you then pass a footbridge and find yourself with the "Race Course" on your right, where the Durham Gala crowds gather to hear the political speeches, while the brass bands rest after their march through the City. You will also note a band stand with a Father Time weather vane and sculptures of the Durham ox and some gear wheels. Continue a little further until you find the path blocked due to land slip. At this point, turn and retrace your steps to the area below Elvet Bridge, enjoying another magnificent view of the Cathedral above, and the ancient and new Durham prisons below.



Behind the riverside cafe and bar there is a lift which will take you up to the Bishopgate shopping mall (press floor "S"). As you leave the lift enjoy the view from here of the river and Law Courts, then proceed along the side of BHS and emerging into the open go straight ahead to the market place, where you will see the statue of a mounted Lord Londonderry. The indoor market and town hall lie ahead, but climb gently up past the statue and make your way down cobbled Silver Street. The flagged area to the sides make for a slightly more comfortable passage! At the bottom of Silver Street follow the road onto Milburngate Bridge where there are fine views both up and down river as well as up to the ancient buildings above you.

Follow the pavement to the right around the Gates Shopping Centre. You will need to cross the road and turn right on the opposite pavement as there are no dropped kerbs at the car park entrance. This will lead you back to your starting point on Framwellgate Waterside.