

Exit Acomb Green and turn left, following the pavement which skirts the fenced boundary.

4 Use the traffic island to cross the road onto Danebury Drive. Walk just under 300m up Danebury Drive and look for a small track between the houses which leads into the wood.

This space which is now called Fishponds Wood can be seen on early maps of Acomb village dating from 1774. It is understood that there were three large ponds here and anecdotal evidence that the ponds were used to stock fish for the villagers. Take some time to explore the woods, there are several small trails and the perimeter path is just under 400m. Come back to the same point to restart your amble.

Turn immediately right from the point you entered the wood, and follow the perimeter path to exit the wood via a tarmac path, onto Rosedale Avenue.

5 Cross the road and look for the black iron gate on the left. This is the entrance to St Stephen's Churchyard.

The churchyard contains Commonwealth war graves from the First and Second World Wars. Spot them as you amble up the hill taking in views of the church itself.

The earliest records of St. Stephen's Church go back to the 12th Century. According to Acomb Parish, in 1830 the old church was reported as *"ruinous and in decay and not capable of repair and is unfit for the purpose of celebrating Divine Service and Sermons therein"*. A faculty was obtained to build a new church to a design by Joseph Hansom. The present church was completed in 1832, but the old chancel remained. The chancel was rebuilt in 1851. Much of the old stone was used in rebuilding.

At the top end of the churchyard there are benches to rest and enjoy the tranquil space. Exit the churchyard via the paved path.



6 To the left, there's a short diversion to visit the boundary stone.



7 Take care crossing the road outside the church entrance and follow the wide footpath which is directly opposite. Wander down the path which brings you back to Front Street.



Turn right and cross the road using the pedestrian crossing, then continue in the same direction to find yourself back at the library.

This project is brought to you by Move the Masses, a small charity making a big impact in York.

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THE MASSES

If you enjoyed your amble we'd love to know about it. Share your pictures with us on social media @MTMcharity using the hashtag #AcombAmbles.



Funded by your
Ward Committee



ROUTE 1

**Acomb Green and
St Stephen's Church**

Acomb Ambles is a project designed to bring people together for short, gentle walks to explore the history and hidden green spaces of Acomb.

There are three routes in Acomb to explore, and you can also join one of our very gentle walking groups, for a slow amble with plenty of opportunities to sit and chat.

To download maps or find out more about this project or our walking groups, go to: movethemasses.org.uk/acombambles

ROUTE 1

Acomb Green and St Stephen's Church

(1 mile / 1.6km)

This route includes a very short off-road section which could be muddy when wet. Parts of the route are uneven, particularly through the churchyard.

Acomb is one of three villages (the others being Middlethorpe and Dringhouses) which were incorporated into the City of York in 1917. Acomb is full of fascinating history and secret green spaces, we hope you enjoy exploring!

Starting at the library on Front Street, cross the road using the traffic island and turn left.

1 Walk just a short way before a right turn up the alleyway immediately after the chip shop.



2 The alley will lead you out next to the Friends' Meeting House and onto Acomb Green. From here you can spot the spire of St Stephen's Church, which you'll walk to later.



You can take a short diversion here to the war memorial **3** by turning right and walking to the eastern corner of Acomb Green. You'll then need to retrace your steps back to point **2**



Take care walking down the uneven steps opposite the Friends' Meeting House, and cross the green using the path. Look out for the yellow sign on the playground fence which provides some interesting information on the history of the area. Take a moment to sit and enjoy the space, then exit Acomb Green and turn left, following the pavement which skirts the fenced boundary.

