**WATERY WONDERS**

**Visit Ripon and the Skell Valley**

**Please see the bottom of this sheet for ideas on how to use this information.**

Surrounded on three sides by rivers and a canal, Ripon has more than its fair share of watery wonders.

The River Laver on the west, flows into the River Skell, which then feeds the Ure to the east of the city. The Laver and Skell also supply Ripon’s canal which flows to the south of the city. This year is the 250th anniversary of the canal.

The waterways are thriving havens for wildlife, with two nature reserves close to the city. Ripon City Wetlands, between the Ure and the canal has lakes attracting a variety of wildowl. inhabited by a variety of wildfowl, whilst the impressively named ‘Hell Wath’ in the Skell Valley is a well-known and scenic nature reserve (Alexa – pls add more on HW)

Ripon was established as a Spa town at the beginning of the twentieth century, and piped in spa waters from nearby Aldfield. As fashions changed, Ripon’s Spa building was transformed in the 1930s to a swimming baths, and is now awaiting its next regeneration. A new swimming pool has been built, named after Jack Laugher, Ripon’s Olympic diving champion.

Outside the city, the architectural gems of the countryside are set alongside water for either practical or aesthetic purposes and sometimes both.

Fountains Abbey is next to the Skell which was channelled by John Aislabie to form lakes and ponds in the neighbouring Studley Royal Water Garden in the 18th century. He and his son both had a vision for the area and William later bought and incorporated the ruins of Fountains Abbey into the design. It is the successful combination of the two which has made the area a World Heritage Site, and the skilful use of water, channelling the Skell to create to create lakes and ponds is an important part of this. The Skell then continues to wind through the Seven Bridges Walk which was another Aislabie design.

Nearby Newby Hall utilises the River Ure for scenic boat trips, and also the lake in the adventure play area, which has plenty of water-based fun with pedalos, a self-guided boat and a ‘Tarantella’ dancing water play area that children or the young at heart can duck in and out of on a warm day.

Meanwhile Markenfield Hall has its own water feature, a spring fed moat dating back to the thirteenth century.

Within Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty there are seven reservors that supply fresh clean water to Ripon and neighbouring towns.

Top of Form

**HOW TO USE THIS INFORMATION**

We’d love you to use this information, or any of the other sections, in your own promotional activity – on your website, mailings or social media.

You can edit it and change it as much as you want.

You can use all of it, or just small snippets.

You’re welcome to add your own angles, and customise the info.

This is just a starting point.

We’ve created this information to encourage more collaborations between businesses.

For example, if you run a visitor attraction you might talk about other activities in the area to show there’s a critical mass of things to do and Ripon is worth the journey.

Accommodation providers might use some of this information to talk about their location and encourage longer stays.

See the other information on [www.tourismknowhow.com/Ripon](https://www.tourismknowhow.com/ripon).

Bottom of Form