

## **To Selby Abbey via the River Wharfe and home through the ice age**

Thank you for sharing my enthusiasm for geography and landscape history.

For those of you that came on the ride you will have followed the river Wharfe as it meanders across its flood plain to the confluence with the Ouse just north of Cawood. A classic set of lowland river meanders and a flood plain still miles from the sea. but at no more than 6 metres above sea level.

Beyond Cawood we rode to Selby where the Abbey is the largest surviving monastic church apparently saved from Henry the eighth's destruction, because he liked the Abbott. Unlike the other famous monastic houses of Yorkshire. It was ordered by the Victorians , damaged by fire at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and now rebuilt, it has been a place of Christian worship for hundreds of years.

Returning north towards York we cycled through Riccall, this is considered to be the southernmost extent of the ice sheet of the last iced age. To the north landscaped gouged into u shaped valleys, to the south, for the most part flat lands covered in outwash sands and gravels from the glaciers and more recently by alluvium from flooding as sea levels rose following the great melt.

A more detailed account of these events can be found in the links below.

The first is from the Wharfe rivers trust which gives the background to the river which has its source high in the Yorkshire Dales. It also covers current issues affecting the river.

[River Wharfe - Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust](#)

The second is a landscape appraisal covering the geology and more recent geography of the area.

[Description - National Character Area Profiles](#)

The third covers the resulting built form – why the local buildings look like they do and.

[Vale of York Eastern Arable](#)

The fourth takes you to the Abbey website which includes some history

[History of Selby Abbey - Selby Abbey](#)

I hope you find this interesting and helpful in your understanding of where we have been.

Edward Gilder. Editor of the magazine of the National Clarion Cycling Club

Feel free to email me if you wish using the address below

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