



YorkshireWater

As part of our river**life** campaign we're investing over £250m in our waste water treatment works to create a healthier river environment and helping a wider variety of fish and wildlife to thrive.

To celebrate our work we've developed four 'leg stretching' river walks that bring you closer to the beautiful wildlife and countryside that our region has to offer.

## The River Ryburn

This picturesque circular walk starts at the heart of the charming Yorkshire village of Ripponden, not far from Sowerby Bridge and Halifax. Renowned locally for its wool and cotton trade in the early 19th century this area is steeped in history, and

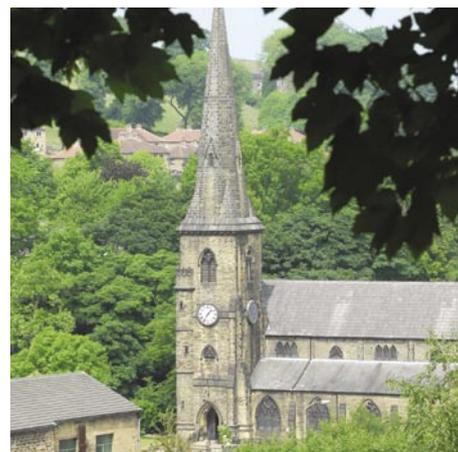
there are constant reminders along the route of days gone by as you absorb the beautiful backdrop of the surrounding cottages, mills and the River Ryburn.



Point		River		Building		Route	
Woods		Church		Path			

# Walk information

<b>Paths</b>	Tarmac and unmade woodland fields and footpaths which may be muddy during winter or when wet.
<b>Location</b>	Ripponden, Sowerby Bridge
<b>Distance</b>	1.6 miles
<b>Access</b>	Ripponden is about five miles south-west of Halifax. Take the A58 from Halifax to Sowerby Bridge and then continue on A58 to Ripponden. The Parish Church is the starting point for this walk. With its tall spire the church is easily visible from most points in the village. There is ample parking in the two car parks nearby on Royd Lane and Mill Fold.



## The walk

With the church gates behind you and the Old Packhorse Bridge on your right, join a small lane which dives down under the B6113 road bridge ①. Follow this road beyond the bridge, passing the former Ripponden Mill on the right and a playground. The lane leads to a small park where you need to bear right following the surfaced path which soon veers left to a surfaced access road going ahead. Bear slightly right onto this with the river to the right follow it past all the buildings on the left ②.

Beyond the buildings there are two fields to the left ③. Halfway along the side of the second field the tarmac surface goes slightly leftwards towards two houses. Bear right off the tarmac and onto a wooded riverside path ④. Follow this path to the end of the footbridge ⑤.

Turn left up the steps just after the bridge and continue forward walking parallel to the river. Pass a pair of signposts and continue straight ahead with the river on your right. Please take care where the footpath rises away from the river. Continue to the point where the river and path do a turn to the left. This is where the Booth Dean Beck joins the Ryburn ⑥.

Follow the path to the left for 30 yards where you will join an surfaced road with an old mill on the right. Cross over the road onto an unsurfaced lane (still alongside the river). After 100 yards you will come to a junction. Turn left here on the surfaced lane but resist any temptations to bear leftwards through gaps in the boundary as you ascend. As the lane eases in gradient, the surfaced route turns off to the right. Continue straight ahead to a T-junction of lanes on higher ground. Turn left and follow the path along the level section, continuing as it starts to rise again gently.

The wall turns left at a signpost, go left here down some steps (please take care when wet as this section may become slippery underfoot). You will soon come to a bridge over a former railway line ⑦. At the bottom of the steps take the path to the right, following the route of the old railway line as far as the first bridge. Immediately after the bridge there are some steps on the left. Go up these as the path continues on the top of the cutting which looks out over the River Ryburn ⑧.

Keep straight ahead to the next old bridge where there's a gap in the left-hand corner. Beyond this is a narrow lane leading downhill to the B6113 again with the Parish Church easily visible.

### Country Code

In everything you do there are some risks, including walks in the country.

Observing a few sensible points reduces these to a minimum, and other points show consideration for the countryside.

Good footwear is important to support the foot and ankle and give extra grip.

Wet, grassy or moss covered slopes can be slippery, so take extra care.

Take care when climbing stiles and steps in the countryside.

If walking on a road: keep in to the side, watch for traffic, ensure you are visible to traffic.

If you take a dog, keep it on a short lead when animals are anywhere near.

Leave gates and property as you found them.

Don't pick flowers or interfere with wildlife in any way.

Do stick to the official footpaths, there is no general access onto land in the area of these walks.

Follow the Countryside Code published by the Countryside Agency.

Other riverlife walks for you to enjoy.

**River Aire**  
**River Dearne**  
**River Don**

[yorkshirewater.com/riverlife](http://yorkshirewater.com/riverlife)