

Ripon Canal walk

The concept behind the canal is simple. The River Ure becomes difficult to navigate on stretches upstream of Boroughbridge, so the building of the Ripon Canal and other small sections of canal along the Ure made it possible for boats to pass from Hull and York to Ripon, especially with core industrial products like coal into Ripon from the Yorkshire coalfields and back the other way lead and other products.

1. Start

Leave the car park and cross over the road to walk back down towards Ripon Canal Head. Ripon Canal Head has been renovated and includes some compact canal view houses, a farm shop and an embroidery and craft shop, as well as a renovated warehouse.

2. Ripon to Rhodesfield Lock

It is a short gentle walk to the first lock beneath lovely lime trees, with a few industrial buildings on the left - such as Ripon Builders Merchants and Wolseley. Just before the first lock - Rhodesfield Lock - there is the pretty whitewashed former lock-keeper's house and then you angle down about three to four metres to the new level alongside a caravan park and berths for narrow boats.

3. Rhodesfield Lock to Bell Furrow's Lock

From Rhodesfield Lock, the path travels to Bell Furrows Lock, which is beside Smeaton's Marina, named after one of the engineers who built Ripon Canal. You can cross over Bell Furrows Lock to the other side, giving you a decent view back along the route you have travelled so far.

4. Bell Furrows Lock to Nicholson's Bridge

From Bell Furrows Lock, it's a half mile walk to Nicholson's Bridge and Ripon Motor Boat Marina. On your left there is a bird sanctuary beside Ripon Race Course; it is a wetland that has been restored from gravel pits, forming part of a larger wetland area along the River Ure and all the way down to the Humber Estuary. On the other bank, there are some fields and the well-manicured ends of some of the posher residences at the edge of Ripon, while the trees have changed to a mix of sycamores and elder.

By Nicholson's Bridge, you have the edge of Ripon Race Course to your left and the edge of Ripon to your right and move on to cut through farmland to the meeting of the canal and the River Ure about one and a half miles further on.

5. Nicholson's Bridge to Ox Close Lock

From Nicholson's Bridge to Ox Close Lock, the walk opens out and you have Ripon Race Course to your left and then farmland on the right bank. After you pass one of the starting points at Ripon Race Course, you seem to be walking along a wide garden path. You now pass Renton's Bridge and reach Ox Close Lock.

Parking Info

Parking outside of Wolseley Centre on Bondgate Green.

Distance

2.2 miles / 3.54 Kilometers

Route Type

Walking