



# York Naburn Lock Caravan Park

July 2020

## The Ouse River Path Walk to York City Centre (4.6miles)

Enjoy a walk to York along the historic River Ouse tow path via Bishopthorpe. It is virtually flat with footpaths along almost the entire route. Refreshment stops are open during summer. Expect some muddy stretches after heavy rains. There are three stiles, close to York. Cycles are prohibited from a section of the path between the A64 and York. Consider returning by public transport unless you are accustomed to long walks. Walking footwear, water bottles and energy snacks are recommended.



1. Turn left from York Naburn Lock Caravan Park entrance toward Naburn village. There is a grass verge along the half-mile to the village. On reaching the village, bear left before the school, then right along Naburn High Street. When re-joining the main road there is a pathway (pictured).



2. Pass York Marina, then continue a further 250yds to the former railway bridge. Access the cycle/foot path on the right at the far side of the bridge. It is signposted.



3. As you turn right at the top of the ramp, there is a convenient snack café open through the summer months on the site of 'Old Naburn Station'. Here, you can top-up water bottles free of charge.



4. Look up as you walk towards the road bridge. This is a scale model of NASA's Cassini probe, launched in 1997 to explore the planet Saturn. It marks the start of the York section of the 'Solar System Path'. Along the cycle-trail are models of each planet scaled to their relative size and positioned according to their scale distance from the Sun.



5. In a few hundred yards, the trail crosses the River Ouse over Naburn Railway Bridge. Take a moment to enjoy the river views and read the information boards. The Flying Scotsman regularly sped across this impressive swing bridge during the 1960's on its journeys to York and beyond.



6. Naburn Bridge photographed from the Ouse river path towards Acaster Mabilis. The bridge was powered by a stationary steam engine at its base and featured a signal box mounted on the cross beams above the bridge deck. This gave the bridge master a clear view over vessels below.



7. Approximately 1/3 mile after crossing Naburn Bridge, follow the foot path on the right. This doubles back on itself, guiding us down on to the river path to Bishophthorpe. See next picture...





8. From picture 7, the footpath doubles back, so turn right and down the left hand path to the River Ouse tow path, about 100yds. On reaching the river path, turn left across two large meadows. Note the location of the turn, if you are planning to walk back. The path may be muddy after heavy rain. If so, join the gravelled road on your right about 200yds ahead. This becomes 'Ferry Lane'.



9. Ferry Lane leads to York Marine Services' moorings and the Riverside Rest Café, just before the Bishop's Palace (pictured). Continue along the riverside path until it turns left.



10. As you follow the path alongside the Bishop's Palace fence, you will see the façade of Old St Andrews Church and cemetery. The riverside church had been a site of worship since 1205 until successive floods undermined the church and cemetery and a new church was built in the village.



11. You have now arrived in Bishopthorpe along Chantry Lane. Note this turn if you intend walking the return route to the caravan park. Proceed right along Bishopthorpe Road footpath for approximately 300yds, passing the entrance to Bishopthorpe Palace.



12. In approximately 300yds, turn on to the public footpath in the hedge to your right. It is located just as the 40mph sign comes into view on the far side of the road. It is easily missed. The path leads down to the river dyke and left towards York. The footpath continues along the dyke, under the A64 road, then follows around a large meander in the river. There are three stiles between here and York (all usually by-passable).



13. The river dyke footpath close to York. Shortly beyond this point the river path joins the tarmac cycle trail (which descends from York Racecourse).



14. Millennium Bridge is a good place to picnic or take a break before the final half-mile walks along Terry Avenue, past Rowntree Leisure Park and into York centre.



15. You have arrived in York City at historic Skeldergate Bridge. Pass under the bridge by The Bonding House Restaurant, then turn immediately left across the bridge to York Castle (Clifford's Tower), Copper Gate and Piccadilly bus stop.