



York Naburn Lock Caravan Park

July 2020

Cycle Sustrans' Route 65 to York City Centre (6 miles)

Wonderful views along the River Ouse, a year-round, all-weather, surface and almost entirely traffic-free, the cycle route from Naburn to York city centre is for enthusiast and leisure cyclists alike. It follows the route of the former Selby to York railway line from old Naburn station, then along the 'Solar System' path around the greenway to York Racecourse. After crossing a main road, the track descends on the River Ouse tow path up to Millennium bridge and into York city at Skeldergate.



1. Turn left from York Naburn Lock Caravan Park entrance toward Naburn village. There isn't a cycle track along the half-mile to the village. It is not a busy road. On reaching the village, bear left before the school, then right along Naburn High Street. When re-joining the main road there is a cycle track/pathway (picture).



2. Pass York Marina then continue a further 250yds to the former railway bridge. Access the cycle 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.

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4. Look up as you cycle towards the bridge and take a look at this scale model of NASA's Cassini probe. It was launched in 1997 to explore the planet Saturn. It marks the start to the York section of the 'Solar System Path' along which you will see models of planets, each 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 and featured a signal box mounted on the cross beams above the bridge deck. This gave the bridge master a clear view over the vessels below.



7. Approximately 1/3 mile after crossing Naburn Bridge, keep to the left fork of the path out on to the greenway toward York.

The right hand fork doubles back on itself to the river path at the base of Naburn Bridge. This is an alternative route into York through Bishopthorpe. However, the first mile of the river bank route is a field track which is likely to be muddy during wet periods.



8. Jupiter is the next planet along your route. On the remainder of the solar system path, you'll find Mars, The Earth and Moon, Venus and Mercury on the way to the Sun.



9. Brunswick Café, Organic Nursery and Craft Shop is a convenient stop for a hot drink or snack (or toilets). Beyond the café, the trail passes through a housing estate. Follow the signposts. After the planet Mercury, the trail passes under the A64 ring road to the Sun, then turns right, parallel to the ring road, for a quarter of a mile.



10. Next, the trail turns left under Sim Balk Lane overpass and (thankfully) into much more pleasant countryside towards York Racecourse at Knavesmire. Follow the cycle trail signs around the racecourse, across to the car park and then exit on to Bishophorpe Road. Turn left and, in 100yds, cross to a signed footpath opposite the entrance to the former Terry's Chocolate works.



11. The footpath descends to the River Ouse tow path and onward to Millennium Bridge, park and picnic area. Next, you will pass Rowntree Leisure park to your left before joining Terry Avenue for the final half-mile into York City centre.



12. You have arrived in York City centre at the historic Skeldergate river bridge. This is the end of the traffic free area. Pass under Skeldergate bridge past The Bonding House Restaurant, then turn immediately left on to Skeldergate which rises to the bridge level.