



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 Aire and Leeds – Liverpool Canal

If you're looking for variety then this route is for you. Beginning at Apperley Bridge, the walk teeters along the edges of the River Aire before returning on a charming section of towpath down the Leeds – Liverpool canal, the longest canal in Northern England at 127 miles long. The walk is relatively flat apart from the occasional incline and there are various opportunities to pause, have a breather

and take a minute to reflect on the beautiful surrounding countryside. Although the route is particularly tranquil you're never too far away from the livelier nearby settlements of Esholt, Rodley, Calverley and Apperley Bridge, where there are various pubs and cafes – why not reward yourself after your hearty walk?



Walk information

Paths	Tarmac and unmade woodland fields and footpaths which may be muddy during winter or when wet.
Location	Apperley Bridge, North East of Bradford
Distance	4.5 miles
Access	<p>There is plenty of roadside parking on Apperley Road, nr Apperley Bridge. Alternatively, the walk is on both Leeds and Bradford bus routes.</p> <p>The A658 can be a busy road so please use the pedestrian crossing to reach the start point 1.</p>



The walk

Start from the lowest point on the A658 road at Apperley Bridge **1**. Looking up the hill so that the Stansfield Arms is roughly 20 yards on your left; turn into the wide gateway towards the Rawdon Meadows playing field, part of Woodhouse Grove School. Look out for a white iron gate, marked Leeds Country Way (LCW) and take the path straight ahead to the end of the first block of playing fields at point **2**. The path then loses its surface and turns right. Stay with it right down to the river bank and turn left **3**.

At the edge of the sports field, cross over the stile and walk along to the bridge under the railway. Follow the river round a bend to the right and after about 600 yards the river curves right again, but our route continues ahead on a stoned path with Cragg Wood on the left and an open field to the right **4**. At the next gate continue forward and cross the bottom of the grassy plot below a single house, then turn left briefly up to a T-junction of tracks level with the house **5**. Turn right along an unsurfaced lane with a large field on the left and a wall to the right separating you from the Rawdon Water Treatment Works. At the far end of the big field on the left **6**, turn right on a short path down to the river, ignoring the path that goes straight ahead. Bear left and follow an obvious path along the riverbank.

Continue forward for about a half a mile, crossing over a small wooden bridge to twin railway bridges over the river. Go under the first one via the tunnel, forward a little, and then under the second bridge – but in the open this time. Continue ahead and the path leads into a long field **7**. Walk the full length of this field with the mill on your left and the riverbank about ten yards on your right. At the far end, walk between the legs of a large pylon and then up a slight rise to the stile **8**.

Turn right and cross over the river bridge. Continue ahead at the far side and up a flight of steps which turn right near the top. This leads onto a paved road **9**. Turn right along it to a few houses and the canal side by Owl Swing Bridge. Turn right on the towpath for the next two miles.

As you approach Apperley Bridge there are berths for several canal boats on the left and the river can be seen on the right at a lower level. Resist the temptation near there to fork right into a farmyard – continue on the towpath. Pass under one bridge marked 214B as there is no exit there, and continue to a point just a few yards before the bridge marked 214A **10**. Turn right here up the steps to reach the A658 once more. Turn right again to return to the starting point **1**.

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 Dearne
River Don
River Ryburn

yorkshirewater.com/riverlife