



The River Round

This splendid 17 1/2 mile walk, the latest in the series, builds upon the hugely popular, award-winning Ure Walks Through Time. It takes in sections of seven of those walks.

Your route follows, as closely as possible, the River Ure as it flows towards York, across the flood plains as far as Aldwark bridge. It then crosses the river via a footbridge to Aldwark to return on the north side. It lets you encounter, amongst other things, a further two rivers (and a canal), the sites of two ancient battles, a rare toll bridge and a quirky church.

Enjoy passing through several of North Yorkshire's prettiest villages and walking in the footsteps of the Romans and the Brontes. You'll have the chance to observe all kinds of wildlife along the river and through the countryside.

Walk Information

The full walk is 17 1/2 miles (28km).

The route can be easily broken into sections: Boroughbridge to Great Ouseburn 8 miles (13km) and Great Ouseburn to Boroughbridge 9 1/2 miles (15km). The walk is not waymarked although you may come across waymarkers for other routes, so be sure to follow the directions in this leaflet carefully. Although this is a level walk, it is not recommended if you have walking difficulties.

OS Explorer map 299 covers the area.

Buses connect with the route at Boroughbridge, Great Ouseburn, Aldwark and Myton-on-Swale. A bus route will take you from Great Ouseburn back to Boroughbridge/Langthorpe. (www.northyorkstravel.info)



URE WALKS THROUGH TIME

Boroughbridge and the lower Ure Valley are steeped in history and support fascinating wildlife. Ure Walks Through Time enable the people who live here and the visitors who come here to explore and enjoy the riches that surround us. This is one of a series of walks leaflets available from local outlets.

Ure Walks Through Time is an initiative led by Yore Vision, the regeneration partnership for Boroughbridge and the Lower Ure Valley, working to improve the area for people who live, work and visit here.

For further information about Ure Walks Through Time or Yore Vision, visit the Tourist Information Point, 1 Hall Square, Boroughbridge or call 01423 323373.

www.boroughbridgewalks.org.uk | www.yorevision.org.uk

FOLLOW THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under close control.
- Consider other people.



Start of The River Round walk
All of these villages feature in the Ure Walks Through Time series.



Boroughbridge & Lower Ure Valley Walkers are Welcome

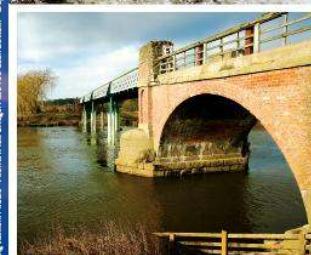
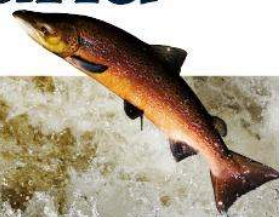
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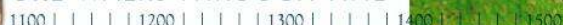


The River Round



Kingfisher with bullhead prey.

URE WALKS THROUGH TIME



Along the Way

We've highlighted here, in a little more detail, fascinating facts about the history and wildlife you might encounter along the route...



Aldwark Church. Left: Brown hare. Right: Swifts.



The Battle of Boroughbridge

In the 14th century, the bridge was a wooden construction. And in 1322, the bridge and the ford were key strategic locations in the Battle of Boroughbridge.

On March 16, Sir Andrew Harcla, Governor of Carlisle and supporter of King Edward II, fought the rebellious Thomas, Earl of Lancaster here. Harcla's pikemen stood at the northern end of the bridge while more pikemen and archers waited on the far bank at the ford. The Earl of Hereford led a charge on foot to the bridge while the Earl of Lancaster led a mounted assault to take the ford, but Harcla's men stood firm, rebuffing both assaults. The next day, Harcla marched into Boroughbridge and arrested Lancaster, who had sought sanctuary in the now-demolished church in St James Square, where the fountain stands.

See *The Town Tour* and *The Langthorpe Loop* - both Ure Walks Through Time.



The Remarkable Blind Jack

Born John Metcalf in 1717, he contracted smallpox at the age of six and became totally blind. He became an accomplished fiddle

player, huntsman, stagecoach driver and entrepreneur and, in his mid-thirties, a builder of roads and bridges in Harrogate, Leeds, Skipton, Halifax, Doncaster, Huddersfield and beyond. He died in 1810 aged 93.

The Romans

Mention of Roman fords and jetties on your walk may inspire you to want to know more about the Romans in this area? The former Roman settlement of Aldborough is certainly the place, where there is a fascinating museum containing artefacts and a mosaic pavement - check with tourist information for opening times. *The Roman Ramble*, a Ure Walk Through Time, tells you more.

The Brontes

From 1840 to 1845, Anne Bronte was employed as a governess to the Robinson family at Thorpe Green Hall (since demolished and now the site of Queen Ethelburga's School). Her brother Branwell was also employed there for some of that time. The people and surroundings inspired literary work by both of them. Follow in their footsteps today. In 1840 around 30 retail establishments traded in Great Ouseburn supplying the day-to-day needs of Anne and Branwell. Experience more about the Brontes on *The Bronte Trail* - Ure Walk Through Time.



Did You Know?

Just beyond Hall Arm, where you drop down to the bank alongside the water, in 1834 William Hogg and co.'s vessels - Sarah Elizabeth, James, Fanny, Mary, William, Nancy, and Ellen, sailed to London weekly from this spot.

Red Blood, White Battle

The Battle of Myton took place on 20 September 1319 between Scottish and English armies. The Scots were victorious. Amongst the dead and injured were hundreds of monks; their once white robes torn and blood-stained, which gave this day of slaughter another name: The White Battle. See *The Myton Loops* - Ure Walk Through Time.



The Route

The walk begins in the picnic area car park in Langthorpe (the village next to Boroughbridge). Walk onto the bridge over the River Ure - the scene of the Battle of Boroughbridge in 1322, between the supporters of Edward II and rebellious barons - and continue to the town. Turn left at The Crown Inn along Fishergate to a bridge over the River Ure, built by the remarkable Blind Jack. Follow the road to the right up the High Street into St James' Square with its fountain built in 1875.

Take the York road out of the Square and turn left towards Aldborough. Use the footpath on the left 1 which leads to the flood banks (levees) of the River Ure. Turn right along the bank

Milby Lock

You'll look across to Milby Lock 2, one of six authorised by Parliament in 1776 to make the river navigable as far as Ripon. There was once a ford here - another strategic point in the Battle of Boroughbridge - which formed a northern route away from the Roman town of Isurium Brigantium (now called Aldborough).

On the right are the Aldboroughings (an old Yorkshire word for water meadows) which form part of the flood plain. Along the river there is a dramatic bend called Hall Arm, once the site of a Roman jetty, and occasionally, the staithe (timber supports) can still be seen.

The River Swale

Where Hall Arm Lane meets the river, continue straight on, dropping down to the bank alongside the water. Walk along the bank for just over a mile and look across to see the River Swale joining the Ure.

Continue on to an arable field and along the river bank. The wooden cross you'll eventually come across 3 marks where former village resident Eddie Cook passed away enjoying the view across to the White Horse of Kiburn some 12 miles away.

Follow the flood bank as it turns inland, alongside Beck Closes Drain 4. Cross the footbridge and turn right, then walk straight ahead along a slightly raised track to an ancient hedge line where, turning right, you pass through a gate to join Scarer's Lane 5.

After about 200 metres a finger post shows where our path turns left then goes straight ahead across an arable field. Follow the trodden path to the hedge on the far side and turn right, following the hedge and heading into a small copse 6.

The path turns right, alongside a large ditch and crosses a footbridge after which it bears right across the field, crossing a culvert and heading through another small copse and over the stile ahead.

Upper Dunsforth

Continue on the path diagonally across the fields to the village of Upper Dunsforth. In the village, turn left along the road and, at the T-junction, go straight ahead following the path across the fields to Great Ouseburn.

Follow Main Street, heading for St Mary's Church, then go left down a sideway 7 past the churchyard, which contains a railed obelisk in memory of Dr John Crosby, a good friend of Bramwell Bronte.

Follow Church Field Lane and turn right into Cross Lane. The third field on the right was once a RAF De Havilland Flamingo RZ764 of 24 Squadron crashed on 30th April 1942. This aeroplane was carrying two Air Ministry staff and four high-ranking Russians and the accident is thought to be the largest single loss of Russian lives on English soil.

The Free Landing

Continue along Cross Lane and turn left along Boat Lane, then bear left alongside Aldwark Toll Bridge onto the Free Landing. 8 An information panel describes how for centuries the area was a vital transport hub for road and river traffic, commercial boats moored to land their cargoes, their arrivals announced by the local church bells.

There has been a river crossing at this point for hundreds of years - the area was once called Rudford Wath, with meaning a fordable stream - and a ferry ran between the banks. However, the ferry was dangerous and unreliable in winter weather, and in 1772 an Act of Parliament was granted to John Thompson of nearby Kirby Hall to build a bridge. Thompson agreed on condition that the Aldwark Bridge remains one of only today Aldwark Bridge private one of only eight privately-owned toll-crossings in the country.

A Tragic Scene

The sturdy iron crossing seen today opened on 6th April 1877, over two years after the previous bridge, designed by Harewood House architect John Carr, collapsed into the water.

Serene as the scene is today, this was the site of a tragedy when, in 1810, young men stood on the bridge to watch ice floes speeding beneath on flood water. In their excitement, they raced from one side of the bridge to the other - and, tragically, the railing gave way and 12 fell into the water. Only one body was ever found.

From the Free Landing follow the river bank, alongside the golf course (beware golf in play) and cross the river by the footbridge 9 into Aldwark village.

Aldwark

The church 10 is of a quirky design by the Victorian architect Edward Lamb and opposite is the entrance to Aldwark Manor, 11 built in the 1860s for the Frankland family.

With the village pub on your left, walk along routes 12. Either to continue on the footpath straight ahead (if the weather has been dry) or follow the bridleway round to the right called Haddock's Lane (if the weather has been wet).

Both paths come out onto Moor Lane where you turn left and walk into the village of Myton-on-Swale.

Farmland birds to look out for include skylark (pictured left) and yellowhammer, especially in spring and finch and sparrow flocks on autumn stubble.



A Saracen's head on the fontage of a cottage in Myton-on-Swale. A Saracen's head features on the Stapleton coat of arms.



Myton-On-Swale

Look out for the monogram 'HMS' throughout the village, indicating buildings erected by the Stapleton Family who lived at Myton Hall 13. Continue through the village, past the church and then the old pump house.

At the bottom of the village turn right 14 and cross the Swale via the bridge 15 an impressive 1868 construction (recently renovated) which was modelled on Westminster Bridge.

It carries information panels giving details of the bridge itself and the bloody Battle of Myton, fought here in 1319 between the English and the Scots.

Turn left and follow the edge of the field.

The Final Stretch

The path runs alongside the Swale down to its confluence with the Ure 16. It then turns right and winds back towards Boroughbridge, passing the landings at Hall Arm and the front of Ellenthorpe Hall, built in the Victorian era and replacing a medieval ruin sketched by Turner.

Continue along the bank to Milby Cut where you'll meet the Ripon Canal. Cross Milby Lock onto the island and head right.

The footpath emerges onto the road next to the Ure bridge close by where your adventure began - and your walk is complete.



You might just be lucky enough to spot an otter.

You'll see the spire of St Mary's Church, Lower Dunsforth.

Myton Bridge was modelled on London's Westminster Bridge.

