

Rural Ripley

This water-themed walk, which featured in the spring 2020 edition of *The Woking Magazine*, takes you around Papercourt Lake and along the banks of the River Wey.



Key facts

Start/Finish: Ripley Green car park, off Ripley High Street, A247, Ripley.

Time: 2 to 3 hours plus refreshment stops.

Distance: 8km (5 miles).

Type of walk: Suitable for walkers of all abilities.

The ground is flat, mainly following public footpaths and river towpaths, but can be muddy after rain. Bear in mind that some paths may also be rather overgrown following the wet winter we have had.

The route

1. From the hard standing adjacent to the play area, walk back towards Ripley, passing the playground and bearing right across the grassy area to Newark Lane.
2. Bear right past the entrance to Dunsborough Park and, after a short distance, cross the road with care and enter field via the site opposite Homewood Farm.
3. Proceed along the fence line and over the stile to reach Papercourt Lake.
4. Bearing left, follow the path for some distance, keeping the lake on your right. Just past the pylon in a clearing, take the left-hand path into the woods.
5. Upon exiting the woods, continue ahead past a felled tree. The path bears right, follow the lake's shoreline until reaching Polesdon Lane.
6. Turn right, cross the road and enter path via stile/gate just past 'Danesfield'. Follow the path (which may be somewhat overgrown), passing allotments on your right.
7. After a while, the path passes an old corrugated iron shed and goes over a tiny stream. Continue a short distance, ignore the path
8. Fork right, following this track until you reach a 'farm vehicle' bridge on the left. Cross this bridge and immediately turn right to pass a large pond on the right of this path.
9. Keep on this path and eventually it will pass close to Tannery Lane. Soon the route will join the lane but it is safer to stay on the path, following it round to the left, for as long as possible.
10. Leave the path and join the lane in the top corner of the field. Turn left and cross the road to take the path which passes to the right of Tannery House and crosses the Wey Navigation.
11. Turn right along the towpath to Papercourt Lock.
12. Cross the other bank and follow the path to the main road.
13. Turn left over the bridge, taking great care of passing traffic, and rejoin the towpath to your right to reach Newark Lock.
14. Again, cross to the other bank and carry on to Walsham Sluice Gates.
15. At the weir, turn right and continue along the path which soon becomes a tarmac lane, leading you back to the car park and the start of the walk.

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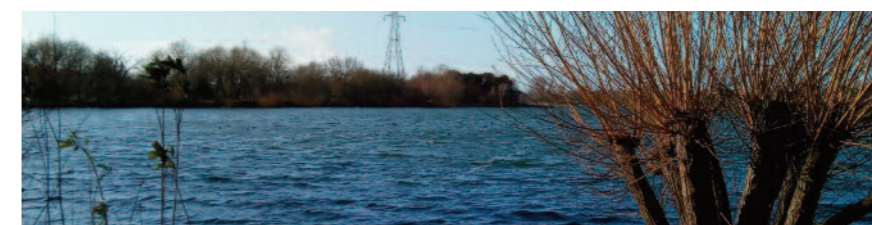
11. Turn right along the towpath to Papercourt Lock.

The Wey Navigation opened in 1653, and it was one of the first British rivers to be made navigable. In 1764, the Godalming Navigation opened, creating a 20-mile waterway running from the Thames at Weybridge to Godalming. It is now the southern-most part of the inland waterway network.

12. Cross the other bank and follow the path to the main road.

13. Turn left over the bridge, taking great care of passing traffic, and rejoin the towpath to your right to reach Newark Lock.

Originally, the Wey Navigations were used for transporting barge loads of heavy goods via the Thames to London.



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Timber, coal, corn, flour, wood and even gunpowder were regularly moved up and down the waterway.

In 1796, the Basingstoke Canal was dug and connected to the Wey, and, in 1816, the Wey and Arun Junction Canal was opened, connecting the Wey at Stonebridge.

Send us a photo

If you're enjoying this walk or you spot something interesting along the way, please share your photos with us by tagging @wokingcouncil on social media or by emailing images@woking.gov.uk when you get home.

From Newark Lock, Newark Priory can be seen over the fields to the left of the waterway. The priory is a scheduled monument and was founded in the late 12th century as a house of Austin Canons, dedicated to the Virgin Mary and Thomas a Beckett. Today, a great deal of its flint walling remains standing, and the window and door opening are easily identified, even from a distance (the site is on private land).

Please note some features and reference points may have altered since this walk was first published. To inform us of any changes, please email editor@woking.gov.uk or call 01483 755855.

