

- 1

Leave Retford Bus Station on pedestrian route to the main shopping street (Carolgate) and turn right. On reaching the Market Square turn right on Grove Street and follow this (crossing main road at traffic lights) join the canal towpath at the bridge by the Packet Inn.
- 2

Turn left on the towpath and follow it out of Retford, to reach Whitsunday Pie Lock. Continue beside the canal as far as the Gate Inn and leave the canal at bridge number 62 at Clarborough; cross over and almost immediately take footpath off to right. Join the street and then turn left up South View Drive and continue straight ahead along the footpath to the main road. Carry straight on up Howbeck Lane.
- 3

As the houses end take the obvious path off to the left. It follows a ridge above the villages and offers extensive views across the flat plain crossed by the River Idle. Cross the main road carefully and carry on along the clear track (shown as Lovers Walk on the Ordnance Survey maps), with the village of Hayton strung out below. Carry on past the obvious crossing track and then go left down the next obvious track. Turn left for a few yards at the bottom - The Bridge Inn is opposite, then turn right on the road over the bridge. Go right again to rejoin the towpath.
- 4

Follow the towpath on this attractive and very peaceful part of the canal. You will soon see milestone 35 – one of many replicas erected by the Chesterfield Canal Trust volunteers. A long line of moored boats will come into view, belonging to members of the Retford and Worksop Boat Club. Continue past the clubhouse – a former pub – as far as bridge 38.
- 5

Leave the canal and cross the bridge, taking the track into Clayworth village. The Parish Church is opposite. Bus stop for Retford is a few yards to the right down Town Street.



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

MAP KEY

 Route

 Bus Stops

 Refreshments



RETFORD MARKET SQUARE

A large space with a prominent war memorial. Market days are Thursday and Saturday. There is a fine French-style town hall and several cafes. On Grove Street is the splendid Bassetlaw Museum with its new Pilgrims Gallery, dedicated to the story of the Mayflower Pilgrims, and Rural Heritage Centre.

THE CHESTERFIELD CANAL

Designed by James Brindley and opened in 1777. It is 46 miles long and runs from Chesterfield through North Derbyshire and the fringe of South Yorkshire, with most of the route in Nottinghamshire, where it passes through Worksop and Retford before joining the River Trent at West Stockwith. The first 5 miles from Chesterfield have been restored and there are plans for the next unrestored 9 miles to Kiveton. The final 32 miles, including all the length in Nottinghamshire, are fully restored and in use by boats.

WHITSUNDAY PIE LOCK

Most of the locks on the canal are narrow, capable of taking a 7’ wide boat. This is the first of the locks between Retford and the River Trent where wide locks were built to take 2 boats side by side. This was to cater for the extra traffic expected on this part of the canal. There are several suggested reasons for the unusual name, with the most common being that a local farmer’s wife baked a large pie to celebrate the completion of the lock.

MILEPOST 35

The plain white replica milestone shows how far it is from Chesterfield; simply subtract that number from 46 (the length of the canal) to find the distance to the River Trent. Milestones were originally used to calculate distances travelled for the purpose of assessing tolls to be paid. Most of the milestones have been replaced, with a few originals remaining (usually located on the opposite bank).

RETFORD AND WORKSOP BOAT CLUB

Probably the largest number of moored boats anywhere on the canal is to be found here. The club members have a proud history in the battle to save the canal. The canal was difficult to use by the 1960s and campaigning cruises successfully demonstrated to the authorities that it should not be abandoned. There is a 9 mile section still waiting to be restored, with practical work & campaigning now continuing through the work of volunteers of the Chesterfield Canal Trust (for more information see www.chesterfield-canal-trust.org.uk)

THE TRAQUAIR MURALS

The ancient 12th century church of St Peter is home to the Traquair Murals and its interior is decorated with what is thought to be the largest single piece of art in the East of England. All four walls were painted by Phoebe Anna Traquair, a Scottish artist who lived from 1852 to 1936, and the results are stunning. The church is normally open to visitors.

About Bus Walks

Lincolnshire InterConnect bus walks

- 1

Faldingworth
Market Rasen
(linear)
7.25 miles
- 2

Nettleton
Market Rasen
(linear)
7.75 miles
- 3

Cabourne
Laceby
(linear)
7.5 miles
- 4

Hagworthingham
Fulletby
Horncastle
(linear) 8.5 miles
- 5

Candlesby
Gunby Hall
Bratoft
Burgh le Marsh
(linear) 4.5 miles
- 6

Burgh le Marsh
Skegness
(linear)
5 miles
- 7

Gainsborough
Knaith Park
Willingham
Stow Minster
(linear) 8 miles

Nottinghamshire bus walks

- 8

Walkeringham
Gringley on the Hill
(linear)
8.5 miles
- 9

Babworth
Retford
(linear)
6.5 miles
- 10

Retford
Clarborough
Hayton
Clayworth
(linear) 7 miles
- 11

Shireoaks
Worksop
(linear)
5.5 miles
- 12

Worksop
Retford
(linear) 10.5 miles

stagecoachbus.com/buswalks
for walk information

The Bus Walks provide a series of suggested walks across the Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire countryside. Bus stops are located at the start and finish of these walks, delivering you to some of the most beautiful spots Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire have to offer.

The walks appeal to all types of people, from families and occasional walkers to the lone traveller and experienced ramblers. You can explore the stunning scenery, discover wildlife havens or simply enjoy a picnic in a picturesque spot. Whatever your age, group size or motivation, the Bus Walks provide a great way to get outdoors and enjoy an active lifestyle.



in partnership with



Bus Walk Information

- Distance

7 miles, 11.25 km
- Time

Approx. 3 - 4 hours at a leisurely pace
- Maps

OS Landranger 112 & 120
- Terrain

Mainly level towpath and good tracks, one incline and very few stiles

Refreshments
Wide choice in Retford; pubs in villages but please check opening times

Toilets
Retford bus station

Other Information
Towpath section forms part of the Cuckoo Way long distance footpath

Bus Route
97 Retford - Gainsborough
(not Sundays or Bank Holidays).
Please check bus times and plan your journey carefully



The Stagecoach app

Now with an interactive map for bus tracking

7 miles
Linear Route

Bus Walks

Retford
Clayworth

Walk 10

