

2 - Ripley, Papercourt Lake, Wey Navigation & 3 Locks Circular Walk

This 7 km / 4½ mile circular walk begins on picturesque Ripley Green home to one of the oldest cricket grounds in the world (!), past Papercourt Lake, a popular dingy sailing venue, and along a beautiful stretch of the Wey Navigation. Ripley village hosts an award-winning farmers market each month and has a wonderful choice of establishments offering lunch, snacks or just a refreshing drink to help you recover from your exertions.

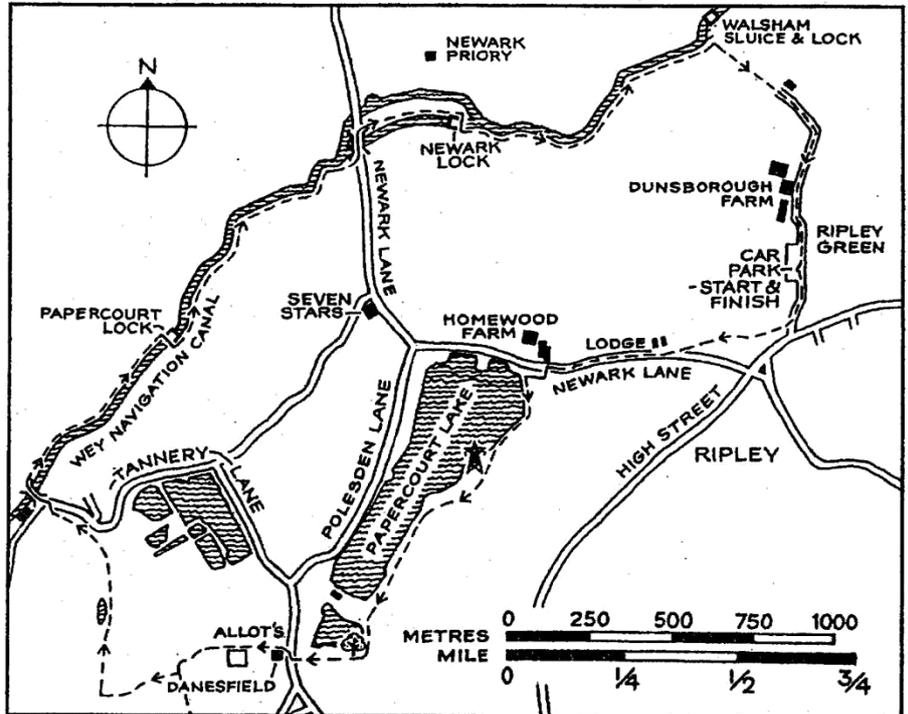
Starting Point: Ripley Green - on the hardstanding parking area, on the Left side of the road adjacent to the children's play area and opposite the cricket ground. (OS. Explorer Map 145 grid ref 052570).

Walk back towards Ripley, passing the playground and bear Right across grass area to Newark Lane. Turn Right past the entrance to Dunsborough Park and after 400 yards, cross the road (with care) and enter field via the stile just opposite Homewood Farm. Proceed along by the fence line and over stile to Paper Court Lake.

Follow the path for some distance keeping lake on Right. Just past the electricity pylon in a clearing, take the Left hand path into the woods. Go through the woods for a good distance and exit opposite a large willow tree. Follow path past the willow tree, eventually passing through an opening in the fence, leading to a stile onto Polesden Lane.

Turn Right, cross road and enter path via stile/gate just past 'Danesfield'. Follow path and admire neat allotments on the Right. After a while, the path passes an old corrugated iron shed and goes over a tiny stream. After a short distance, ignore the footpath to the Left and go straight on to the end of the field and fork Right, following this track until you come to a 'Farm Vehicle' bridge on the Left. Cross this bridge and immediately turn Right to pass a small pond on the Left of the path. 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 for as long as possible. Therefore leave the path and join the Lane at the 3rd opportunity turning Left and after about 25 yards cross the road to take the path which passes to the Right of 'Tannery House' and crosses the Wey Navigation Canal.



Turn Right along towpath to Paper Court Lock (opened in 1653). Cross to other bank and follow path to main road. [At this point you may decide to make a 600 yards return detour to The Seven Stars for refreshments!!!].

Otherwise, turn Left over the bridge being careful of traffic and Right along the towpath to Newark Lock. Cross to other bank and carry on to Walsham Sluice Gates. At the weir turn Right, but before doing so, pause and enjoy the view and look out for some interesting birds. Also, go over the sluice and have a look at the last 'turf-sided' lock on the River Wey. Retrace your steps across the sluice gates and continue along the path which soon becomes a tarmac road and leads back to the car.

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