

5 - Ripley, Wey Navigation, Pyrford, Ockham Mill

This 6 km / 4 mile circular walk begins in Ripley, follows a stretch of the Wey Navigation, passes the ruins of Newark Priory before heading up to St Nicholas Church in Pyrford. The walk then crosses the Wey before encountering the 150 year old Ockham Mill. Refreshments are available in Ripley's tea shops, restaurants and various pubs. Alternatively a short detour over the road bridge at Newark Mill along Newark Lane leads to the 'Seven Stars' PH or a detour along the towpath brings you to the 'Anchor' PH at Pyrford Lock.

Starting Point:

The walk starts from the car park on Ripley Common between the cricket ground and the children's' playground. (OS Explorer Map 145 grid ref: 052570)

From the car park face the cricket ground and go left along the roadway. After passing some buildings on the left, the road narrows and at a metal gate it bends to the left and crosses a stream. At the end of the roadway follow the path on the left (The Foxway) over a wooden bridge and on to Walsham Weir. Turn left and follow towpath to Newark Lock, cross over to the other bank and continue past the ruins of Newark Priory to the main road.

Take time to study the information board to learn the history of Newark Mill then turn right keeping to the pavement and taking great care crossing the road when the pavement transfers to the other side. Where the road bends sharply to the right follow the footpath up to St. Nicholas Church. Explore this small Norman church which dates back to 1150 and admire the medieval wall paintings that have recently been uncovered and restored.

Leave the church and, TAKING GREAT CARE, cross the road and enter the churchyard extension and follow the path to a double stile, cross a small field keeping the barbed wire fence on the right and pass through a kissing gate and a second gate and then follow the pathway that opens out to a wide grass track. Ignore the first crossing footpath and turn right at the next, which is indicated by a way-marked railway sleeper on end and a stile.

Follow the footpath into Elveden Close and then cross over the main road and go through the entrance pillars onto the main drive leading to Pyrford Manor and Pyrford Place. Keep on the left hand verge and ignore the footpath on the right of the drive. At the end of the drive fork left along a marked footpath, which will soon cross the Wey Navigation Canal. Turn right along the towpath and after 200yards turn left onto footpath that leads to an attractive wooden bridge over the River Wey (pause and enjoy the views and look out for Kingfishers on the right hand side).

Keep ahead passed Ockham Court and cross the bridge over the mill race, passing Ockham Mill on the right. Pass through the gates and go down Ockham Mill Lane for about 75 yards and turn right onto a

footpath, which will lead to a footbridge. Once over the bridge choose the track that keeps straight to reach Ripley Common and follow this track past one or two benches across the common to return to the car park between the cricket ground and the children's' playground.

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