

Key Info

Start: British Canoeing owned land, bordering North Bridge & Magdalene Road. Site entrance opposite No. 18 Magdalene Rd. Please see Discover More for more information. HG4 1HX

Spend 2-3 days dodging ghosts on this spooky trail from Ripon to York. Finishing at historic Marygate in York centre.

Finish: Marygate, York, YO1 6FZ

Time: 2-3 days

Distance: 28 miles


Locks/Portages: 2

OS Map: Explorer 290 York (Selby & Tadcaster) and 299 Ripon & Boroughbridge



Scan or visit <http://bit.ly/ripon-york> to find the map in Mapometer and download the GPX file.

- 1 Launch from the British Canoeing site and turn right underneath the A61 road bridge. Shortly the river takes a sharp right hand turn.
- 2 Continuing through countryside on the outskirts of Ripon, at almost 1 mile the River Skell joins from the right. Beware any escaped ghosts from Ripon workhouse which may accost you here. Harriet, the poor girl who threw herself down the stairs to escape workhouse life, may try to use your boat to get away!
- 3 At just under 4 miles Newby Hall appears on your left. In the 1960's the Rev. K.F. Lord took a picture of the altar in the church here. He spotted nothing unusual at the time but when the photo was developed a terrifying phantom monk appeared!
- 4 Just past here, at under 5 miles, take the right hand Westwick Cut to avoid the weir.
- 5 Relax for a mile or two before approaching the A1 before Boroughbridge. Beware as you pass beneath the road; the ghost of Tom Hoggett, a former highwayman, still lies in wait for the unwary along this stretch of road.
- 6 Just past Boroughbridge Marina (8 miles) take the left hand, Milby Cut, to avoid another weir.
- 7 Emerging back onto the main river your journey is now very quiet and bordered by open land, for a few miles. The River Swale enters from the left at 11.2 miles. You are passing Ellenthorpe and Myton lngs, flood plains or water meadows which were once also used as battlefields.
- 8 At 14.5 miles reach Aldwark village on your left, with Aldwark Manor Golf Club on the right. There is free landing and parking just past the village at Aldwark Bridge. But if you stop don't disturb the Conjuring Stone, which fastens the troubled spirit of the Witch of Hollows Hole here!
- 9 Linton on Ouse RAF base comes into view, on your left, at about 16.5 miles. The ashes of former pilot at the base were scattered across the runway here and a small plaque erected in the 1950s. When the memorial was moved thirty years later, a spectral pilot was seen several times around the control tower. The officer's mess is also haunted, this time by a pilot who died in 1978 when his Provost crashed.
- 10 It is around this point that the River Ure becomes the River Ouse. Continuing on, you will reach Linton Lock at 18 miles. Take the left hand Linton Cut and portage the lock to avoid another weir.
 [On the right hand bank adjacent to the weir and hydropower screws, Linton White Water course is currently under construction; due to be commissioned in 2019. Avoid the entrance to the course and please do not use the right hand bank to portage the lock].



Find more canoe trails at:
gopaddling.info



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-  **11** Back on the river you quickly arrive at Newton on Ouse on the right, before Beningbrough Hall, a National Trust property, comes into view. Watch out now for a forlorn figure standing by the bank. Murdered in a house that no longer stands, this lost shade has migrated to the nearby river.
-  **12** Nun Monkton is on your left at about 20.5 miles. For the next few miles you are on a quiet stretch, seeing only the odd walker on the path beside the river. Are all the walkers of this world?!
-  **13** On your right at 24.5 miles is Nether Poppleton, where the local pub was once invaded by aliens. Regulars at the Lord Nelson were shocked when the lights went out one evening. They ran outside to see two alien craft hovering in the sky above.
-  **14** Just beyond here pass under a railway bridge, followed by a road bridge.
-  **15** You are now entering the outskirts of York...the most haunted city in the world!
-  **16** Pass under another railway bridge at 28 miles as your surroundings become more built up. Just past this bridge is your finish point at Marygate, York. There is an easy get out up some stone steps. In the gardens here sits Tempest Anderson Hall; a witness in the hall reported seeing a phantom man dressed in Victorian clothing reaching up to take a book from a shelf. The ghostly form turned and the witness, seeing it had no facial features, fled.
-  **17** As you leave the river beware of the shade of a drowned person who haunts the waters here.
-  **18** There is only a short walk to your car on Marygate. Before you leave why not spend a little time exploring the city and its hundreds of ghostly residents?!



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The British Canoeing Ripon site is a 2.5 acre grass paddock located east of North Bridge in Ripon. It has a private gated entrance and access to the river. The Ripon land is managed and cared for by a subcommittee of the Yorkshire Regional Development Team. For bookings, enquiries and further info please visit: <http://bit.ly/ripon-bcsite>

Itineraries

If you are planning on completing this trip over 2 days then good places to stop overnight would be Aldwark, at 14.3 miles or Linton Lock Campsite at 18.5 miles.

Aldwark is closer to the halfway point but has limited accommodation options. There is a campsite at Linton Lock.

If you complete the trip over 3 days then Boroughbridge is a good place for your first night, with Linton Locks or Newton on Ouse as your second night.

There is an easy get out near the weir at Boroughbridge and a Camping and Caravanning Club site nearby.

At Newton on Ouse the Dawney Arms garden reaches down to the river and it may be possible to land here by prior arrangement: 01347 848345

Newby Hall: This Grade 1 listed building was designed by Christopher Wren in 1690. It contains an extensive collection of period artifacts and furniture, as well as having well established gardens and woodland walks.

Beningbrough Hall: The hall, an interesting property in itself, also houses over 100 paintings from the National Portrait Gallery.

Useful Websites

britishcanoeing.org.uk

lintonlockmarina.org.uk/camping

newbyhallandgardens.com

visityork.org

nationaltrust.org.uk/beningborough-hall-gallery-and-gardens

thedawneyatnewton.co.uk

campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk/campsites/uk/northyorkshire/

boroughbridge/boroughbridge

Meet more of York's ghosts: <http://www.york.pm.co.uk/haunted-york/>



Safety and Licences

We want you to enjoy a safe trip, so here are a few tips for staying safe and paddling responsibly.

Paddle Safe:

Be prepared and take the right kit:

- Wear a correctly sized buoyancy aid
- Mobile phone – in a waterproof case
- Whistle – to attract attention in case of emergency
- Map and / or route description
- Appropriate clothing for the weather conditions
- + spares in a dry bag
- Food, drink & suncream!

Paddle Responsibly:

Respect the natural environment and other users:

- Respect other waterway users #sharethespace
- Be environmentally aware, minimise your impact
- Ensure you have the correct licence if required
- Observe navigational rules – keep right and give other users space
- Check, Clean, Dry after every trip!

Licence: The waterways in this trail are managed by the Canal & Rivers Trust and require paddlers to hold a licence. British Canoeing membership includes a full annual license for this waterway - please take your membership card with you as this acts as your licence.

Non-members can either purchase a British Canoeing membership from www.britishcanoeing.org.uk or buy licences direct from www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

SPOOKY PADDLING TRAIL

