

The walks

The four waterway walks are a series of fascinating short walks, that cover between 1.1 and 3.9 miles each (one way).

You can walk them individually or in groups and retrace your steps back to the start. Or, you can walk them all, leaving transport in Fishlake to get back to Hatfield.

Most of the route is along ancient footpaths and bridleways, many of which follow the route of two waterways. The route is very flat.

Some of the footpaths are alongside busy roads and a couple cross railway lines - please take extra care here.

There are rest and refreshment stops marked on the map.

Don't forget to dress for the British weather, and wear sturdy footwear, as it can be muddy in the fields at any time of year.

natural history

This area, now known as the Humberhead Levels, was once occupied by a large glacial lake in which silt and gravel were deposited. It has been improved over the centuries by drainage. The Levels contain the largest complex of lowland raised bog in Britain covering an area of 3318 hectares (8201 acres). Nearby, a large area of the abandoned peat workings is managed as a National Reserve by Natural England.

The abandoned peat cuttings, where sufficiently wet, have reverted back to bog. This provides an ideal habitat for a range of plants including common cottongrass, sphagnum mosses, cranberry and bog-rosemary.

The varied habitat also supports a number of invertebrates, with over 3000 recorded species. Birds include common teal, common snipe, European nightjar, hen harrier, merlin and short-eared owl. Reptiles such as adder, grass snake and common lizard are present.



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Yorkshire South

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For more information about these or other heritage faith sites to visit in South Yorkshire, please ring HERITAGE INSPIRED on 0845 6529634 or visit www.heritageinspired.org.uk

For tourist information ring Doncaster Tourist Information Centre on 01302 734309 or visit www.visitdoncaster.co.uk or email tourist.information@doncaster.gov.uk

For information about visiting the Yorkshire South area visit www.yorkshiresouth.com

Travel information

- There is limited parking at each of the churches included. Please respect the need for local people to park and attend church services.
- For more information, Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 279 covers this area!
- If you would like to visit the places on the walk by public transport please ring Traveline on 01709 515151 or visit www.travelsouthyorkshire.com to check routes and times.

HATFIELD ST LAWRENCE

St Lawrence is a surprisingly large cruciform church. The Domesday Survey of 1086 mentions a church but the present building is mainly 12th and 15th century. The south and west doors are Norman and so is the lower part of the nave, with its pebble construction. Three Norman windows also survive.

Inside, the nave arches are 13th century, with pointed arches on rounded pillars. The clerestory, transepts, tower, chancel and north and south chapels are all Perpendicular.

The chancel screen is very fine, dating from the 15th century, and there are floral roof bosses. The font is over 700 years old, and the south chapel has a 15th century tomb and fragments of armour. The aisle contains a massive iron bound, dug-out chest.

There are gravestones with engraved crosses and two stone coffins. Also, there is a brass from 1386 and a tomb enriched with shields.



four waterway walks

Discover rural five churches in the lowlands of north Doncaster!

4 linear routes 1.1 - 3.9 miles each

by **HERITAGE INSPIRED**
South Yorkshire's Faith Tourism Initiative



KIRK SANDALL ST OSWALD

St Oswald's, in its spacious and peaceful churchyard, still has great charm and interest. The church is mainly Norman, but there is earlier Saxon work evident. The church has 13th century arcades, with plain rounded arches and octagonal piers and a west window from the early 14th century.

Inside the church is the very fine 1520 Rokeby chapel, named after the famous 15th century Rector William Rokeby who is buried in the church and to whom there is a monument.

St Oswald's is known for its beautifully carved early 16th century oak screens, complete with gates. They have been restored with great care.



BARNBY DUN ST PETER & ST PAUL

The present church dates from the 14th century, although it sits on the site of a much earlier building. Originally consisting of a nave and square chancel, the church was enlarged with aisles. The tower and porch were added in the 15th century.

The south door has recessed pillars and the original wooden beam locking device. Inside the church there is a beautiful carved perpendicular font, sedilia and piscina. There are some beautiful monuments and stained glass windows. Of particular interest is an original 'poor box' with a hollowed out centre and iron clasps.



St Mary's was started in 1120. Despite renovations it remains an original Norman church. The tower was constructed in the late 13th century. Its single bell was made in York in 1350 and is believed to be the oldest bell in the Diocese.

The main doorway is Norman with fine stonework. The original font is believed to be Saxon and a later Victorian replacement now stands outside the main door. The church has several fine stained glass windows.

The internationally famous craftsman Robert Thompson 'The Mouseman of Kilburn' made most of the furniture, including the pulpit, the lectern, hymn boards, the main door and all the pews. There are 27 of his trademark mouse carvings throughout the church.

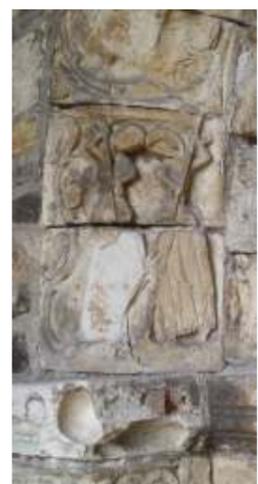


FISHLAKE ST CUTHBERT

The Norman doorway is the oldest part of the church, dating from 1170. It is richly adorned with sculptures featuring people and animals. The priest's door is also Norman and both formed part of the first church built by the fifth Earl of Surrey. Most of the present church dates from 1351.

The tower is in three stages with a canopied niche for a figure of St Cuthbert. Tradition has it that the remains of St Cuthbert rested in Fishlake during the period of the Viking invasions. The tower contains six bells of which two are ancient.

The rood screen dates from about 1500. The oldest woodwork in the church is the priest's stall and a choir stall, dated 1616.



Key

- walk route
- roads
- 🍷 refreshments
- waterways
- railways

The four waterway walks route ...



KIRK BRAMWITH - FISHLAKE

2.5 miles

This walk takes you on top of the flood banks along the River Dun Navigation.

12 Return to the road through the churchyard gate. Turn left and just before first bridge, cross the stile and join the footpath (public footpath).

13 Walk along the top of the embankment along the river.

14 Cross over the stile and road at Stainforth Bridge. Turn left and walk past the house on your right.

15 Cross a second stile on your right and climb back onto the top of the embankment. Follow the embankment to FISHLAKE.

16 When you come level with the church, walk down the embankment. Cross a stile to your left and walk into the churchyard to visit **FISHLAKE ST CUTHBERT**.

Fishlake



Kirk Bramwith

BARNBY DUN - KIRK SANDALL

0.75 miles

This walk takes you along the River Dun Navigation canal to the edge of Kirk Sandall.

7 To visit **KIRK SANDALL**: Turn left down Madam Lane and left down High Street. After houses turn right to canal footpath, and walk along the edge of the canal (be careful crossing the lock). Cross the car park to visit **KIRK SANDALL ST OSWALD**.

8 Walk back past the church and cross the car park. Follow the canal back into **BARNBY DUN**. Turn left onto High Street and right onto Madam Lane. Follow Church Road to visit **BARNBY DUN ST PETER & ST PAUL** on the left.

BARNBY DUN - KIRK BRAMWITH

1.3 miles

This walk takes you along the River Dun Navigation canal and the River Don to Fishlake.

9 Follow the road back into the village. Turn left down Madam Lane and left down High Street. At the swing bridge turn right onto the canal footpath (keeping the canal on your left).

10 Just after the fork is Bramwith Lock/Marina. Go as far as the old Lock Keepers Cottage and cross over the lock (taking great care crossing the water). Follow the track out of the marina, keeping the canal on your right (be careful as this track is used by traffic).

11 At the bridge, leave the canal footpath and turn left into Low Lane into **KIRK BRAMWITH**. Cross over the river and follow the road around a right hand bend. Go through the church gate on the right to visit **KIRK BRAMWITH ST MARY**.

Barnby Dun



Kirk Sandall



Hatfield



HATFIELD - BARNBY DUN

3.7 miles

This walk takes you through Hatfield and across flat farmland into Barnby Dun.

1 **HATFIELD ST LAWRENCE**. Start in the car park next to the church. Turn left down Manor Road (curves right then left).

2 Turn right down Coppice Lane (public footpath). Follow path straight, over Harpenden Road between the houses.

3 Follow the end of Harpenden Road to Broadway. Cross Broadway and into Quarry Park (public footpath).

4 At the footpath crossroads, turn right and walk down edge of field (with hedgerow on left). Bends round to left. Continue on the footpath across field.

5 Cross the railway line. **BE VERY CAREFUL HERE, MAKE SURE YOU LOOK CAREFULLY FOR ONCOMING TRAINS AND DO NOT DELAY WHILST CROSSING.** Continue on the footpath to Hatfield Lane and into **BARNBY DUN**.

6 Follow Hatfield Lane to Top Road. Turn right and walk along Church Lane. Follow Church Road to visit **BARNBY DUN ST PETER & ST PAUL** on the left.

