

Water and woodland walk Distance: 6.5 miles (10.5km) Ascent: 112m (367ft) Time: Allow 2h 45m to 4h 45m

Map: OS Explorer 1:25k (245) The National Forest

Start/Finish: OS Locate SK 305 156 what3words ///activates.speaks.microchip

A lovely walk through the National Forest with lakes, woods and industrial history. From the hostel car park join the bridleway on the right and turn left. At the road turn right, then after the houses turn left onto the footpath.. Bear right as you reach the lake and follow around the edge, then bear right to leave the lake. Turn right before reaching Mushroom Lane to follow the path through woodland. Emerge onto Reservoir Hill to cross the bridge, cross Spring Cottage Road and join the woodland path. Turn left after the first house to reach Rawdon Road, cross onto Gorse Lane and follow to Boothorpe. At Boothorpe Lane turn right, take the footpath on the bend, turn right at the footpath crossing and head through fields and woods to Rawdon Road. Turn left, go under the railway bridge, turn right into the car park and left onto the first footpath to the canal. Turn right, cross the canal and turn left towards Moira Furnace. Cross Furnace Plantation woods, join the bridleway via steps and turn right back to the hostel.

Hazards

Caution on busy road sections, with pavements. No pavement on Boothorpe Lane. Take care near deep water. Watch out for geese near the lake and cyclists and horses on the bridleway. Parts of the route may be muddy after rain.

Accessibility

There are stiles and steps on the route and paths and gates less than one metre wide. There are stretches of rough ground with ruts or stones up to 10cm.

Points of interest

A varied route with lots of wildlife, especially birdlife around the lake. Moira Furnace has a museum, boat trips, events and fishing. Family and adventure activities are available at Conkers.

Facilities

Toilets, food and drinks available at YHA, National Forest Centre and Conkers Waterside Centre. Food shop in Moira. Snacks and drinks at Moira Furnace.

This route has been created by YHA to provide inspiration and to aid planning and preparation of your walk. It doesn't replace the need for an OS Map or the OS Maps App to navigate your walk safely. Digital maps are a guide and do not always reflect the conditions on the ground, ensure you are aware of your immediate surroundings.





Scan or click to view this route on the OS Maps App — also a route profile and GPX



Thank you for choosing to walk from our hostel. We hope you have a great time.

Walking in the national landscapes of England and Wales is part of YHA's heritage. With hostels on National Trails, in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, YHA plays a unique role in the nation's walking community.

To make it easy for everyone to enjoy walking from YHA hostels, we have curated three walks – an easy, moderate, and more challenging option. They have all been graded – the higher the grade, the more challenging the route.

Before you go:

- Check the local weather forecast (bbc.co.uk/weather).
- Check the tide times for coastal routes (tidetimes.org.uk).
- Get the right clothing, footwear and kit for the route and weather.
- Ensure you have enough time to complete the route before dark.
- Download the OS Locate and what3words apps to your phone.
- Contact 999 by SMS text (must pre register by texting 'register' to 999) (relayuk.bt.com/emergencysms).
- Plan your walk by completing the YHA route notification card it helps Emergency Services if you get into difficulties or fail to return from your walk when anticipated (yha.org.uk/route-card).
- Ensure your entire group have the fitness and skills to complete the route.
- For further information on how to stay safe visit adventuresmart.uk

For more walks or information on route grading and timings go to yha.org.uk/walks

If you encounter problems with this route contact walking@yha.org.uk



Scan or click to shop for OS maps online osmaps.com/yha



What to wear

- Base layer and mid layer.
- Walking trousers.
- Warm jacket(s).
- Take extra layer(s).
- Hat, gloves and neck gaiter.
- Sun hat, sun cream and sunglasses.
- Waterproof jacket and trousers.
- Cushioning walking socks.
- Walking shoes or boots.

Kit

- Map, compass and GPS device or OS Map app on your phone.
- Water, lunch and high energy snacks.
- Charged mobile phone and portable charger.
- First aid kit.
- Head torch, spare batteries.
- Watch.
- Whistle and survival bag.
- Rucksack, with waterproof cover or a dry bag or plastic bag inside.
- Medicines or toiletries you would usually use.

You might also want to take

- Spare socks, hat, gloves.
- Balaclava.
- Leg gaiters.
- Waterproof baseball cap (handy if you wear glasses).
- Walking poles.

- Bivi bag or group shelter.
- Spare food and hot drink.
- Duct tape (handy for fixing things).
- Penknife or multitool.
- Tissues and hand sanitiser.
- Plastic bags to take away your rubbish or dog poo.

In case of emergency

- Call 999 (or text 999 if pre-registered) and ask for the Police.
- Use OS Locate or what3words to provide a detailed description of your location.
- If you need to attract attention shout or give six blasts on a whistle at regular intervals. In low light flash your torch six times at regular intervals.
- If you can send someone for help, they need to know your location (grid reference), number of people in the group and the nature of the emergency.
- Help could be some time coming so whilst waiting make the casualty comfortable.
- Keep the casualty warm and dry using spare clothing. Use coats or rucksacks to insulate them from the ground.
- Remember the rest of the group could be getting cold whilst waiting. Use an emergency shelter or find a sheltered location.