

081 YHA National Forest Moira and Donisthorpe

Canal and countryside walk

Distance: 3.2 miles (5.1km) **Ascent:** 50m (164ft)

Time: Allow 1h 51m to 2h 15m



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

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

A gentle walk through the National Forest and along the Ashby canal. The route provides a backdrop to the area's regeneration following centuries of coal mining and heavy industry. From the hostel car park join the bridleway on the right. Turn left, then take the track on the right and follow it to the canal. Pass in front of Conkers and join the canal towpath. Cross the road at Moira and pass Moira Furnace. Just before the canal ends at Donisthorpe bear right to join the path before the carpark. Turn right at the path junction near houses and follow the well defined path along the disused railway back to the hostel.

Hazards

Caution crossing the busy road at Moira. Take care next the water, there are no barriers – and watch out for cyclists.

Accessibility

There are no stiles or steps on the route and paths and gates are wider than one metre. Overall a flat route, with a few short and steep inclines. The whole route is accessible by motorised offroad wheelchairs, manual wheelchairs may require assistance in places.

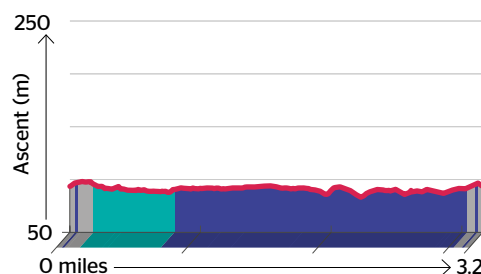
Navigation

Straightforward, well-marked and clear paths, mostly following the canal towpath and former railway line.

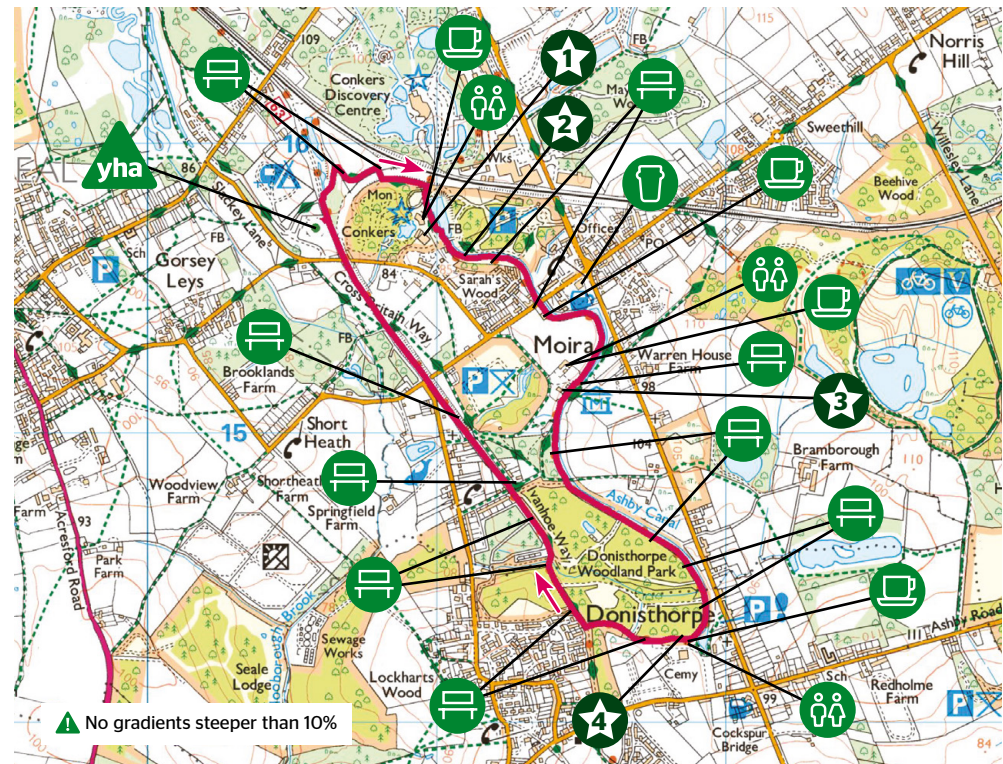
Terrain

Some tarmac, mostly good flat path. Some short sections of the canal towpath are loose underfoot (20/30mm stone) and may have puddles after rain. Small tree roots make tarmac sections bumpy in places.

- Paved
- Unpaved (uneven)
- Unpaved (flat)



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



Points of interest (see map)

1 Family activities and adventure are available at Conkers. **2** Ashby canal, with lots of wildlife. **3** Moira Furnace Museum, boat trips, events and fishing can be found at Moira Furnace. **4** Donisthorpe Woodland Park, on the former site of Donisthorpe Colliery.

Facilities (see map)

Toilets located at YHA National Forest and Conkers Waterside Centre where a variety of snacks and drinks are also available. Cafés also at Moira Furnace and Donisthorpe Woodland Centre. Co-op in Moira.

Seats on route (see map)

Accessible for some

Touch free route

Off road pushchair accessible

Stile free

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.

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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).
- For further information on how to stay safe visit adventuresmart.uk

In case of emergency call 999 (or text 999 if pre-registered) and use OS Locate or what3words to provide a detailed description of your location.

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

Share your walks



Countryside Code

Respect everyone

- Be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking.
- Be nice, say hello, share the space.
- Follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available.

Hazards

- Take extra care and stay alert where a right of way crosses a railway line.
- When walking on a road without a pavement keep to the right-hand side, so that you can see oncoming traffic. Keep close to the side of the road, and walk in single file if necessary. It may be safer to cross the road well before a sharp right-hand bend so that oncoming traffic has a better chance of seeing you. Cross back after the bend.
- Give wild animals, livestock and horses plenty of space.

Protect the environment

- Take your litter home – leave no trace of your visit.
- Do not light fires and only have BBQs where signs say you can.
- Always keep dogs under control and in sight.
- Dog poo – bag it and bin it – any public waste bin will do.
- Care for nature – do not cause damage or disturbance.

Enjoy the outdoors

- Check your route and local conditions.
- Plan your adventure – know what to expect and what you can do.
- Enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory.

What to wear

- Comfortable clothing suitable for the conditions.
- Use several layers, so you can add and remove clothing to regulate your temperature.
- Extra warm clothes in case it gets colder.
- Hat, gloves and scarf.
- Sun hat, sun cream and sunglasses.
- Waterproof jacket and trousers.
- Cushioning comfy socks.
- Comfortable well fitting trainers, walking shoes or boots.

Kit

- Map and compass.
- Water, lunch and snacks.
- Charged mobile phone and portable charger.
- First aid kit.
- Torch and spare batteries.
- 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

- Picnic blanket.
- Waterproof baseball cap, if you wear glasses.
- Walking poles.
- Tissues and hand sanitiser.