

Castleford Wellbeing Walk

Queen's Mill to Bulholme Lock

walk time 45-55 minutes
distance 2.4km / 1½ miles



WALKING TIPS






- Walking times are approx, measured on an average pace of two miles an hour.
- Follow the water and enjoy walking at your own pace... but allow time to simply sit and stare along the way.
- Walk one way, then turn around and walk back to discover a different view.






	towpath
	access point
	café
	pub
	toilets
	shopping
	bench/picnic area
	point of interest
	art centre
	nature reserve
	boatyard/moorings
	parking
	railway station

The Walk - Step by Step

Castleford is an important junction between the Rivers Aire and Calder, and owes its very existence to the River Aire. Roman legions used it as a crossing point and in 1704 the river was made partly navigable by the Aire & Calder Navigation Company. During the Industrial Revolution, potteries and flour mills were built, and a thriving trade route developed between Leeds and Wakefield. Still a busy commercial route today, you may spot barges transporting cargoes such as gravel but don't forget to look out for the wildlife living here too.



-  With over 900 years of history, the stunning Queen's Mill was acquired in 1921 by the Allinson family, who turned it into the world's largest stone-grinding flour mill, with 20 pairs of stones.
-  A sculptural map pinpoints some historic events and locations around Castleford, including the birthplace of the sculptor Henry Moore in 1898, Castleford Pottery, the Rivers Aire and Calder, the bridges and of course the mill.
-  Walk over the River Aire via Millennium Bridge as it flies in an 'S' shape to the other bank. The bridge gives a dramatic bird's-eye-view of the crashing water of Castleford Weir below. A 'fish pass' helps fish species to climb the weir to the river above, including migrating eels and Atlantic salmon, while otters use the steps.
-  Turn left to follow a path along the leafy embankment. Part of flood defences for the town, the embankment is now a great place to spot wildlife and birds so keep your eyes peeled for heron, kingfishers and even otters.
-  At the dramatic water crossroads setting of Castleford Junction, follow the towpath past boat moorings to the road bridge. A path leads to the pavement where you turn left to cross the canal, then turn left again down a slope back to the towpath.

-  Continue straight ahead to Castleford Junction Lock and former toll office - the route is shared with vehicles so be aware. There are expansive views at the junction where the Aire & Calder Navigation heads north to Leeds, the Wakefield Branch heads west to Wakefield, and east leads to Bulholme Lock and beyond to Knottingley and Goole.
-  Back at the road bridge, follow the towpath under and continue past a boatyard and moorings opposite. Be aware the wide towpath is again shared with vehicles.
-  A gate leads to the Fairburn Ings RSPB Reserve in a landscape shaped by mining and converted to wetlands, grasslands and woods alongside the River Aire. Look out for breeding and visiting birds.
-  Bulholme Lock sits in a wooded setting and leads to the River Aire below. Over two million tons of freight, such as gravel, oil and sand, is transported along the Aire & Calder Navigation each year.
-  Relax in your surroundings before retracing your steps back to the road bridge. Your choice is to follow the pavement along the main road back to the Mill, or retrace your steps along the river embankment.

CANAL: Aire & Calder

START: Queen's Mill
OS Grid ref: SE429259 Postcode: WF10 1JL

FINISH: Bulholme Lock
OS Grid ref: SE434267 Postcode: WF10 2LL

DISTANCE: 2.4km / 1½ miles

APPROX TIME: 45-55 minutes

PUB/CAFÉ: Queen's Mill Tearooms near Millennium Bridge, various in Castleford, Boat Inn in Allerton Bywater

PARKING: Nearest car parks - Castleford Aire St (postcode: WF10 1JL) & Castleford Wesley St (postcode: WF10 1AE)

TRAIN: Nearest train station – Castleford National Rail Enquiries
Tel: 03457 484950 www.nationalrail.co.uk

BUS: Traveline
Tel: 0871 2002233 www.traveline.info

