

- 1 Ensure you are on the north (Babworth Church) side of the road (from Retford direction, cross busy road with care). From the bus stop turn towards Worksop, walk on pavement for a few yards and turn right before the crossroads along entrance drive to the church (also signposted as a bridleway).
- 2 From the church take the path from right hand corner of the car park and round behind the church then over the fields of Babworth Park. Cross road and follow path in a straight line over field and then along edge of a wood until a broad track is reached.
- 3 Turn right and follow this straight track to a road, cross and continue on the track (Green Mile Lane); there is a tree nursery here and blossom in the spring.
- 4 At the canal bridge turn right on the towpath and follow it back to Retford. On the way there are several locks – the five Forest locks and then on to West Retford and Retford Town locks.
- 5 Leave the towpath just below Town Lock and go through the car park beside the Bay Tree cafe (a former canal warehouse) cross the road and walk down Carolgate, the main shopping street in the town.
- 6 Turn right along the pedestrian way next to the Wilko store and on to the bus station, or continue and explore the town.

MAP KEY

 Route

 Bus Stops

 Refreshments



BABWORTH CHURCH

All Saint’s Church is peaceful now but once played an important role in the turbulent story of the Pilgrim Fathers. The parson and some of the congregation formed a separatist movement in 1586, some joining the voyage of the Mayflower to America in 1620. There is an information board in the car park and commemorative plaque in the porch donated by members of The General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

THE CHESTERFIELD CANAL

The Chesterfield Canal was designed by James Brindley and opened in 1777. It is 46 miles long and runs from Chesterfield through North Derbyshire and the fringe of South Yorkshire, with most of the route in Nottinghamshire, where it passes through Worksop and Retford before joining the River Trent at West Stockwith. The first 5 miles from Chesterfield have been restored and there are plans for the next unrestored 9 miles to Kiveton. The final 32 miles, including all the length in Nottinghamshire, are fully restored and in use by boats.

FOREST LOCKS

A pleasant spot on the canal, with 5 locks here, some with complicated names such as Forest Middle Bottom Lock. There are permissive paths in the adjoining woodland. There are permanent moorings for several boats above and below the top lock.

RETFORD TOWN LOCK

Just before the walk leaves the canal is Retford Town Lock. Its the last of the many narrow locks between here and Chesterfield. From this point on to the Trent all the locks are twice as wide and capable of holding 2 boats at a time; this arrangement was because the canal promoters in the town anticipated more traffic than on the upper sections. The building above the lock was originally stables and warehouse and was converted into apartments just a few years ago, The Bay Tree Cafe building was also a warehouse. A boat club is based at the small basin opposite.

RETFORD TOWN CENTRE

The central area of the town, including the main shopping area and spacious market square is largely pedestrianised and there is a good variety of shops, cafes and pubs. Market days are Thursday and Saturday. On Grove Street is the splendid Bassetlaw Museum with its new Pilgrims Gallery, dedicated to the story of the Mayflower Pilgrims, and Rural Heritage Centre. Not far from the main street is Kings Park, a very attractive area divided by the River Idle, On one side there are formal gardens and on the other large grassy areas and splendid children’s playground.



Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
Leave gates and property as you find them
Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
Keep dogs under close control
Consider other people

About Bus Walks

Lincolnshire InterConnect bus walks

- 1

Faldingworth
Market Rasen
(linear)
7.25 miles
- 2

Nettleton
Market Rasen
(linear)
7.75 miles
- 3

Cabourne
Laceby
(linear)
7.5 miles
- 4

Hagworthingham
Fulletby
Horncastle
(linear) 8.5 miles
- 5

Candlesby
Gunby Hall
Bratoft
Burgh le Marsh
(linear) 4.5 miles
- 6

Burgh le Marsh
Skegness
(linear)
5 miles
- 7

Gainsborough
Knaith Park
Willingham
Stow Minster
(linear) 8 miles

Nottinghamshire bus walks

- 8

Wakeringham
Gringley on the Hill
(linear)
8.5 miles
- 9

Babworth
Retford
(linear)
6.5 miles
- 10

Retford
Clarborough
Hayton
Clayworth
(linear) 7 miles
- 11

Shireoaks
Worksop
(linear)
5.5 miles
- 12

Worksop
Retford
(linear) 10.5 miles

stagecoachbus.com/buswalks
for walk information

The Bus Walks provide a series of suggested walks across the Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire countryside. Bus stops are located at the start and finish of these walks, delivering you to some of the most beautiful spots Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire have to offer.

The walks appeal to all types of people, from families and occasional walkers to the lone traveller and experienced ramblers. You can explore the stunning scenery, discover wildlife havens or simply enjoy a picnic in a picturesque spot. Whatever your age, group size or motivation, the Bus Walks provide a great way to get outdoors and enjoy an active lifestyle.



in partnership with



Bus Walk Information

- Distance

6.5 miles, 10.5 km
- Time

Approx. 2.5 - 3 hours
- Maps

OS Landranger 120
- Terrain

Level towpath and good tracks, a couple of stiles near the church

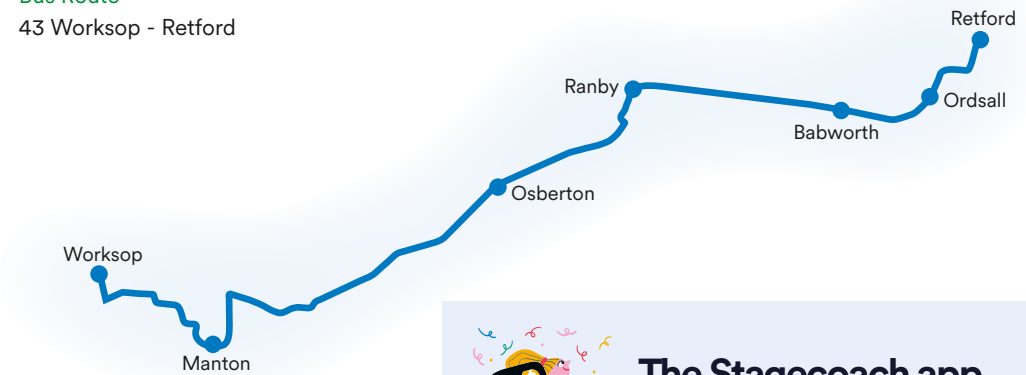
- Refreshments

Bay Tree cafe by canal, with a wide range of options in the town
- Toilets

Retford town centre only

- Bus Route

43 Worksop - Retford



The Stagecoach app

Now with an interactive map for bus tracking

Bus Walks

Babworth
Retford

6.5 miles
Linear Route
Walk 9

