

From water to wealth

A self guided walk around the city of Lancaster



Discover how a river and a canal aided Lancaster's fortunes
See impressive buildings and landmarks funded by water-borne trade
Find out how waterways helped to shape a caring community
Enjoy a vibrant landscape where wealth takes many forms

www.discoveringbritain.org

**the stories of our landscapes
discovered through walks**





Contents

Introduction	4
Route overview	5
Practical information	6
Detailed route maps	8
Directions	10
Further information	17
Credits	18

© The Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers, London, 2013

Discovering Britain is a project of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)

The digital and print maps used for Discovering Britain are licensed to the RGS-IBG from Ordnance Survey

Cover image: St George's Quay and the River Lune © John Roff

From water to wealth

Discover how a river and a canal aided Lancaster's fortunes

Lancaster is the historic heart of Lancashire and famous for links with English royalty. Lancaster's castle sits proudly on a hill where the Romans had once built a fort to defend against rebellious tribes.

Below lies the River Lune which winds its way eight miles further to the Irish Sea while through the centre of the city runs the Lancaster Canal. These two waterways have played a very significant role in Lancaster's history.



Cyclists on the Lancaster Canal towpath
© John Roff

This walk tells the story of how Lancaster's economy developed and the wealth that resulted. Imports of mahogany, sugar and flax made the fortunes of traders; loads of coal and limestone were the cargoes of canal barges; while the mills and factories produced furniture, stained glass windows and linoleum which were exported nationally and internationally.



Westfield village war memorial
© Gordon Clark

The affluence of the city is plain to see in grand civic buildings and private houses, in elaborate architecture and attention to detail.

But true wealth is not just monetary. Individual philanthropists and public subscriptions funded education and other institutions that lie behind today's caring and vibrant community. This is the story of how the people of Lancaster used its waterways to make a living and how they have invested the profits to create real community wealth.

Route overview

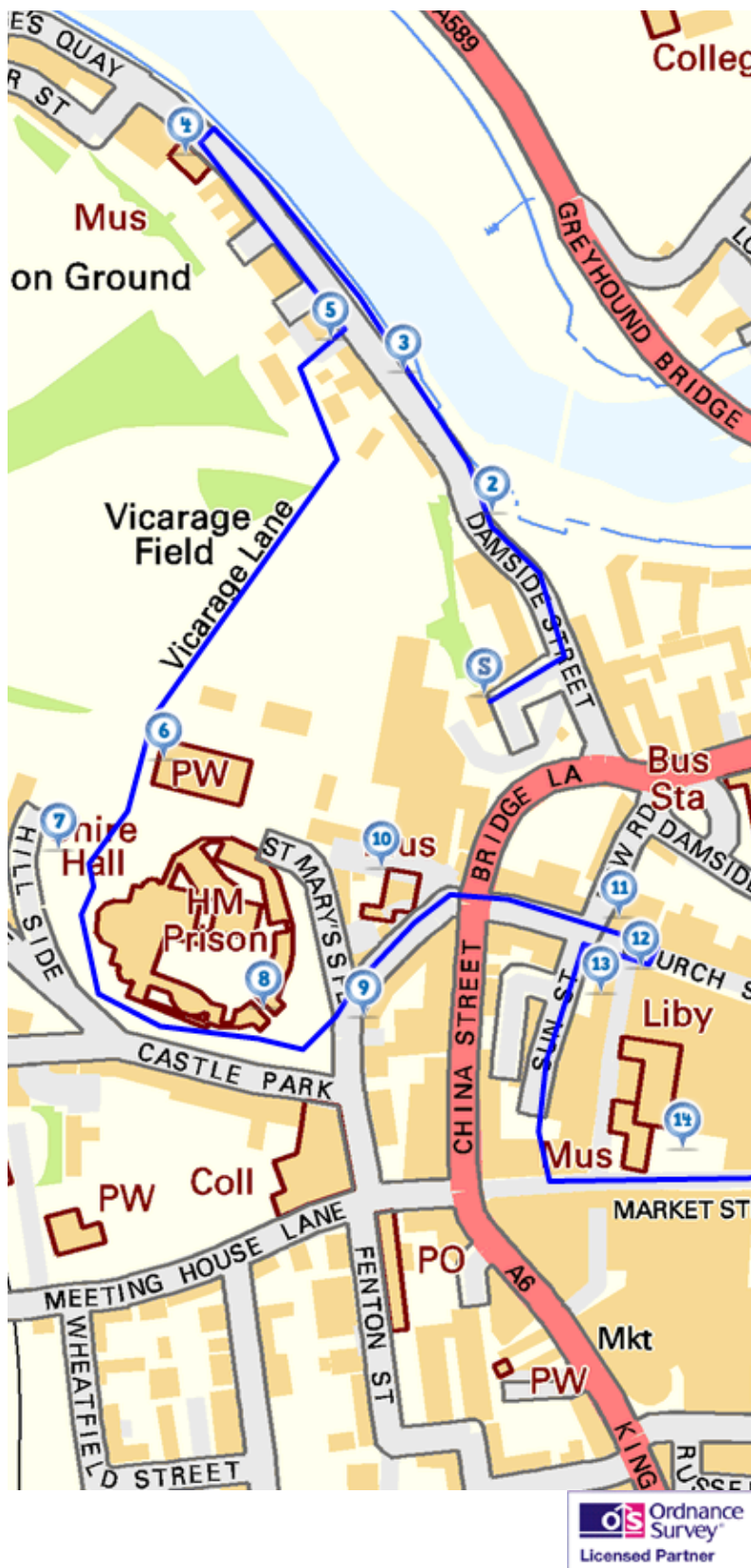


Practical information

Location	Lancaster, Lancashire, Northwest England
Getting there	<p>Train - Lancaster is on the West Coast Main Line and served by inter-city services running between the South and Scotland. Direct service times include; London 2½ hours, Manchester 1 hour, Birmingham 2 hours, Edinburgh and Glasgow 2 hours.</p> <p>Bus - Frequent services to Preston, Morecambe, Heysham, Carnforth, Kendal and Blackpool.</p> <p>Car - Access from the A6 (also M6 junctions 33 and 34). Parksafes car park entrance on Damside Street (LA1 1EQ) beside The Three Mariners. Several other town centre car parks. Street parking sometimes possible.</p> <p>Bicycle - Extensive cycle lane network; the canal towpath is on National Cycle route Number 6 (Watford to Windermere via the East Midlands).</p>
Start point	The Three Mariners pub, Bridge Lane, LA1 1EE
Finish point	Westfield War Memorial Village Gates, West Road, LA1 5PE
Distance	3 miles. There is a possible shorter route of 2 miles covering stops 1 to 20. Alternative directions are provided.
Directions from railway station to start	<p>From the station ticket office turn right and walk up to Meeting House Lane. At the station gates turn left and walk 200 metres past the Quakers' Friends Meeting House and the Visitor Information Centre. At the traffic lights at Waterstone's turn left and go along China Street for 150 metres.</p> <p>At the traffic lights follow the road as it curves down to the junction with Damside Street. Turn left into Damside Street. The Three Mariners pub is on the left.</p>

Level	Gentle – A mainly flat walk except for steps and a steep slope between stops 5 and 6. Alternative directions are given.
Terrain	The majority of the walk is on pavements and paved paths around the city centre. There is a section of asphalt canal towpath and through the nature reserve there is an all-weather stone path and boardwalk.
Suitable for	<p>Families – Please take care crossing roads and along the canal towpath.</p> <p>Pushchairs / wheelchairs - Alternative directions are given to avoid the steps between Stops 5 and 6.</p> <p>Dogs - Must be kept on a lead</p>
Refreshments	Plenty of places along the route including the museum cafés, The Music Room Café, city centre shops and canal-side pubs.
Toilets	Public toilets in Lancaster Bus Station, 15 Wood Street (close to the walk start and Stops 11 to 13) and in the museums.
Places to visit	<p>Lancaster Maritime Museum open 11am to 5pm (12.30pm to 4pm winter)</p> <p>Lancaster Priory and Parish Church, open 9.30am to 4pm</p> <p>Lancaster Castle, open 9.30am to 5pm</p> <p>The Judges’ Lodging, open daily until 4pm</p> <p>The City Museum, open Mon – Sat 10am to 5pm, closed Sundays</p> <p>Lancaster (RC) Cathedral, open 8.30am to 6pm</p>
Visitor information	Lancaster Visitor Information Centre , The Storey, Meeting House Lane, LA1 1TH. Tel: 01524 582394 E: lancastervic@lancaster.gov.uk

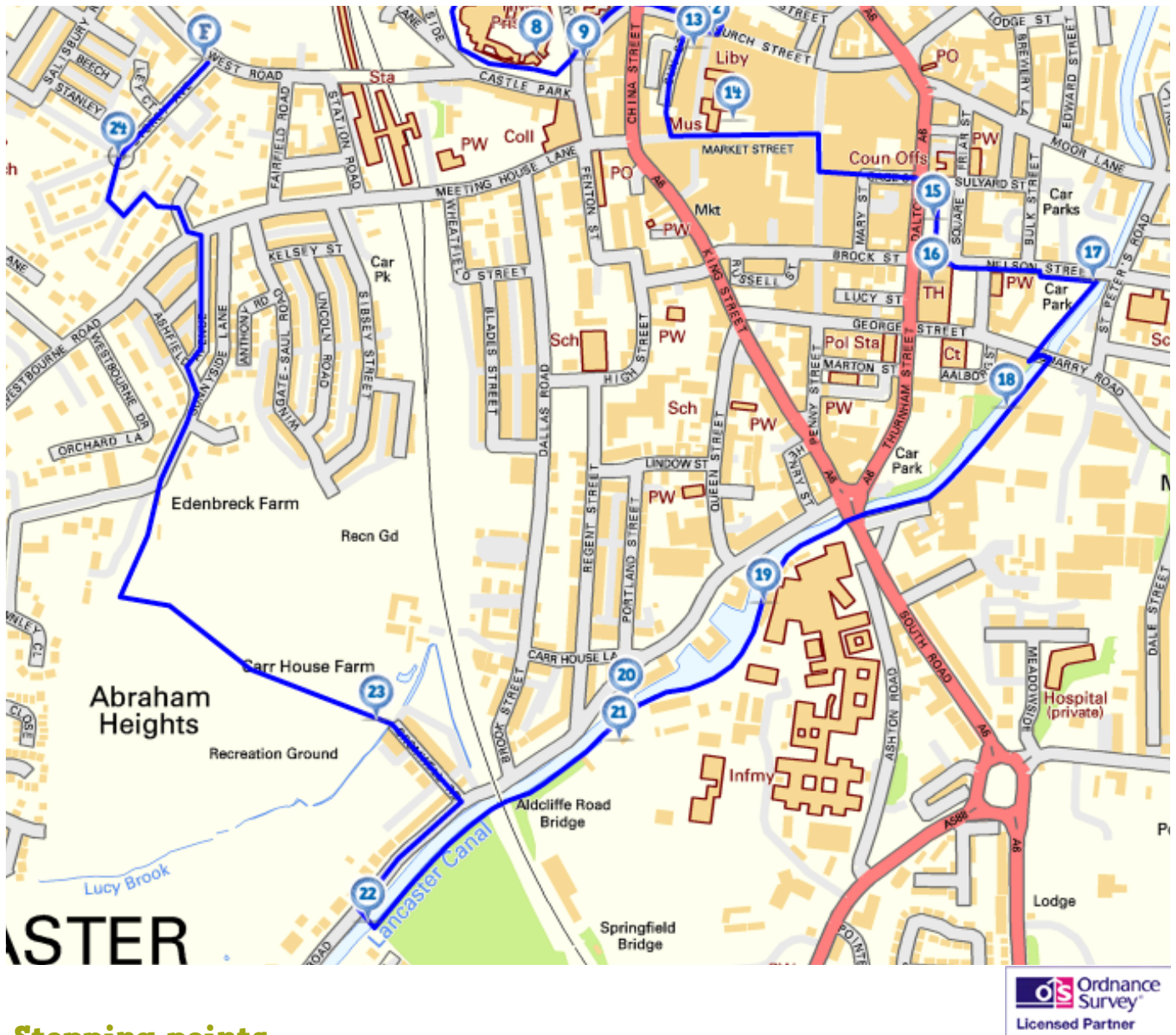
First part of the route



Stopping points

5. The Three Mariners pub
2. Captured Africans sculpture, Damside Street
3. St George's Quay
4. Lancaster Maritime Museum, St George's Quay
5. Signpost at Vicarage Lane
6. Lancaster Priory, Castle Hill
7. The Shire Hall, Lancaster Castle
8. John O'Gaunt Gate, Lancaster Castle
9. The Dispensary, Castle Hill
10. Covell Cross and the Judges' Lodgings, China Street
11. Former Lancaster Joint Stock Bank, 68 Church Street
12. Former Lancaster Co-op, junction of Church Street and New Road
13. The Music Room, Sun Street
14. Market Square

Second part of the route



Stopping points

- 15. Dalton Square
- 16. Lancaster Town Hall
- 17. Canal towpath by Lancaster Cathedral
- 18. White Cross Gateway
- 19. The Water Witch pub
- 20. Basin Bridge
- 21. Boat House
- 22. Bench near Aldcliffe Road footbridge
- 23. Fauna Nature Reserve
- 24. Westfield War Memorial Village
- F. Westfield War Memorial Village gates, West Road

Directions

These directions are for use with the audio commentary. Listen to each track then read the directions below to get to the next stop.

1. Welcome to Lancaster

The Three Mariners pub, Bridge Lane

Directions 1

With the pub behind you turn left into Damside Street. Carefully cross the road and stop at the memorial which is set into the pavement near the river bank. Listen to Track 2.

2. Slave traders

'Captured Africans' sculpture, Damside Street

Directions 2

Continue along Damside Street for about another 50 metres. Pass under the low bridge by the river. This is St George's Quay. Turn left and stop after about 100 metres by the black metal gates in the wall. Listen to Track 3.

3. Seamanship

St George's Quay

Directions 3

Continue along the quayside with the river on your right for about 200 metres until you reach the second set of steps that go over the flood defence wall. Stop in front of the Custom House and Maritime Museum which has four distinctive columns. Listen here to Track 4.

4. Custom furniture

Lancaster Maritime Museum, St George's Quay

Directions 4

Cross over the road in front of the Maritime Museum and turn left. Walk back along St George's Quay for about 200 metres past old converted warehouses. Stop at the direction sign that reads 'Public Footpath Castle and Priory 300 Yards'. Listen to Track 5.

5. Making money

Signpost at steps leading to Vicarage Lane

Directions 5

Take the path to the right and go up the steps. Follow the path over the cycle route (formerly a railway line). Go up some more steps signposted Roman Bath House, Castle and Priory, Tourist Information. Continue up the steep path (Vicarage Lane) and stop when you reach the main door to the Priory on your left. Listen to Track 6

For a step-free route:

You can access the Vicarage Fields cycle path from the Millennium Bridge in front of you. Turn right onto the bridge then turn right again onto the cycle path. Continue for 500 metres along Long Marsh Lane and then turn left up the (steep) Vicarage Lane.

6. A commanding site

Lancaster Priory, Castle Hill

Directions 6

Walk directly away from the church door down the path for about 50 metres. Stop by the churchyard gates. Listen to Track 7.

7. Punishment and parades

The Shire Hall, the Churchyard Gates

Directions 7

Walk round the curved end of Lancaster Castle, leaving the entrance to the Shire Hall on your left. Continue with the Castle on your left and stop when you reach the imposing John O'Gaunt Gate. Listen to Track 8.

8. A desirable location

John O'Gaunt Gate, Lancaster Castle

Directions 8

With the John O'Gaunt Gate behind you, walk downhill and diagonally to your left. Stop when the cobbled path joins the road by the former Dispensary. A plaque identifies the building. Listen to Track 9.

9. Provision for the poor

The Dispensary, Castle Hill

Directions 9

Cross the road and walk diagonally down the steep narrow Castle Hill about 100 metres to the Covell Cross. Stop beside the cross in the cobbled area in front of the Museum of Childhood. Listen here to Track 10.

10. Crossing point

Covell Cross and the Judges' Lodgings, China Street

Directions 10

Walk directly away from the Judges' Lodging and use the pedestrian-controlled crossing to go over China Street. Walk about 75 metres down Church Street to the junction with New Road and stop at the NatWest Bank. Listen to Track 11.

11. Boom and bust

Former Lancaster Joint Stock Bank, 68 Church Street

Directions 11

From outside the bank look across the other side of the road to the ornate building on the left. Listen to Track 12.

12. Retail competition

Former Lancaster & Skerton Equitable Industrial Co-operative Society building, junction of Church Street and New Road

Directions 12

Walk back up Church Street for about 25 metres and turn left into Sun Street. Stop after about 100 metres when the Music Room is on the right behind a small stone-flagged square. Stop here to listen to Track 13.

13. Building heritage

The Music Room, Sun Street

Directions 13

At the head of Sun Street walk through the narrow passageway on the left. Turn left down Market Street and after about 75 metres go into Market Square. Stop in front of the City Museum, the building with the clock tower. Listen to Track 14.

14. Essential goods

Market Square

Directions 14

Continue down Market Street for about 100 metres until you reach a crossroads. Turn right into Penny Street and after about 30 metres turn left into the narrow Ffrances Passage. Walk along Ffrances Passage and Gage Street until you get to the traffic lights. Cross Great John Street and enter Dalton Square. Stop beside the Queen Victoria Memorial in the centre of the square. Listen to Track 15.

15. Splendid confidence

Dalton Square

Directions 15

Walk to the end of the square in the direction Queen Victoria is looking. Go up the steps and stop to look across the road at the Town Hall. Listen to Track 16.

16. A Lord and his business

Lancaster Town Hall, Dalton Square

Directions 16

Cross the road at the traffic lights and turn left. Walk to the left of the Town Hall up Nelson Street past the Baptist Church. Enter the car park on the right. Keep the road and wall on your left and walk alongside the wall for about 100 metres until you reach the canal. Turn right onto the towpath of the Lancaster Canal, below the Cathedral. Listen to Track 17.

17. Growing significance

Canal towpath underneath Lancaster Cathedral

Directions 17

Continue along the towpath with the canal to your left. Go under the bridge then follow the towpath round and up to street level and cross over the canal. Walk down the cobbled ramp and continue along the towpath past the White Cross pub. Continue about 125 metres and stop at the green gateway on your left. Look into the White Cross complex. Listen to Track 18.

18. Not to be beaten

White Cross gateway, Lancaster Canal towpath

Directions 18

Continue along the towpath for about 200 metres under the busy Penny Street Bridge. Stop at the footbridge over the canal just before The Water Witch pub. Listen to Track 19.

19. Black and white

Footbridge by The Water Witch pub

Directions 19

Continue along the towpath past The Water Witch pub for about 250 metres until you reach the next bridge over the canal (Basin Bridge). Stop in the middle of the bridge to listen to Track 20.

20. Designed for speed

Basin Bridge

Note: There is an option to shorten the walk here. Carry straight on over the bridge to the road and turn right past B&Q. Turn left into Queen Street, and bear left when it reaches King Street. At Waterstone's bookshop turn left for the railway station (600 metres) or continue along China Street to Covell Cross for the top entrance of Parksafes car park (600 metres), and down the hill for the bus station (700 metres).

Directions 20

Proceed down the cobbled towpath to the right and under the bridge. Stop by the canal after about 20 metres opposite the crane. Listen to Track 21.

21. A wealth of work

Boat House, just beyond Basin Bridge

Directions 21

Continue along the towpath, noting the railway as you go under the bridge. Stop just before the next footbridge. Make the most of the seat and enjoy the view as you listen to Track 22.

22. Today's canal

Bench near Aldcliffe Road footbridge

Directions 22

At the footbridge turn right on to the road and walk back the way you came with the canal now on your right. Turn first left into Cromwell Road and at the end go through the wooden gate into the nature reserve. Stop by the information board at the entrance. Listen to Track 22.

23. Community action

Fauna Nature Reserve

Directions 23

Follow the track for just over 500 metres until you get to the large FAUNA stone sculpture. Just after that turn right at the green bins and walk straight ahead on the footpath until you come to the tarmac road (Sunnyside Lane). Follow that for 200 metres as it bears left and then right into Ashfield Avenue.

At the end of Ashfield Avenue, cross straight over the road, then turn left then immediately right into Westbourne Place. After just 20 metres take the footpath on the left by the telegraph pole. Go down to Westfield War Memorial Village. After the swing gate, turn left then right. Stop by the bench and look at the statue in the centre of the small roundabout. Listen here to Track 24.

24. Water by the cupful

War memorial, Westfield War Memorial Village

Directions 24

From the bench turn left along Storey Avenue and stop by the main gates into the Village by the busy West Road. Listen to Track 25.

25. A truly wealthy city

Westfield War Memorial Village gates, West Road

Directions 25

To return to the town centre – Leave the village by its main gates and turn right up West Road. Take the pedestrian bridge straight ahead across the railway lines and carry on up the road past the Castle (100 metres).

To return to the railway station – Leave the village by its main gates and turn right up West Road. Follow West Road as it turns right and the station entrance is 50 metres on the left.

To return to the Parksafe car park or bus station - Leave the village by its main gates and turn right up West Road.

Option a) Walk over the bridge and up to the Castle and straight ahead to the John O’Gaunt Gate. With the Gate behind you, walk downhill and diagonally to your left via Castle Hill and Bridge Lane. The entrance to the Parksafe car park is on your left 30 metres after the Covell Cross. For the bus station, follow China Street and Bridge Lane. They curve down to the entrance to the bus station which will be ahead of you at the next set of traffic lights.

Option b) For a more level route, follow the cycle path to the left just before the railway station pedestrian bridge. It leads back to the Three Mariners, the car park and the bus station.

Further information

Ashton Memorial

www.lancaster.gov.uk/parks-and-open-spaces/williamson-park/ashton-memorial

Canal and River Trust - Lancaster Canal

<http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/canals-and-rivers/lancaster-canal>

Canal and River Trust – Lune Aqueduct

<http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/directory/41/lune-aqueduct>

The Fairfield Association

www.fairfieldassociation.org

Friends of Williamson Park

www.lancaster.gov.uk/parks-and-open-spaces/williamson-park/friends-williamson-park/

The Judges' Lodgings

www.lancashire.gov.uk/acs/sites/museums/venues/judges

Lancaster Canal Trust

www.lctrust.co.uk

Lancaster Castle

www.lancastercastle.com

Lancaster Cathedral

www.cathedral.plus.com

Lancaster Priory

www.lancasterpriory.org/index.htm

The Music Room (The Landmark Trust)

www.landmarktrust.org.uk/search-and-book/properties/music-room-9561

Westfield Memorial Village

www.kingsownmuseum.plus.com/gallerywestfieldbook.htm

Credits

The RGS-IBG would like to thank the following people and organisations for their assistance in producing this Discovering Britain walk:

- **John Roff, Sheila Jones** and **Gordon Clark** aided by the patient guidance and encouragement of **Mike Jackson FRGS** for devising the walk and providing photographs
- **Jenny Lunn, Rory Walsh** and **Gary Gray** for editing the walk resources
- **Caroline Millar** for editing the audio files
- **Lancaster Maritime Museum** for the 1845 OS map image of Basin Bridge
- **The King's Own Royal Regiment Museum Lancaster** for image of the cover of the 1919 Westfield War Memorial Village brochure
- **The Landmark Trust** for kind permission to use the image of the interior of The Music Room which they let for self-catering holidays www.landmarktrust.org.uk
- **Chas Jacobs** for kind permission to include his painting Down By the Quay
- **Humphrey Bolton, Pierre Dalous, Paul Harrop** and **JJ Harrison** for additional photographs
- **Sue Willson** of Hexham for testing the walk when visiting Lancaster and for her discerning feedback

Try other waterways walks in the Discovering Britain series

The crystal canal

Discover glass and iron making along the Stourbridge Canal

<http://www.discoveringbritain.org/walks/region/west-midlands/stourbridge-canal.html>



City of streams and spires

Explore Oxford's fascinating network of waterways

<http://www.discoveringbritain.org/walks/region/south-east-england/oxford-waterways.html>



Cloth, coal and canals

Discover how the Cotswold Canals transformed the Stroud Valley

<http://www.discoveringbritain.org/walks/region/south-west-england/cotswold-canals.html>



Connecting cities

Explore four different routeways in the Avon Valley

<http://www.discoveringbritain.org/walks/region/south-west-england/avon-routeways.html>



Tales of a riverbank

Livelihood, leisure and literature along the Thames at Marlow

<http://www.discoveringbritain.org/walks/region/south-east-england/marlow.html>



Water in reserve

Discover why the Grand Junction Canal was built through the Chilterns

<http://www.discoveringbritain.org/walks/region/east-of-england/tring-reservoirs.html>





Britain's landscapes are wonderful.

There is a tremendous variety within our shores – whether in the countryside, in towns and cities or at the seaside. And every landscape has a story to tell about our past and present.

Discovering Britain is an exciting series of geographically-themed walks that aim to bring these stories alive and inspire everyone to explore and learn more about Britain. Each walk looks at a particular landscape, finding out about how forces of nature, people, events and the economy have created what you see today.

The self-guided walks are fun, informative and inspiring. Prepare to discover something new, to be surprised and to find the unexpected.

Visit www.discoveringbritain.org to

Send your review of this walk

Search for other walks

Suggest a new walk