

What you can see

The Mill Wheel at the start of the walk is on the site of a mill recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086.

Rising on the North York Moors, unusually for a Yorkshire river, the River Leven flows from East to West and shares the same valley as the Esk. The Leven flows through Great Ayton, Stokesley and Hutton Rudby before joining the Tees near Yarm.

The name Leven is Celtic in origin and is related to llyfn which is Welsh for smooth. Although normally placid in nature, the Leven can dramatically rise following heavy rain on the moors. Severe floods on the Leven have been well documented with Stokesley having been most recently inundated by flooding in 1929 and 1976. The latter flood finally prompted the construction of the flood diversion channel around the town in 1979.

If you take this walk early in the morning you may be lucky enough to see an otter in or by the river. These creatures have been helped by an improvement in water quality over the past 20 years, allowing fish (their prey) to return to the river.

Many bridges cross the river at Levenside, leading you to the busy High Street, including an attractive 17th century packhorse bridge.



At a glance

How far?	3½ miles (5.5 km)
How hard?	Easy
Which map?	OS Explorer Map No.OL26
Starting at?	Stokesley NZ52720867
Buses?	traveline 0871 2002233
Parking?	In Stokesley
Any facilities?	Lots of choice in Stokesley

Using grass tracks and some short sections on roadside pavements, this pleasant jaunt by the river is level, with kissing gates and 2 stiles to negotiate.

Contact us

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1. Starting by the waterwheel at Stokesley Bridge follow the public footpath known as Mill Riggs passing the Co-operative supermarket.
2. On reaching the A172 Stokesley Bypass, cross the road with care and continue on the footpath opposite across fields.
3. At the next kissing gate you will find yourself at the sluice gate which controls the flow of the River Leven through Stokesley. Turn right at

this point to follow the bank of the flood diversion channel.

4. Cross the A173 Great Ayton Road with care and continue south along the flood channel on a public bridleway.
5. At the B1267 Great Broughton Road, turn left and cross Broughton Bridge, then immediately turn right onto a public footpath which crosses Broughton Beck on a footbridge.

6. Continue to follow the riverside path alongside the flood diversion channel, which from this point is known as Ellerbeck.
7. Cross Ellerbeck Way and continue to follow Ellerbeck until you reach Station Road at Kirkby Bridge.
8. Turn left and follow Station Road for $\frac{1}{4}$ mile and then turn right onto the public footpath along the drive to Field House.
9. Turn right just before you reach the buildings and follow the public footpath across the field to rejoin Ellerbeck.
10. Cross Ellerbeck on a footbridge and head north on a field edge footpath.
11. Cross the A172 Stokesley Bypass for a second time and turn right at the sign (but do not enter the field at this point) for a short distance before turning left at the stile into a field.
12. Follow the footpath across the field and over a stile into an enclosed lane which brings you out onto Levenside.
13. To visit the centre of Stokesley turn left and cross one of the many bridges over the Leven which lead to the Market Place. Otherwise turn right and continue along the attractive riverside greens of Levenside before crossing the Leven on the last footbridge of the walk.
14. Turn right onto Manor Close for a short distance back to the waterwheel.

