

Ten BURSCOUGH BRIDGE – RUFFORD OLD HALL.

A pleasant waterside walk through open countryside. Includes a visit to a delightful half timbered hall and its gardens. There is a teashop serving excellent food. Return is via the canal side.

Catch the train to Manchester and at Victoria change to the Southport train. Alight at Burscough Bridge station.

Go up the steps to the road bridge and turn left. Just off the bridge cross the road and go down Warpers Field Lane on the right.

Follow this under a railway bridge to where the hedge on the left ends just as the lane curves right. Here take the path to the left through the fields.

The path curves slightly to the right and then back keeping a small stream to your left. Where a farm road comes from the left cross the stream and go right along the field edge to the bridge you can see ahead.

In the corner of the field ascend the embankment and cross the stone bridge. Turn left to follow the canal bank past another set of locks.

This is a branch of the Leeds to Liverpool canal that connects to the sea at the Ribble Estuary.

At the stone arched bridge come off the canal bank and go right along the road a short way to where it rises to a bridge. Don't cross the bridge but go left along the embankment.

Follow this for quite a way and the River Douglas joins it.

Note the size of the levees needed to contain these innocuous looking streams!

Keep on until you come to a road crossing the river. Go over the stile and turn left towards Rufford Village and church.

On your left a large new canal marina is being constructed.

You will come to a main road where you turn right.

Opposite is the elegant looking Hesketh Arms which serves food and up to nine real ales.

The entrance to Rufford Old Hall is then a few hundred yards on the right.

The National Trust maintains Rufford Old Hall. The hall is open in the afternoons except Thursdays and Fridays. There is an admission charge. Ring 01704 821254 for further details.

After visiting the hall turn right at the main gate along the main road to the end of the property.

Turn right through a gate to the canal bridge.

Cross the canal and go right to follow the canal side back to Burscough Bridge.

Continue past the lock and bridge at which you joined the canal on the outward walk.

At the next lock after the railway bridge over the canal go up to the road bridge and turn right.

This lane meets the main road with Burscough Bridge station to your right. Go over the bridge to the Manchester platform.

CLASSIFICATION: MEDIUM LENGTH, EASY,
OPEN VIEWS TO WINTER HILL,
ARCHITECTURE, GARDENS, CANAL,
GOOD FOOD, PUB
RAIL FARE – category two
COST: Category six all included - fares, hall/ gardens
entry, and dining.

Maps: OS 1:50 000 sheet 108