

DIRECTIONS
From the A64 follow the A1079 towards Pocklington. Canal Head is located just off the A1079, about ten miles east of York.

TOURIST INFORMATION
Information is available from the East Riding of Yorkshire Council website, Tourist Information Centres and the Canal & River Trust website. The PCAS Information Centre at Canal Head is open on Sunday afternoons and Bank Holidays between April and October.

WALKING
The towpath is suitable for walking throughout its length, although parts are unsuitable for wheelchairs. There is easy access at Canal Head, Coates Bridge, Bielby, Walbut Bridge, Hagg Bridge and East Cottingwith.

ANGLING
Rod licences and day tickets are required. Contact the Canal & River Trust for information.

BOAT TRIPS
PCAS runs its trip boat New Horizons from the Melbourne Arm of the canal. Short trips run on Sundays and Bank Holiday afternoons from April to October. No booking is required. Longer trips for up to twelve people can be booked at other times. Please see the PCAS website or signs at the canal for more details.

NAVIGATION
Information is available from the Canal & River Trust, the navigation authority for the Pocklington Canal. Navigation notes are available on the PCAS website.

The Pocklington Canal is managed by the Canal & River Trust in consultation with Natural England, the Environment Agency, the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, the East & North Yorkshire Waterways Partnership and the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society.

Further information about Pocklington Canal is available from:

Canal & River Trust: www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

Natural England: www.naturalengland.org.uk

Environment Agency: www.environment-agency.gov.uk

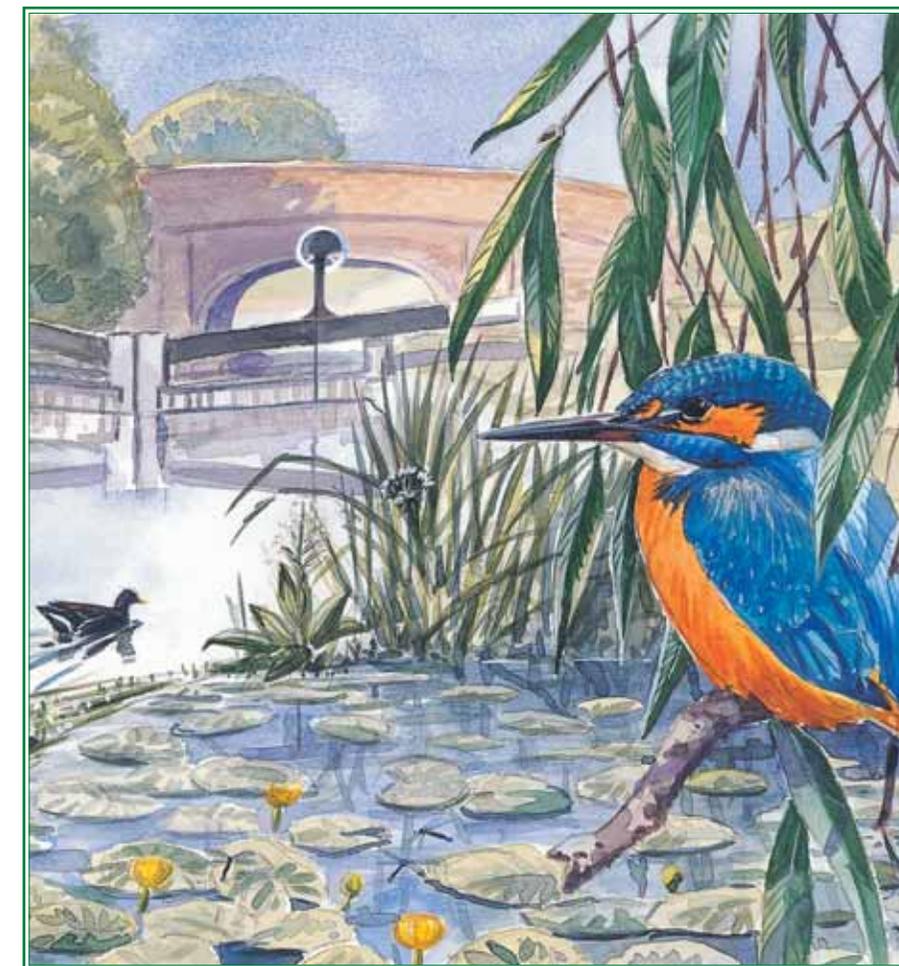
East Riding of Yorkshire Council: www.eastriding.gov.uk

Pocklington Canal Amenity Society: www.pocklingtoncanalsociety.org

East & North Yorkshire Waterways Partnership: www.waterwayspartnership.co.uk



POCKLINGTON CANAL



Produced by Adrian Bury Associates Designed by FDA Design Ltd
Printed on Evolution Satin, 75% recycled post-consumer waste paper,
Elemental Chlorine Free. 10M



Pocklington Canal: waterways heritage and wildlife conservation

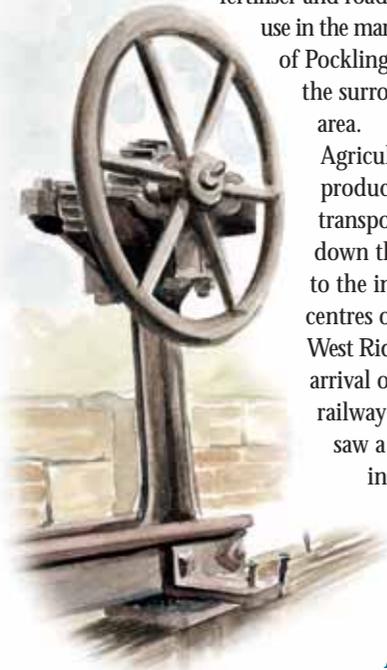
Pocklington Canal is a very special place with a wealth of heritage and wildlife interest.

For almost 200 years the canal has remained largely as it was built, with nine locks, four elegant road bridges and seven swing bridges. Over the years, the canal has been relatively undisturbed and today provides opportunities for quiet recreation.

The canal is nine-and-a-half miles long, flowing from the foothills of the Yorkshire Wolds near Pocklington, through unspoilt countryside to join the River Derwent at East Cottingwith. The canal was constructed between 1815 and 1818. It carried coal, lime,

fertiliser and roadstone for use in the market town of Pocklington and the surrounding area.

Agricultural produce was transported down the canal, to the industrial centres of the West Riding. The arrival of the railway in 1847 saw a decline in canal



Paddlegear

Narrow-leaved water plantain



traffic and the last cargo was carried in 1932. The canal fell into disuse and gradually became unnavigable.

In 1969 Pocklington Canal Amenity Society (PCAS) was formed with the objective of safeguarding and restoring the derelict canal. The towpath was soon cleared, but work to rebuild and maintain the locks continues to this day. The restoration of the canal has been supported by British Waterways (now the Canal & River Trust), the local authorities and countless individuals. Much of the practical work has been done by PCAS and other volunteers.



Church Bridge, near Thornton

Many of the locks and bridges along the route have been restored. Church Bridge, near Thornton is particularly interesting, with its pronounced humpback and elegant curved wing-walls. At one time it was threatened with demolition, but like the other three road bridges it has been Grade II Listed. All nine locks have also been afforded protection as Grade II listed structures. A feature of the locks is the distinctive paddlegear, operated by a large six-spoked wheel. The paddlegear is being reinstated as the lock gates are replaced.



Tufted duck

Sedge warbler

Flowering rush

Mute swan

Coot

Grey wagtail

Water forget-me-not

Moorhen

Yellow water-lily

Red-eyed damselfly

Ox-eye daisy

Betony

Water vole

Home to a host of interesting plants, insects, birds and mammals, Pocklington Canal is one of the most important waterways for wildlife in Britain.

Unusual aquatic plants such as fan-leaved water crowfoot and narrow-leaved water plantain live underwater. Easier to see are the yellow water-lilies and marginal plants such as water forget-me-not and flowering-rush, whose tall pink flower spikes are a striking feature of mid-summer. Along the towpath, grassland plants such as ox-eye daisy and betony can be found.



The canal supports an outstanding range of dragonflies and damselflies, including the notable red-eyed damselfly, which can often be seen resting on the leaves of the lilies. A wide variety of butterflies and other insects can also be seen along the towpath.



Curlew

Many birds are found here including tufted duck, kingfisher, grey wagtail, sedge warbler and reed bunting. Barn owls may be seen hunting over the canal at dusk. Of particular note is the bittern, a nationally rare bird that is a visitor to the canal most winters. Mute swan, coot and moorhen regularly nest along the margins and turtle dove and whitethroat use the fringing hedges. Lapwing and curlew nest nearby and the curlew's haunting call can often be heard. Water vole and otter are known to use these quiet waters.

The canal from Canal Head to Church Bridge is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Melbourne and Thornton Ings SSSI and Derwent Ings SSSI also include parts of the canal. These Ings are seasonally-flooded, traditionally managed hay meadows and are of international conservation importance. During spring and summer these meadows are a blaze of colour supporting many species of wildflower and providing a home for hundreds of nesting wildfowl and waders. In winter these same meadows support even larger numbers of wildfowl, birds coming from as far away as Siberia.

Pocklington Canal is part of the much larger wetland landscape of the Lower Derwent Valley, which is one of our most important wildlife conservation areas. Parts of the valley are managed as a National Nature Reserve with large areas receiving international protection.



Walkers can enjoy the towpath along its whole length