

Preston Old Tram Line easy Walk (2.6miles) Miller Park and the Old Tram Line

Starting from the Continental Pub, cross the road and enter Miller Park beneath the North Union Railway Bridge, also known as the Ribble Viaduct, this bridge carries the West Coast Main Line over the River Ribble towards Preston Railway Station. It was originally built 1837-8, for the North Union Railway Company. As the railways expanded, the width of the viaduct was doubled in 1879-80. This tree-lined avenue, the gardens to the left and the river Ribble to your right, leads us under another bridge and into Avenham Park. A toilet block for those who need it then follow the path around to the left and the 2nd exit on the left takes you up onto the old metal bridge over the river Ribble. From here you can admire the view of Preston and in particular the Ribble Viaduct on your right and the old Tram Bridge to your left. You can show your love by leaving a padlock on this bridge. Continuing along this straight path, see if you can spot the sculptures along the way. Down a slope and across a crossroads then up a slope to a 4-way junction. Take the 1st left onto the Lancaster Canal Tramroad, also known as the Walton Summit Tramway or the Old Tram Road, it was a British plateway, completed in 1803, to link the north and south ends of the Lancaster Canal across the Ribble valley pending completion of the canal. The canal link was never constructed. Walk along this straight and level tree-lined path back to the river Ribble, we arrive where the tramroad crossed the River Ribble on a timber trestle bridge. This structure outlived the tramroad by nearly one hundred years and still stands today albeit with heavy modifications, including the replacement of the wooden trestles with precast concrete ones in 1938 and the bridge deck with prestressed precast concrete in the mid-sixties. For the past 4 years this bridge has been closed, because it was found to be in danger of collapse. Follow the path around to the left, and walk with the river on your right back to the love bridge. Before the bridge, the path curves left and a gentle slope takes us back onto the love bridge where we do a U-turn, and retrace our steps back to the Continental, where a nice lunch and a well-kept pint of Guinness would finish off this walk very nicely indeed. The Continental is a well-loved pub/restaurant and hosts a wide variety of live gigs.

An alternative starting point would be the café in Avenham Park, which does light lunches.

