

Bradford on Avon Thursday 3rd August 2023

Culture

The centre of the town grew up around a ford across the river Avon, hence the origin of the town's name ("Broad-Ford") This was supplemented in Norman times by the stone bridge that still stands today. The Norman side is upstream, and has pointed arches; the newer downstream side has curved arches. The river provided power for the many wool mills that gave the town its wealth, and these prospered until the English woollen industry shifted its centre of power to Yorkshire in the late 19th century. The last local mill closed in 1905.

Bradford-on-Avon railway station is on what is now the Heart of Wessex Line. It is served by Great Western Railway and South Western Railway services to Bath Spa, Bristol Temple Meads, Cardiff Central, Weymouth, & Portsmouth Harbour. The line opened in the mid-19th century and was built by the original Great Western Railway.

Tour Details

When I did the reccie we were hampered by Industrial action, arrived late and left in a hurry after discovering that two trains in a row were subsequently cancelled!!

Leave the station and up the approach road keeping right, turn right by the Three Horseshoes into Frome Road. 10 minute walk and find the Lock Inn and Canal Tavern on the right. These are right next to each other. In the absence of a spoons in BoA the Lock Inn is suggested breakfast stop, plenty of choice and items cooked to order, however the only ale on offer was Proper Job but don't despair as next door, and I do mean next door, is the Canal Tavern which had a range of Wadworth's ale. Both are open from 09:00

Leave at 11:50, and back towards the station for the Three Horseshoes (opens at 11:00 if you don't want a walk or are a late riser) which has a selection of 3 local ales. A local boozier with plenty of atmosphere!

Leave at 12:50, turn left out of the Three Horseshoes and towards the town, after a few minutes take a left, signposted Swimming pool / Public convenience, and Timbrell's Yard will be in front of you, suggested food stop, however it's 'posh nosh' with tourist prices. A couple of local ales are available. This is where the physical reccie ended.

However using the good beer guide, a map provided by a friend and the internet can continue to a conclusion.

From this point have a choice, can venture into the town and try the Stumble Inn in Market Street which is a micro pub with a selection of 4 local ales or can get the 13:52 train to Avoncliff (3 minute journey) for the Cross Guns (alternative food stop).

Bradford on Avon has 3tph between Bath and Westbury, if we take the Avoncliff option then its 1tph back to Bath or Westbury, (on a good day).

****Detail correct at time of going to press. The publisher can take no responsibility for changes to train times, pub opening times or beer availability.**