

**NEW**

# Nottinghamshire Routes and Rides **2**

Trowell • Besthorpe • Farnsfield • Grantham Canal • Everton and Mattersey  
Gotham and West Leake • Tuxford • Hoveringham and Caythorpe



Exploring Nottinghamshire's  
countryside on foot, bike or horse

# Get inspired, get online

To help you explore beautiful Nottinghamshire, visit  
[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rightsofway](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rightsofway)



- A variety of **FREE** walks suitable for all ages and abilities
- Great routes on and off road for cyclists
- Stunning bridleways for scenic horserides across the county
- Detailed maps and descriptions of popular routes
- References to the county's historic gems
- Links to other organisations for further **FREE** walks
- Public transport information to help you get to the routes.

















Whether you fancy a gentle stroll or to be energetic and keep active, get online and see where Nottinghamshire's public paths will lead you today.



Nottinghamshire is a historic county with a diverse landscape. From the open, undulating Wolds in the south to Sherwood Forest in the north, there are over 2,000 miles of footpaths, cycle paths and bridleways for you to enjoy on foot, bike or horse.

Discover delightful villages and beautiful countryside, mighty rivers and hidden lakes, fabulous flowers and enchanting wildlife. This booklet contains routes suitable for all ages and abilities, so there's something to tempt everyone to get out and explore beautiful Nottinghamshire. More FREE routes can be found online at: [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rightsofway](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rightsofway)

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# About Rights of Way

## Nottinghamshire's Public Paths

### What are rights of way?

Rights of way are public paths. They criss-cross the UK, from town centres to remote countryside, providing great opportunities for everyone to get out and enjoy a walk, cycle or horse ride.



There are four types of path and you can use different paths for different activities. They are signposted from the roadside, with markers along the route. You should always keep to the marked route.

### The different types of path and how to spot them:

#### Activity



#### Look out for

**Footpaths** - marked with **yellow**



**Bridleways** - marked with **blue**



**Restricted byways** - marked with **burgundy**



**Byways** - marked with **red**



When you're out you might also see waymarks for a particular circular walk or long distance route e.g. Trent Valley Way.



## On a right of way you can:

- Take a pram, pushchair or wheelchair, although this can be difficult if the surface is uneven or muddy.
- Walk dogs on a lead or under close control (see over).
- Take a short route around an illegal obstruction (e.g. fences, rubble and crops) or move it to get past.



## Surfaces

Paths come in all shapes and sizes and may be uneven or muddy. Always wear the right footwear and clothing for the conditions.

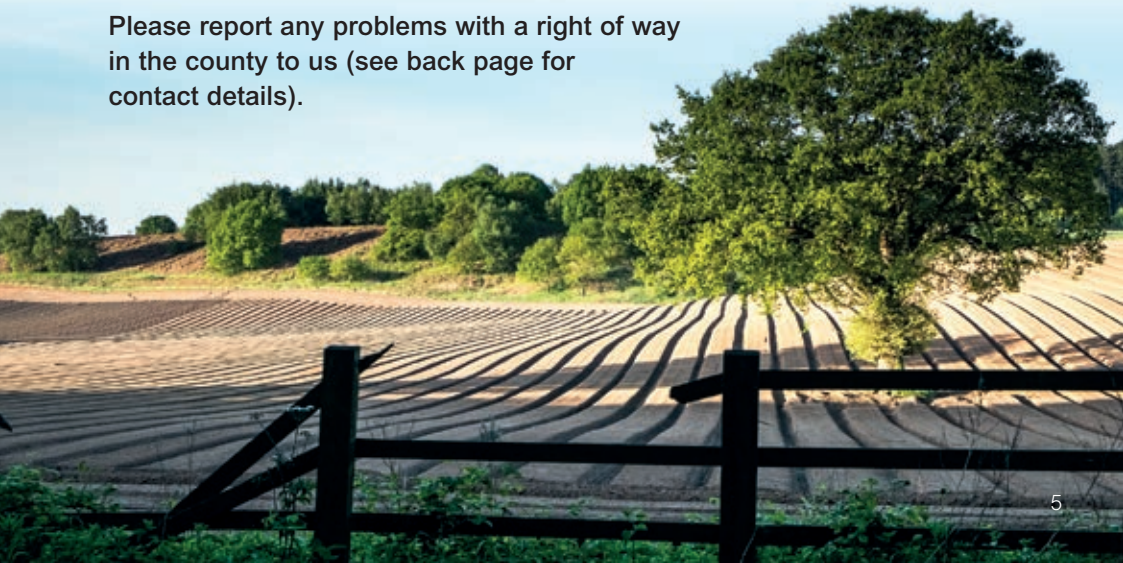
## Fences, gates and stiles

Fences, gates and stiles must be in good condition, easy to open and unlocked. If you come across a stile or gate on a path that is broken, locked or blocked, please let us know.

## Ploughing and cropping

Many paths go across or around fields that contain crops or have been ploughed. If you find a path that's ploughed over or covered in crops, please let us know.

**Please report any problems with a right of way in the county to us (see back page for contact details).**



# Open access

Open access land



Areas of open access are special places where you can wander away from the path, explore, have picnics or play games. This special land is for walkers only – but you can cycle or ride across it if you're following a bridleway. For more information on open access in Nottinghamshire, including where to find it, visit

[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/openaccessland](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/openaccessland)

## Walking the dog

You may take your dog on any right of way but they must be under close control or on a lead. This is particularly important on paths which cross fields containing livestock. It is an offence to allow a dog to be at large in a field or enclosure where there are sheep. A farmer has the right to shoot a dog that is attacking or chasing livestock.



- Always put your dog on its lead when crossing fields containing livestock.
- Please remember to clean up after your dog, or you may be liable for a fine.



## When out walking, always follow the country code

- Be safe – plan ahead.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Protect plants and animals, take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under close control.
- Consider other people.

## Public transport

Each of these walks can be reached by using public transport, an environmentally friendly way to start and finish your walk. If you are planning a walk using public transport always bear in mind the time of buses and trains.

For timetables and route information for buses and trains, ring Traveline on 0871 200 2233 or visit **[www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)**

*The countryside and rights of way network are constantly changing – woodland may be planted, grass fields ploughed up or footpaths diverted. Nottinghamshire County Council is also replacing stiles with gates for easier access wherever possible. Therefore you may find some changes to the paths as described. While every attempt is made to ensure that the routes are clearly described, easily followed and signed on the ground, Nottinghamshire County Council cannot accept responsibility for any omissions or errors arising from this publication.*

*We would like to thank everybody who contributed towards this booklet.*





Route 1

# Trowell's Trails



Take a wander through the nature trail along the Erewash Canal as well as the Transportation links of past and present.

**Distance:** 5 miles (6 km)

**Parking:** Erewash Valley Trail Car Park off Cossall Road

## Refreshments

**and toilets:** Pubs in Trowell Village





**1** From the car park off Cossal Road follow the wide track left along the old canal which is now a nature reserve. This track will lead you underneath the Nottingham Road A609 Bridge. Nottingham Road takes you towards Trowell Village which is known as the Festival Village and won the County's Village of the year award in 2009.

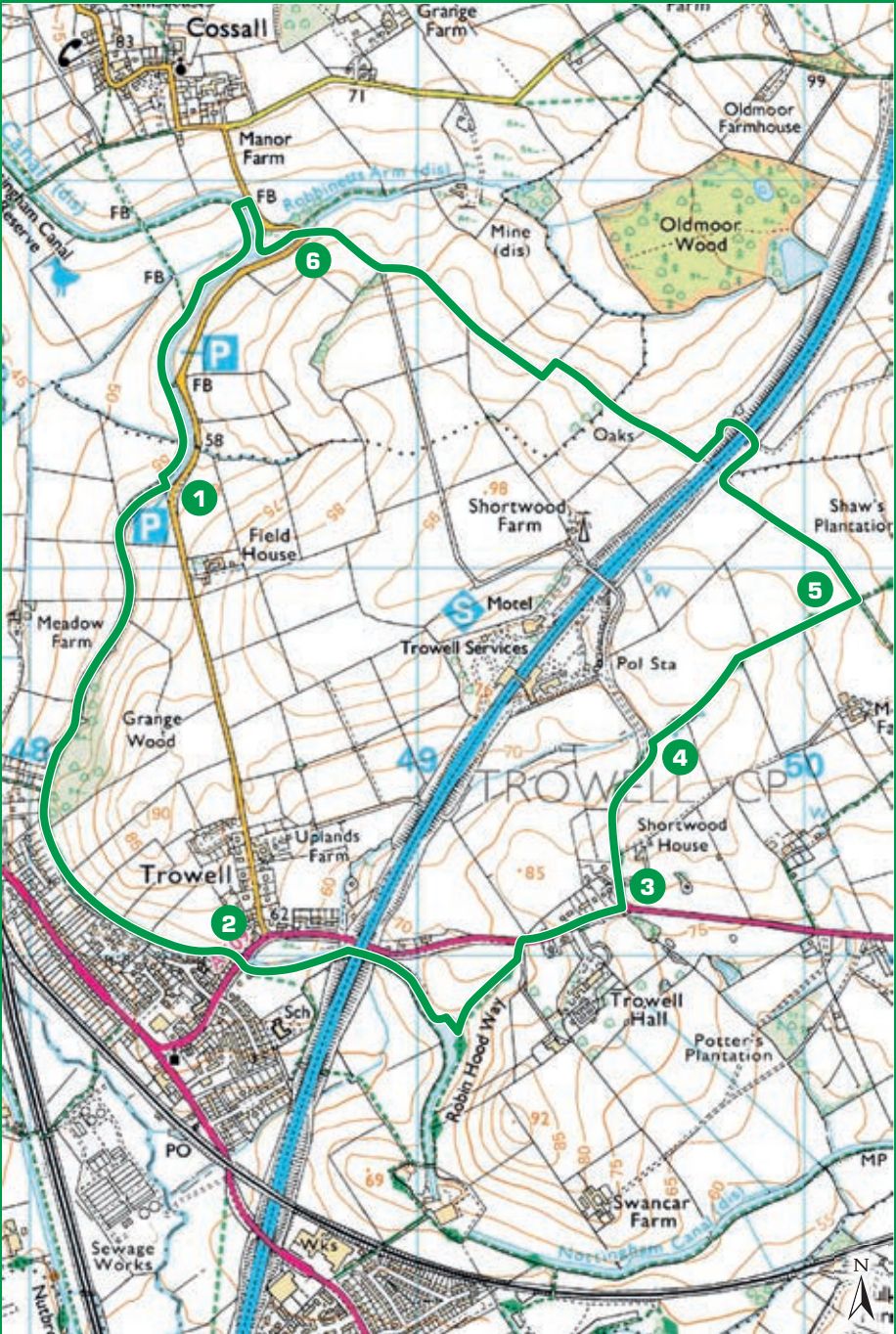
**2** Keep following the track beyond the bridge with the canal now on your left hand side. Following the downhill stretch you will pass underneath the M1 beside the A609. Stay on the path and follow it up the slope and round to the right. At the top of the slope the path divides into two; take the first path along the fence line which looks like it has been created by previous walkers. On your left hand side you will come across a stile leading in to a field which may contain horses, keep left along the fence line. At the top of this field there is a metal kissing gate, after which head left until you reach Nottingham Road.

**3** Cross Nottingham Road and follow it to the right. Turn left down Waterloo Lane. This road leads to the Trowell Service Station on the M1, which first opened in 1967. The service station's claim to fame is that it once featured in an episode of *Auf Wiedersehen Pet*.

**4** On the right hand side of Waterloo Lane after the first bend you will see a wooden Bridleway finger post. Follow the Bridleway along a grass verged track heading initially left, and then heading uphill alongside the hedgerow until you meet a point where multiple paths cross. The farmland here is used for producing arable crops such as wheat and barley.

**5** Take the left hand path signed to Cossal and head towards the motorway. Walk this path downhill and then keep to the right and underneath the M1. Keep on following the path admiring the views of the farmland and rolling hills. Keep left beside the motorway and then follow the path to the right, gently downhill, enjoy the tree lined path until it reaches Dead Lane.

**6** Cross this road and turn right and immediately on your left you will come to a wooden gate. Walk through the footpath gap next to the gate and follow the path with the canal on your left, until you reach a wooden bridge. Cross the wooden bridge and turn left, keeping the canal on your left. Enjoy the walk alongside the canal keeping an eye out for dragonflies, damsel flies, butterflies and water vole. This path will lead you back to the car park where your walk began.



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Route 2



# Besthorpe's Winding River



Walk along the winding River Trent, making the most of the Nature Reserve's birdwatching hot spots.


**Distance:** 7½ miles (12 km)

**Parking:** Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust Car Park off Trent Lane

**Refreshments**

**and toilets:** Pubs in Besthorpe



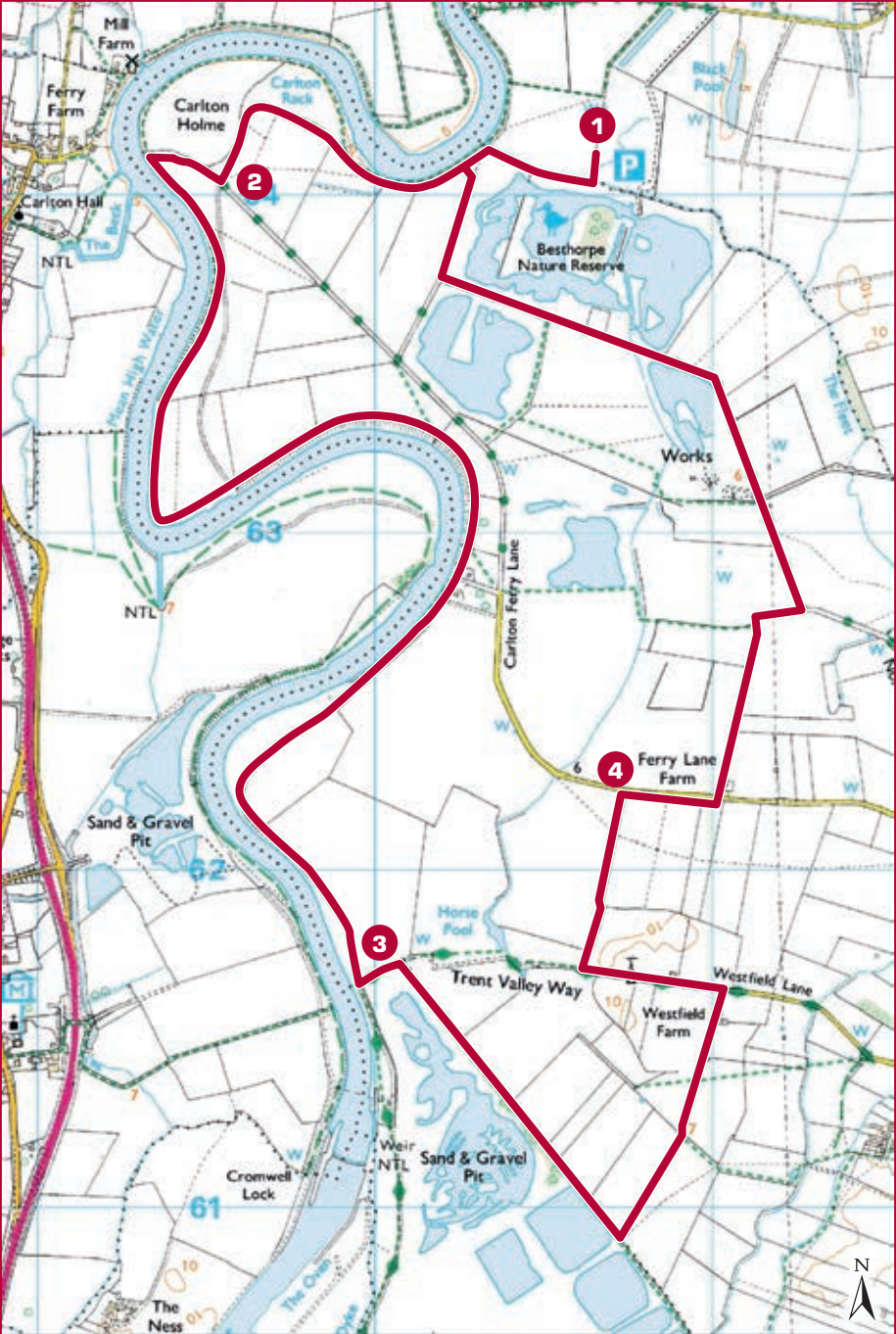


**1** The walk begins at The Wildlife Trust's car park off Trent Lane. Enter the reserve through a green kissing gate, to the left of an interpretation board. Follow the path to the right and through another kissing gate farther along the path past a bird hide overlooking the Nature Reserve lake. Some of the bird species you may see include great crested grebes, kingfishers, the common pochard and wading birds in the shallower parts. Continue through two farther kissing gates and on to the raised river bank path. Walk left along the top of the bank initially beside the river then inland across a field, to a gate and stile at the end.

**2** Cross the stile and turn right down the track, which will bring you back to the River Trent, with farmland views over to Carlton-on-Trent. At the end of the track turn left through the white clapper gate, and follow the path for about 2 miles. You will pass a small cluster of houses on the riverbank after about 1 mile, pass between these and the river through several gates. Continue, passing a sign on your left saying 'no boat launching' with a rough car park just behind. A few yards past the sign you will see a waymarker sign and a kissing gate on the left, leave the river here and follow the track. After approximately 100 yards take the first footpath on your right.

**3** This footpath takes you alongside the RSPB Langford Lowfields Reserve which has the benefit of a 360 degree viewing screen, a pond dipping platform and a Beach Hut Visitor Welcome Point. A signed detour will take you to these points of interest. Continue walking until you reach a footpath on your left. Cross the stile, keep left and follow the path around the field edge, take a slight left at the far corner before continuing up the track in the same direction. Once you've reached Westfield Lane turn left along the bridleway, following it around a right hand corner until you reach Carlton Ferry Lane.

**4** Turn right on to the lane and after 200 yards turn left along a footpath beside farm buildings. Keep following this path through the gravel works, as it turns right after about ½ mile, then after a farther 100 yards you will come out onto a byway. Turn left and follow it for about a mile until you reach a T-junction where you have lakes to your right and left. Turn right through a green kissing gate into the Nature Reserve and follow the public footpath between the hedge and wire fence to re-join the River Trent flood bank. Turn right along the bottom of the flood bank for about 100 yards then right through the green kissing gate to retrace your steps from earlier, past the bird hide to the car park.



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Route 3



# Farnsfield and the Robin Hood Way



This walk will take you through some of Nottinghamshire's rare rolling hills. The route is suitable for those new to walking.

**Distance:** 3½ miles (6 km)

**Parking:** Near The Plough Inn Public House, Main Street, Farnsfield

**Refreshments**

**and toilets:** Pubs in Farnsfield



**1** From the Church on Main Street head left down Tippings Lane, left along the path 'to Sunnyside', at the road turn right then immediate left to continue down a narrow jitty path which soon leads onto a track, continue left to New Mill Lane. Walk past the football ground along the lane and over the wooden stile at the far end. A farther stile takes you into a field, follow the field edge path to exit through a gate onto a track, passing garages and other farm buildings on the right hand side.

**2** Walk straight ahead until you come across two footpaths on the left hand side, take the second path which leads directly into an arable field. Cross the first field then head diagonally across the second larger field towards the agricultural buildings at the far end. The footpath takes you through a gap to the left of the gates, walk up the track between the bungalows, through the metal gates to the road. Turn right, walk along the road briefly then turn off onto the first road on your left, which is a byway.

**3** Walk along the byway until you come to the second footpath on your right which is on a sharp left hand bend in the road. To your immediate right there is an interpretation board and a bench with great views over the countryside. You are now walking on part of the Robin Hood Way which starts at Nottingham Castle and ends at Edwinstowe Church. The intention of the walk is to connect all of the places in Nottinghamshire with links to the legend of Robin Hood. Originally 84 miles, a more recent edition to the walk has led to the walk increasing to 105 miles long. Follow the footpath downhill through woodland until you come to a grassed area at the bottom. Continue through a small metal gate and out onto the road, turn left.



**4** After a few yards you will come across a metal footpath sign on the right, follow this path along the track at the side of the field. On entering the next large field, turn right and keep to the field edge, shortly after the corner you will find a gap in the hedgerow, walk through the gap and walk up the hill on the field edge path.

**5** At the top of the hill follow the track around to the right until you reach the corner of the field. Turn left through a gap where a stile once stood. Head downhill with the hedge on your right, then straight on up across the next field and continue straight on with the hedge

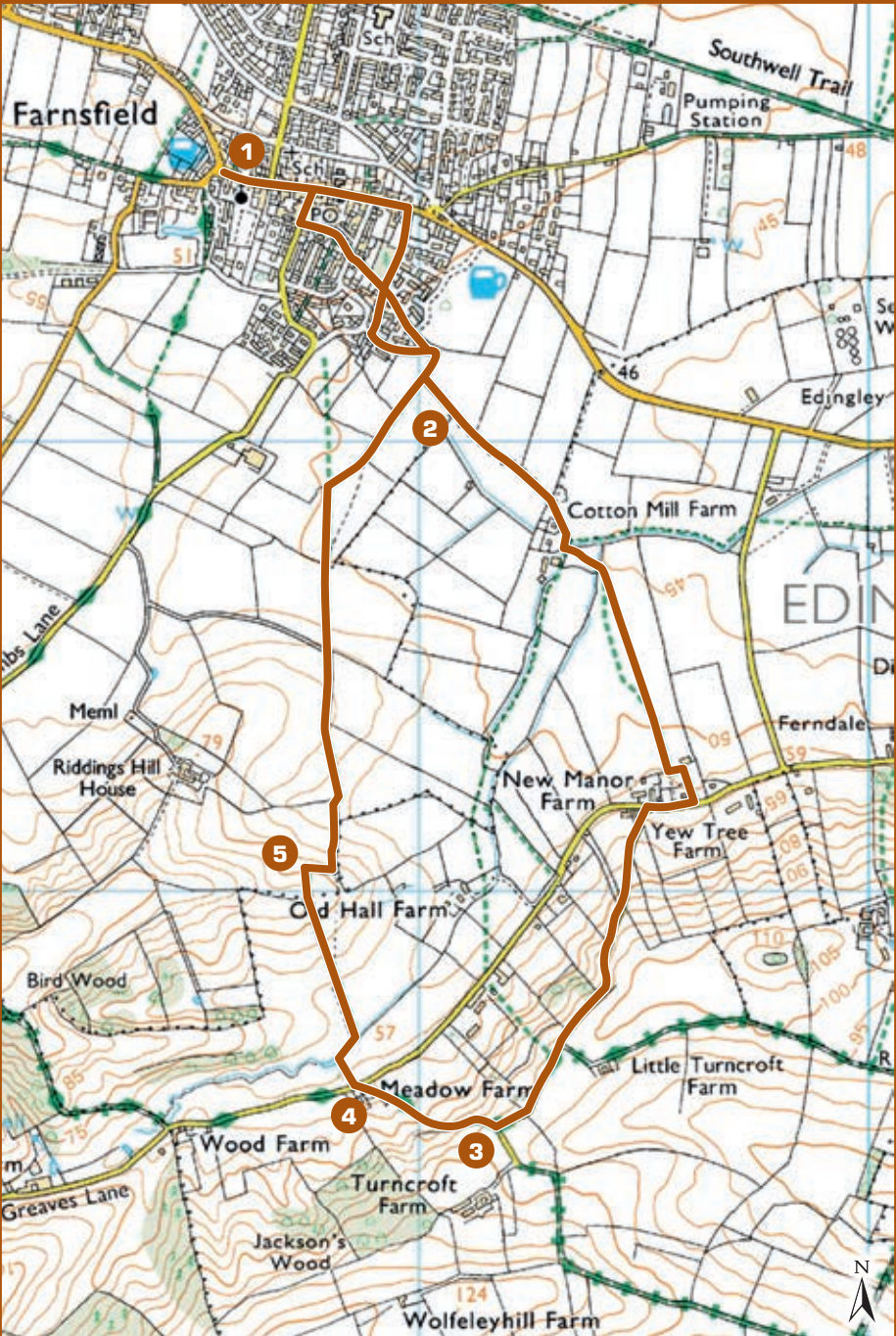
now again on your right. Keep walking down until you reach the next gap in the hedgerow where there is a bench directly off the path. Continue straight on towards the woods, ignoring the path on the left. Pass through the woodland on a clear wide path that will lead you onto the football field.

On reaching Cotton Mill Lane turn left and follow the roadway past several properties before taking the signed footpath on the right just before the end of the lane. Follow this jitty path, straight on through a path junction, to arrive at Main Street, turn left through the village towards the Church.

For more great walks visit  
**[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/  
rightsofway](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rightsofway)**







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Route 4



# Grantham Canal and Cotgrave Forest



A peaceful walk along the canal with a light plane or two.

**Distance:** 9 miles (15 km)

**Parking:** Car Parking Bay is on Tollerton Lane,  
off Gamston Lings Bar Road, Tollerton

**Refreshments  
and toilets:** Pubs near Cotgrave



**1** Cross the road and follow the canal towpath. The canal itself was completed in 1797 with the purpose of transporting goods from Lincolnshire to Nottinghamshire. Follow this path for about a mile, until you come across the third black and white barrier where there is a gap in the hedgerow to your right. Walk through the gap and follow the crossfield bridleway towards the far hedgerow. To your right across fields is the Nottingham (Tollerton) Airfield, where you should get a good view of some light aircraft.

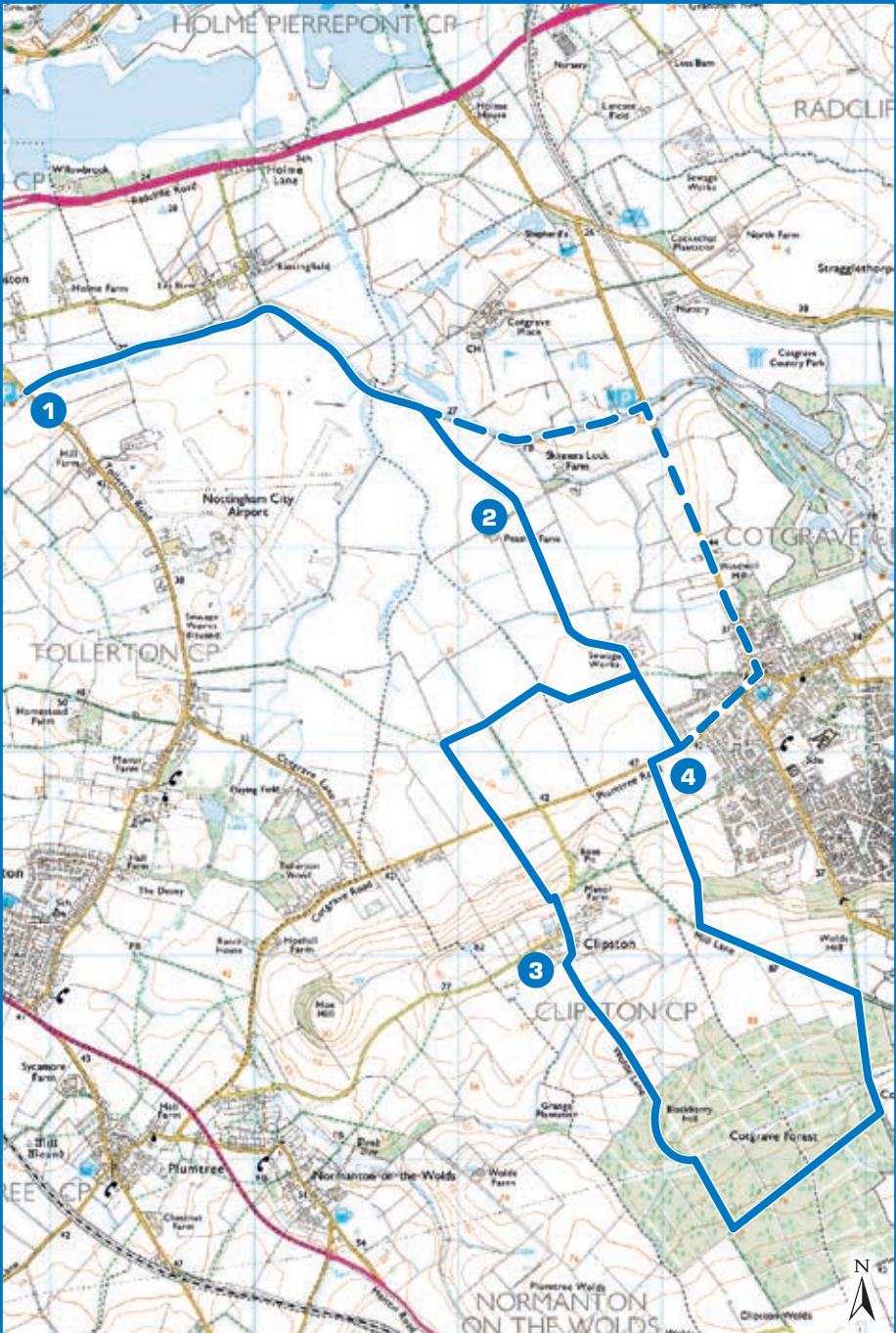
**2** At the hedgerow keep to the left hand side and walk along field edges and straight on over a farm track until you reach a rough track. Follow this track until you pass the sewage works on your left. Straight after the sewage works turn right onto a footpath initially with the hedge on your right, then over a footbridge, and diagonally across the field, cross the next field on a central grass margin and ignore the first path on your left and cross another field. Turn left along the second footpath which will lead you to Cotgrave Road. Cross the main road and continue up the footpath until you reach the top of the hill. Turn left out of the field, then turn right when you reach Gilliver Lane.

You are now in Clipston on the Wolds and on a clear day there is

an impressive view back over the city from this high point. Continue along the road, and straight ahead as it becomes a bridleway.

**3** Follow the bridleway, eventually entering the forest, continue straight on until you reach a T junction. Turn left here, and continue to follow the bridleway. At the next T junction just beyond a green barrier turn left downhill on a track, under power cables and back uphill to a crossroad of paths. Turn left onto Mill Lane which is a restricted byway. After about half a mile turn right, through a wide gateway onto a footpath, initially keeping the hedge on your left, at the path junction turn left then immediately right to continue straight on but with the hedge now on your right back to Plumtree Road. Turn right and cross over the road.

**4** Either turn left back onto the bridleway to pass the sewage works, retracing your steps of earlier back to the Grantham Canal and turn left along the canal to return to the start point, or alternatively, follow Plumtree Road into Cotgrave village where there are pubs and other refreshment options. To continue the walk turn left out of the village along the Main Road to the canal, then turn left and follow the towpath all the way back to the start point (adding an additional ½ mile to your walk).



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Route 5

# Everton and Mattersey



A flat walking route through Mattersey and a scenic view over the River Idle bridge. There is a gentle climb north west of Everton and some muddy tracks during winter.


**Distance:** 7 miles (11 km)

**Parking:** Near Parish Church, Church Lane, Mattersey

## Refreshments

**and toilets:** Pubs in Mattersey and Everton





**1** From the starting point at Mattersey church, walk up Church Lane and cross the River Idle using the modern footbridge. Continue on this old road until you reach the tarred road opposite Rye Hall Farm. Cross the road with care and aim left towards a metal fingerpost, signed 'public footpath'. Follow this path through the small conifer wood, with the fence to your right, until you reach a metal kissing gate. Walk through the gate and cross the road with care, then go right onto the tarred footway. Continue on this path uphill, which gradually moves away from the road. On the brow of this hill, note the former windmill and the old brick chimney on the opposite side of the road.

**2** After the 30mph road sign take the byway on your left, named Broomhill Lane. Follow this old hedged lane until you meet a brick built cottage on the right. Take the path on the right just before this cottage following the field edge. Keep on this path with the tall hedgerow on your right and head towards the main road. At the end of this path turn right onto a wide roadside verge towards the Sun Inn. Just before the pub, cross the road with care using the pedestrian refuge in the centre of the road and go right. Turn almost immediately left into High Street. Continue up this road, passing Carr View on your right and aim towards the

white village hall on the corner of Church Street on the left. Follow this road towards Holy Trinity Church on the right.

*Holy Trinity Church's north aisle was built in 1150 and the apse and south transept are Victorian. The rude carvings on the beams in the chancel are the work of a mischievous carpenter – date unknown!*

**3** Continue on Church Street and head towards the white cottages (Glebe House) on the left-hand bend. Follow the signed public bridleway on your right just past the churchyard. Keep on this stone surfaced track between the houses heading towards the open fields straight ahead, ignoring a bridleway on the left. At the end of this track take the well defined path diagonally left across the field towards the brow of the hill. Continue to the top left hand corner of the field, go through the gap in the hedgerow, drop down onto the obvious enclosed track and turn left. At the end of this byway, turn left and walk gently uphill on the tarred road. At the top turn right onto a stone surfaced track, Pinfold Lane, signed 'public footpath'. Continue on this track uphill, passing houses on both sides of the lane. Our route follows the waymarked footpath right into Barrow Hills wood.

*Barrow Hills Sandpit is classified by Natural England as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The site comprises a fine example of species-rich grassland and scrub developed on freely-draining unconsolidated sands of glacial origin and is representative of grassland developed on base-rich sandy soils in the North Midlands.*

**4** Pass through a wooden kissing gate and follow the well used sandy path towards the wood. Keep on this path, passing a waymark post, until you meet a well defined sandy track alongside the tree line. Turn left and follow this track, which soon becomes a narrow single track path. Once again this path develops into a wide track. Note the single oak tree nestled in the middle of conifer trees to your right. Continue gently downhill, walking down the wide tree lined corridor. Where the path forks, take the right hand path, waymarked public footpath. At the next crossroads of paths, take the path downhill towards the arable fields. At the bottom, turn left and contour downhill with the fields on your right. Keep on this well used path and continue between the two fields, shortly reaching an enclosed byway.

**5** Turn right onto this enclosed grassy track, which can get muddy. Follow this byway for about a mile, as the grassy track becomes a stone surfaced farm track. Continue on this byway, ignoring the track to Pasture Farm on the left. Follow the track to the end, until you meet the tarred road with white 'Lark Rise' cottage on the opposite side of the road. Turn right onto the road and walk uphill, quickly turning left into the byway (which we used previously but in the opposite direction). Follow the double-hedged track to the end, turn right onto the tarred road. Turn left into Roe Lane, just before Bashforth Cottage, and continue down this quiet residential lane, ignoring Windy Ridge road on the left and then Croft Way on your right. Go past the speed limit signs and turn right immediately before Trafern House, and cross a stile into pasture. Walk across the field towards the houses and the hedgerow.



At the bottom of this field, go left on the headland path with the hedgerow to your right. Continue on this path and cross the metal kissing gate in the corner of the field. Follow the path across this short stretch of field towards the modern farm buildings on your right. The path enters a farmyard, walk straight ahead towards the farm entrance until you meet Bawtry Road. Cross the road with care and aim for the signed bridleway to the left of Everton Nursery.

**6** Follow the bridleway gently uphill and pass Millfield Pottery on your right until you meet a crossroads of tracks. Continue straight on, ignoring the old lanes to your left and right, until you reach Pusto Hill Farm. Keep to the right of the farm buildings and follow the waymarked path down into the wood. Keep on the well used bridleway through the wood, walking downhill. At the bottom of this path, with the buildings on the right including Rye Hall Farm, exit onto the road and cross with care returning to the start point along the old Mattersey Road.

*If you choose to continue past your starting point at the church and follow the signed track ahead, as the road bends right, for nearly 1 mile, you will reach the ruins of Mattersey Priory. Founded in 1185 for the Gilbertine Order, it was never a wealthy establishment. There were only six canons and although the numbers fluctuated over the years, by the time of the dissolution in 1538 there were only five living here. The original priory buildings were destroyed by fire in 1279 and the remains seen today are of the dormitory, refectory and the Chapel of St Helen. The site is rarely visited by tourists, although well kept by English Heritage, and is a picturesque, hidden spot that is well worth finding.*







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Route 6

# Walking in the Wolds



Enjoy this figure of eight walk through the rolling hills of the Nottinghamshire Wolds.

**Distance:** 7½ miles (12 km)

**Parking:** Parking is available outside Gotham Parish Church

## Refreshments

**and toilets:** Pubs and shops in Gotham village centre



## Gotham

Gotham, not to be confused with its namesake in North America famous for the caped crusader, is a quiet village situated on the edge of the Nottinghamshire Wolds. Once a busy and bustling mining centre, the gypsum mines and the plaster making mills have now long gone, and with the decline in agriculture, modern day commuting is now the norm. The village is famous for, and very proud of its local folk tales, first published in the 16th Century by a physician named Dr Andrew Borde although it's likely that the stories would have been around long before the reign of Henry VIII. The book, 'Merry Tales of the Mad Men of Gotham', was a collection of 20 stories describing the amusing antics of the village inhabitants. Apparently when the book was reproduced in Stuart times in the early 17th Century, the Mad Men of Gotham was one of the most popular 'jest' books at that time.

One of the most popular tales from the book is that of the 'Cuckoo Bush'. Keep an eye out for the tumulus in the corner of Cuckoo Bush Wood near to the junction of the bridleways. This barrow (burial mound) is said to be where the story is set. Legend suggests that the 'mad' men of Gotham

heard a cuckoo calling from a bush and they set about trying to pen the bird by building a bush or a fence around it. The idea being that the singing cuckoo, a sign that spring had arrived, would bring all year round food and drink. Inevitably the bird flew away and the men are quoted as saying 'a vengeance on her, we made not our hedge high enough'! Interestingly, April Fools day was also known as 'Gawk's Day', the word gawk meaning both fool and cuckoo.

However, it's reputed that the 'mad' men were actually the 'wise' men of Gotham. The story continues, the men of the village cunningly devised a plan whereby they pretended to be fools in an attempt to keep King John (1199 to 1216) away. The reasons for this differ from tale to tale; one thought is that where a king walked or rode, the path would become the Kings Highway and thus a public right of way with a hefty maintenance burden placed upon the village. Therefore if the locals could convince him and his taxmen that they were fools, the king would by-pass the village!

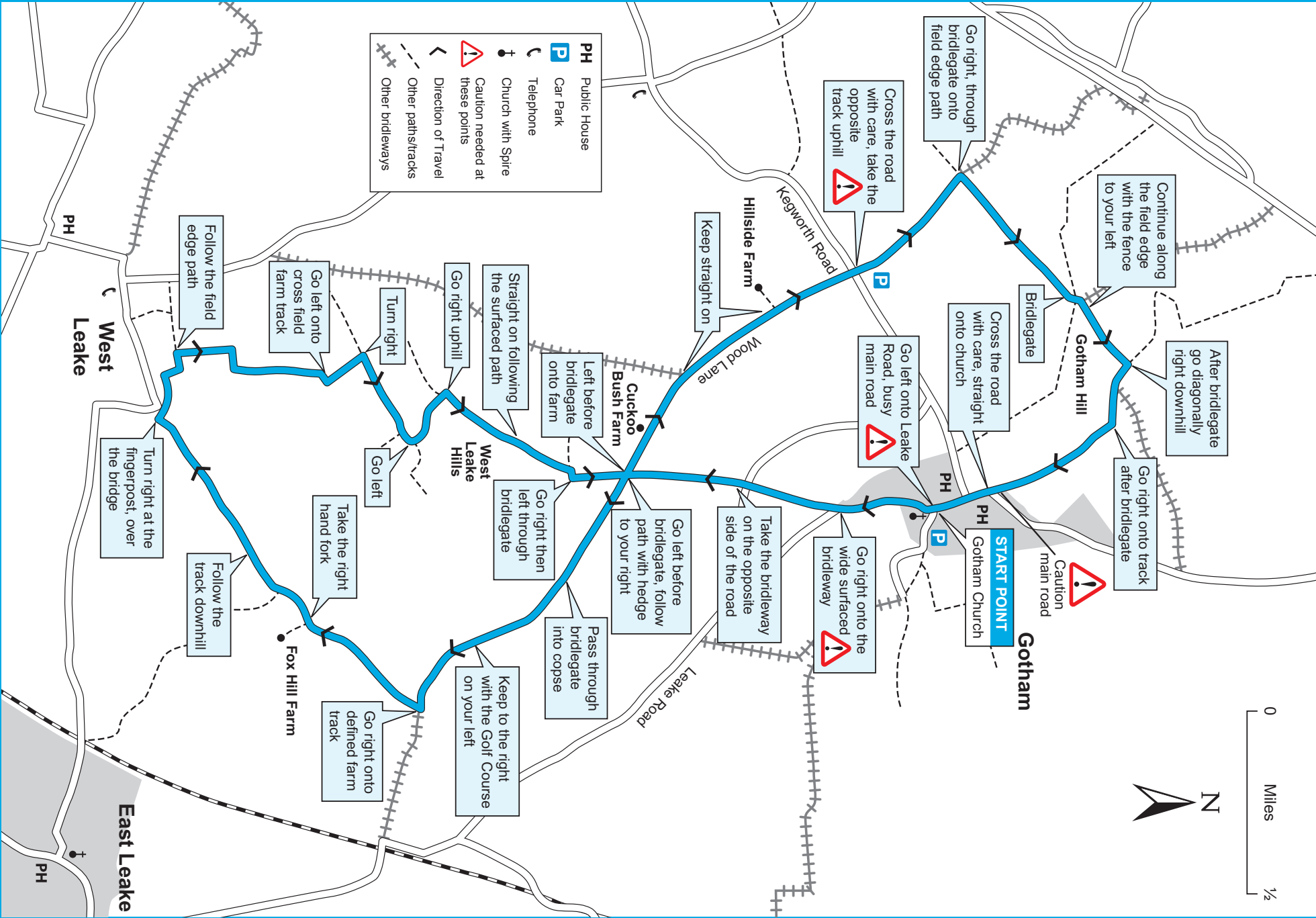
## West Leake

West Leake not surprisingly owes its name to the stream, Kingston Brook, running south of the settlement from the Wolds to the River Soar. The village name is derived from the old Norse word of *Loekr* and is later recorded in the Domesday Survey (1086) as *Leche*, both words meaning 'place at the brook'. Standing on the brook is the site of a former medieval manor house, no doubt the home of the many successive Lords of the Manor, the last one at the end of the 18th Century. Nothing remains of the building or the former moats but there is still evidence of the Lords exclusive fishing ponds!

Basket making in West Leake and the surrounding area was a popular occupation in the early 19th Century, the osier beds (willow plantations) were located near to the village. A local man, William Mills and subsequently his family took their trade to London where they later made letter trays for use at the Houses of Parliament. William lived in the village and at the time his house consisted of the basket weaving shop, a public house and a village oven, which was used by the villagers to bake their bread and pies.



The ridges surrounding the village would have been important transport routes through the area, keeping out of the wetlands below. The two main routes, The Streetway, from Rempstone to West Leake, and the one you ride on, The Portway, pass the Golf Course and then onto the River Trent at Thrumpton are very old roads, which may have been in existence well before the Romans arrived.





Cycling

# Turn Around Tuxford



Take a journey around Tuxford's quiet rural roads, the route is relatively flat with a small climb at the start towards Egmonton. Busy roads in Tuxford town centre at the start and finish. Short stretch of main road to cross (B1164).

**Distance:** 12 miles (20 km)

**Parking:** Tuxford town centre car park (at the recycling centre) off Newark Road, A6075

**Refreshments and toilets:** Pubs at Tuxford, Egmonton, Normanton on Trent and High Markham



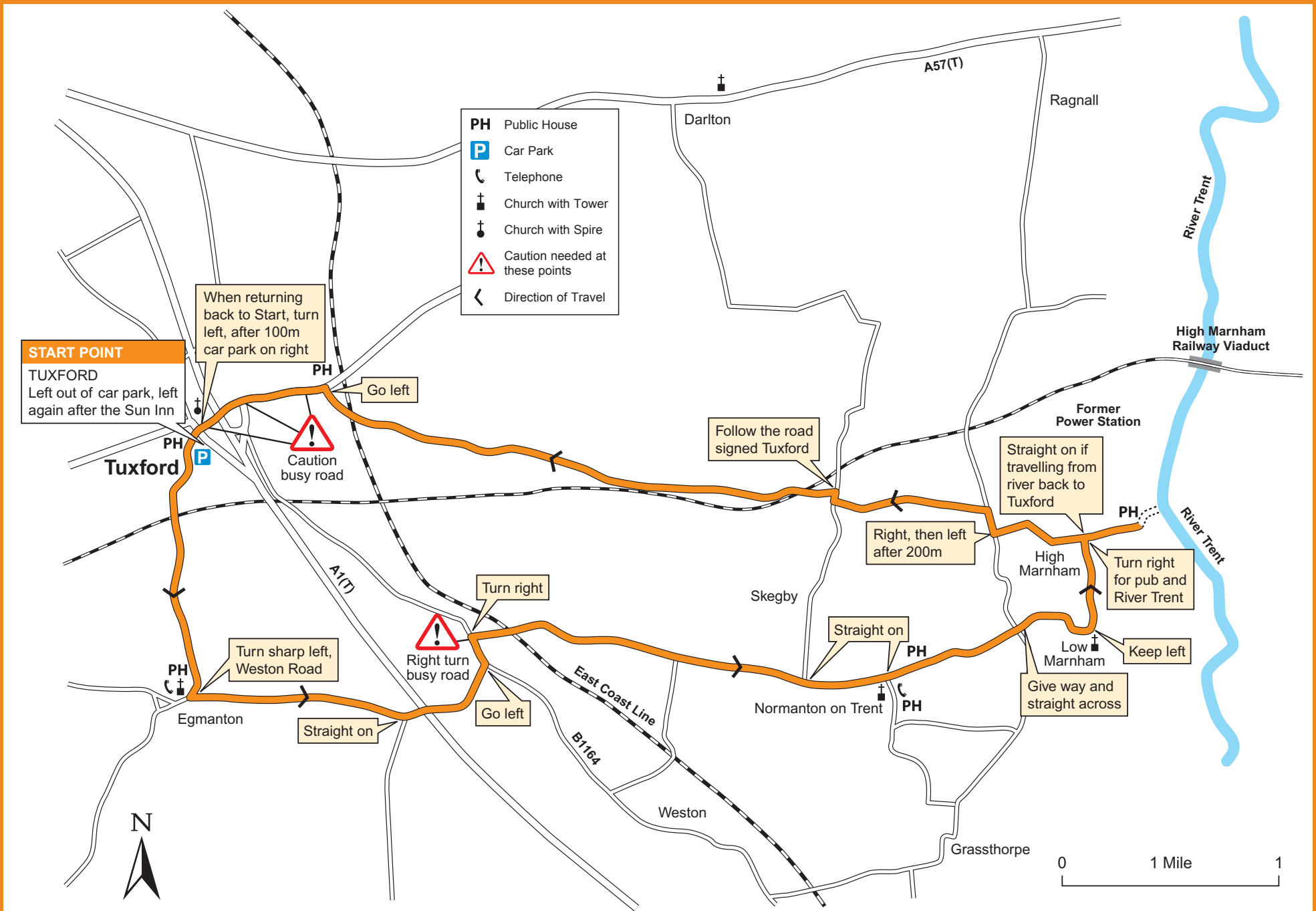
## Tuxford

Once a busy coaching stop on the Great North Road, Tuxford's distinguished travellers have included Princess Margaret Tudor. The sister of Henry VIII was on her way to marry James IV of Scotland in an attempt to bring peace between the two countries. The royal visitor stayed at the Crown Inn, since rebuilt and named The Newcastle Arms, after a great fire in 1702. Only a few buildings survived including the renovated 13th Century Church of St Nicholas and the old 17th Century grammar school, now the town's library. Keep an eye out for the former 'lock up' where less desirable travellers in the 1800's stayed until their case was heard by a local magistrate.

## Egmanton

Take time to enjoy this pretty village famous for the annual pilgrimage to the Church of St Mary. The ritual, celebrating the passing of Mary into heaven, dates back to the middle ages where a local woman is said to have seen a vision of the Virgin Mary. Behind the church is an excellent example of a motte and bailey castle known as Gaddick Hill. The castle's ditched mound is over 20ft high and 460ft in circumference, and along with the former bailey through which the castles tower would have been reached, dates back to the Norman Conquest in the 11th Century.







## Normanton on Trent

An attractive village which has some interesting old buildings including the former school, built in 1776 upon the wishes of a local gentry named Henry Jackson. The plaque on the building, now a private dwelling, records that Mr Jackson also donated £4 a year towards the upkeep of the school. Opposite is the restored medieval church of St Matthew. The village still retains its two public houses, The Crown, and the older Square and Compass originally built 500 years ago.

## Low and High Marnham

Situated at the side of the River Trent is the parish of Marnham. Up until the late 1950's very little had changed in this quiet farming community. The Church of St Wilfrid, Low Marnham has been serving parishioners for 700 years and the grand Marnham Hall has commanded excellent views of the open countryside since the early 18th Century. Then in 1959, due to its location to the river and Nottinghamshire's coalfield Britain's first 1000 MV power station was built at High Marnham. Closed in 2003 due to excess generation of UK electricity, the station was famous for being able to produce top-up

power to the national grid at short notice.

## The LD&EC Railway

The magnificent Trent railway viaduct, north of High Marnham, was built to accommodate the Lancashire, Derbyshire and East Coast Railway. The line was conceived in the late 19th Century to run from Warrington to Sutton on Sea transporting coal for export. Unfortunately, due to lack of support, the line only ran between Chesterfield and Lincoln. Although the last regular passenger trains ceased in 1955, the line to Lincoln was still used for specials and freight traffic. In 1979 a train derailed at Clifton on Trent damaging the track and the line was never repaired. Coal traffic did continue to High Marnham, on the last remaining 18 miles from Shirebrook, until the power station's closure in early 2003. The former LD & ECR old trackbed now forms part of the National Cycle Network route No.647.



# Horseriding - where you can go



There are just under 500 miles of paths across Nottinghamshire, which can be used for an enjoyable hack through the countryside. Large scale maps e.g. Ordnance Survey show bridleways, byways and other tracks. Fingerposts indicate the types of path.

## As a rider you can use:

### Activity



### Look out for

**Bridleways** - marked with **blue**



**Restricted byways** - marked with **burgundy**



**Byways** - marked with **red**



Quiet Lanes – quiet roads where drivers are advised that riders and walkers may be present.

Permissive paths – where you have the landowners consent to ride.

## Riders cannot use:

**Footpaths**



**Open land access**





# Hoveringham and Caythorpe



A pleasant ride along the River Trent. Majority of the ride uses public bridleways including some field edge tracks which can get muddy.

**Distance:** 8 miles (13 km)

**Parking:** Riverside parking near Ferry Farm Park, Hoveringham

## Refreshments

**and toilets:** Café at Ferry Farm Park. Summer ice cream van at the riverside parking. Pubs in Hoveringham and Caythorpe. Drinking water for horses is limited en route and a collapsible bucket and water is recommended. There is a ford at Hoveringham Mill.

## Hoveringham

A charming village, situated on the western bank of the River Trent, is nationally well known for its quarried 'Hoveringham Gravels'. Step back in time to the ice age, sand and gravel were deposited as large ice glaciers melted, and where the rivers flowed slowly, this resulted in rich deposits alongside the River Trent. Extraction by Hoveringham Gravel Ltd began in 1939 and the landscape changed forever, with material being scraped out by large dragline excavators leaving deep pits. During the early years of extraction it soon became apparent that there was more than sand and gravel in those pits. Work soon stopped with the discovery of the tusks and teeth of mammoths!

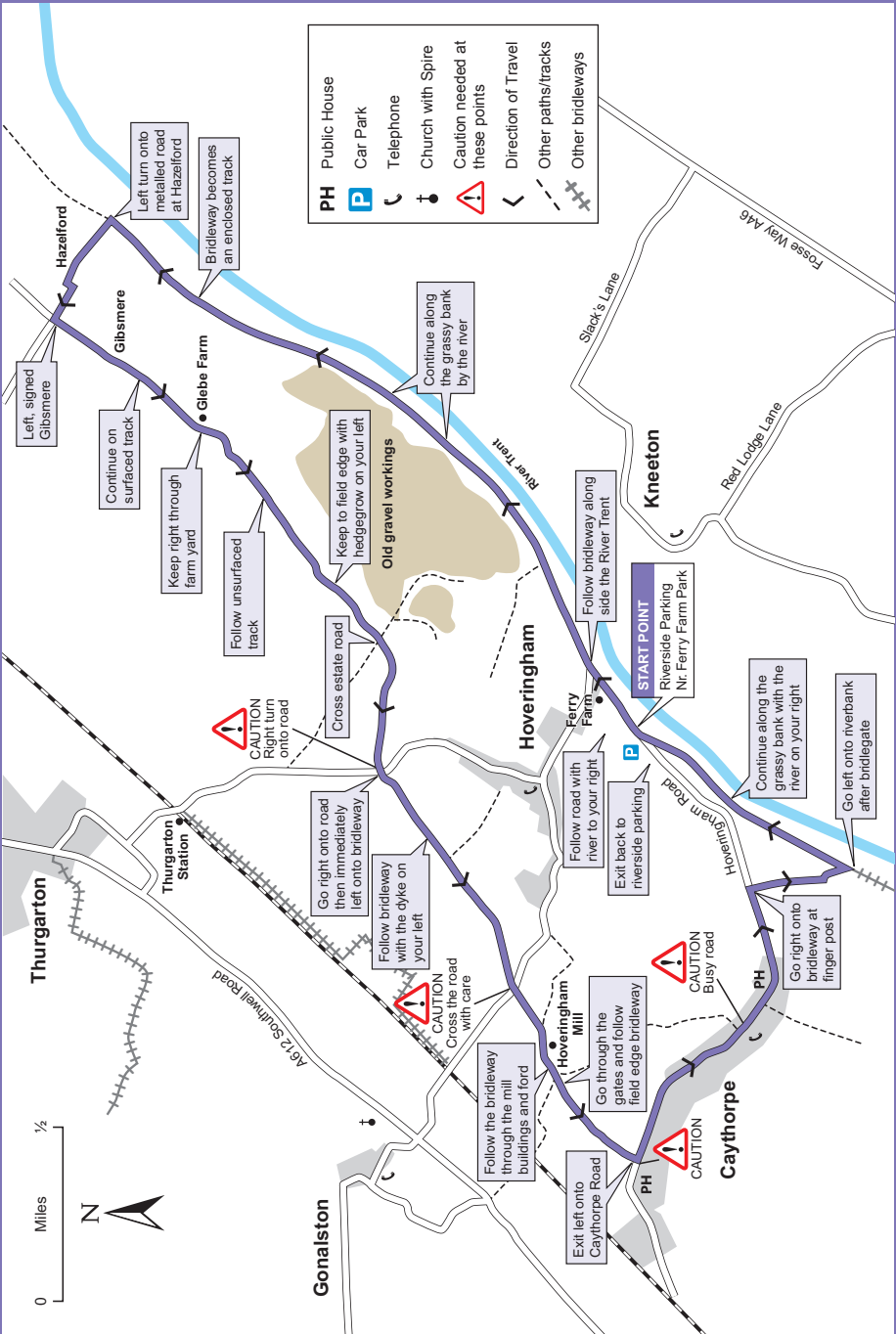
Along the ride you will see the disused gravel pits, flooded with water due to the excavation of material from below the water table. These former pits are now important feeding grounds alongside the Trent, a haven for many bird species, the most common being the black noisy coot, as well as geese, herons and ducks. There are some interesting buildings in the village, most notable is Hoveringham Hall, surrounded by a magnificent walled garden. This impressive house was built in the early 19th Century for General Huthwaite of the Bengal army, who is now buried in the local parish church, St Michael's.

## Caythorpe

The Danes, having arrived in Nottingham in 867, left their mark on this quiet rural settlement, 'Thorpe' translating as 'outlying farmstead or hamlet'. The river, Dover Beck, has played an important part in the village's history. This tributary of the River Trent served a large number of Corn Mills along its length including Hoveringham Mill and Caythorpe Mill. These mills have been part of this landscape for hundreds of years, as far back as the 14th Century. The former mill building at Caythorpe (opposite the Black Horse) was built in 1749 and is reputed to have been used as a hiding place for Dick Turpin! Hoveringham Mill was worked until as recently as 1961 milling corn, this three story building still has much of its machinery intact, watch out for the Ford!

## Gibsmere and Hazelford Ferry

Hazelford Ferry as the name suggests was a strategic crossing point for the River Trent. It is believed that the crossing of the Trent here dates back to Roman times and beyond, there's certainly evidence of an ancient route from Lincolnshire via an existing county road named Long Hedge Lane to the river at Hazelford Ferry. Large areas of land near to the hamlet of Gibsmere are reclaimed using pulverised fly ash.



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If you would like to get involved and have your say on countryside access issues NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM is recruiting new members with knowledge or interest in Countryside Access. For more information contact: [nottslaf@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:nottslaf@nottsc.gov.uk)

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E [countrysideaccess@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:countrysideaccess@nottsc.gov.uk)  
T 0300 500 80 80

Countryside Access Team  
Nottinghamshire County Council  
County Hall, West Bridgford,  
Nottingham NG2 7QP