

Denton & Harlaxton



VISIT LINCOLNSHIRE

A circular walk of $5\frac{1}{2}$ or $6\frac{1}{2}$ km ($3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 miles)

Introduction



This walk is set in and around two rural villages that lie at the edge of the Trent and Belvoir Vales, where the land rises to join the Kesteven Uplands, to the south-east and Leicestershire Wolds, to the south-west. Here is a more mixed farming character than is often associated with Lincolnshire. Here you may hear or see a buzzard.

Underlying this area are Lower to Middle Jurassic rocks, laid down around 180 million years ago. These rocks contain iron ore, and by the middle twentieth century parts of this landscape had been transformed by opencast extraction of the ore and construction of railways to carry it to blast furnaces in Northamptonshire.

Denton is an attractive stone village set in parkland. Its name being Saxon for farmstead in the valley.

Many houses were built during the 19th and 20th century from the local golden ironstone. Much of the land surrounding the village is owned by the Welby family who moved into

the area during Tudor times and once lived in Denton Manor until it was taken down in 1939. The gate house can still be seen at the crossroads on the Grantham Road.

St Andrew's church was founded around 1200 with later 14th and 16th century alterations and additions and inside stands a 1714 life sized marble figure of Richard Welby.

Many of the cottages in the pretty village of Harlaxton were rebuilt by the Gregory family between 1790 and 1854 in the *cottage orné* style.

The building of the current Harlaxton manor was started in 1832 by Anthony Salvin and was continued by William Burn. The old manor house was demolished around 1840.



The Walk

- 1 From the church follow the road around to the right and past the Welby Arms and school. Go straight over the first junction and at the second turn left onto Casthorpe Road.

As you leave the village the last row of cottages on the right are former almshouses built in 1869. In the central gable a recessed panel contains a shield bearing the Welby Arms.

- 2 Approximately 100m after the cottages, cross the stream and turn right onto the public footpath and follow it along a track and across the field to the far right hand corner up a bank. Cross a track (the old mineral railway line) and carry on beside the the feeder stream to the reservoir. Walk $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way around the reservoir (approximately 800m or $\frac{1}{2}$ mile).



The reservoir was built to supply the Grantham Canal and can hold 277 million litres (61 million gallons) of water. It is home to a variety of birds including coot, moorhen, mallard, heron and great crested grebe. Grebes usually lay 4 eggs which take about 4 weeks to hatch into distinctively striped chicks which are often carried on the back of the parents.



- 3 Turn left onto a public footpath which goes down some steps and across a bridge. Carry on in the same direction across two fields keeping the hedge on your right, to a field gate and footpath sign in the far corner of the field. The Grantham Canal should be in view to your left.



The Walk

The canal was built in 1793 and runs 33 miles (53 km) from the River Trent in Nottingham to the Grantham basin, with a fall of only 150 feet (43 metres). Coal, coke, lime, building materials were transported from Nottingham to Grantham and agricultural produce was taken in the opposite direction. The canal was a success until the Nottingham to Grantham railway opened in 1851. The canal was closed in 1929 and is now maintained by the British Waterways Board. Sections of the towpath now form part of the National Cycle Route.



- 5** At the crossroads, with the A607, go straight on (take care crossing this busy road) onto Harlaxton High Street.

The Gregory Arms Pub was built in 1797 by George de Ligne Gregory, Lord of the Manor of Harlaxton and his monogram appears on a datestone at the rear. Many of the houses on the High Street are listed and were remodelled by George de Ligne Gregory and Gregory Gregory, successive Lords of the Manor of Harlaxton, between 1790 and 1854.



- 4** For the **shorter walk** turn right following the restricted byway, over a stile. Go through a field gate to join a track which will lead you uphill to the road. Cross the road (take care crossing this busy road) and walk down Rectory Lane to the corner and turn right onto West End. Rejoin the walk directions at **7**.

For the **longer walk** carry straight on alongside the canal to the road and turn right.

- 6** Walk past the shop and turn right up some steps onto a footpath opposite the telephone box and village cross.

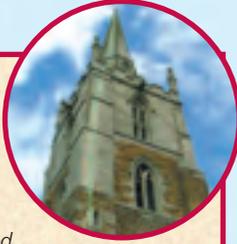
The octagonal village cross is medieval in origin but was heavily restored in the early 19th century.



Follow the path to the left hand side of the church and continue on in the same direction along the field edge, through a yard and across the field, bearing slightly to the left, to a gate onto a road.

The Walk

The church of St Mary and St Peter is a late Norman to Perpendicular parish church built between the early 13th and early 15th century, with stained glass dating from 1434.



Follow this path back to Denton Main Street.

- 8** Cross the road and follow the public footpath between two cottages almost immediately opposite. Cross the bridge and continue straight on under the horse chestnut trees to a gate.

- 7** Cross the road and walk along West End and continue straight on through a gate and bear diagonally right across the field aiming to the right of the line of trees in the hedge, to the main road.

As you walk across this field look out for Belvoir Castle on the horizon ahead of you. Ancestral home to the Duke and Duchess of Rutland a castle has stood on the site since Norman times. The medieval castle was largely rebuilt in the 19th century.

Horse Chestnut trees were introduced to Britain in the late 16th century from the Balkans and were often grown in ornamental avenues for their decorative white candle like flowers which appear in May.



Turn right down the road and follow the public footpath on the left behind the school, to return to the church.

Cross the road with care and take the footpath diagonally left across the field aiming for Denton Church tower, just visible above the trees in the distance.

Cross the old railway line again and continue in the same direction over a footbridge, then walk to the far right hand corner of the field.

The impressive house opposite the church is Leys House which was built as a school in 1720 and restored in 1855.



Walk Information

Walk Location: Denton lies approximately 3 miles (5 km) south west of Grantham on the A607 Grantham to Melton Mowbray road.



Starting point: At St Andrew's Church, Denton grid reference SK 865 325.

Parking: Church Street, Denton.

Public Transport: A regular bus service runs between Grantham and Melton Mowbray and stops at Denton and Harlaxton. For times call the Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/busrailtravel.

Walk length: 5½ km (3½ miles) or 6½ km (4 miles). At a leisurely pace the walk will take approximately 1¾ or 2 hours to complete.



Type of walk: The walks use village footpaths and field paths to visit Denton reservoir, the Grantham Canal and two pretty villages. Mostly easy level walking with one gentle incline, it may be muddy in places.

Ordnance Survey maps for the area: Explorer 247 Grantham, Bottesford & Colsterworth, and Landranger 130 Grantham.

Refreshments: The Welby Arms in Denton and the Gregory Arms and village shop in Harlaxton.

Be a responsible walker

Please remember the countryside is a place where people live and work and where wildlife makes its home. To protect the Lincolnshire countryside for other visitors please respect it and on every visit follow the Countryside Code. Thank you.

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

Most of all enjoy your visit to the Lincolnshire countryside

This leaflet is one in a series of walk leaflets produced by Lincolnshire County Council's Natural Environment Team to help you explore and enjoy the County's countryside. If you have enjoyed these walks and would like information on other walking routes in Lincolnshire then please visit our website.

If you encounter any problems whilst on these walks, such as an overgrown path or a broken sign post, please let us know so they can be corrected.

We would also welcome your comments and suggestions on the walk and leaflet to help improve future editions.

*If you require this leaflet in another format
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