

Walks In The Trent Valley

Hoveringham

Walk Overview: A flat walk of just over 4.5 miles following the River Trent and then quiet field paths.

Facilities: Ferry Farm Park and The Reindeer Inn.

Start and Finish: Free layby car park by the River Trent, opposite Ferry Farm park. NG14 7JP

1. Turn right along the road and walk to the first bend. Go through a gate onto a bridleway marked 'The Trent Valley Way'. At the end of the first field stands a memorial, commemorating the lives of the crews of two Lancaster Bombers which crashed here during WWII.
2. Keep going straight along this bridlepath, with the River Trent to your right and Hoveringham Sailing Lakes on your left. These lakes were formed from the vast amount of gravel extraction which has taken place in the area. Over the hill, on the other side of the river, is Syerston airfield; the location the Lancaster Bombers were attempting to return to.
3. Around 1.8 miles into your walk reach a bridlepath on your left. Take this path, around field edges, until you emerge onto a country lane at Gibsmere. Turn left down the lane and past Horspool Farm Luxury Retreat. You join another bridlepath, now putting the lakes on your right-hand side.
4. Follow this path until you come out onto another lane at 3.2 miles. Walk straight over and follow the field around until you come to a small footbridge on your left. Cross this bridge and turn immediately right, tracking around a small copse of trees.
5. This path brings reaches Main Street, Hoveringham, 3.6 miles into your journey. Turn left, along the road and stroll through the pretty village, past Hoveringham Hall and the Old Post Office. The villages only remaining pub, The Reindeer, may be a welcome sight at four miles.
6. Continue down Main Street, to its crossroads with Gonalston Lane and Boat Lane. Take a moment to admire St Michaels church to your right and the old telephone box, now used as a book exchange! Your route takes you left, down Boat Lane, so called because of its frequent flooding in the past.
7. Follow the road back to your car passing a large building on the corner from. This once housed the Elm Tree Pub, a popular waterside venue which was frequented by the airmen from Syerston during WWII. A ferry used to cross the river here and the airmen would whistle it over to take them to the Saturday night dances.

Bulcote and Burton Joyce

Walk Overview: A walk of around 4 miles which starts off hilly but ends with a gentle walk along the River Trent.

Facilities: Pubs, shops and cafes in the centre of Burton Joyce.

Start and Finish: Road side parking near Bulcote Farm on Old Main Road, Bulcote. NG14 5GY

1. Your walk starts by heading back into Bulcote, over the railway, towards the A612. Cross the A612 carefully and follow the bridlepath which winds up behind the pretty Holy Trinity Church. The bridlepath turns left across Bulcote Hill Plantation until you come to a junction of paths after just over a mile.

2. Turn right, up the bridlepath and then left. You are carrying straight on here but a footpath off to the left takes you to the site of a decommissioned Royal Observer Corps Nuclear Warning and Monitoring Station. The top of the station can be seen emerging from the ground. Staying on your path you will turn onto quiet Bridle Lane at 1.6 miles.
3. Walk downhill on Bridle Lane (which becomes Lambley Lane) all the way into Burton Joyce. Cross over the Main Road (you can turn left here to walk into Burton Joyce village centre for refreshments) and then the A612, onto St Helen's Crescent. Here you will see a footpath sign; follow this over the railway line and down to the river Trent.
4. You are 2.5 miles into your journey, turn left to follow the river. Where the path divides take the left fork, a bridlepath which continues straight on and away from the river.
5. Take the next left turn, at around 3.5 miles, back up the lane to your car. On your way you pass the grand buildings of Bulcote Farm. The farm was originally built as a breeding centre for horses, by Nottingham City Corporation before being used as a dairy farm for over 100 years. It is now a crop farm, owned by Severn Trent Water Authority.

East Bridgford and Kneeton

Walk Overview: A walk of just under 5 miles, hugging the River Trent before rising sharply at Kneeton to enjoy views for miles around on your return journey.

Facilities: A small shop and The Royal Oak pub in East Bridgford.

Start and Finish: On street parking on Kneeton Road, East Bridgford, NG13 8PJ

1. Heading out of East Bridgford, along Kneeton Road take the footpath, on the left, across a field. Follow this path downhill to the River Trent, ignoring two other footpaths off to the right. When you reach the River Trent, turn right and follow this path, ignoring all other paths off to the right, for almost 2.5 miles. Look out for buzzards and other wildlife along this quiet path.
2. It is still clear, on an OS map, where a path led down to the river bank for the old ferry to cross to Hoveringham. Just after this you finally turn steeply right, up a rough track, into Kneeton; a village with a population of under 100 people.
3. Turn right at the church and continue straight on to a footpath when the lane runs out. Take the time to stop and look at the views surrounding you. On a clear day you can see as far as Belvoir Castle to your left and the hills around Mansfield to your right.
4. Pass by the first footpath off to the right but take the second one, at just over 3 miles. This drops you steeply downhill until you emerge onto a bridlepath. Turn left along this undulating path for a mile. Reaching a junction in your path, turn right on the bridlepath and then quickly left onto a footpath.
5. Gunthorpe, with its busy riverside pubs, cafes and marina, can be seen across the river. The path will take you back to the field where you started your journey. Turn left back to the road and your car.