

# *The Dukeries History Trail*

[SherwoodForestVisitor.com](http://SherwoodForestVisitor.com)



Nottinghamshire



Ramblers

## 1. Worksop Priory

Worksop is well worth a visit as it has a highly accessible town centre with the Priory, Memorial Gardens, the Chesterfield Canal and the old streets of the Town Centre. Like a lot of small towns, if you look, there is still a lot of charm. Park next to the Priory and follow the Worksop Heritage Trail via



Priorswell Road, Potter Street, Westgate, Lead Hill and the castle mound, Newcastle Avenue and Bridge Street. Sit in the Memorial Gardens for a while, before taking a stroll along the canal. Visit Mr Straw's House(National Trust) BUT you must have pre-booked as so many people want to see it.



Welbeck Abbey gates, Sparken Hill to the south of the town.

The bridge over the canal with its 'luxury duckhouse', Priorswell Road .





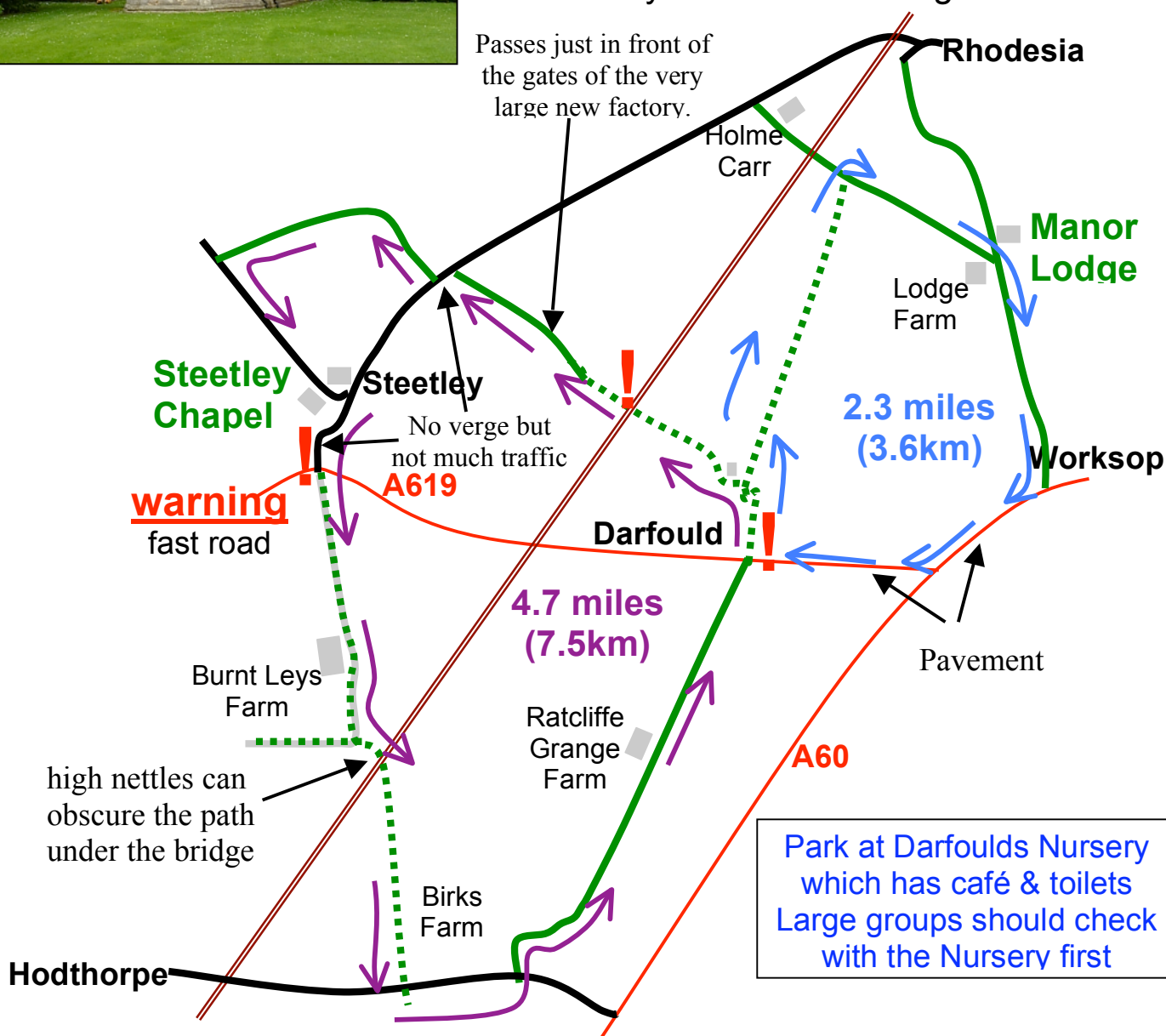
## 2. Workso Manor Lodge

Dating from about 1590, the Lodge is a Grade 1 listed building. Five floors have survived – there were probably another two floors as well so would have been a very tall building for its time. It is under going restoration having become a ruin. It can be viewed from the adjoining bridleway.



## 3. Steetley Chapel

This beautiful Norman Church built about 1150 and virtually unaltered since, retains an amazing medieval atmosphere inside. The chapel hall at the entrance is a wonderfully eccentric building.



## 4. Worksope Manor

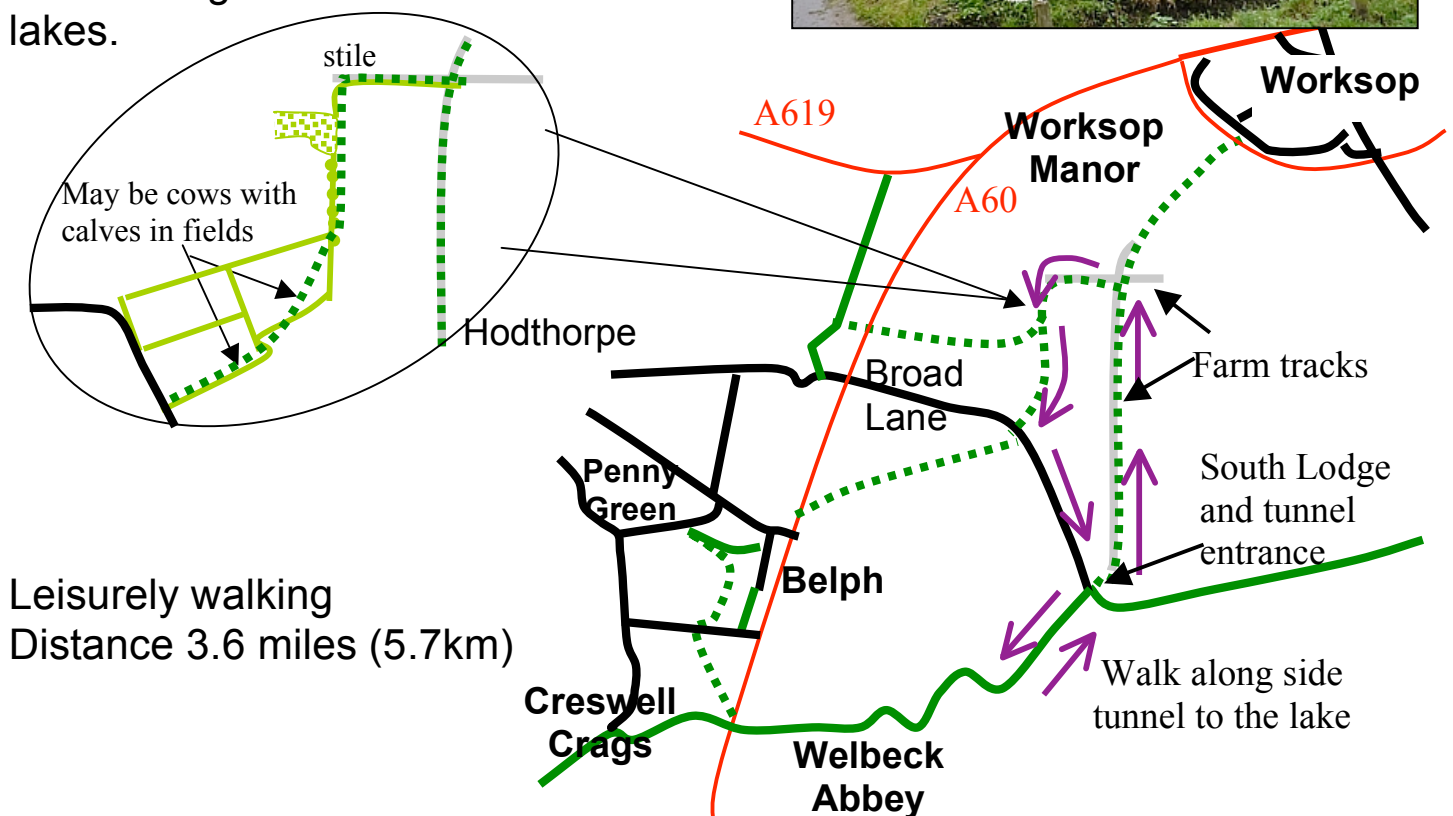
The Elizabethan Manor where Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned, was built during the late 16th century for George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury. The Manor was rebuilt after a fire in 1761. Planned as the largest house ever constructed in England, only one wing had been finished when work stopped on the house in 1767.



Following another fire in 1840 the estate was sold to the Duke of Newcastle, who pulled down the main wing of the house as he was only interested in adding the land to his Clumber Estate. The surviving parts, the stables, the service wing and part of the eastern end of the main range, were used to create the current mansion.

## 5. Welbeck Tunnels

The tunnel was built for the reclusive 5<sup>th</sup> Duke of Portland so he could come and go unseen. 1.5 miles long and wide enough for two carriages to pass, it went through the dam wall of one of the lakes.





## 6. Creswell Crags (right)

The limestone gorge with caves is Britain's most important early neolithic site. There is a good visitor centre/museum, picnic area and parking.

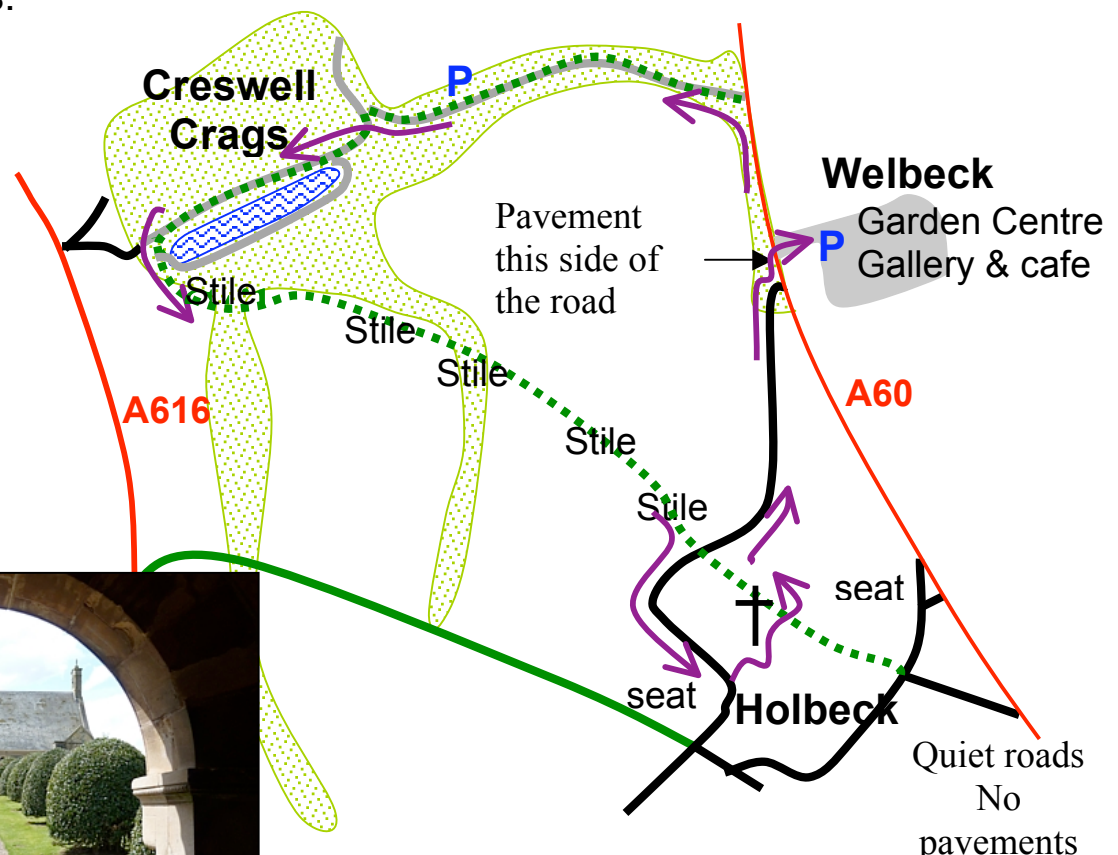


## 7. Welbeck

Welbeck has a large number of important buildings, but most of the village is private. The tops of the buildings can be seen from the path behind Holbeck Church. The Garden Centre and Harley Gallery are open to the public.

## 8. Holbeck

Holbeck and Holbeck Woodhouse were the attractive estate villages for Welbeck. There are views across Welbeck from High Holbeck (turn right from the Creswell Crags footpath as you enter the village. At the top of the hill is a seat and lych gate giving access to St Winifred's Church, which is exceptionally well looked after. Outside the church is a nice avenue of pollared lime trees.



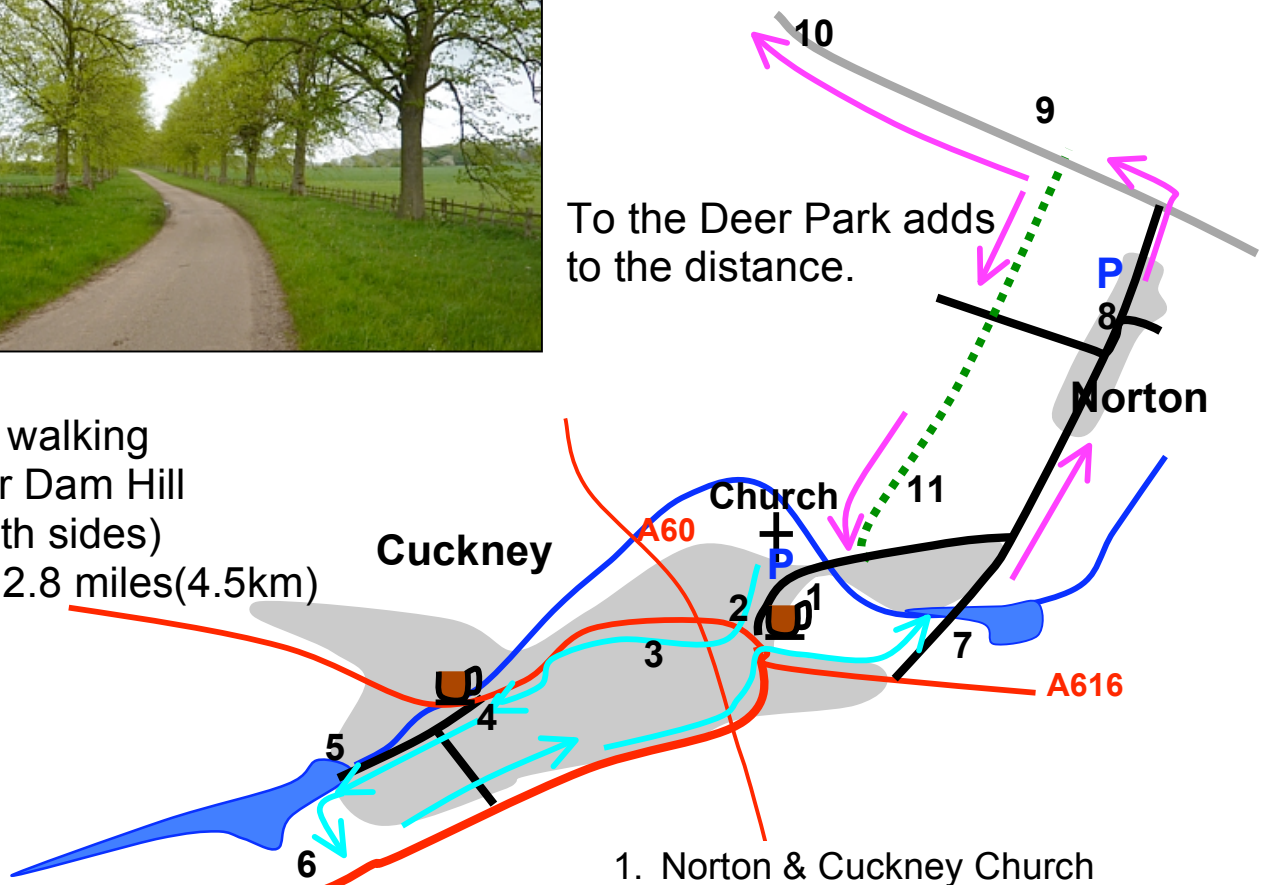
## 9 – 12. Cuckney & Norton

Few people visit these pretty villages, but both are worth strolling or cycling around. The River Poulter flows through Cuckney. Its millpond and Tenrow (former mill houses but there are only nine left) are to the west of the A60. The village school was formerly a cotton mill (The Upper Mills), converted to a school in 1846. To the east there is Norton Cuckney Church built on the site of Cuckney Castle. The Greendale Oak is an interesting public house (listed) named after a notable tree. About 1790 Major Hayman Rooke, the famous local antiquarian whom the Major Oak is named after, wrote a book about the many famous oaks to be found on the Welbeck Estate. One of these was the Greendale Oak. The tree was so large that to win a bet the Duke of Portland had an opening cut through the trunk wide enough to drive a carriage through – it was his smallest carriage though.



To the Deer Park adds to the distance.

Leisurely walking  
except for Dam Hill  
(steps both sides)  
Distance 2.8 miles(4.5km)



1. Norton & Cuckney Church
2. Greendale Oak
3. Tenrow
4. Community garden, village shop & cafe, play area with seats.
5. Upper Mill and millpond.
6. Dam Hill.
7. Lower millpond.
8. Norton play area and seat.
9. Welbeck Abbey Gates.
10. Deer Park (extra distance).
11. Seat overlooking the River Poulter



Cuckney Upper Millpond



## 13/14. Carburton

Carburton is a very tiny village on the River Poulter between the Welbeck Lakes and Clumber Lake.

Stop at the Bentinck Memorial and raptor (birds) view point overlooking Welbeck Great Lake. The Bentinck gatehouse across the road is typical of the estates many listed gatehouses. Further on there is another small road side parking area overlooking the eastern end of the lake. This has good views across the lake and estate, plus it is a feeding spot for the local birds.

The lower lake is Carburton Forge Lake, created to supply the 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century forge with power, during the early stage of the industrial revolution. From about 1650 to 1780 Sherwood Forest was part of Yorkshire Iron Masters area. Iron produced in North Derbyshire was brought to Sherwood Forest for forging into nails, pins, etc. The forest supplied the forge with wood to heat the iron and water power drove the machinery.

Don't miss the display about Carburton Watermeadows in the café at the corner. Water from the lakes, supplemented with sewage for the Abbey, was used to irrigate the water meadows.



## 15. Budby

Budby and Perlethorpe were the estate villages for the Thoresby Estate. Budby still has a pillar box dating from 1856, a rare early example. If you want to see what Sherwood Forest looked like 100 years ago take a walk south of the village across Budby Forest South.

This area was a tank training ground which meant it escaped the planting of conifers and its original heathland and wood grazing have survived.



## 16/17. Thoresby and Perlethorpe

The Hall is now Thoresby Hall Hotel, but the grounds and the stable block (The Courtyard), are open to the public.

80, 000 people a year now visit The Courtyard.

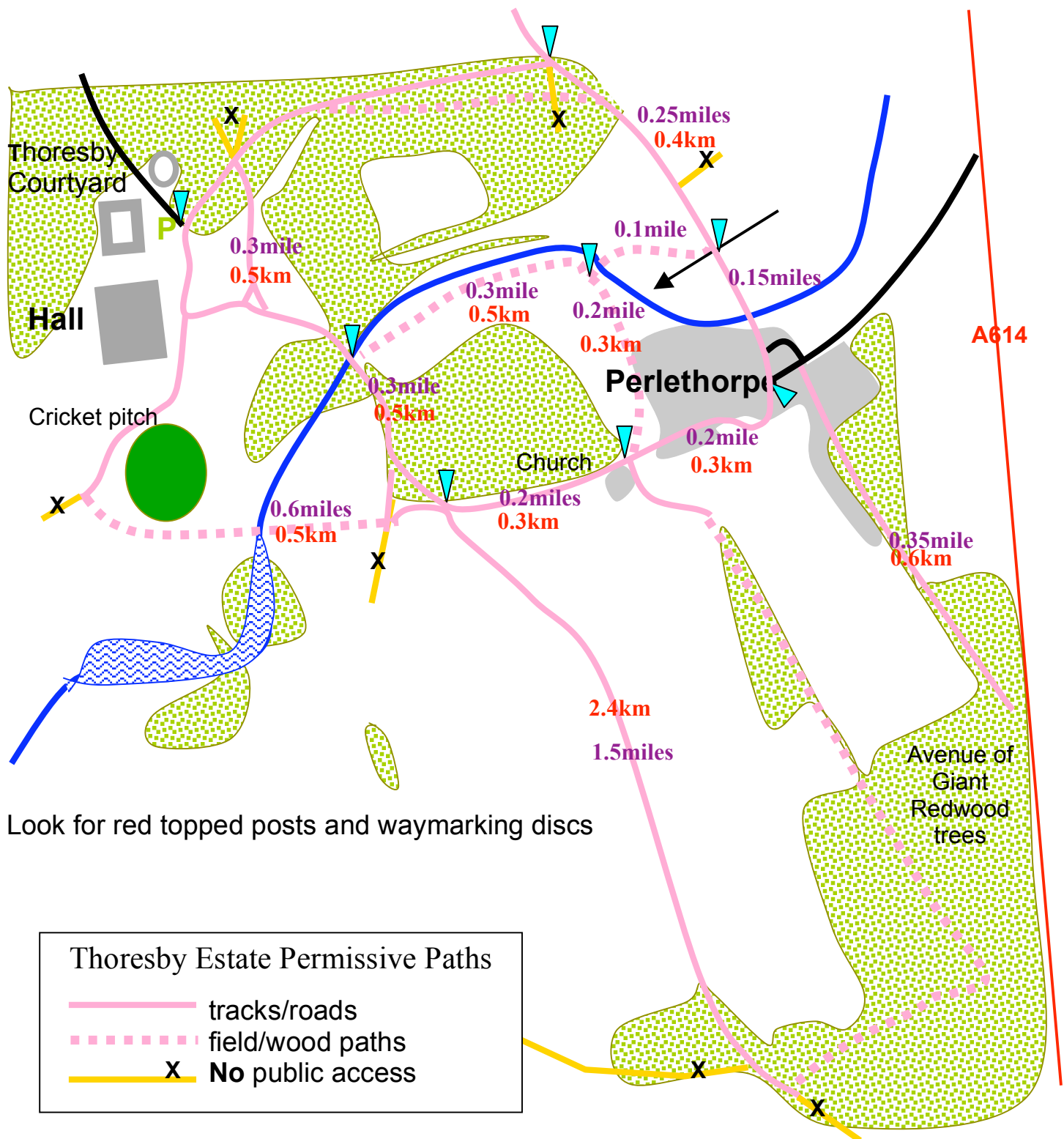
The Queen's Royal Lancers and Nottinghamshire Yeomanry Museum in the Courtyard is an excellent small museum.



Thoresby Gallery (open seven days a week 10.30 – 5.00pm) always has something interesting on display. The Loose Box Gallery displays Thoresby's Heritage Collection. There are also shops – the Gallery shop plus a teddy bear specialist, Jewellery Studio, Craft Corner, Hot Glass Studio, Sculpture Designer, Ladies wear & accessories, Bay Tree Café, plants, Home & gifts shop. See [www.whatsonatthoresby.co.uk](http://www.whatsonatthoresby.co.uk)

Combine your visit to the Courtyard with a walk around the permissive paths, there are many interesting things to see, buildings, old oaks, the river and water meadows, an impressive avenue of Giant Redwood trees, although these can still grow a lot bigger. Sunday lunchtime you can stop off at Perlethorpe's Village Institute for a drink.





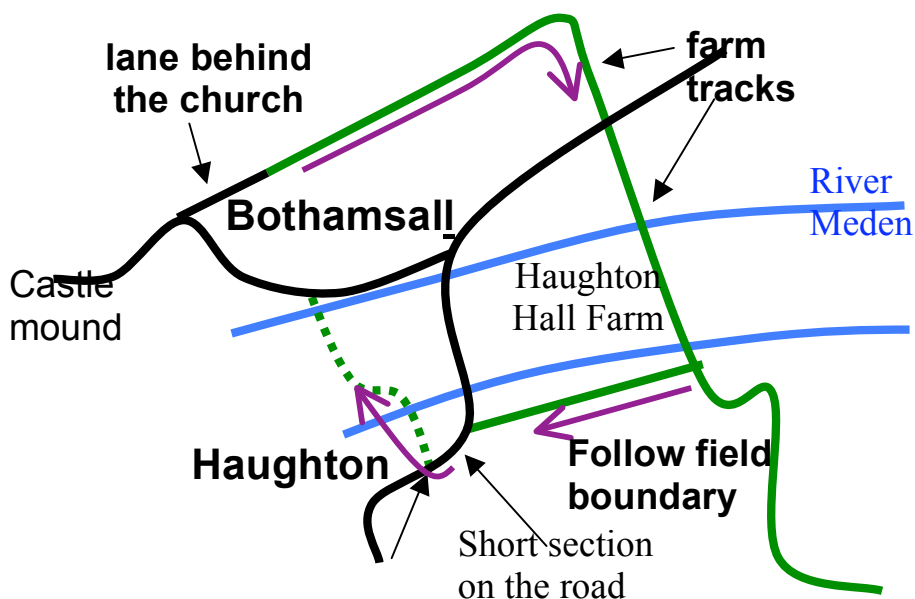
**Thoresby Permissive Paths** – easy walking and cycling round the cricket pitch and along the roadways past the church to Perlethorpe and back via the roadway and paths or across the meadows. There is a longer loop south before the church that takes you through a wonderful avenue of Giant Redwood trees. You can even stop in at the Perlethorpe Institute for a drink if you time it right.

## 18/19. Bothamsall

A quiet village to the east of the Dukeries between the rivers Maun, Meden and Poulter. There was a small motte & bailey castle at the western end of the village. The village has retained its old buildings and few modern buildings have been built to spoil the rural charm. The Grade 1 listed Manor House is on the lane behind the church.



Close to the village is the site of one of the Nottinghamshire oilfields which played such an important role during and after World War II (1939-1945). On the road to Clumber one of the 'nodding donkey' pumps can still be seen hard at work. Other wells are still producing gas.



To the north of Bothamsall is a very pleasant green lane leading to the River Poulter at Crookford.

To the south lies the tiny hamlet of Haughton. During Elizabethan times Haughton Hall was the home to the Hollis family before the house at Clumber was built.

Leisurely - Distance 2.4 miles (3.8km)



## 20/21. Clumber and Hardwick

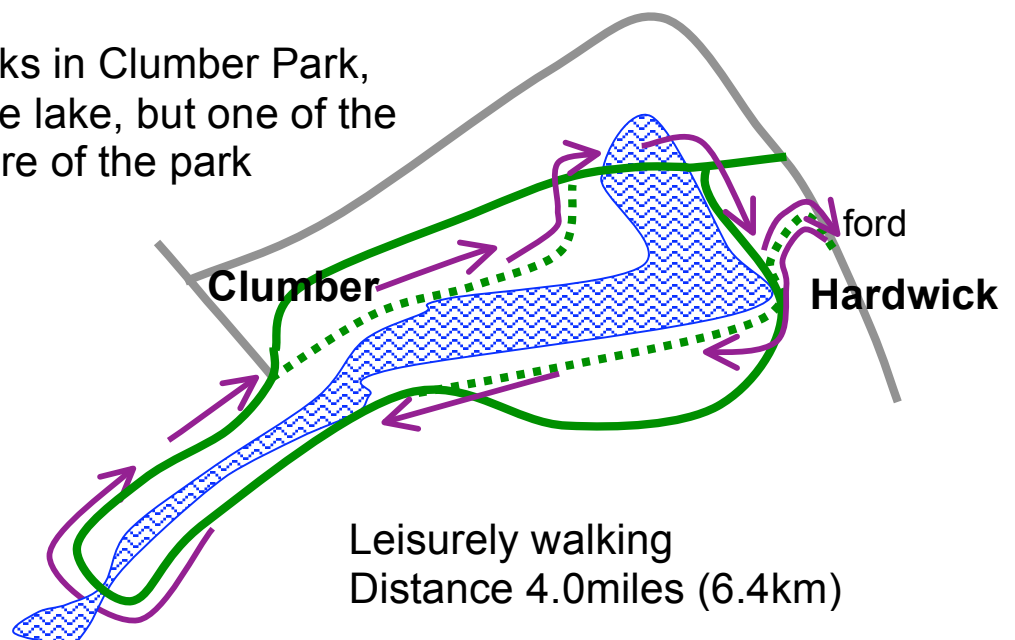
Clumber Park has been a very popular [National Trust Country Park](#) for many years. It may no longer have its stately home, but Clumber is still the jewel in the crown of the Dukeries because so much of it is open to the public. The Park is more than 3,800 acres (15 km<sup>2</sup>) in size and features woods, open heath and rolling farmland. It contains a serpentine lake covering 87 acres (352,000 m<sup>2</sup>), and the longest double avenue of lime trees in Europe. The avenue extends over three miles (5km), and was created by the 5th Duke of Newcastle in the 19th century.

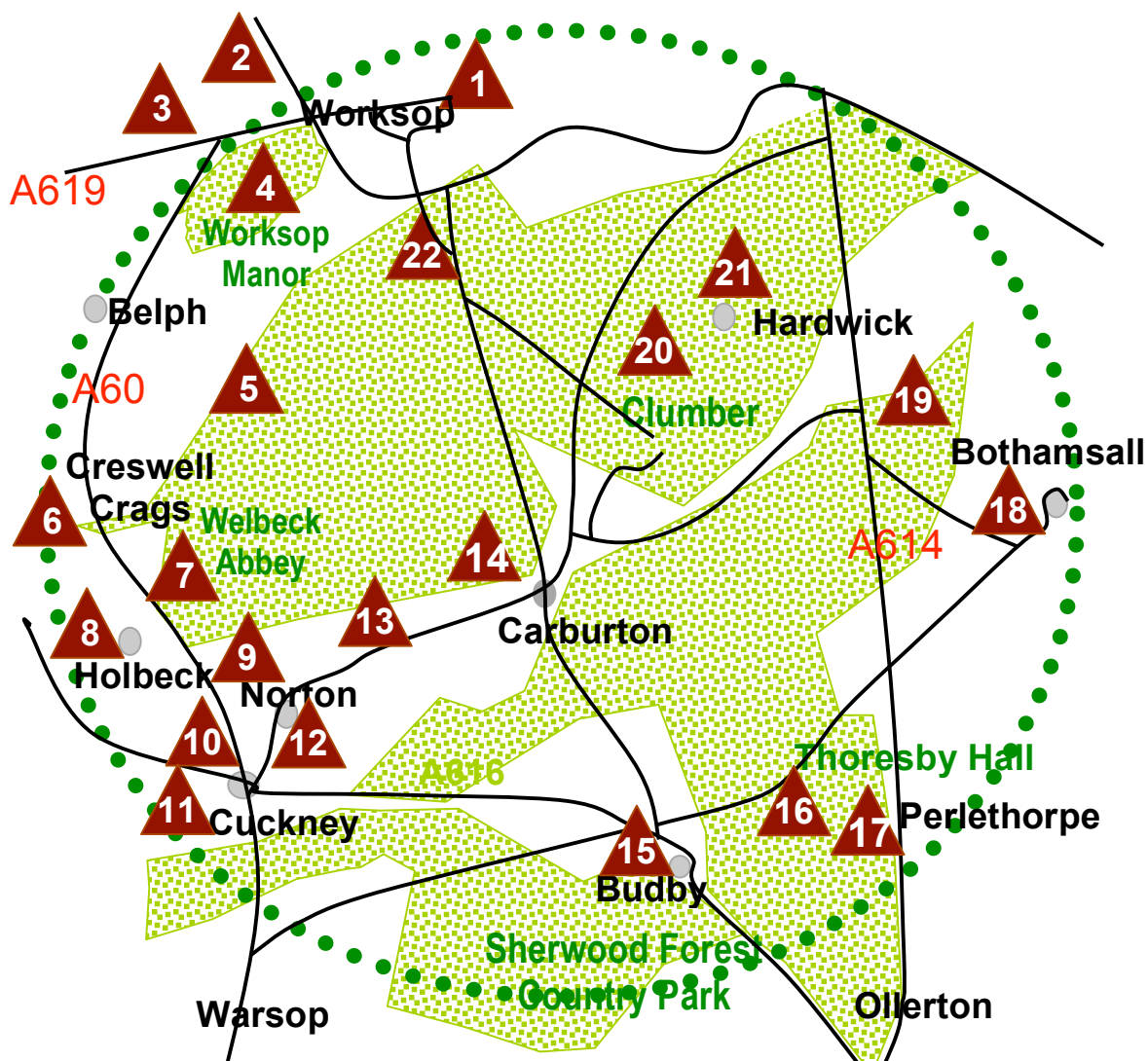


Hardwick village at the eastern end of the lake is the very picturesque estate village with its fine buildings, dam, ford and views up the lake.

There is a lot to see and do, cycle hire, café, restaurant, walled garden, cricket pitch and camp sites. There are lots of fine old trees, especially near the church – keep a look out for the woodpecker and nuthatch.

There are lots of walks in Clumber Park, the best is around the lake, but one of the best ways to see more of the park is to hire a bike.





1. Worksop Priory
2. Worksop Manor Lodge
3. Steetley Chapel – fabulous medieval atmosphere
4. Worksop Manor
5. South Lodge and Tunnel Lodge
6. Cresswell Crags
7. Welbeck Abbey
8. Holbeck
9. Limetree Avenue and Welbeck Gates
10. Cuckney Church
11. Cuckney Upper Mill
12. Norton
13. Bentinck Memorial
14. Carburton Forge Lake and water meadows
15. Budby and its Victorian post box
16. Thoresby Hall
17. Perlethorpe
18. Bothamsall
19. Bothamsall Oilfield
20. Clumber
21. Hardwick
22. Welbeck Estate gates

Key - maps is not to scale

Bridleway and permissive tracks

Minor roads

Other tracks/estate roads

Footpaths

Major roads – thinner the line less suitable for walking/cycling.

Disclaimer At the time of preparation these maps are correct to the best of our knowledge. Rights of Way should be checked against the County Council's Definitive Map.

Take with you **Explorer Map 270 - Sherwood Forest**