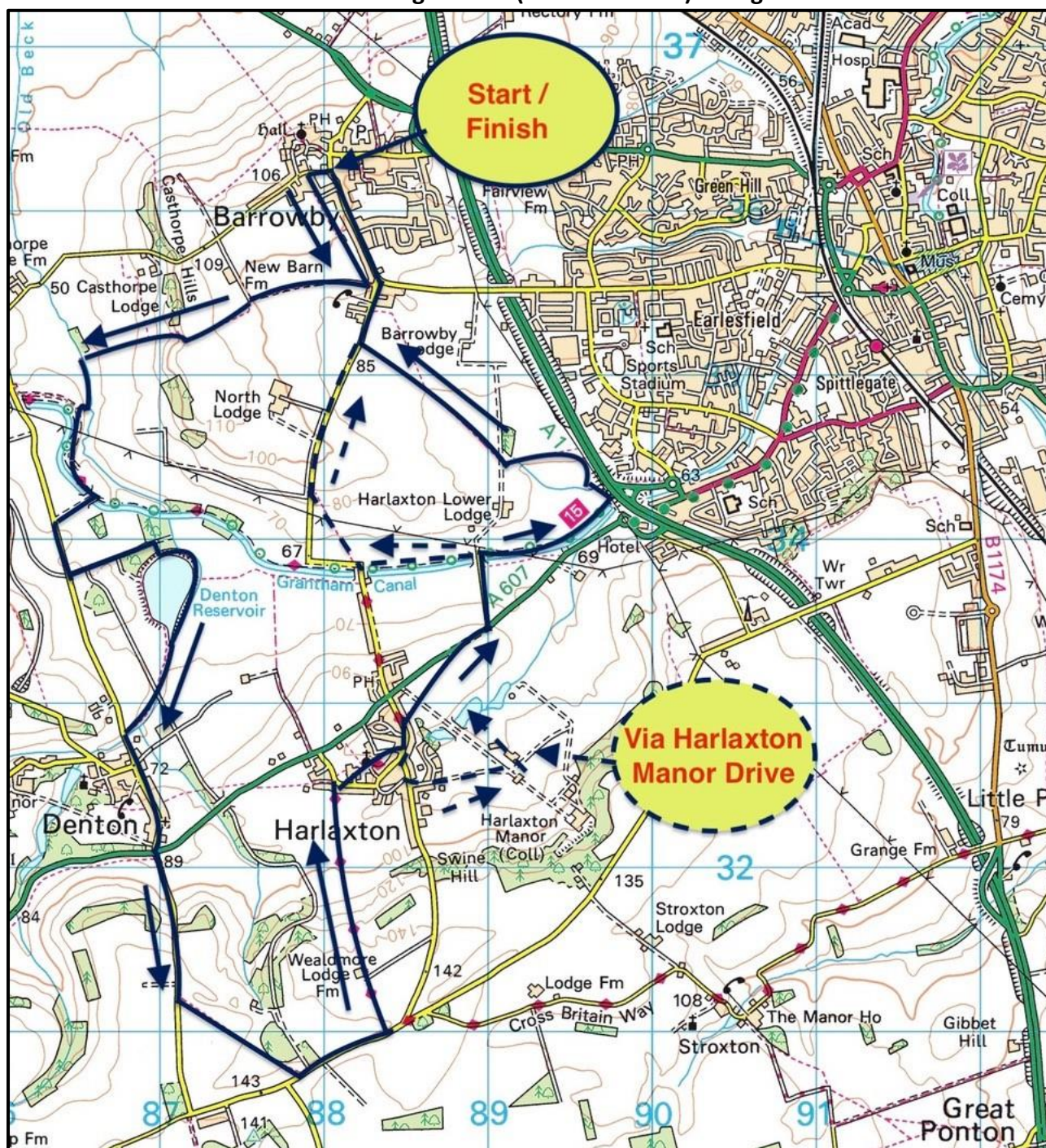


Walk is circular and starts at the Village Green (Stevens Gutter) facing the Butchers.



From Steven's Gutter walk along Casthorpe Road and turn left into Mill Row. Walk down Mill Row and continue onto the public footpath that leads to the Low Field sports field. Pass the pavilion, and follow the access track to the bottom car park. Then turn right onto the public footpath and continue straight on. At the end of the first field, ignore the track on your right to New Barn Farm and continue up the hill, keeping the hedge on your left. After 500m you reach 'Surprise View' with vistas across the Vale of Trent towards Nottingham and to Belvoir Castle. The path turns right then immediately left down some wooden steps and over a stile. Continue downhill to the right-hand corner of the field, and then continue ahead ignoring the footpath signed right. After 400m, cross a bridge over the stream called the Old Beck and immediately turn left following the Beck for 300m. Then follow the waymark to the right and continue to the Grantham Canal. Turn left along the towpath to Denton Wharf, across Bridge 65 and follow the access track to the

road. Turn left along the road walking on the wide verge for 350m and turn left onto the access track to Denton Reservoir. After 300m turn right to the reservoir, where you turn left to walk round the reservoir, noting cormorants, geese and other wildfowl.

At the end of the reservoir, continue straight ahead on the signed footpath which crosses a former railway line and then reaches a road, where you turn left into Denton village. Walk uphill along Main Street to the A607 which you cross carefully and then continue straight up the narrow road to the top of the ridge. 200m after the brow is a footpath to the left. Take this waymarked path and cross 4 fields and then go through a small conifer copse and a final small field to reach Gorse Lane.

Turn left along Gorse Lane (which is a former prehistoric route and Roman road) for 500 metres to a footpath sign on your left on the bend before the road junction down to Harlaxton. You have to take care while descending a steep metal stepladder to reach the field as the field level is lower than the road after ironstone quarrying in the 1940s and 1950s! Keep the hedge on your left hand side and walk towards the gate at the far end of the field, close to Wealdmore Lodge Farm. Cross the farm access road and follow the left hand edge of the field ahead to your right, going between the trees and the farmyard. Keep the farm buildings on your left. The footpath then goes to the left by a gate across a stile and keep to the left round the paddock. The route is then waymarked, and after crossing the two stiles, a fine view opens up. Take time to enjoy the vista across Harlaxton in the valley to Barrowby ahead and Grantham to your right. On your left is the distinctive valley of the Old Beck and further left the view sweeps towards Belvoir Castle and beyond to the Vale of Trent.

Follow the footpath down the field towards Harlaxton, crossing a stile into the next field and arriving at the village itself through a gate. Cross the road and take the footpath straight ahead through a hedge, then continue on towards the church. Go through the churchyard and follow the narrow jitty straight ahead to reach the junction of Church Street, High Street and Swine Hill, with a fine village cross in the middle of the road **(Point A)**. Turn left through Harlaxton village along High Street admiring the many fine houses, and after 300m take the footpath on your right. Cross the field and the drive to Harlaxton Manor – a fine view on your right - and continue straight on to the A607 **(Point B)**.

[Variant 1 (adds 0.75 miles): At the village cross **(Point A)**, do not turn left but go straight ahead and walk up Swine Hill. After 200m, turn left into Manor Drive and continue past the village hall and playing field on the track towards Harlaxton Manor. After 400m you reach Harlaxton Manor's drive from the A607 – you turn left along the drive for 700m passing the walled garden on your right. 120m before you reach the road, look out for the small sign indicating the footpath, and turn right to cross the field to the A607 to pick up the rest of the walk **(Point B on Main walk)**].

Main Walk continued: Turn right along the A607 and walk along the pavement for 300 metres then turn left down the road marked Grantham Canal Towpath. When you reach the canal, turn left and go down to join the towpath.

[Variant 2: Turn right along the towpath and return to Barrowby via Harlaxton Wharf and The Drift (see walks 2 and 5 in Vistas, Canals and Streams). If you want a longer variant continue along the towpath past Bridge 65 and retrace your steps back to Barrowby via Surprise View].

Main walk continued: Turn left on the towpath and walk under Vincent's Bridge (which is a 'Listed' structure) Continue along the towpath for 1km to the A1 and at the junction turn left onto a path through the trees at the bottom of the A1 embankment. **This section can be a little muddy!** After 150m you reach a stream on your left – cross the main stream and then immediately cross a smaller ditch and follow the stream keeping it on your left-hand side for 100m, then turn sharp right (90°) and walk right across the field to the first electricity pylon. Beyond this, before you reach the A1 boundary, turn left and walk back across the field to the left-hand corner of the small copse called Myers Wood. Walk past the beehives and

dogleg left following the waymark. Turn sharp right at the second waymark to follow the route indicated by the arrow. Follow the now straight grass path for 1200m to the Drift, ignoring the footpath sign to the right. Turn right and return to Steven's Gutter via Westry Corner and Low Road.

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