

The Trent, at 274 kms, is the UK's third longest river. It has suffered enormously over the years from high pollution levels, mainly caused by sewage discharge and agricultural 'run off'. Big improvements have been made to water quality since the worst excesses of the 1960s. Wildlife is now on the increase thanks to sympathetic management. Fish numbers, including those of salmon, have improved. This has been good news for species such as the otter, now making a welcome and widespread return to the river.



Immediately after the second stile bear diagonally left away from the river, aiming for a telegraph pole in the field. Stay on this line to cross two more stiles, the second of which brings you to a tarmac lane (6 km point).

Cross the lane to another stile in a hedge. Go over this and then over a metal footbridge. Continue ahead on a grass track that runs between gravel pits.

Stay on the track as it bears first sharp right and then sharp left. Go over a footbridge. Continue ahead to cross (with care) a wide quarry track, before passing between more gravel pits.



Archaeologists have been working in Besthorpe Quarry in recent years. They have discovered evidence of a Roman settlement, including large amounts of coins and pottery. They have also unearthed a series of drainage ditches and some simple corn driers, almost certainly indicating a wetter climate in the late Roman period. We know that, by the end of the 4th century AD, flooding was causing such a problem here that the inhabitants had already moved on to higher ground.

At a junction of tracks turn right and continue ahead to Ferry Lane Farm and another junction. Here turn left along a tarmac lane.

Continue ahead for approx 1 km until you reach the edge of Collingham and the junction with Low Street. Turn right to re-trace your steps to the car park.

RIVERS and LAKES TRAIL



COLLINGHAM WALKS

One in a series of circular walks produced by 2020 Green Vision* and supported by the Parish Council

*'Working towards a greener future for Collingham and its communities'

Walk Information

Description:

This walk, to the north west of Collingham, is through a landscape dominated by water. The route crosses the Fleet, a stream forming the village's western boundary, and later follows a stretch of the River Trent. It passes between flooded gravel pits, now a haven for wildlife, and skirts one of the county's important nature reserves. The route uses field paths, tracks and minor roads. It is easy level walking throughout, but can be muddy in places in wet weather. There are a few stiles to negotiate near the river.

Walk length:

8 $\frac{3}{4}$ kms (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles). At a leisurely pace it will take about 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours. The shorter route is 4 kms (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles).

Start and finish:

Car park at The Medical Centre on Collingham High Street. Grid ref: SK 831617. OS maps: Explorer 271 or Landranger 121.

Refreshments :

Choice of pubs and shops in Collingham.

Walk Directions

Turn right out of the car park onto the High Street. After approx 100 metres turn left into Baptist Lane. Turn right at the end into Low Street.

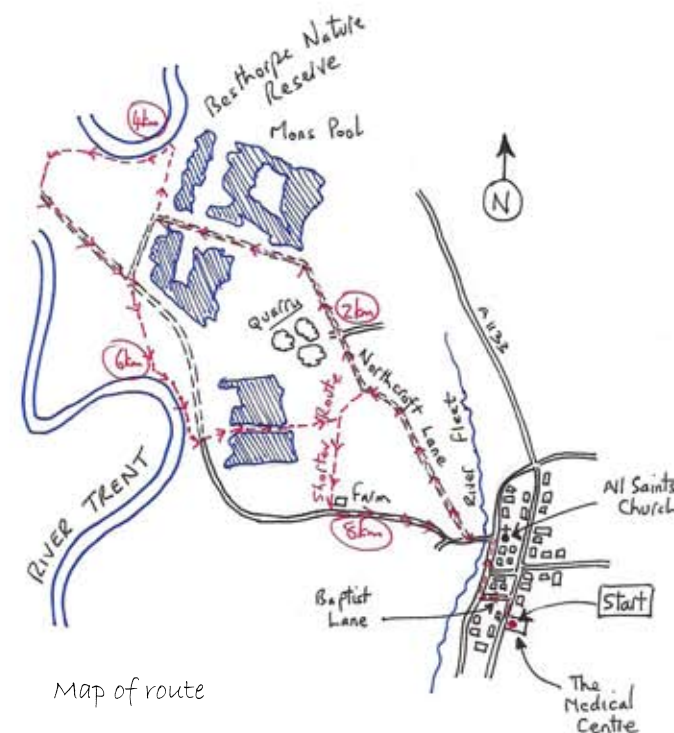
At All Saints Church turn left into Trent Lane. Cross the River Fleet almost immediately and then take the first turn on the right onto a gravel track (Northcroft Lane).

Continue ahead for approx 1 km until you reach a junction (note sign 'Besthorpe Quarry'). For the **shorter route** bear slightly left along a grass track. Continue on this as it turns sharp left, now rejoining the longer route.

For the **longer route** bear right at the junction to stay on the original track. Continue ahead for approx 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ kms, crossing the main quarry entrance road. Where the track bears sharp left (note sign 'Besthorpe Nature Reserve'), turn right onto a path running between a hedge and wire fence.

Besthorpe Nature Reserve covers some 68 hectares. It includes two important wildflower meadows with rare plant communities. The area of water to your right is Mons Pool, home to a colony of nesting cormorants and a heronry. Other species of water bird regularly seen are tufted duck, pochard and goosander.

Continue ahead until you reach the Trent (4km point). Turn left along the raised bank, staying on it as it swings left away from the river. Continue to a junction with a gravel track. Turn left and keep straight on for approx $\frac{3}{4}$ km.



Immediately after passing a track joining from the left, turn right onto a footpath by a large tree. Cross the field to regain the riverbank. Turn left to pass under an old loading machine. Stay on the bank, as it bends to the right, crossing two stiles.