

Dereham walks - general leaflet

Getting to Dereham

Dereham is not on the main line rail network, but there are two connections. First Bus service X1 runs through Dereham on its way from Peterborough, via King's Lynn, Norwich and Great Yarmouth, to Lowestoft: all of these are rail connected towns. A much less frequent, but very enjoyable, alternative is to use the train to Wymondham (on the Norwich-Ely line), then catch a Mid Norfolk Railway train up to Dereham.

In addition to the X1 service, Konect bus services run to and from several towns around (including Norwich).

If you come by car, please note that parking in the market square is time limited, but there are a number of car parks (all free) within a few minutes' walking distance. The nearest is Cherry Tree car park, off Theatre Street.

National Rail Enquiries: 08457 48 49 50 <http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/>

Mid Norfolk Railway: 01362 690633 <http://www.mnr.org.uk/>

First: 01603 268030 http://www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/suffolk_norfolk/

Konect Bus: 01362 851210 <http://www.konectbus.co.uk/>

Car parking: <http://en.parkopedia.co.uk/parking/dereham/>

Enjoy your walks!

I would like to thank all of those - too many to mention - who have made suggestions for improvements to this pack, and to the walks themselves. Feedback on how you have found these walks - the descriptions and the walks - will be very welcome. Please contact me at dtc.fpwarden@talktalk.net or on 07505 426750. If you meet a problem using any of the rights of way in these walks, please take the time to report it to Norfolk County Council at http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/Leisure_and_culture/Public_Rights_of_Way/Report_a_problem/index.htm) or 0344 800 8020.

This pack has been funded from Breckland District Council's interACTIVE initiative and supported by Dereham Town Council. It is a first step in building up support to make Dereham a *Walkers are Welcome* town



(<http://www.walkersarewelcome.org.uk/>). If you would like to support this bid, please contact me at dtc.fpwarden@talktalk.net or 07505 426750.



Ken Hawkins, Footpath Warden for Dereham Town Council

July 2015

Dereham walks



a guide to the public rights of way around Dereham

There are many places to walk in Dereham, including public streets, parks and open spaces. This leaflet is mainly about Dereham's 35 public rights of way - paths and tracks which everyone can use by right.

How to use this guide

There are four suggested walks in this pack, each with its own map. In total, they cover almost every public right of way within the town (four are currently partly or wholly inaccessible - Footpaths 6, 7 and 9, and Restricted Byway 3). The directions and maps refer to the rights of way by their official numbers, though you won't see these on the signs anywhere. The walks have been carefully checked to make sure the directions are clear, and every effort has been made to ensure that all information is correct at the time of writing, but things can change, so you are urged to make your own judgements - do not follow the directions without thought.

[Note: The main directions are shown in ordinary type: notes in italics give additional information but are not part of the walk.]

While the walks have been devised to provide an interesting experience, you are also encouraged to link them together and make your own walks. All of the walks start from the town centre, but in addition, there is overlap between Walks 1 and 2, Walks 2 and 3, and Walks 3 and 4 - or you could join them all into one mammoth full day circular tour of the town.

There are no places outside the town area (except the newly opened café at Dereham Windmill and Community Centre on Walk 3 - check for opening times) where you can get refreshments - best to take your own with you. There are public toilets off the Market Place in the town centre.

Maps

The maps in the leaflets are each drawn to a consistent scale, but this scale can vary from map to map. The instructions given are intended to guide people unfamiliar with the area, and should be read in conjunction with the map provided. To help you enjoy your walk, you are recommended to take a more detailed map with you, either a hard copy or on a GPS: I would suggest the OS Explorer 238 - Dereham & Aylsham. Explorer maps at 1:25,000 show many more details, such as field boundaries, that are invaluable (and informative!) to the walker. Stocks are held by *Dereham News* in the town centre (8 Market Place, Dereham NR19 2AW; 01362 692784).

Rights, problems and hazards

The ultimate point of reference for public rights of way is the 'definitive map' held by Norfolk County Council. This is not currently accessible on line, but the routes of paths are shown on the county's interactive map - see <http://maps.norfolk.gov.uk/highways/>. Ordnance Survey (OS) maps also show public rights of way, but occasional errors can occur, and the OS map is only as up to date as the last revision.



Public rights of way are mostly marked on the ground by fingerposts and/or small circular disks, the latter containing arrows coloured yellow for Footpaths, blue for Bridleways and plum for Restricted Byways. If you see a fingerpost or waymark disk, you are almost certainly on the right path.

The Norfolk County Council website has more information about rights of way: http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/Leisure_and_culture/Public_Rights_of_Way/index.htm. You might also consider joining The Ramblers - a charity whose goal is to protect the ability of people to enjoy the sense of freedom and benefits that come from being outdoors on foot: <http://www.ramblers.org.uk/advice.aspx>.

Some of the paths described follow town streets, or have tarmacked surfaces, but the more rural ones can be **very** muddy at times and get overgrown with nettles and brambles. Please dress appropriately, take care and be prepared to turn back if necessary. By their nature, few paths are suitable for ordinary wheelchairs or pushchairs, but there are few other impediments: across all the paths, there are only two kissing gates (both on Footpath 34), two other gates

(crossing the railway on Footpath 11), and one stile (on Footpath 1).

All of the walks use or cross roads. In many cases, these are town streets or quiet country lanes, but some are busy main roads. **Please take care with all roads - traffic can appear without warning and be unprepared to see you.** Busier roads are marked in the walks as **!**; in some cases, even more care is needed - these are marked **!!**.

You may have seen reports of cattle being aggressive towards walkers. None of the walks in these leaflets take you where livestock is likely to be found.

Places of interest

A number of **places of interest** are identified in the text of the walks.

Badley Moor Common. This is Open Access Land (see http://gb.geoview.info/badley_moor_open_access_land,102310710w and <https://www.gov.uk/right-of-way-open-access-land/use-your-right-to-roam> - search for Dumpling Green). It is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest - http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/citation/citation_photo/1000602.pdf.

Bishop Bonner's Cottage 01362 853453 <http://www.derehamhistory.com/>

Borrow Hall, birthplace of George Borrow <http://georgeborrow.org/static/georgeBorrowSociety.html>.

Dereham Windmill and Community Centre 01362 691164 <http://www.derehamwindmill.co.uk/>

Hoe Rough <http://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/home>

Jolly Farmers <http://www.dereham-pubs.co.uk/jollyfar.html>

Lecture Room <http://www.derehamhistory.com/a-picture-of-etling-green.html>

Lynn and Dereham Railway <http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/record-details?MNF13600>

Mid Norfolk Railway 01362 851723 <http://www.mnr.org.uk/>

Norfolk Trails 0344 800 8020 http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/Leisure_and_culture/Norfolk_Trails/index.htm

Potters Fen is a designated County Wildlife Site and a Site of Special Scientific Interest http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/citation/citation_photo/1003694.pdf.

Scarning Fen is a County Wildlife Site, managed by Norfolk Wildlife Trust (<http://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk>)

St Nicholas Church 01362 693143 <http://www.norfolkchurches.co.uk/derehamnicholas/derehamnicholas.htm>