

Denton's Waterways and Railways



Distance: 10.04 km

Difficulty: Easy

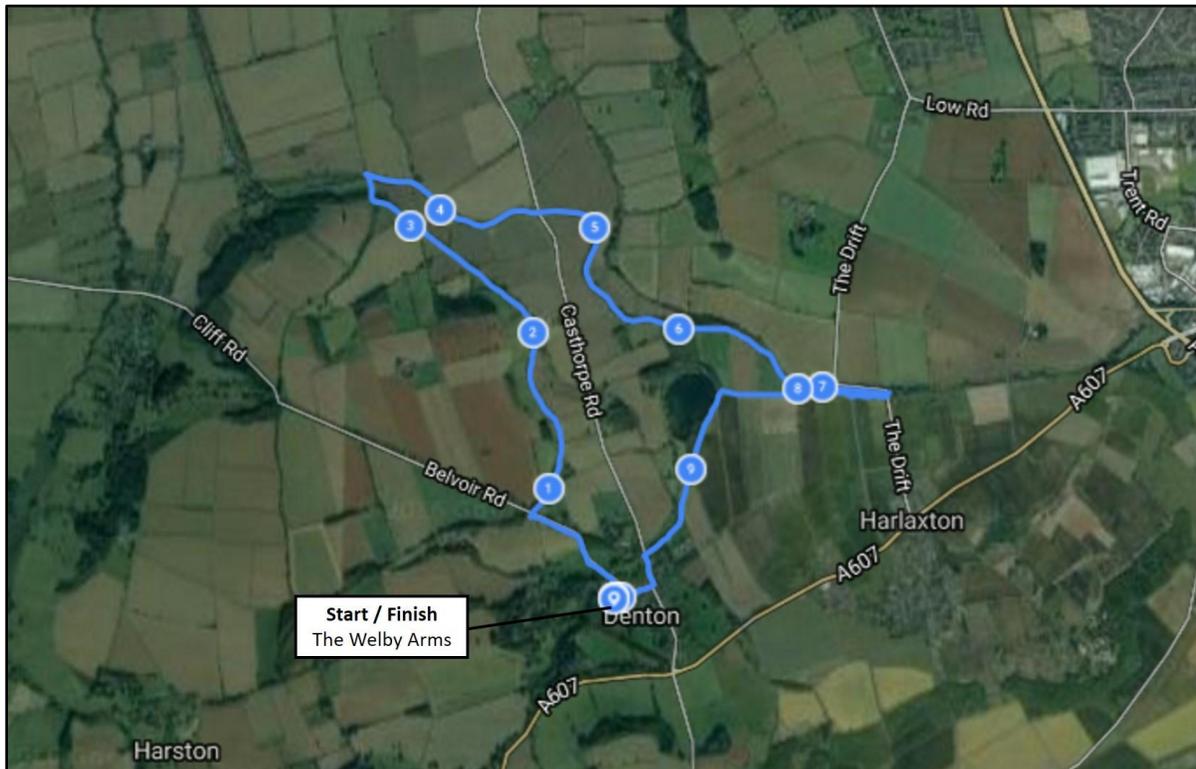
Dog Friendly: Yes (some fields with livestock)

Ascent/Descent: Easy (+/- 246 metres)

Toilets: At the start location, only

Wildlife: Swan, coot, great crested grebe

Endomondo GPS track: [View/Download here](#)



'Denton's Waterways and Railways' circular walking route (Google Maps)

Starting location: free parking can be found on Church Street in Denton, outside the church itself or The Welby Arms pub (satnav: NG32 1LG).

1. Standing outside and facing The Welby Arms, take the road running down the right-hand side of the pub. At the bottom, go left along Belvoir Road, ignoring the fork immediately to the left. Follow this road, keeping to the verge, for around 700 metres. At the bridge with a large blue sign, turn left, taking the path down to join the track that used to be an old railway line, heading right and under the bridge.



You are now walking the route of the former ironstone railway. The local ironstone was first exploited around 1879 when strata at Brewers Grave were worked. The ore was fed down through Cliff Wood on



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a 3-foot gauge tramway to Woolsthorpe Wharf. The 1883 'Belvoir' branch line was initially intended to take over the transport of this ore supply but as more quarries were opened, first near Harston and later around Denton, Harlaxton and Stroxton, the lines were extended from 1916 onwards to finally total 14 miles. The lines finally closed in 1974.



2. Follow the old railway line for around 2km, taking a moment to enjoy the view out over the area (pictured left). At the end of the path, turn right, joining the Viking Way footpath and passing through/under a destroyed bridge.

Cross the bridge over the canal, then turn immediately left and, when you reach the canal tow path, be sure to head left along the canal (east) and under the bridge you just crossed. Follow the canal tow path, noting Bridge 63 'Bridle Bridge'

In the 1950s, many of the bridges over the canal were flattened to make way for road improvements. With the subsequent restoration of the canal, some of these bridges required raising again. The bridge pictured right, Casthorpe Bridle Bridge (63), had to be raised to a navigable height, and this was done entirely by volunteers and completed in August 2013. Similarly, the Casthorpe Road Bridge (64) also had to be raised, but proved a tougher challenge. It cost around £335,000 and was completed in 1995. The Bridle Bridge was the first of the lowered bridges to be raised again to navigable height since the destruction of the canal's bridges began. Read more on the [Grantham Canal Society's website](http://www.granthamcanalsociety.co.uk).



3. Continue on until you reach the Harlaxton Bridge (Bridge 66). Pass under, before taking the path on the left up to the road. Now cross Harlaxton Bridge and take the path between two wooden posts immediately on your right (pictured left). Follow the path along, passing Harlaxton Wharf on your right. After a few hundred metres, follow the path around the edge of a field,

keeping the perimeter wire fence on your right. At the next field, take the wide path straight ahead (pictured right), keeping the hedgerow on your right. Where the path joins the side of Denton Reservoir, go left on the perimeter path.





4. When you reach the southern edge of the reservoir, keep going straight ahead, taking the footbridge ahead and ignoring the one to the right. Follow the path designated by the yellow and green way-markers until you come out onto a road (Casthorpe Road). Go left and then turn right onto Church Street, heading uphill to return to your start location and The Welby Arms.

Pub: The Welby Arms

The Welby Arms in Denton is currently undergoing a significant refurbishment (December 2016) after an extended period of closure. Temporary opening times are currently in-effect, so we recommend everyone calls in to support this cosy, characterful village pub and meet the new (and very friendly!) landlords.



Tips

There are no tips for this walking route.

