

# The Thornton Reservoir Circular

**Distance:** 4.06 km

**Difficulty:** Easy

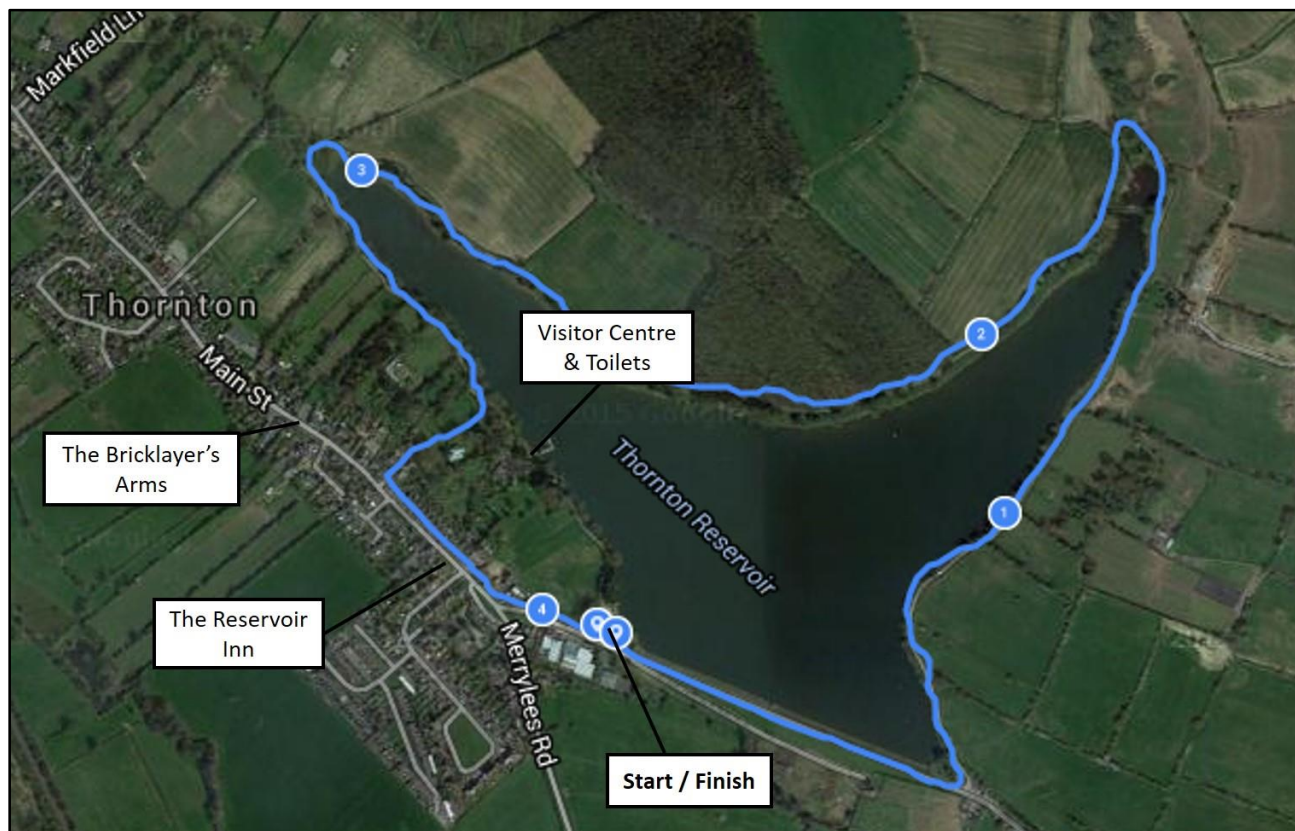
**Dog Friendly:** Yes

**Ascent/Descent:** Easy (+/- 141 metres)

**Toilets:** At the visitor centre and pubs

**Wildlife:** Two reed warblers believed to be in residence, one at each end of the reservoir

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



*The Thornton Reservoir circular walking route (Google Maps)*

**Starting location:** free parking is available at the Thornton Reservoir car park, situated on the reservoir and located on Reservoir Road (satnav: LE67 1AR, pictured right).

1. Exit the car park onto Reservoir Road. Head left along the pavement, running alongside the stone wall, and offering views out over the reservoir. After approximately 500 metres, turn left into a small clearing and take the footpath that follows the eastern shore of Thornton Reservoir.



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Thornton derives its name from an old reference to the vegetation that grew wild around the village, hence the “Town of Thorns” or Thornton. Thornton Reservoir is a small, 74-acre reservoir and now over 150 years in age. Built in 1854, the creation of the reservoir took almost seven years of planning and building works. It was originally constructed to provide water for Hinckley and Nuneaton, together with the western parts of Leicestershire, and has a total capacity of 1,320,000 m<sup>3</sup>. Severn Trent Water closed the reservoir in 1982, but it was reopened to the public in 1997 and is now a refuge for a diversity of wildlife, including mammals, birds, butterflies and dragonflies.



2. Follow reservoir shoreline path, around the north-eastern tip of the reservoir, before entering the woodland (pictured left). Continue on along the path, keeping to the shore-side path. After emerging from the forest, continue along, now going around the north-western tip of the reservoir. After rounding the tip, the path will continue on along the

shore of the reservoir. After a short way, you will come to a ‘cut’ in a hedge which will take you to our first pub, The Bricklayer’s Arms, should you wish to visit (pictured right).



3. Continue on along the shore-line path. After a short way, you will come to a metal gate and a sign for St. Peter’s Church (pictured left). Here, you can continue on along the shore for 100 metres and you will come to the Visitor Centre and public toilets. However, to continue the walk, follow the signposted public footpath, heading uphill and going through the churchyard. Go out onto the road (Church Lane) and follow it a short way to the end. Here, turn left onto Main Street, passing our second pub, The Reservoir Inn. Continue on and you will return to the car park where this walk began.

## **Pub 1: The Bricklayer’s Arms**

The Bricklayer’s Arms is a walker-friendly, Everard’s pub located in Thornton town, but can be accessed via a connecting path linking the pub to the Thornton Reservoir circular trail. The pub boasts an excellent, reasonably-priced ‘light bites’ menu, as well as an ample selection of Everard’s ales, such as Tiger, Beacon and Original. You can view their website [here](http://www.bricklayersarms.co.uk).



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## **Pub 2: The Reservoir Inn**

The Reservoir Inn, formerly The Tipsy Fisherman, reopened in 2013 after a well-received refurbishment, receiving excellent reviews on TripAdvisor for its food, taking the pub up to #17 of over 900 restaurants in Leicester (correct as of 10 July 2016). The pub is walker-friendly and is happy for walkers to use the car park as a start/finish point on your route. You can view their website [here](#).



## **Tips**

The path around the reservoir is flat and surfaced with compacted gravel.

There is a small surfaced sculpture trail that leads through the woodland, but it can become very muddy after rain.

There are plenty of benches along the trails for resting.

The Reservoir Inn offers an excellent Sunday lunch and the pub are happy for walkers to use their car park as a start/finish point, so it is possible to start this walk at The Reservoir Inn (satnav: Main Street, LE67 1AJ).



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