

# The Billingborough & Horbling Circular

**Distance:** 15.08 km

**Difficulty:** Moderate

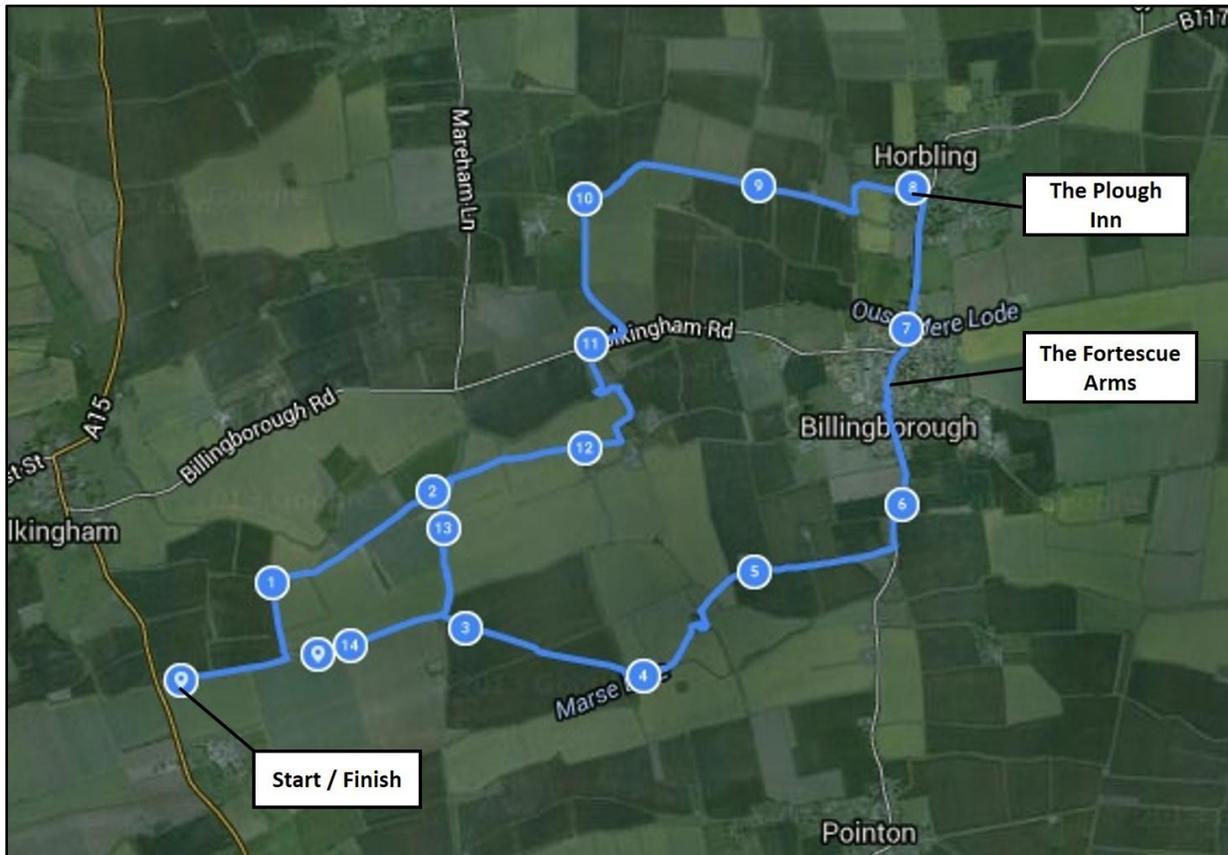
**Dog Friendly:** Yes (some sections require a lead)

**Ascent/Descent:** Easy (+/- 256 metres)

**Toilets:** In the pubs only

**Wildlife:** Nothing of note

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



*The Billingborough & Horbling circular walking route (Google Maps)*

**Starting location:** at the water tower (pictured right) just outside of Folkingham on the side of the A15. There's a small lay-by you can pull into and park in, but please leave enough room for work vehicles to access the water tower and for farm vehicles to access the farmland.



1. Start at the base of the water tower. There is an overgrown footpath inside a narrow line of trees leading away perpendicular to the A15. You must use this path because the adjacent fields are private. It is quite overgrown, but should be navigable for most. Follow it until you emerge, continuing straight ahead until you come to a fenced off pond. Immediately before the pond,



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turn left and head along this track for approximately 400 metres, coming to a T-junction of tracks. Turn right and follow this track, passing a partially-ruined building on your right, until you come to a road. Turn right onto the road and walk along it for about 750 metres.



2. Look for a public footpath leading off to your left. It's a path that cuts diagonally across a farmer's field. Take the path, and when you reach the other side of the field, turn right and walk towards the corner of the field, no more than 80 metres away to your right. Turn left and follow the path a short way along the Marse Dike. You should



be able to see the abbey in the distance (pictured left). Head towards it. The path will then bear left, heading diagonally across the field and towards the abbey. At the end of the path, you will enter into the graveyard (pictured right).

3. To leave the abbey, you want the footpath that leads away from the opposite corner of the abbey grounds from where you entered, imagining the grounds are square. It is another path that leads diagonally across a field. Once you reach the other side, bear right slightly and follow the path along the side of the field until you join a track. Continue heading straight on. After a short while, you will come to a horse riding yard. The path is hard to spot, but you want to continue straight ahead, going through a little, white wooden gate, into the horse riding grounds. Continue roughly straight ahead; the path goes down the side of a shed, but the painted sign has worn away. You should then come out onto Pointon Road. Turn left and walk along the pavement into Billingborough village. You will pass the Fortescue Arms on your right and the fish and chip shop on your left. Keep walking along this main road, leaving Billingborough and entering into village of Horbling. The Plough Inn will be signposted from this road. Follow the signs to get to the second pub on this trail.

4. Directly opposite the pub entrance is a footpath leading away and into a sheep field. Take this path and continue roughly straight on, crossing the field. Bear left slightly as you reach the far side and turn left, following the path along the tree/hedge line. You will come out onto a road (Stow Lane), so turn right, passing a house on your left. Follow this road for 1.6km, during which it will bear left, then straighten up again. After it straightens, but before the farm, there is a path off to the left. Take this path, following a little while as it bears left. You will now come out onto Folkingham Road. Head right.

5. Take the road for no more than 200 metres and you will see an electricity transformer on your left. Immediately after the transformer, turn left into the field. Walk around the left hand edge of the field. Listen out for a stream which is down the embankment, which is quite overgrown. Climb down, cross the stream, and climb up again. There might be a blue barrel to mark the way, but the footpaths here haven't been maintained and have basically all-but-gone. Once you come out of the undergrowth, head left again, heading round the outside of the farmer's field. As you almost reach the farm



buildings, a footpath heading off right, off across the middle of the field will be visible. Take the path and follow it to the other side. You should find yourself coming out onto the road from the end of Step One. Head left.

6. Keep going until you reach the point where you turned right at the start of Step Two. However, this time, turn right onto the bridleway (it doesn't look much like a bridleway!). Continue to follow this path and you will eventually come to the fenced-off pond from Step 1. Retrace your steps back to the water tower and you're awaiting car!



### **Pub 1: The Fortescue Arms**

The Fortescue Arms at Billingborough is a traditional pub in the heart of Lincolnshire. Dating back several centuries, the pub is full of old English character which is enhanced by a good selection of traditional ales and a quality, home cooked menu.



Serving food from 12.00pm any day of the week including Sunday for a wonderful, home cooked roast! There is also a wonderful beer garden perfect for summer and a refreshing drink in the sunshine. In the winter, the bar is beautifully snug with its log-burning stove. View their website [here](#).

### **Pub 2: The Plough Inn**

The Plough Inn is a lovely, family-friendly pub with restaurant. The selection of ales is one of the best in the area, with *Right Turn, Clyde!* being my favourite. Unusual name and unusual flavour! The owners are very friendly and their dog wanders around freely, urging you to throw his ball for him. The food is the best part though. Very reasonable priced, made fresh and perfect for a day's walking. You can view their website [here](#) for menus and opening times. The 'boom-bang-bang chicken' is what I would recommend! I had this unusual dish and it was delicious!



### **Tips**

This route crosses through or goes around a lot of private farming land. Please respect this and keep to marked footpaths.

There are some small road sections to walk along that can get quite busy at times.

If you want to get a cheap cup of tea, call in at the Fish and Chip shop (The Codfather) in Billingborough and you can get a decent brew for just 50p.

