

# The River Welland & the LNWR Dismantled Railway

**Distance:** 9.85 km

**Difficulty:** Easy-to-moderate

**Dog Friendly:** No (multiple fields containing livestock)

**Ascent/Descent:** Easy (+/- 93 metres)

**Toilets:** At the pubs, only

**Wildlife:** Nothing of note

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



*The 'River Welland, Welham Junction & the LNWR Dismantled Railway Trail' circular walking route (Google Maps)*

**Starting location:** Park in the vicinity of the church at Sutton Bassett (satnav: LE16 8HP) where limited, free on-street parking can be found throughout the village.



1. With your back to the church (pictured), set off to the right, along the main road you drove in on, leaving the village of Sutton Bassett behind you. When you reach the summit of the hill a few hundred metres ahead, turn right onto the a signposted track, through a metal gate. Follow the track for a few hundred metres; when you reach some gates with paths going left and right, turn left and take the path that runs alongside the hedge.



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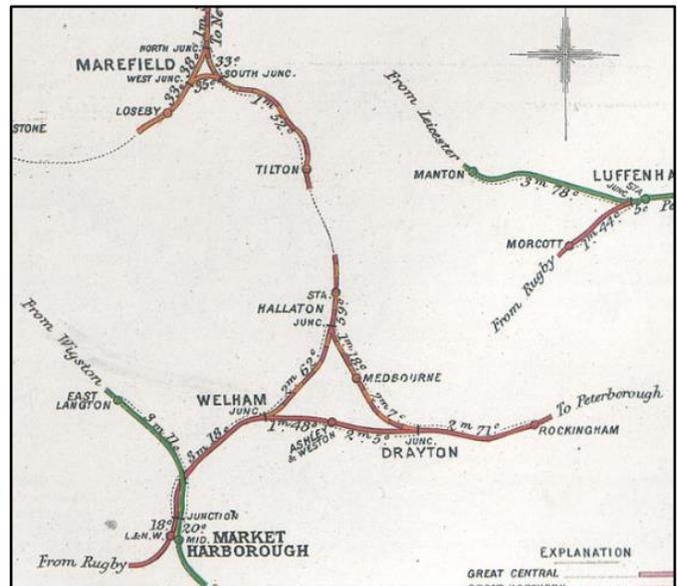
Contact: [alesandtrailsuk@gmail.com](mailto:alesandtrailsuk@gmail.com)

Website: [www.alesandtrailsuk.co.uk](http://www.alesandtrailsuk.co.uk)

2. At the end of the field, the path then turns left, follows the edge of another field, before turning right and following another field edge to the gate you will see ahead. Through the gate, cross the next two fields and head for the road ahead, to bring you out into the village of Weston-by-Welland. Go right along the road and, where it almost immediately bears right, go straight-on and then left. At the farm at the end of the village, where the road forks, go right to join a long, straight, narrow road (pictured right). The first cross roads you come to is where the old London and North West Railway (LNWR) line intersects with the road you are on. This is the first of three cross points on this walk.



*The railway line, known as the Great Northern and London and North Western Joint Railway was a joint railway owned by the Great Northern Railway (GNR) and the London and North Western Railway (LNWR). The Line opened in December 1879, with the line to your left heading to Welham Junction and Market Harborough and to your right, to Drayton and Peterborough. The line closed to regular passenger trains on 7 December 1953, but retained a healthy goods traffic and also the summer specials, but the specials ended and the through goods trains had been diverted onto other lines by 1962, when most of the line was closed.*



3. Continue on along the narrow lane for around 1km, after which, you need to turn left onto a signposted bridleway, where the road begins to bend to the right. Here, pass through the remains of the railway embankment/tunnel, the second crossing point on this walk.

*This section of the LNWR line connected Marefield and Newark to the north, to Welham Junction and Market Harborough to the south. Initially, Northampton-to-Nottingham and Northampton-to-Newark trains operated on this line but the latter was not a success and was closed in 1882.*

4. Once through the railway embankment, several paths lead off in all directions. Take the left-hand path and then cross over the field ahead, aiming for a yellow marker post on the opposite side of the field. While crossing this field, you will see several railway bridges/tunnels to your left. Climb the stile and cross over the next field also. Over the next stile, go left and follow the field perimeter, which soon bears right as it joins the River Welland and passes through a small wooded area. The path then bears right, with the river, but then continues in a straight direction while the river meanders. Climb



over several stiles and cross several fields until you come out onto the road and our first pub, the Old Red Lion.

5. Exit the pub and continue along the road (in a roughly straight-on direction, with the pub to your right). Where the road bears right ahead, continue straight-on to join a lane. Just after passing the stud farm and then the fishing lake on your left, there will be another crossroads where the lane once more intersects with the dismantled railway line. Shortly after you pass the chicken farm on your right, take the signposted Midshires Way bridleway to Sutton Bassett on your left; the village should be visible in the distance.



6. After 300m, cross the footbridge and then take the path that bears left at the fork. Cross straight over the field, aiming for a gate on the other side. Keep to the field-edge path until you're about two-thirds of the way along. Then, head right, across the field, aiming to the left of the Queen's Head pub, where you will be able to join the main road running through Sutton Bassett.



### **Pub 1: The Old Red Lion**

The Old Red Lion is part of the small chain of pubs known as King Henry's Taverns. While its ale selection is limited to just two choices, it boasts a fantastically-cheap food menu. If you visit the pub at a lunchtime on Monday-to-Saturdays, then you can select a main meal for just £4 (scampi and chips, lasagna and chips etc.) and you can add a dessert for just £1. We tried the food and it passed the taste test! View their website [here](#).



### **Pub 2: The Queen's Head**

The Queen's Head pub dates back to the reign of Queen Anne and offers fantastic views out over the Welland Valley. It used to offer six real ales and regularly held beer and real ale festivals. However, the pub closed in January 2014 and has not yet reopened. It is hoped a buyer will be found soon.

### **Tips**

This walk contains multiple fields with cows and sheep grazing freely. Therefore, it is unsuitable for dogs.

This walk also contains at least 20+ stiles along the route.

