

## About the route

Big skies and big views are the essence of this walk, coupled with three splendid churches: one active, one almost forgotten but protected, and one sadly neglected but all well worth a visit. Level terrain using riverbank, country lanes and field paths.

### Walk Checklist:

#### Start point/parking

On the west (Dunham) bank of the River Trent adjacent to the A57 toll bridge.

#### Distance

Approximately 7 miles (11.5 kms).

#### Duration

3.5 - 4 hours + stops.

#### Stiles and gates

8 stiles, 1 gate.

#### Refreshments

Public Houses in Dunham on Trent.

#### Public Transport

By bus: Services No. 89 Retford – Dunham – Tuxford; No. 93 Dunham – Woodbeck – Retford.

#### OS Grid Reference

Walk starts at **SK818745** – Map OS Explorer 271 and OS Landranger 121.



The dots show the start points of all our 20 walk routes. Visit our website for more info.



Trent Vale



Trent Vale

Walk Route

# Dunham on Trent, Fledborough and Ragnall Circular



Fledborough viaduct .

**Start Point:** West (Dunham) bank of the River Trent adj. to A57 toll bridge

**Route Length:** Approximately 7 miles (11.5 kms)

**Route Duration:** 3.5 - 4 hours + stops

**Route Type:** Level terrain using riverbank, country lanes and field paths



Trent Vale



For more information, visit:  
[www.trentvale.co.uk](http://www.trentvale.co.uk)



LOTTERY FUNDED

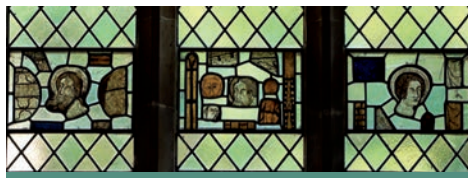
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[www.sigmapress.co.uk](http://www.sigmapress.co.uk)

# Dunham on Trent, Fledborough and Ragnall Circular

**1 Start.** From the car park, join the footpath on the floodbank; go past the aqueduct then cross over a stile. Just after this take the path veering left closest to the river, which passes between two lakes – abundant birdlife may be seen. When the path meets the main floodbank once again continue south for approx. 1.5 kms – the multi-arched Trent Viaduct fills the horizon. At Fledborough, go through a gate then over a stile by a house on right, then a further stile into a lane.



St Gregory's Church, Fledborough and its Medieval Sculptures.



Medieval glass, St Gregory's Church.

Fledborough is the tiniest of villages and remotely situated; but here in the 18th century it rivalled Gretna Green for secret marriages. The Reverend William Sweetapple, vicar of the parish was responsible for this notoriety. His willingness to marry anyone with no questions asked enabled him to become very prosperous. How he was able to do this undiscovered was no doubt Fledborough's isolated location.

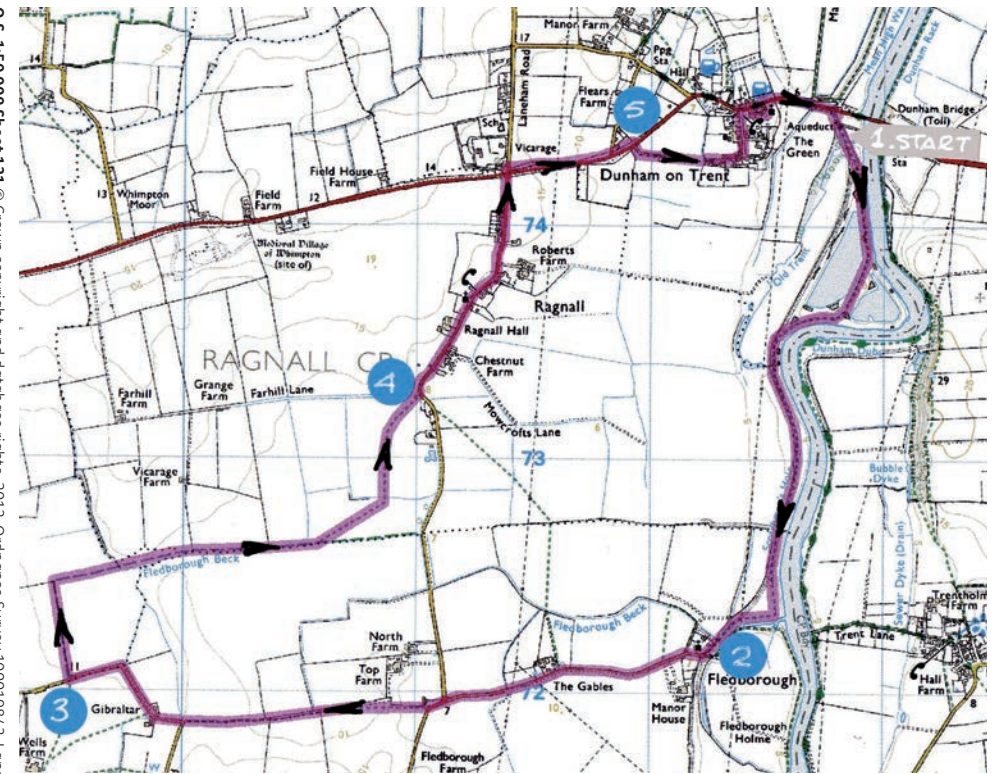
**2** Turn right along this lane – the Church of St Gregory on your right – and follow the tarmac lane for 1kms to meet a minor road. Keep ahead for 100m passing Long Row Cottages and where it turns left take the signed path via a stile into a field. Keep alongside a fence on the right at first then a hedge/ditch where the path becomes a farm track. When the track goes left continue by the hedge to a stile at a bend in the road. Go ahead along this in same direction passing Gibraltar Farm where after 300m it goes left and 300m further at a signpost take the bridleway on the right.

**3** Follow the broad track to the field end: turn right into another field and follow the bridleway alongside a ditch to reach a bridleway bridge. Continue on for 1kms – Fledborough Beck on right – where in the fourth field a signpost is met. Take the signed path veering half-left across a field to a further signpost and footbridge. Cross this and continue on path in the next field veering slightly right to meet a road near Ragnall.



St Leonard's Church, Ragnall.

In the Domesday Book, Ragnall is spelt 'Ragenhill' which comes from the Old Norse meaning 'the hill of a man called Ragni.' The church is sadly not used nowadays; even its clock has stopped.



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**4** Go left into this small village – take the opportunity to visit the Church of St Leonard – and follow the winding road gently uphill to the A57. Cross carefully at the crossroads and walk a few metres into Laneham Road opposite. Cross over this and take the pathway opposite, initially shielded from the A57, into Dunham.

**5** Go past Upper Row on the left and after 100m re-cross the A57 (with care) and take the signposted driveway opposite. Follow this to enter a property. Keep left passing between a hedge and buildings to a stile at the garden end. Cross into a field and ahead to a cul-de-sac (Leach Close/Horne Lane). Take the first left, The Green, back to the A57 (Dunham Main Street). Turn right along the road – take the opportunity to visit the Church of St Oswald – to return to the toll bridge and start point.



Cottam Power Station from Dunham.

Dunham, spelt 'Duneham' in Domesday Book means 'the village or homestead at the hill.' The church is large and impressive, most notably its battlemented and corner-pinnacled west tower, the upper part having huge 15th century windows which are open to the elements.