

## About the route

An easy walk between the medieval settlements of Morton and Walkerith in an area with a historical and geographical interest. Easy level walking on footpaths and loose stone track; some road walking.

### Walk Checklist:

#### Start point/parking

Morton Village Hall car park at the rear of the hall on Walkerith Road. NB: Walkerith Road at this point is a one way street. To access the car park drive along Crooked Billet Street, pass the village hall on the right. Take the next right into Walkerith Road and the car park is on your right.

#### Distance

Approximately 3.75 miles (5.9 kms).

#### Duration

2 hours + stops.

#### Stiles and gates

Gates.

#### Refreshments

None on route.

#### Public Transport

By bus: Service 100 Lincoln – Gainsborough – Scunthorpe. Local Service 1A Gainsborough Town service. By train: nearest station, Gainsborough.

#### OS Grid Reference

Walk starts at **SK808917** – Map OS Explorer 280 and OS Landranger 112.



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Trent Vale



Trent Vale

Walk Route

## Morton to Walkerith Circular



Sheep on floodbank near Walkerith.

**Start Point:** Morton Village Hall car park at rear of the hall, Walkerith Road

**Route Length:** Approximately 3.75 miles (5.9 kms)

**Route Duration:** 2 hours + stops

**Route Type:** Easy walking on footpaths, stone track and some road walking



Trent Vale



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# Morton to Walkerith Circular

**1 Start.** Start the walk on Walkerith Road, turning left out of the village hall car park. Cross the road and walk out of Morton passing Crooked Billet Street, Morton Close and Mill Lane. Re-cross the road when safe and follow it to a left-hand bend to reach Field Lane on your left.



Morton was recorded as Mortun in the Domesday Book of AD 1086, so would have been in existence by the Late Saxon period. The settlement greatly expanded from the end of the Middle Ages onwards, latterly as a suburb of Gainsborough. The settlement is on a great bend on the Trent and at the end of

what appears to be an early east-west routeway picked up by a series of parish boundaries. It was a strategic landing and perhaps crossing point for the Trent.

A deviation down Mill Lane on your right will take you to the impressive Morton Mill.



Morton Mill.

**2** Turn left into Field Lane and follow it for approx. 2.5 kms (1.5 miles). The tarmacked lane quickly becomes an unsurfaced track (note the LCC Highways unclassified country lane sign), passing through arable fields and bordered by drainage ditches on each side. Look out for the wild flowers along the ditches and flocks of lapwing in the fields. As you approach Walkerith you will pass Gyms Pond, surrounded by large willow trees on the left. Day fishing is available here.



Gyms pond.



The farm names, North Carr Farm and Warp Farm (now re-named as West Wharton Farm), close to the route give clues to how the landscape might have looked in the past. Warping was a post medieval practice of improving areas of agricultural land by creating drains to allow tidal flooding to deposit river-borne silt.

**3** At the end of the track the main road into Walkerith is met. Turn left and head towards the village, taking time to look at the interesting image on the village sign.



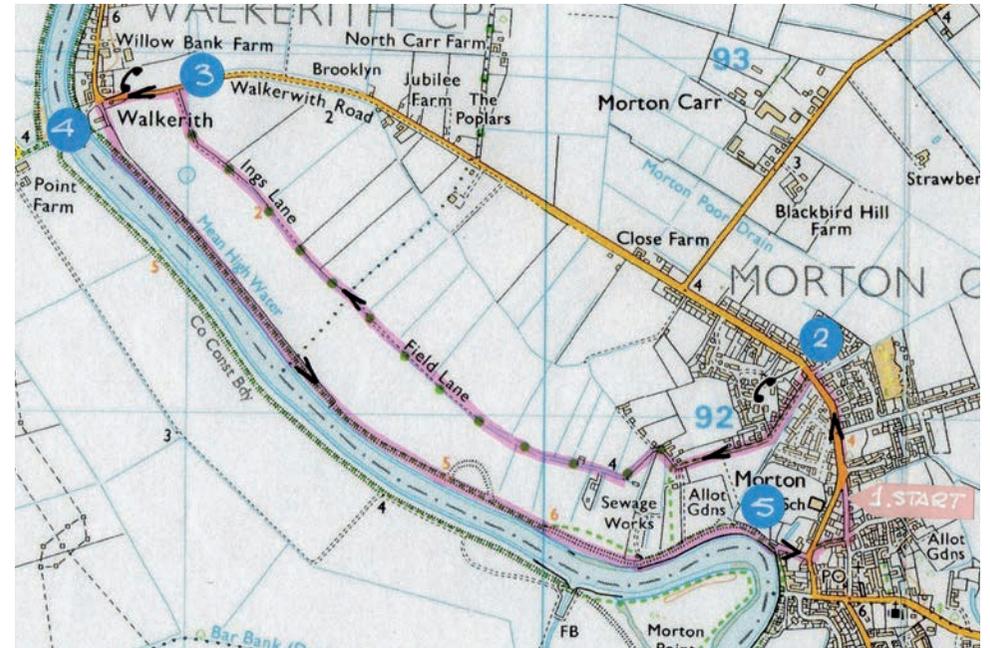
Walkerith has been documented since the 13th century. Walkerith means 'the landing place of the fullers, cloth-dressers' (from Old English 'walcere' and 'hyth'), and indicates its functional dependence on the Trent as a landing-place or wharf.



Walkerith village sign.

**4** Where the road bears sharp right, go left between some houses on a signed footpath – fence and hedge at side (no need to open the gate). At the end is a gate into a field leading to the riverbank. Take care as there may be horses loose. Walk along the floodbank path for 2.5 kms (1.5 miles) passing through three gates on the return leg to Morton.

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Swallow Bridge, Chesterfield Canal.

**5** As the Trent turns sharp right (this is a great place to watch the Trent Aegir) take a tarmacked road, Trentside, on the left which leads back to Crooked Billet Street in Morton. Immediately cross the road when safe and soon turn right into a green lane signed Manor Road. This will take you back to Walkerith Road. Now turn left for approx. 200m to return to the village hall car park on the left.



St John the Baptist Church, Morton.



The Aegir is a tidal bore – a tidal wave that surges up the river reversing the flow. The River Trent is only one of two bore rivers in England. The other is the River Severn. In 1013, Sweyne, King of Denmark, sailed up the Trent and landed with his forces nearby and made a strongpoint at Castle Hills where it is believed that he is buried.