

About the route

A pretty village with more than its fair share of interesting features coupled with easy walking over farmland and along country lanes makes for a pleasurable short walk. Easy flat terrain using field paths and quiet country lanes.

Walk Checklist:

Start point/parking

The Public House on Main Street and limited on-street parking.

Distance

Main route approximately 3.75 (6 kms).
Alternative route approximately 2.75 miles (4.5 kms).

Duration

1.5 - 2 hours + stops.

Stiles and gates

Yes.

Refreshments

Public House, Norwell.

Public Transport

By bus: Service No.32 New Ollerton – Newark (not Sundays). This is being changed to a dial up service for Norwell from 1 June.

OS Grid Reference

Walk starts at **SK770616** – 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.

Norwell Circular



Norwell Mill.

Start Point: The Public House on Main Street

Main Route Length: Approximately 3.75 miles (6 kms)

Alternative Route Length: Approximately 2.75 miles (4.5 kms)

Main Route Duration: 1.5 - 2 hours + stops

Route Type: Easy flat terrain using field paths and quiet country lanes



Norwell Circular

1 Start. From the Public House turn left along Main Street. As the road curves right you pass the site of the remains of a medieval moat on your left; it would have been the location of a medieval prebendal manor hall/building.



Medieval glass, St Gregory's Church.

Further on, just off Main Street to the right is a narrow lane, at the top of which is a flour mill built in 1852 and last used in 1920. The mill is now undergoing restoration. Continue on past the church, which is well worth a visit, behind which, and visible from the graveyard is the site of another medieval moat. It is a very large water-filled moat of Overhall Prebendal Manor.



The village is called 'Nortwelle' in the Domesday Book of 1086. This probably means 'north well' or 'north spring'. Also the village is recorded as having a mill and a fishery, and was owned by the Archbishop of York. Norwell Parish Heritage Group has produced a heritage trail that covers the village itself. Much information can be found there. The village itself is really the most interesting part of this walk in terms of heritage/historical features. The Church of St Laurence has a long history dating back to Norman times. It has many splendid features but pride of place is its 15th century clerestory windows.



St Lawrence's Church, Norwell.



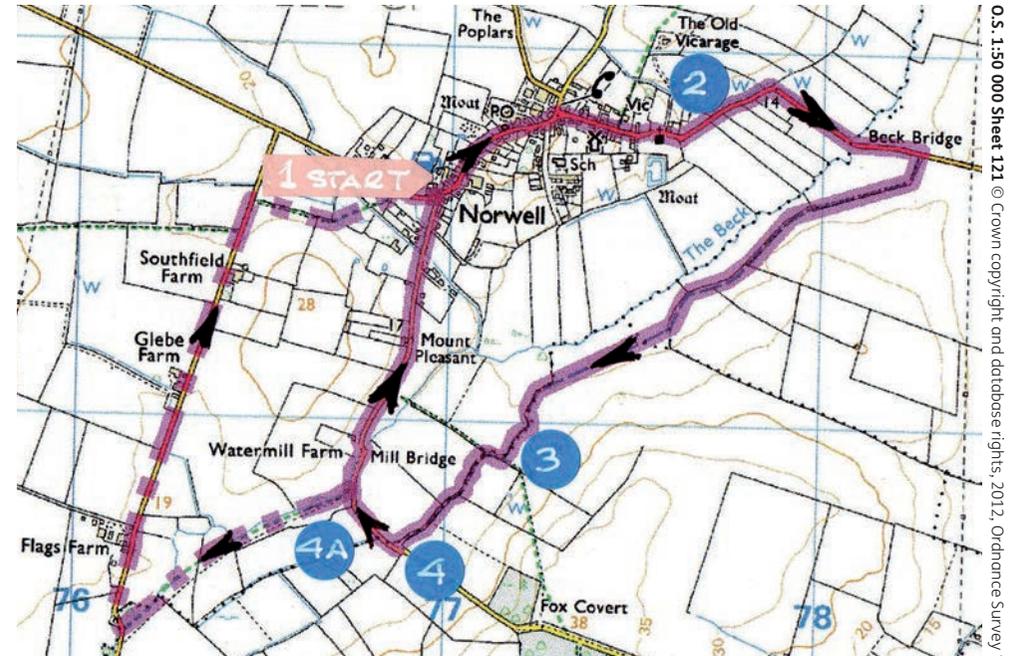
St Lawrence's Church nave and windows.

2 Leaving the village, continue along the Cromwell road (Norwell Lane) as it bears sharp right then passes over Beck Bridge. Soon after, turn right at a signpost, following the waymarked public brideway – a clear farm

track. (This is The Old Coal track which ran from Cromwell to Norwell before the beck was bridges in the 1830s) The track crosses from the right of the hedge to the left in the second field; then, after a brief unfenced section, reverts to the right. Follow the hedge round the edge of the field to pass through a gap (this is the way that everyone goes, but it is actually way marked straight across two fields!) then continue beside The Beck.



The path that runs alongside The Beck can be seen on a map of 1774 and may be much older.



- 3** On reaching a junction of waymarked paths keep walking along the track turning neither to the left nor the right (the turn to the right is a short cut across to the road, which can be taken if wished).
- 4** Here turn right and walk up this road crossing The Beck and passing a building on the left, Watermill Farm.



Norwell is known to have had a mill at the time of Domesday and this mill would have made use of The Beck. The Beck has been managed since at least early medieval times to provide power for the mill, which was located about 200 metres back along The Beck to your left. This mill would have been for the grinding of grain. The remains of the mill were cleared in the 1960s.

Continue along the road to return to Norwell and the starting point.

5 To extend the walk: having turned right at point 4 go along the road for 200m then take signed footpath on the left and follow it (across several fields) to a minor road. Turn right along this for approx. 1.2 kms (¾ mile) and take signed footpath and gate on the right prior to the T-junction. Follow the field edge path with hedge on left; go into the next field for a few metres and go through another gate on the left. Now bear half-right across this field crossing a footbridge over a stream and continue to a further gate. Go through and follow the track for a short distance to meet the road. Turn right along the road for a short distance back to the starting point in Norwell.

Taken from Pub Strolls in Nottinghamshire by Peter Fooks, published by Countryside Books (www.countrysidebooks.co.uk)