

The Sutton 'Holmes'



Distance	4½ miles (7 km)
Duration	2 hours
Stiles	5
Route summary	Mostly level. Some short climbs on to the flood banks. Can be a little sticky under foot in wet weather.
Start point	Bus shelter on Main Street, close to the church, Sutton on Trent
Public Transport	Accessible by bus, for route options call Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or visit www.traveline.org.uk .
Parking	On street. Please park with consideration
Dogs	Please keep dogs under close control at all times.

Directions

Our ramble by the River Trent begins in Sutton on Trent; a village that as its name suggests has a close relationship with the river (and as the flood marker on the bridge indicates - at times an intimate one).

Sutton was once famous for its basket making industry, particularly wicker fishing baskets. Now it is well known for its sheds! When you buy a shed from one of the large DIY stores, it is very likely that it was made here.

1. The walk starts at the 'High St' bus stop on Main Street. From the bus shelter continue towards the church, go past All Saints Church on your right and at the fork go onto Ingram Lane.

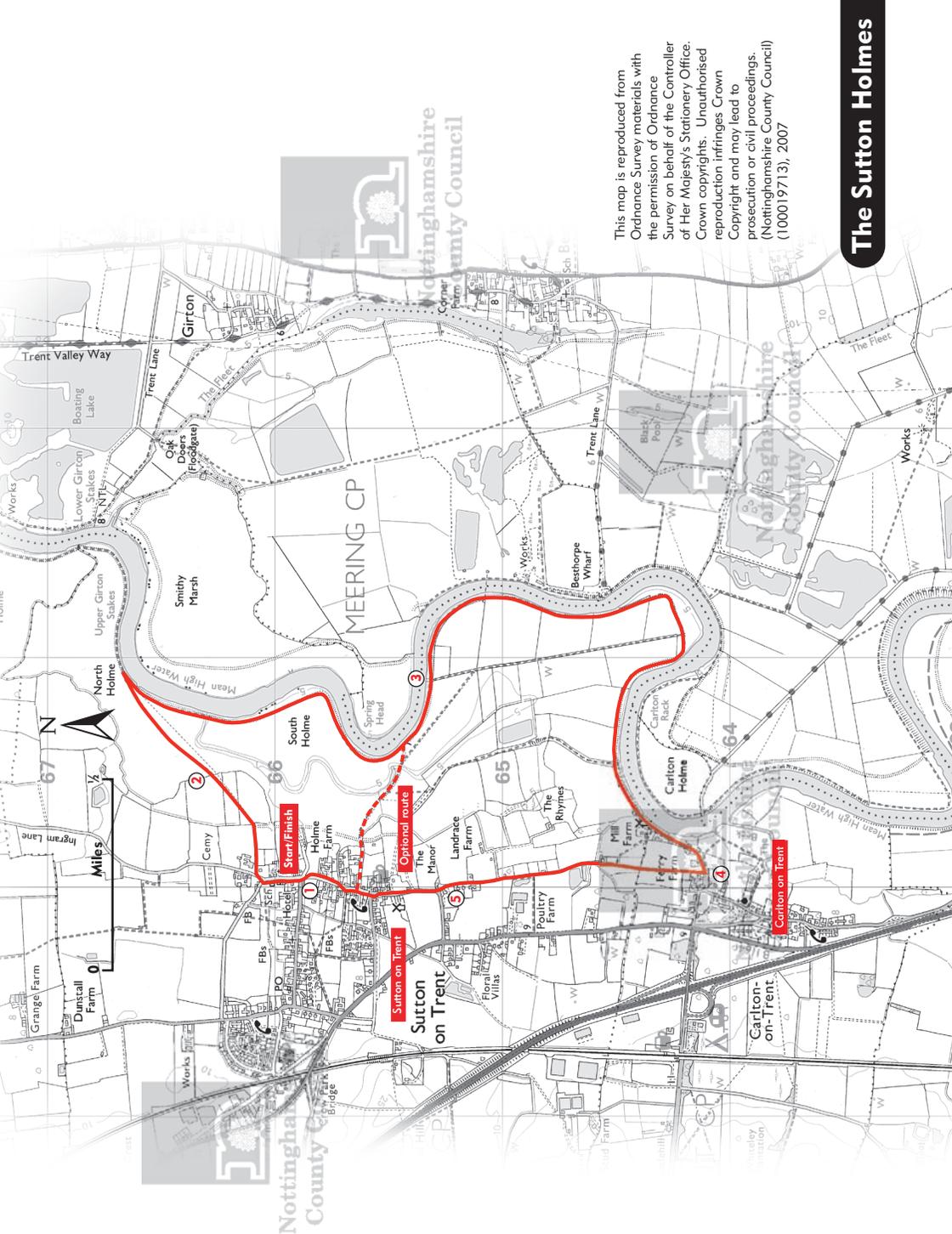
All Saint's Church is built on Saxon foundations. There is also a 16th century chapel with a more ornate style than the rest of the church.

Just after the first house on the right before the farm buildings, turn right through the gate, onto the footpath. Follow the footpath through two more gates, and go up on to the flood banking. Go down the other side, over a stile and a footbridge. Go diagonally left to a gate. Keeping diagonally right, go across this field to a gap in the hedge, go through and cross a short distance to a metal bridge.

2. Cross over the bridge into this large open pasture known as North Holme. The path crosses the field bearing left. Continue to walk across this field until you reach the River Trent and at the river turn right. As you cross the culvert over the drain you go into South Holme field. Continue on the top of the flood bank. After a while the river meanders to the right and as it is turning back to the left the flood banks merge.

(To follow the shorter route here follow the flood bank that goes to the right. Keep on this path back in to the village eventually ending up on Main Street, where turning right will take you back to the start point).

If continuing on the walk, stay on the main flood bank with the river on your left.



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey materials with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. Crown copyrights. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. (Nottinghamshire County Council) (100019713), 2007

The Sutton Holmes

The 'Holmes' are over 300 acres of extremely rich grazing land; frequently flooded the soil is rich and grows lush grass. They are divided up into smaller parcels of land known as 'Cattle Gaits', each gait providing grazing for one beast. Every spring the rights to graze the gaits are auctioned in lots of varying size in the village hall. (There is a plaque near to the start explaining the gaits more fully). The successful bidders buy the rights to graze cattle from March to December. As the route continues by the river it is difficult to imagine how it must have looked before the river was to some degree tamed; confined to its banks by the flood defences we are walking on. This must have been quite a marshy place with the river regularly flooding the surrounding meadows. The land on the opposite side of the river is known as Meering, which was once a shallow lake or marsh. The river was wider and much shallower than it is today as it was forded just up stream at Carlton on Trent.

3. Shortly you will come to a set of gates at a junction of paths. Pass through both sets of gates and continue alongside the river, following the path on the flood bank. Eventually the river moves away from the flood bank but you will stay on it. As the flood bank turns to the right, you come to a gap in the hedge, where will see the steeple of Carlton Church and the stump of the windmill in front of you. Shortly you will come to a stile. Go over it and continue on the flood bank to the next stile. Continue over that stile keeping on the flood bank. At the next stile, at a junction of paths, continue on the flood bank walking towards the tower of the windmill. Go through the steel gate by the bungalow, past the windmill and the houses, walking towards the church steeple.

Carlton on Trent was a staging post on the old Great North Road and the Bell Inn that serviced the travellers is now a private house. The parish church of St Mary the Virgin dominates the landscape and was re-built in 1851 after being razed to the ground in 1849. The windmill is of unknown age, although there was a windmill here in 1821 when it was advertised for let in the Stanford Mercury. Standing at 60ft high it is the tallest windmill tower in the county. The wharf at Carlton served the once thriving gravel and malt trade up and down the river.

4. At the junction by Nurses Cottage turn right on to Carlton Lane (or turn left at the next junction to visit the church). While it is not a through route there is some traffic on Carlton Lane so walk with care. Continue along Carlton Lane and at the other end you will see in front of you the tower of Sutton windmill.

Sutton windmill was built in 1824. In the 1860's a baking and catering company run by a George Bingham moved there from nearby Grassthorne and it was owned and run by that family until it was sold in 1984.

5. At the road junction follow the road to the right and stay on the pavement back into Sutton on Trent. As you walk down Main Street keep a look out for the Old Telephone Exchange on your right and the half timbered Old Bake House on the left. Continue until you reach the start point.

This walk is a taken from 'Exploring North Nottinghamshire' a compilation of 6 circular countryside walks in the north of the county, priced £2.50. For ordering details please see the back page of this leaflet.