

About the route

A medium length ride through pretty villages South West of Gainsborough dominated by the Power Stations of West Burton and Cottam. Suitable for all cycles.

Cycle Checklist:

Route number

12 of 20.

Start Point

Town Street, South Leverton.
O.S. Grid Ref. **SK 785810**

Distance

Approximately 18.5 miles (30.5 kms) to 21.5 miles (35.5 kms) (depending on optional routes).

Duration

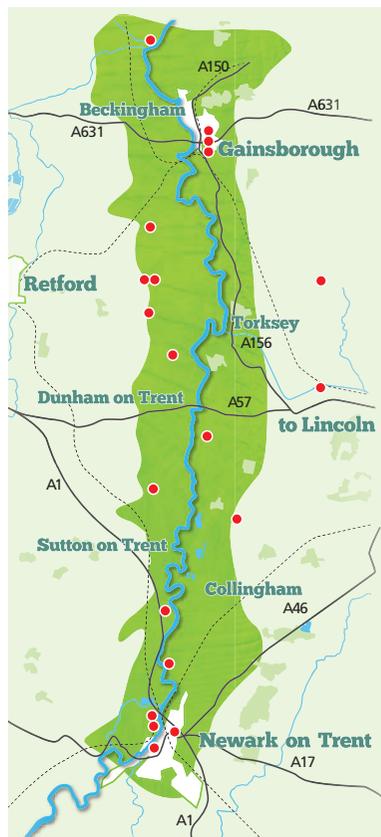
1 - 3 hours + stops (depending on optional routes).

Significant points of interest

- Littleborough Church and Riverside.
- North Leverton Windmill.
- Ashtons Meadow NWT Nature Reserve (SSSI).
- Treswell Wood NWT Nature Reserve.

Refreshments

Refreshment possibilities in route side pubs at South Leverton, North Leverton, Sturton le Steeple and Cottam.



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

North and South Leverton Circular



Church of St Nicholas, Littleborough

Start Point: Town Street, South Leverton

Total Route Length: Approximately 21.5 miles (35.5 kms)

Optional Routes: Main route approximately 18.5 miles (30.5 kms)
Bridleway approximately 3 miles (5 kms)

Route Duration: 1 - 3 hours + stops (depending on optional routes)

Route Type: Medium length, road and off road



North and South Leverton Circular

1 Head West from the start point along Town Lane to Church Street, turn left then first right into Meeting House Lane, go past the Meeting House and after half a mile turn right at the bench. Follow the road round the bends to join Retford Road and a right turn back towards the village, go left at the T-junction follow the road round the right hand bend and at the next sharp left bend turn right into Mill Lane.

 Sculpture in the shape of a plough, designed and made from local materials by all the villagers to celebrate the millennium.



2 After a quarter of a mile turn right into Rampton Lane, go straight on at the crossroads and follow the byway for one mile past Ashton's Meadow NWT Nature Reserve (SSSI) to rejoin the tarmac at Outgang Lane. Turn right here; ride through Treswell village and along Forewood Lane passing Treswell Wood NWT Nature Reserve before turning right into Grove Road.

 Ashton's Meadow is a grassland surrounded by species rich hedgerows. It has been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) due to its grassland type, and wide range of wild flowers. The reserve is an ancient meadow and has not been chemically treated or ploughed in recent times.



The ancient ridges and furrows are clearly visible. This traditional meadow has a variety of flowers and grasses, including cowslip, green winged orchid, yellow rattle, pignut, adders tongue and oxeye daisy.

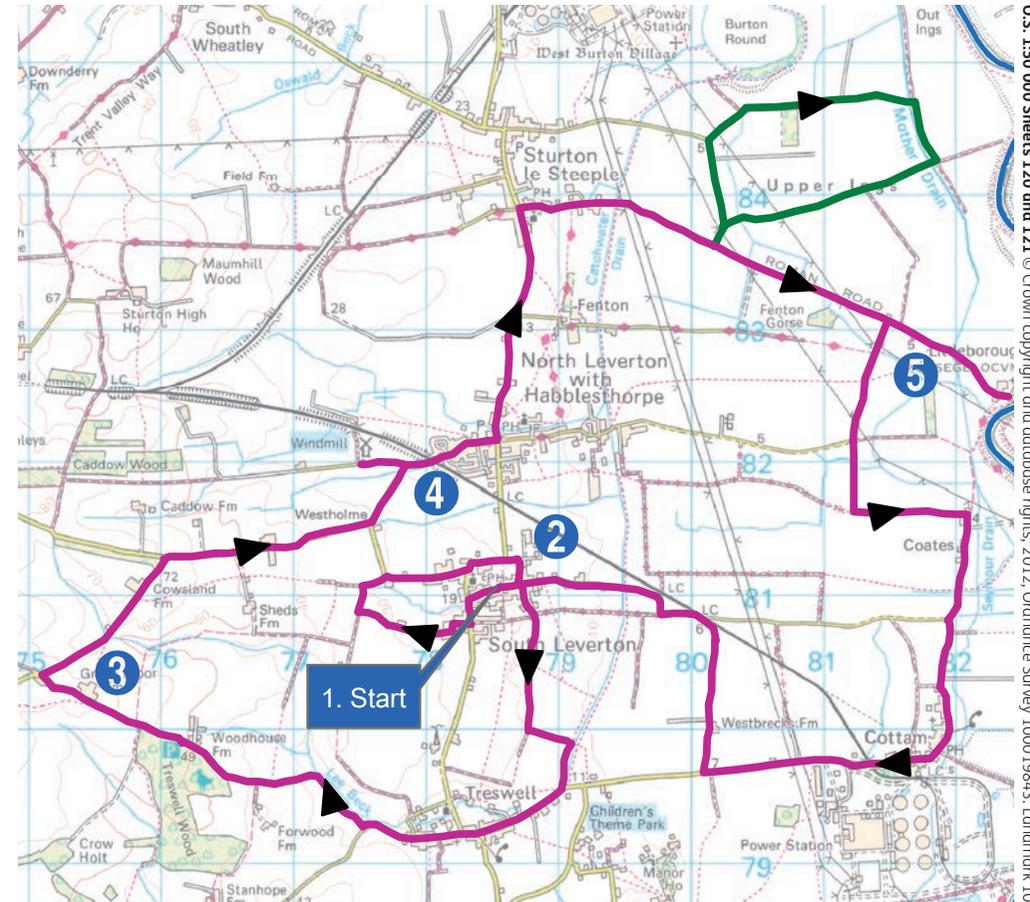
3 A downhill section crosses Lea Beck then past Willow Cottages to climb up to the junction with Retford Road and a right turn. Head downhill past the Plant Centre and after a further three-quarters of a mile turn left before the Railway Bridge to visit North Leverton Windmill.

 The windmill was built in 1813 and though it has been repaired since then, and parts rebuilt, the present day structure looks much the same as it always has. It was constructed by, and for, a group of farmers in the parishes of Fenton, North Leverton, Habbleshorpe and Sturton le Steeple. Five people were instrumental in the building programme, William Rogers, William Ellis, William Ashton, John Bower and Thomas Olivant. These family names are still familiar to people who live in the area today.



Originally the windmill was built with a lower tower to enable the common sails to have the cloth put on from the ground. A major refit in 1884 lifted the tower several feet and new patent sails were fitted. Further restoration has been carried out in 2012 by North Leverton Windmill Trust.

4 Leaving the Windmill retrace your steps back to the junction and turn left for North Leverton. At the crossroads turn left for Sturton le Steeple, on entering the village turn right into Church Street past



the Church and the pub. Cross over the Catchwater Drain and after half a mile the optional bridleway route is passed on the left. Keep straight on past Littleborough Cottage and down to the road end at the River Trent, Littleborough Roman Town and St Nicholas Church.

5 Return to Littleborough Cottage turn left and follow this road all the way to Cottam passing through Coates on the way. In Cottam the road bends to the right across the front of the power station and after a further half mile take a right into Westbrecks Lane, which is followed, back to South Leverton.

Optional Bridleway Route

1 Shortly after crossing the Catchwater Drain turn left onto the Cross Common Lane bridleway. Follow the wide, level, well surfaced tracks of Cross Common Lane, Cowpasture Lane, Middle Lane and Upper Ings Lane to return to Littleborough Lane after approximately three miles then turn left to rejoin the main route.