



DEREHAM

circular walk



Dereham Parish
Boundary and
Electoral Wards

The idea for our circular walk came from the ancient tradition of 'beating the bounds'. Beating the bounds is an ancient custom which traditionally involved swatting local landmarks with branches to maintain a shared mental map of parish boundaries. In England, the custom dates from Anglo-Saxon times. The parish of Dereham covers an area of 8.3 sq miles and the parish boundary would be difficult or impossible to walk - so we made a shorter one - 4.5 miles. This walk doesn't always go too close to the boundaries, but it does take you past many locations of interest in the town.

Dereham Heritage Trust



www.derehamheritagetrust.org.uk

Dereham WaW



www.DerehamWaW.org.uk

aboutDereham Partnership



www.aboutdereham.org

Dereham Circular Walk - not quite 'beating the bounds'

- 1** The walk starts at the Cherry Tree car park. This is Dereham's largest car park and currently has no restriction on length of stay. It is free to use.
- 2** As you leave the car park through the tunnel, you will come to a set of traffic lights. Before you cross the road, take a look at the information panel to your right.

This panel also directs you to your next stop - the large information panels in the centre of the Market Place. Cross the road at the lights and then cross again at the slightly raised crossing after the bus stops.
- 3** These large panels contain a wealth of information about Dereham's past. Look out for the description of the old Corn Hall. It used to have a statue on its roof honouring Thomas Coke of Holkham Hall, 1st Earl of Leicester.
- 4** Walk south toward the former Corn Hall, now a cinema, and turn right down Red Lion Street to the right of the cinema as you face it. This brings you onto Quebec Street and you are now approaching the ancient heart of the town. Turn left on Quebec Street to join Church Street.
- 5** At the bottom of Church Street, you may wish to take time to visit St Nicholas' Church which is open every day. To the left, as you face the church, you see the separate bell tower and the town's Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum. You can read more about both of these on the information panel in front of the bell tower.

When you are ready, walk along the front of the museum and turn right down Washbridge. At the bottom of this hill is the bridge over the stream where people once washed their linen and hung it on the bushes to dry.
- 6** Follow the footpath round to the left along Ted Ellis Walk and past Lucy's Meadow where an information panel tells you about Lucy.

Where the surfaced path swings to the right, leave on a grass path to the left. The footpath bears round to the left and brings you alongside the stream and after a short while across a bridge onto the other bank of the stream.
- 7** Now as you walk through Scarning Water meadows, you will approach a second bridge where you can see, to the right, a children's play area. Do not cross the bridge. Instead, turn left and ascend the hill to the top.
- 8** At the top you will find a track on your left which has houses along the right hand side. Follow this track. It is the famous Rolling Pin Lane - famous because nobody knows how it got its name!
- 9** As you emerge at the top of Rolling Pin Lane, facing you there is an old footpath that runs alongside a brick wall. This is the characterful Wakes

- 10** Lane. Follow this to the end. At the top, you will come out onto Dereham High Street. Turning right, walk towards the library where you will find another information panel.
- 11** Next go back down High Street and turn right up Wright's Walk. You will pass the Ellenor Fenn Garden and its information panel on your left.

Continue towards and through the car park, bearing right to leave the car park and to cross Commercial Road. To the right you will find the footpath round the Morrisons store. Go carefully across Station Road to find another information panel outside the railway station, near the gates.
- 12** After seeing this, go to the traffic lights and cross the level crossing over the railway and along Norwich Road.
- 13** Take the first right on Greenfields Road and follow this to the windmill where you can often buy refreshments and use the coffee shop facilities - check opening dates and times at www.theparteahut.co.uk. There is an information panel outside the coffee shop.

Cross the grass behind the windmill to get access into Cherry Lane. Turn left and walk to the top. You will come out on the Norwich Road where you should turn left again and walk the short distance to the school.
- 14** As you face the Neatherd School, you can see a footpath to the left hand side of the school entrance. Take the footpath all the way to the top and come out onto Neatherd Moor.

Walk to the left towards the duck pond and children's play area.
- 15** Just past the play area you will find an information panel with a little history about the moor. The panel is next to a small road. You should cross over this road and head towards the road with houses alongside. It is marked 'Private' and is called Neatherd Road.

Turn right up Neatherd Road and when you reach the top, bear to your right onto the grass and then onto the footpath through the barriers. Keep walking forwards with the hedge on your left. At the end of this footpath turn left onto a track which takes you to Swanton Road.
- 16** Turn left along Swanton Road and cross the level crossing. Continue until Cemetery Road. Turn right and walk a few yards to the entrance to the cemetery. Enter the cemetery and walk all the way through, admiring the twin chapels at the mid point. At the top, go through the gate and onto a footpath leading to Quebec Road, once known as Mill Lane.

Look out for the house named 'Mill View' as you come out on to the road. There was a windmill (a post mill) here on Quebec Road until 1893 when it was demolished. Turn left and walk along Quebec Road back to the town centre where you will find the Cherry Tree car park on your left.