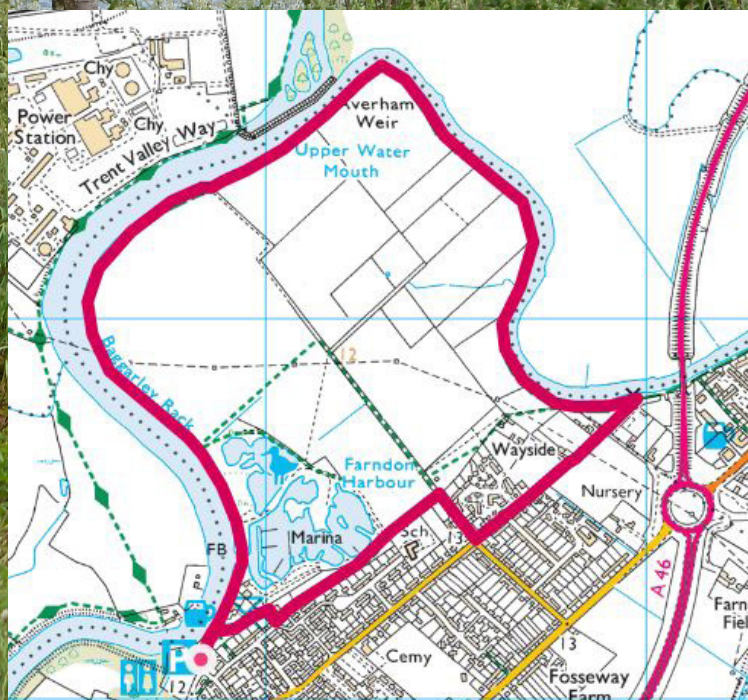


# Farndon Circular Walk 1A

Distance	Approx. 4 miles (6.4km)
Gradient	Mostly flat
Severity	Easy
Approx. time to walk	2 hours to 2 hours 15 mins at a leisurely pace, allow extra for exploring
Stiles	Clapper Gates (self-closing gate)
Maps	OS Explorer 271 and OS Landranger 120
Path description	Riverside paths, footpaths and tracks
Start point	Grassy/picnic area by the River Trent/Marina. NG24 3SX
Grid ref	SK768521
Parking	In front of the picnic area/bar/restaurant
Dog friendly	Yes, on a lead. Be responsible in public areas, around wildlife, and don't forget your environmentally friendly dog poo bags!
Public toilets	Farndon
Refreshments	Pubs and cafés in Farndon

**This walk can be extended to Newark Castle for a fun family day out!**  
See Farndon/Newark Circular walk 1B





**The pretty village of Farndon** nestles on the bank of the River Trent and is just 2.5 miles from the splendid market town of Newark. Farndon has a long and interesting history and is incredibly lucky to have three environmentally significant nature reserves: Farndon Park Woodland; Farndon Ponds and Cottage Lane Nature Reserve; and Farndon Willow Holt and Water Meadow, which is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). It attracts a huge diversity of wildlife and is one of the last remaining sites of the working willow holts, an ancient feature of many Trent side villages, where the willow is famously used for making cricket bats and basket weaving.

If you like boats, then you're in for a treat! Farndon Marina is, without doubt, one of the most picturesque settings on the River Trent and attracts visitors and boating enthusiasts from all over the United Kingdom. It's fascinating watching the boats cruising along the River, and this walk offers the opportunity to do just that!

This enticing walk extends along the River Trent and delivers many tempting diversions along the way. There are some superb viewpoints, great places to stop for a tasty pint and a bite to eat, or if you prefer 'alfresco', perfect picnic spots which are simply spectacular at any time of the year!

If you have some extra time on your hands, why not make a day of it, and extend this circular walk to Newark (see walk 1B – Farndon to Newark Circular), where you will be rewarded with a delightful range of Riverbank scenes and a celebration of Newark's intriguing history, eclectic architecture and the vibrant ambience of the bars, restaurants and visitor attractions.

Lace those boots up!

***Happy Ramblings ~ Sally (local rambler)***



**1 START** - We begin our walk at the grassy picnic area, next to the docking point of the Marina, which is located at the front of the pub and restaurant, where you have parked. From here, we join the public bridleway at the front of the pub and continue to follow it along, passing through the picnic area until you reach a set of Clapper Gates. Proceed through the gates, and continue for a short distance, the River is to your left, you will then reach the large white footbridge which crosses over the Marina. If you're a fan of boats, then this is the perfect spot to admire the array of superb vessels!



**2** Continue over the bridge and along the path which runs by the side of the River, passing Farndon Pits, which provide a rich habitat for an abundance of wildlife year-round. Proceed along the path, you will notice a fingerpost, continue straight along keeping the River to your left.



**3** As you continue along the well-defined path, you will notice fields to your right, often cropped, and Staythorpe Power Station is in the far distance. After a while the path becomes a grassy track which follows the direction of the River. Continue to follow this as the track bears to the right, passing the Power Station, which will be to your left on the far bank side.



**4** Proceed along the grassy track, following the bend in the River, you will see Averham Weir start to become visible on the left, and the River traffic signage in front of you. After the sign, the track begins to bear to the right, continue along keeping the Weir to your left, the track then becomes a gravelly surfaced area as it veers around a corner.



**5** At the corner, the path splits. Continue straight ahead keeping the River to your left and passing the notice boards on the left of the path; which has now become a wide and well-defined sandy track. After a short distance, the track curves slightly to the right, at this point you will notice the church spire to your left and in the far distance.



**6** Proceed along the Riverbank path, passing a large waterway sign on your left. As you continue along the wide track, notice the rich habitats which attract an abundance of wildlife. There are some super photo opportunities too!



**7** Following the track, bear to the left with the bend in the River, the track then becomes a grassy path as you proceed through two wooden marker posts. Continue along the narrow path, keeping the River to your left until you reach a Clapper Gate.

### *Did you know?*

Clapper GateS – are a very distinctive self-closing double gate, which are unique to Nottinghamshire's River Trent. They were established in the 18th Century to allow access to neighbouring fields along the riverbank. The self-closing mechanism was to stop livestock from escaping and wandering off.



**8** Pass through the Clapper Gate, and walk along the grassy trail, passing meadows to your right. Continue along, you will see a disused mill, and buildings in the distance ahead of you. After a short distance, the path veers slightly to the right, you will see another Clapper Gate and a bridge over the River to your left. Pass through the Clapper Gate.



**9** After the gate, you will see a wooden fence with a sign which says, 'Private Land', but there is public access, so please keep to the path. Proceed over the grassy path, heading towards the left corner and the old windmill.



# 10

At the corner you will see a fingerpost, here, turn right and continue to walk along the narrow public pathway, which passes the mill and a row of cottages. You will come to another fingerpost. Continue straight along the narrow treelined pathway until you reach its end, where it merges onto a road, which is Marsh Lane.



# 11

Passing paddocks to your right, and residential housing, proceed along the footpath until you reach a mini roundabout. At the roundabout, turn right onto Long Lane, and continue to walk along, passing Walters Close on the left, continuing straight ahead onto the unsurfaced track.



## Did you know?

FARNDON WILLOW HOLT - Willow Holts were a common feature of many villages situated along the River Trent, and Farndon Willow Holt is one of the few remaining today. The willow would have been used for making cricket bats and basket weaving.

# 12

After a short distance, turn left at the junction following the wide track, keeping the hedge to your left and fields to your right, until you reach the corner, where you will see a metal gate. At the corner there is a small kissing gate to the left, and a marker post.



# 13

Once through the gap, turn right onto the footpath and after a short distance, almost immediately, turn left, crossing the road with caution, onto a grassy track. You will see directional signage to the right in the trees.



## Did you know?

FARNDON MARINA was created in World War 2 by extracting aggregates and sand to help build the Nottinghamshire airfields.

# 14

This path takes you through another meadow, following the path back to the picnic area and river where you began this delightful walk.

