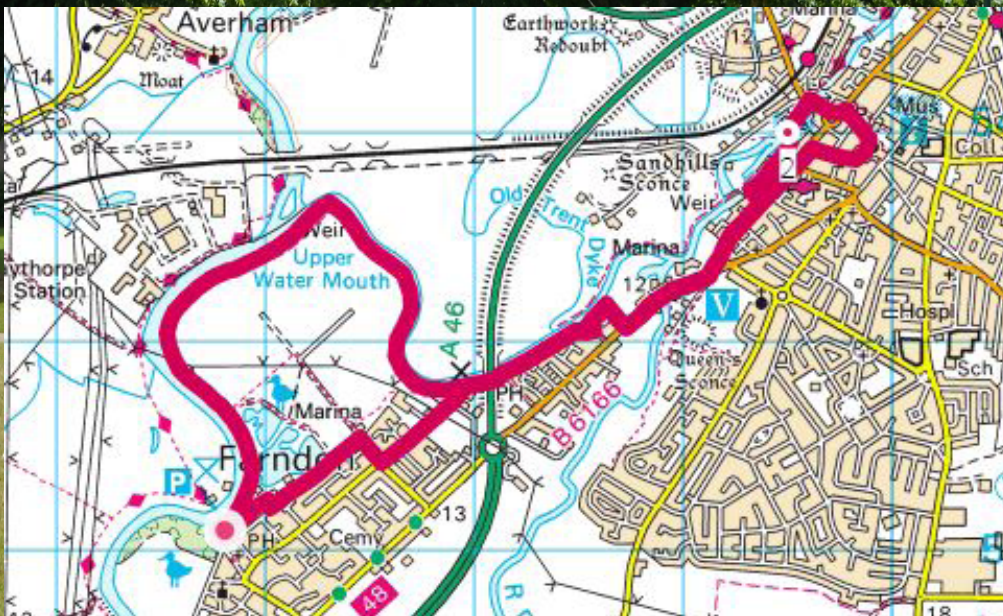


Farndon - Newark Circular Walk 1B

Distance	Approx. 9.25 miles (14.8km)
Gradient	Mostly flat
Severity	Easy
Approx. time to walk	4 hours 45 mins at a leisurely pace, allow extra for exploring in Newark
Stiles	Clapper Gates (self-closing gate) 1 Stile
Maps	OS Explorer 271 and OS Landranger 120
Path description	Riverside paths, footpaths, tracks, town and parkland
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 and Newark
Refreshments	Pubs and cafés in Farndon



This super walk begins in the pretty village of Farndon, which nestles on the bank of the River Trent and is just 2.5 miles from the splendid market town of Newark.

With a long and fascinating history, Farndon is extremely lucky to have three 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 - attracting a huge diversity of wildlife. It is one of the last remaining sites of the working willow holt, an ancient feature of many Trent-side villages, where the willow is famously used for making cricket bats and basket weaving.

This enticing walk extends along the River Trent, offering a slice of peace and tranquillity, and delivering many tempting diversions along the way. 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 is fascinating watching the boats cruising along the river, and this walk offers the opportunity to do just that!

Our adventure takes us on a journey in and around the splendid market town of Newark, which nestles beautifully along the banks of the mighty River Trent; which was instrumental to the industrial growth and expansion of the town. Newark became an important inland port - ironworks, engineering, brewing and a well-known sugar industry flourished. As you walk along, the riverside buildings are a reminder of that bygone era. You can't help but notice the splendid examples of urban regeneration, including stylish bars, restaurants and housing.

Newark town is brimming with so many interesting buildings, the architecture quite beautifully eclectic. It's diversity is showcased in the Market place, which is dominated by the splendid Georgian town hall. You can explore the narrow alleyways and small cobbled roads and take a journey back in time, embracing a wealth of history and heritage as you discover something new around every corner.

If you like shopping or just to simply browse, the Royal Markets are held in the square every Wednesday and Saturday selling a huge variety of wares; from fresh fruit and vegetables to artisan foods, gifts and clothing. It must be one of the most attractive markets around and draws in visitors from all over the country.

Before your return walk back to Farndon, why not enjoy a tasty treat in one of the many splendid eateries, bars, restaurants and cafés, or if you prefer 'alfresco' take advantage of the beautiful green space around the Castle area. It's the perfect place to take a picnic and watch the world go by. If you have extra time on your hands, why not extend your visit with an overnight stay - visit the Civil War Centre, take a trip to the Theatre or attend one of the many outdoor events which occur throughout the year, such as music concerts, plays and re-enactments.

Whatever you decide, a very warm welcome awaits!

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 pretty 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.



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.



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!



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.

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.



right, passing the power station, which will be to your left on the far bank side.

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, in the far distance.



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.



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.



Did you know?

Newark is home to one of the largest volunteer run aviation museums in the UK.

10

At the windmill you will see a fingerpost to your right, continue straight on following the river path and pass through a gate. Proceed along the wide surfaced path and walk under the large concrete bridge which carries the A46 bypass. *



11

Follow the path as it veers round passing several buildings to your right, the pathway becomes a single track which passes a row of residential houses - please be respectful of the environment. As you walk along the track, notice the super views over the river and towards Newark in the distance.



12

Continue to walk along the path, you will see a small wooden gate. Go through the gate, walking along until you reach another metal bar and some white buildings.



13

Once you have reached the buildings, you will see a large surfaced area, continue to the opposite side and onto the small road. Proceed along to the end and the top left corner, where you will see a very narrow walkway, follow this until you reach a metal kissing gate. Pass through the gate and onto meadowland, follow the grassy track heading left, across the field towards the raised riverbank.

14

Make your way to the top of the bank, veering right, and walk along the ridge towards a clump of trees and a stile, which you cross over onto a narrow track. This can occasionally be overgrown with brambles in the Summer months, so proceed though with caution. Notice the church spire in the distance, Newark is just around the corner!



15 Once you have made your way through the clump of trees and bushes, continue to walk along the bank, heading towards a piece of wooden fencing, which juts out from the field, keep a look out for a worn track which leads down to the meadow to your right. If you have reached the fence, you have gone too far. Follow the grassy path across the meadow to its end where you will see a metal kissing gate. Go through the gate and you will reach the main Farndon Road.



16 Keeping to the path, turn left and walk along the wide footpath, passing Newark Marina on the left, continuing to follow the path which bears left onto Mill Gate, and heads towards Newark town. Continue to walk along Mill Gate until you reach the junction with Mill Lane. Here, you turn left and walk through a residential area to the bridge.



17 Cross over the bridge and turn right to walk along the fabulous castle and riverside area. Follow the path by the river and head towards the castle. At the white bridge or walkway, you can cross over to the opposite bank at this point, and explore the town from there, retracing your steps to point (10)* for the return route.



19 At the fingerpost, here, turn left 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



18 Alternatively, you can continue along the river path, turning left over the green footbridge, emerging onto the Riverside Park - the perfect spot for a picnic by the river!

From here you can explore the superb town of Newark at your leisure, maybe follow one of the many historical town trails, visit the delightful cobbled Market Square, visit the Civil War Centre or simply relax in the Castle grounds and watch the world go by!

There are plenty of fantastic places to eat and drink too, you won't be disappointed!

Retrace your steps for your return walk to route point (10) *. Also see Farndon Circular Walk 1a.

Did you know?

Newark hosts the largest Antiques Fair in Europe, attracting visitors from all over the globe!

20

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.



21

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. Go through the kissing gate and continue along the grassy track through Farndon Meadows. At the end of the track you will see another small metal kissing gate. Proceed through the gate following a narrow pathway until you reach two rows of garages, where you emerge onto a road through a gap in a brick wall.



22

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.



23

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



Did you know?

The notorious King John died in Newark Castle in 1216 from overindulgence of eating unripe peaches and consuming too much sweet ale! The consequences were disastrous to say the least!