

Newark to Cotham Village Church - Railway Ramble - Circular Walk

Distance	11.6 miles (18.8km) (return)
Gradient	Level and wide surfaced, also used as a cycle route
Severity	Easy
Approx. time to walk	4 hours 30 mins
Stiles	1
Maps	OS 271 Newark
Path description	Surfaced path/disused railway track/fields
Start point	Northgate Railway Station, Newark, NG24 1LS
Grid ref	SK 8046 5448
Parking	Newark Northgate Station (check prices). There are also other car parks in the vicinity
Dog friendly	Yes, but keep on a lead, and don't forget to take your poop bags!
Public toilets	Northgate Station, Newark
Refreshments	Newark or take a picnic



As we begin this super walk at Newark Northgate Station, it's worth taking a look at the lovely architecture of the station buildings. It opened quite unceremoniously on the 15th July 1852, and is now on the East Coast Main Line, between London and Edinburgh. This humble little station also has claim to Royal fame. As on the 9th July 1928, King George V and Queen Mary arrived at Northgate Station from Kings Cross, where they were received by the 6th Duke of Portland - known as William Cavendish-Bentinck, who was Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire from 1898 to 1939. The Royals were visiting Nottingham for the opening of the new University of Nottingham and the Royal Agricultural Show.

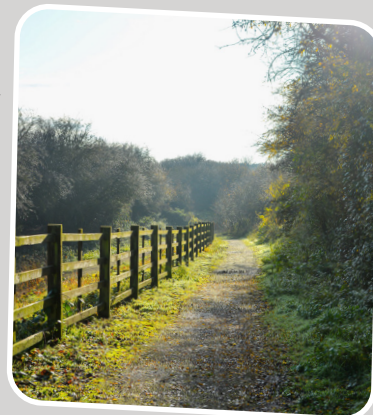
This delightful route follows the track bed of the old Newark to Bottesford railway, making it a perfect accessible route, taking in the delights of the pretty Nottinghamshire countryside along the way. It's an environmental haven too, the track sides attract an abundance of wildlife, flora and fauna during the Summer months.

Our destination is Cotham, a small village which lies on the east bank of the River Devon, overlooking the beautiful Vale of Belvoir. It has a staggered history, and once had an impressive Manor House which was said to be one of the largest in the area.

Its little church of St. Michael dates back to around the 14th Century. Now decommissioned, and part of the Churches Conservation Trust, this splendid little church is open daily and has many surviving features of interest. Originally a much larger building, much of it was obliterated in the 1790s. Look out for the original sundial dating back to 1643, which still displays the correct time! There are also fine examples of Medieval graffiti etched into the stonework around the south door.

The church is a lovely place to enjoy a few moments rest and recharge before your return walk to Newark. Please note, it is not easily accessible for wheelchair users due to the stile).

This railway walk is a great way to get moving, and suitable for the whole family... providing a peaceful and easy way of connecting with the great outdoors!



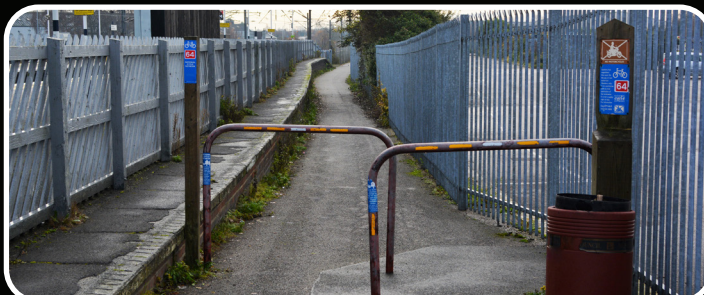
1 START - Starting at Newark Northgate Railway Station, head across the car park area, passing the front of the station, towards a wooden bench, and look out for the blue 64 Cycle route signs.



2 Proceed to the left corner or the carpark in front of the station, keeping the platform buildings to your left.



3 Straight ahead you will come to a set of double metal posts where the footpath begins. The gap is wide enough for wheelchairs, pushchairs and bicycles. No motorised vehicles are allowed.



4 Continue to follow the disused railway path to Cotham, passing underneath a bridge, painted with colourful graffiti art.



5 Heading up to the road, turn left and walk towards the village, taking extra care, as parts of the road are without a footpath.



6 After approximately 1 mile (1.6km), you will come to a stile and fingerpost to your left.



7 Cross over the stile and walk to the lovely decommissioned church. St. Michael's Church is open daily and is under the care of the Churches Conservation Trust.



8 After your visit to the church, return across the field to the road, and retrace your steps back to Northgate Station, Newark.

