

- 1 From the bus stop on Beckingham Road (A161), cross with care and walk down Station Road, over the level crossing and on to the River Trent. Turn left along the path next to the river and follow it, including a very short length of minor road, to the large lock at West Stockwith, the start of the 46 mile long Chesterfield Canal. As the river is tidal, it's quite tricky for boaters to turn from the river and into the calm water of the basin. Turn left to explore the canal basin area, with its popular pub at the end, though your walk route continues over the lock bridge (note the old winch on the river bank – originally used to pull the unpowered boats off the river) and follows the flood bank to join the road before West Stockwith church.
- 2 Cross the road bridge over the River Idle and immediately go left along a narrow signposted path between the river and building and go past the huge sluice gates, following the path along the top of the flood bank as far as the old pumping station at Misterton Soss. Cross the footbridge and follow the quiet road left, then right past the fine house conversions, continuing on the lane, keeping straight on at junction, all the way to the canal by Misterton Low Lock.
- 3 Go right on the towpath for 4.5 miles to Middle Bridge 75, where there is a nice picnic area.
- 4 Turn left up the very quiet lane which continues as Horsewell Street. At the T junction turn right (left for an optional visit to the Beacon – a quarter of a mile away) and go up onto the High St, then right, passing the Bluebell Inn on the way to the bus stop by the church.

**MAP KEY**

- Route
- Footbridge
- Bus Stops
- Refreshments



**WEST STOCKWITH BASIN AND VILLAGE**

The large canal basin was once a very busy place, where cargoes were transhipped between the large boats suitable for the River Trent and the smaller craft able to use the canal. Some original buildings remain - a warehouse and office (now the clubhouse for the yacht club). A couple of holiday hire boats are based here. The single street village has a couple of pubs and an interesting Georgian parish church built in 1722. A ferry once operated across to the Lincolnshire village of East Stockwith - now an 11 mile journey by road. As well as the canal, the River Idle joins the Trent here.

**FLOOD DEFENCES**

The whole area is very low lying and the 2 huge barriers were built in 1981 as part of the extensive flood control measures on the River Idle and its tributaries. At one time cargo boats use to travel up to a port at Bawtry and there is still a statutory right of navigation, though rarely exercised these days.

**MISTERTON SOSS**

The tall chimney is an obvious landmark here. The 2 steam powered pumps were installed in 1828 & 1839 and continued in use to drain the area until 1941 when electric pumps elsewhere took on the important task. The cluster of listed buildings is very attractive - but please remember they are private residences.

**CANAL LOCKS**

On joining the canal towpath, there are a couple of locks, with a 3rd one as you leave it. Locks are there to lift or lower boats to cope with changes in the level of the surrounding land and they continue to perform their task in a form that's almost unaltered since they were installed when the canal was built. They use a lot of water and keeping up a sufficient supply is a continuous problem for most canals. Further up the canal, above Shireoaks, is the Giants Staircase, with the largest number of locks in a mile on any English canal.

**GRINGLEY BEACON**

In contrast to the low lying land of much of the walk, the beacon at the top of a hill is a surprise. There are extensive views over the canal and low lying areas and Lincoln Cathedral is said to be visible on a clear day. Site of a prehistoric hill fort and a windmill, there's now a water tower as well as the beacon. Easily accessible from the top of High St, with a worthwhile short climb up to the top.

**THE CHESTERFIELD CANAL**

The canal is 46 miles long and runs through Retford, Worksop, South Yorkshire and Derbyshire to its destination in Chesterfield. Opened in 1777, it transformed the carrying of coal, stone and agricultural products. Its use dwindled from 1907, following a tunnel collapse and the canal limped on with the final cargo carried in 1956. It fell into disrepair and has been reopened in stages thanks to the efforts of many volunteers. The first 32 miles, to Norwood Tunnel, are fully operational. Then there are 9 miles awaiting restoration with a further 5 miles between Staveley and Chesterfield restored and used by 2 trip boats, The Chesterfield Canal Trust is spearheading moves to restore the remaining sections, which will require some complex engineering. For more information see [www.chesterfield-canal-trust.org.uk](http://www.chesterfield-canal-trust.org.uk)



Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs  
 Leave gates and property as you find them  
 Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home  
 Keep dogs under close control  
 Consider other people

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# About Bus Walks

## Lincolnshire InterConnect bus walks

- 1** Faldingworth Market Rasen (linear) 7.25 miles
- 2** Nettleton Market Rasen (linear) 7.75 miles
- 3** Cabourne Laceby (linear) 7.5 miles
- 4** Hagworthingham Fulletby Horncastle (linear) 8.5 miles
- 5** Candlesby Gunby Hall Bratoft Burgh le Marsh (linear) 4.5 miles
- 6** Burgh le Marsh Skegness (linear) 5 miles
- 7** Gainsborough Knaith Park Willingham Stow Minster (linear) 8 miles

## Nottinghamshire bus walks

- 8** Walkeringham Gringley on the Hill (linear) 8.5 miles
- 9** Babworth Retford (linear) 6.5 miles
- 10** Retford Clarborough Hayton Clayworth (linear) 7 miles
- 11** Shireoaks Worksop (linear) 5.5 miles
- 12** Worksop Retford (linear) 10.5 miles

[stagecoachbus.com/buswalks](http://stagecoachbus.com/buswalks)  
for walk information

The Bus Walks provide a series of suggested walks across the Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire countryside. Bus stops are located at the start and finish of these walks, delivering you to some of the most beautiful spots Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire have to offer.

The walks appeal to all types of people, from families and occasional walkers to the lone traveller and experienced ramblers. You can explore the stunning scenery, discover wildlife havens or simply enjoy a picnic in a picturesque spot. Whatever your age, group size or motivation, the Bus Walks provide a great way to get outdoors and enjoy an active lifestyle.



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# Bus Walk Information

- Distance** 8.5 miles, 13.5 km
- Time** Approx. 4 - 5 hours
- Maps** OS Landranger 112
- Terrain** Mainly level towpath, flood banks and quiet lanes, 2 stiles and a short climb up to Gringley village



**Refreshments**  
Pubs in West Stockwith, Misterton (shop too) and Gringley on the Hill, please check opening times

**Toilets**  
None on route

**Other Information**  
Towpath section forms part of the Cuckoo Way long distance footpath

**Bus Routes**  
97 Retford - Gainsborough, 98 Gainsborough - Doncaster (not Sundays or Bank Holidays).

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# Bus Walks

Walkeringham  
Gringley on the Hill

8.5 miles  
Linear Route  
**Walk 8**

