

Hartshorne Circular Walk

This walk commences in HARTSHORNE which is reached on the A514 from Swadincote or Derby. You should park in the car park by the church hall, having turned onto Manchester Lane by The Bulls Head.

The walk is set amidst pleasant hilly farmland northeast of Swadincote and provides 2 routes of about 3.7km (1 hr 30 mins) and 5.7km (2 hours).

You will be walking through countryside which involves a number of stiles and fields with horses or cattle. This walk is moderately easy and includes climbing a very steep bank.

Short Walk - Route A

Turn right out of the car park **1** and after 20m turn right through the church hall and the C17 Manor house **2**.

The architectural style of Hartshorne Manor House (or Upper Hall) identifies it as the new house built for a Mr Benkin in 1623, and it is a fine example of a Grade II* listed half-timbered manor house. Once owned by Lord Caermorn the house at 8-10 Main Street oozes historical character.

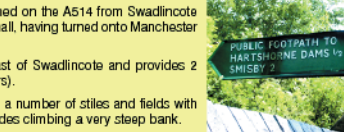


Follow the path, cross stile into a small field and walk straight ahead to next stile. Cross stile and follow left field edge path, past a stile in the hedge to stile in top left corner of field. Cross stile **3** and walk down slope down to Limehouse Dam **4**. Walk round the dam and up a dirt track, at the end of which turn left. Keeping a hedge to your left and young National Forest planting to the right, continue until you reach and pass through a metal kissing gate **5**.

Limehouse Dams is where the water supply came many years ago. Water from one of the ponds was treated with lime and piped to a small waterworks on Manchester Lane and then fed through cast iron pipes to the village with a number of cast iron markers to indicate the buried pipes. These are marked 'H.W.W.' and one example is near the wall on the road at the side of the church in Church Street.



Turn right and follow the path along the ridge bottom, cross stile **6** and continue to stile **7**. Follow path uphill until you see stile on your right **8**. Cross stile and walk down path towards Sharp's Bottom Wood **9**. Bear right and follow path to entrance to wood **10**. Follow path through woodland for about 200m to a metal kissing gate in the hedge on your right **11**. Pass through gate and follow path across a field in a straight line between the ridge on your left and a pond to your right, to a stile **12** in the top righthand corner, near a small lake. Cross stile keeping lake to your left, and follow path up ridge, making for the gap in the next field boundary **13**. [From here there are fine views, including St Peter's Church].



Continue to follow the path across the field to the gap next to the field gate **14**, then follow the track back to Manchester Lane, close to your starting point.

There has been a church on the site of St. Peter's since at least the beginning of the C14 though the earliest surviving part of the present building is the tower that dates from the C15. The main body of the church was rebuilt in 1835 at a cost of £1,400 although the font is believed to be C14 and two of the five bells pre-date the Reformation. The fine altar tomb is of the Dethick family, one of whom went to Cleves to find a fourth wife for Henry VIII and his son laid a pall of rich velvet on the coffin of Mary Queen of Scots.



Long Walk - Route B

Follow route A to point 5. Go through metal kissing gate, then turn left. Follow path for about 300m, keeping the hedge to your left. Go through bridle gate **15** then bear left and keep to the fieldedge up the very steep bank keeping the sheep turning to the right. Reaching the boundary hedge **16** turn left then right along the fieldedge path. From here there are spectacular views into the Calke estate. At the stile on the next boundary **17** turn right onto Mereook Lane, a bridle road. Follow past Pisternhill Plantation on your left. Join the B5006 and after 50m turn right onto the farm track **18** to Daniel Hayes Farm. Pass through metal kissing gate **19** and progress up the farm drive.

Daniel Hayes farmhouse is a listed building built in the early C18 on a much more ancient site, and until recent years was part of the Calke Abbey estate.



Do not enter the farmyard but bear left through a small wooden clapper gate **20**. Keep to the right hand field edge for approx 150m until you reach another small wooden clapper gate **21** in the corner of the field. Pass through this keeping the large pond to the right. Continue for about 20m then turn left down the old farm track **22**. After approximately 280m turn left again down a grassy bank **23** into Sharp's Bottom Wood.

Continue through the woodland until you see the metal kissing gate **11** in the post and rail fence on your left. Rejoin Route A.

After your walk... why not enjoy some light refreshments?

The following public houses in Hartshorne all serve bar meals and would be happy to serve you.

- **The Bulls Head**, Woodville Road - a Grade II listed early C19 public house
- **The Chesterfield Arms**, Repton Road - children's play area available
- **The Rodney Inn**, Main Street - overlooks the village cricket pitch
- **The Old Mill Wheel**, Ticknall Road - former Water Mill of 1776 and later, for making wood screws. Now a restaurant incorporating the original mill wheel, which is said to be the largest iron mill wheel in Derbyshire.

The Screw Mill probably began as a corn mill and during the C17 the water wheel was converted to drive the bellows of an iron smelting furnace which was probably situated in the area of the present car park and cottages. c1712 the furnace ceased operations and the site was used as a smithy.

In 1767 William Wyatt, an engineer from Burton on Trent, took out a patent for a screw cutting machine and the mill at Hartshorne was purchased by a group of Burton businessmen who formed a company called Shorthose, Wood and Co. In 1796 the screw mill employed 59 people, many of them children.

The mill continued to thrive until about 1846, after which it was used as a saw mill and millings until at least 1943. The mill lay derelict for many years until 1987 when Mr John Holland completely renovated it. The 24' diameter overshot water wheel (one of the finest in the country) was removed and completely restored and is operating again, albeit via an electric pump and is an attractive feature of the pub and restaurant now known as The Old Mill Wheel.



The Calke Abbey Estate has been cared for by the National Trust since 1985 and includes a National Nature Reserve encompassing the ancient deer park. There are many large, old, stag-headed oak trees as well as lime and beeches. Calke Park is home to some of the oldest trees in Europe, some over 700 years and two of the oaks are thought to be over 1000 years old.

The National Forest is a forest in the making whose physical creation can be witnessed and enjoyed, a place of 200 square miles straddling parts of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Staffordshire.

Britain's biggest, boldest long-term environmental initiative is becoming a reality with 7 million trees planted in just over ten years and tree cover tripled. The ambitious goal for The National Forest is for about one third of the land within its boundaries to be wooded.



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