



Denton reservoir – from Denton to Harlaxton

Start and end of route:

St Andrew's Church
Denton
NG32 1LG
Grid reference SK 865 325

Distance: four miles (6.5 kms)

Time: 2 hours approx. walking

Suitability: Walking

Refreshments and toilets: Shop and pub at Harlaxton

Brief description of route: A circular walk to Denton reservoir along a small stream and then the Grantham Canal. Look out for birds along the route including swans, grebe, coot and mallard. In the woods, listen out for the woodpecker. Banks of snowdrops lined the route along the stream in February.

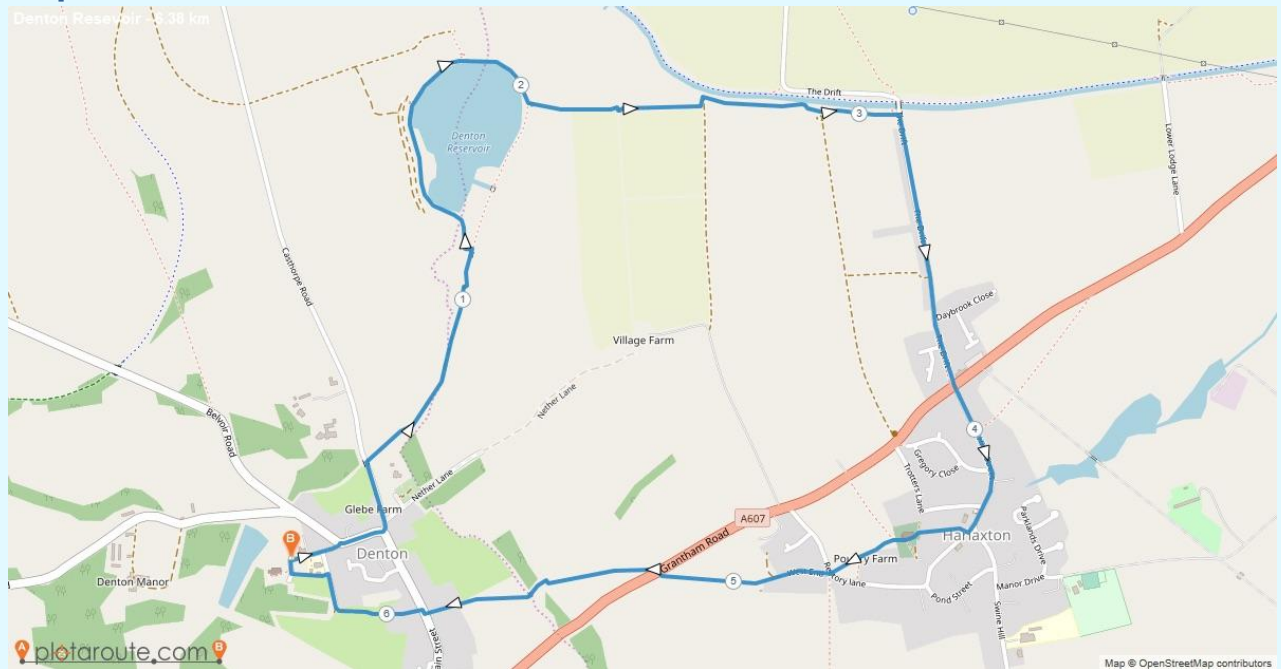


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Map:



Directions:

1. Park near the church and with your back to the church, turn right and head down the road, past the school.
2. Go straight on at the first junction and at the second turn left onto Castorpe Road. There is a sign for Denton Wharf.





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3. After about 100m after the cottages, cross the stream and turn right onto the public footpath and follow it along a track and across the field to the far right hand corner up a bank.



4. Cross a track (the old mineral railway line) and carry straight on beside the stream to the reservoir. On a Winter's day there are clumps of snowdrops to line your way.



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5. Ahead is the reservoir. Ignore the bridge to your right and continue in a clockwise direction around the reservoir for about 0.5 miles or roughly $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way round.



6. By a lifejacket, turn left onto a public footpath. Go down some steps and across a bridge.



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7. Carry on in the same direction between two hedges and then along a field edge/track. At the field corner go over the bridge ahead and follow the footpath across the field to the far corner. Go through the gap in the hedge. The Grantham Canal is now on your left.





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8. Go straight on alongside the canal to the road and turn right. Walk up the road to the top.



9. At the crossroads, with the A607, go straight ahead onto Harlaxton High Street where you will find some very pretty houses.
10. Walk past the shop and turn right up some steps onto a footpath opposite the telephone box and village cross, towards the church. The footpath is slightly hidden so look out!





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11. Follow the path to the left hand side of the church and out of the churchyard. Continue in the same direction along the field edge, through a yard and across another field, bearing slightly to the left, to a gate onto a road.



12. Cross the road and walk along West End and continue straight on through a gate to a field.



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13. Bear diagonally right across the field aiming to the right of the line of trees in the hedge, to the main road.



14. Cross the road and take the footpath opposite diagonally left across the field. At the old railway line turn right then almost immediately left and continue in the same direction over a footbridge. Bear right across the field to the far right hand corner. Follow this path back to Denton Main Street.

15. Cross the road and follow the public footpath between two cottages almost immediately opposite.



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16. Cross the bridge and continue straight on to a gate. Turn right down the road and follow the public footpath on the left behind the school, to return to the church.

Activity: In the woodland listen out for birdsong. Walk slowly and carefully along a trail and stop frequently along the way and give the birds a chance to hear their voices. When you hear a bird, tune out other noises and focus only on the bird. Try cupping your ears to magnify the sound and turning your head from side to side to help pinpoint the direction of the sound.