

## Historic Walk directions

A circular walk around Thorne taking in the historic buildings and the charming market place.

You begin in the historic (6) Market Place, which has held markets since 1658, before turning up Church Street towards (7) St. Nicholas Church and (8) The Former Vicarage. Turn right up Stonegate and enter the Churchyard through the gates and take a little time to enjoy the stylistic mixture of architecture that dates back to the 12th century.

### Fun fact: soggy slog!

Did you know that up until 1626 the whole of Thorne - Moorends was covered in a thick boggy marsh? The only dry area was a 25ft contour where St. Nicholas Church and Peel Hill Motte are located.

Pass through the churchyard and out by the rear exit. Bear left along Back Lane and join St Nicholas Road. On the corner you will see (9) Peel Hill Motte. The shaped mound is all that remains of a castle that was built almost 1000 years ago.

Continue along St Nicholas Road until you see the opening for Mansion Court Gardens on the right hand side. A little further along St Nicholas Road on the left, behind the high trees you'll glimpse (10) Thorne House, a striking mock Tudor mansion.

Continue along St Nicholas Road to the junction with King Edward Road. Carefully cross the road into North Eastern Road opposite. Follow the road until you come across (11) Oates Mill - the shell of a disused windmill on your right. From here you can join the Country walk or you can continue the Historical walk by turning left down Durham Avenue.

This road bends to the right, then to the left before bringing you out onto Fieldside between (12) The Library, financed by Andrew Carnegie and the police station, with its impressive trees. Turn right along Fieldside looking for a good place to cross the road. Continue along as far as the car park for the (13) Delves Fishponds which is just before the railway bridge on the opposite side of the road.

The Delves is an attractive area of green grassland and fish filled ponds. The perfect place to stop for a picnic! Spend

some time watching the intense fishermen or stroll round the park spotting wildlife and feeding the ducks. One thing is for sure - you will not want to leave.

If you exit at the rear of the Delves this will lead onto White Lane. Take a left and a short way along you'll see a sign for the public footpath going off on your right. Follow the footpath but be careful as it can sometimes be overgrown. On your left the gouged area is known locally as (14) Hanson's Gyne and was caused by massive floods 400 years ago. Keep going along the footpath up Lock Hill and onto the picturesque (15) Thorne Lock which crosses the canal.

Cross the canal and continue along the footpath, taking the lower path on the right, towards the house. This takes you through a gate and into (16) Buntings Wood. Feel free to walk around this newly planted area and enjoy the wildlife. Leave the wood by retracing your steps and bearing right onto the towpath alongside the canal. Follow the towpath all the way up to Thorne Bridge. Go through the gate at the end and bear right so you can go up onto the bridge and over the canal.

From here you can join the Parkland Walk, or you can complete the Historic walk by continuing along South Parade, then turning right down Silver Street back to the (6) Market Place.



**Fact file**

**Start:** The walk is circular so you can start anywhere you like, however we have begun at **6 The Market Place**.

**Nearest car park:** There is lots of free parking with Church Street and Bridge Street being equally close.

**What you'll see:** Market Place, St. Nicholas Church, Peel Hill Motte, The Mansion, The Library, The Delves, Thorne Lock and Buntings Wood.

**Approximate distance:** 2.5-4.5 miles depending on how far round Buntings Wood you choose to walk, approx 1-2 hours.



**Walking conditions**

- Paved or public footpath.
- Mainly flat, easy walk.
- No special footwear required although it may be damp along the towpath.

