

Parkland Walk

A circular walk around Thorne taking in the canal and the beautiful Memorial Park.

You begin in **(1)** Thorne Memorial Park, a charming spot, which is home to the famous Miniature Railway. Why not take a ride - it's a great way to see the park! It is worth investigating the delightful duck pond whilst letting the kids loose on the play area. There is a lot to see, so spend a little time strolling round the park before basking in the sun or having a picnic. You may even catch a free concert over at the bandstand. From here you leave the park by the path that takes you onto Ellison Street.

The large imposing building opposite is the splendid **(2)** Thorne Hall, a classic Georgian manor. Believe it or not, the Memorial Park you have just left was once part of the vast grounds!

Turn Left along Ellison Street until you reach Bridge Street. Silver Street, in front of you, leads to the **(6)** Market Place. From here you can join the Historic walk or continue the Parkland walk by turning right up Bridge Street.

At the top of Bridge Street turn right along Stonegate then continue along to Tithe Barn Lane where you turn left beyond the impressive Georgian style buildings. This takes you onto Southfield Road where you turn right. On your left you will pass the beautifully maintained **(3)** Thorne Cemetery, an unexpected treat of tranquil splendour often overlooked by local residents.

Continue along Southfield Road then take a left down Miller Lane. When you reach Haynes Road, turn left. Stay on Haynes Road until you reach Travis Avenue where you turn right. This leads you onto Wyke Gate Road, the home of **(4)** Wyke Gate Recreation Ground. Wyke Gate boasts one of the best skate parks around and a play area for the children. Exit the park and continue down Wyke Gate Road. At the end of the road it turns into a public footpath which leads to Wykewell Bridge. The footpath leads over the railway so take care when crossing the lines. Wykewell Bridge provides pretty views along the canal and also along the residential area.

Cross the bridge and bear right onto the (5) Canal Towpath. This is a wonderful walk alongside the Stainforth and Keadby Canal. On the opposite bank you'll notice Blue Water Marina, home to a myriad of different boats used on the canal. Keep your eyes open for the narrow boats making their way along the canal.

On route you pass under the railway bridge before finding yourself at Louis and Joshua's boat yard where fine quality narrow boats are built. The towpath takes you under the bridge. Go through the gate and bear left so you can go up onto Thorne Flyover Bridge and over the canal. Please note, from summer 2004 there will be an additional footbridge, with less of an incline, to make the crossing easier for pedestrians.

Thorne bridge replaced an old swing bridge that was swung open every time a boat passed, stopping all the traffic. As you can imagine this caused massive traffic jams on the main east coast route!

The bridge leads onto South Parade, an unusually wide street for the area. The width was fixed in the 1770's to allow horses that were for sale in Thorne's June Fayre to be exercised along the road. During Fayre Week the watermen held their own sports on the canal and stalls sold all manner of goods. The fayre lasted until the 1940's and now takes place annually on Coulman Road.

From here you can re-enter (1) Thorne Memorial Park or join the Historic walk.





Fact file

Start: The walk is circular so you can start anywhere on the route, however we recommend starting at ① Thorne Memorial Park.

Nearest car park: There is lots of free parking with Bridge Street being the nearest.

What you'll see: Thorne Memorial Park, Thorne Hall, Thorne Cemetery, Wyke Gate Recreation Ground and scenic canal towpaths.

Walk length: Approx 3.5 miles, 1 hour.



Walking conditions

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

