

Newton Solney Circular Walk

This walk commences in the village of NEWTON SOLNEY which is located on the B5008 midway between Repton village and Burton upon Trent. Please park in The Unicorn Inn car park, Repton Road in the centre of Newton Solney village.

The walk is 4 miles long (6.4km) and takes a leisurely 2.5 hours. For a more detailed map you are recommended to refer to Ordnance Survey Explorer 245:(The National Forest).

You will be walking through countryside which involves several stiles and fields with horses or cattle.

- 1 Turn right out of The Unicorn Inn car park and then turn right along Blacksmith's Lane. Follow this lane as it winds and turns.



Continue straight ahead to cross the road to ascend a short flight of steps and follow the path which leads into St Mary's churchyard. Leave the churchyard via the pedestrian gate and turn left to walk along the tree lined Church Lane.

Newton Solney village is one of the jewels of southern Derbyshire and is steeped in history. Anglian invaders came up the River Trent in the 8th century and settled in this attractive location on the confluence of the Rivers Dove and Trent. They called it Niwanton meaning the new farm. It is likely that when the Vikings raided nearby Repton Monastery and settlement in AD774 Newton Solney was also invaded. Repton of course was the capital of the kingdom of Mercia. Newton Solney is mentioned in the Domesday Book. But it was not until the 1900s that this village became known as Newton Solney. The de Solneys, descended from a Norman knight, were chief owners of the village in the 13th and 14th centuries.

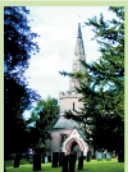


The Unicorn Inn was a farmhouse in the early 1800s and later became an inn as it is today.

Notice the Beehive cottage on the right. This unusual octagonal building was built in the early 1800s. It is one of a number of whimsical, ornamental buildings that give a distinctive character to the village.



Parts of St Mary's Church date back to Norman times. Originally it was a chapel of ease, owned and served by the canons of Repton Priory for the inhabitants of Newton Solney. The majority of the church interior is fourteenth century with effigies thought to be of the de Solney family. The church was heavily restored and altered in 1880, under the direction of F. J. Robinson.



- 2 At the end of Church Lane cross the Burton Road and turn right (take care - traffic). After a few metres, just before the entrance to the hotel, go left up a surfaced lane. Follow this as it travels past the old grounds of Newton Park house.

This is a pleasant lane lined with pines and provides views over parkland. The Newton Park Hotel appears to have begun life as an 18th century farmhouse, altered and enlarged by Abraham Hoskins shortly after 1800, to become a country house. The farm buildings behind the house were re-located later in the 19th century. The landscape still has the air of a country estate with large mature trees in grassland. Look out for the Shetland ponies grazing the fields.



- 3 Turn right and climb the stile and follow the footpath which cuts diagonally across the field to a clump of trees. (Newton Solney farm is on your left). Views open out to fields and stands of trees with top of water tower in the distance. Go through a gateway into the field and carry straight on to a stile by a wooden gate.



- 4 Continue across another field with the hedge on your right to a third gate which is more or less straight ahead in line with the water tower. Cross a stile by the gate and keep close to the hedge which is now on your left heading for a stile in the left hand corner of the field next to Bladon Farm.



Take time to look at the views. To the right, peeping out of the trees, is the top of Bladon Castle; behind you is the Toyota factory, and in front the outskirts of Burton on Trent. Abraham Hoskins, who lived in the house which is now the Newton Park Hotel, also built Bladon Castle around 1805 as a folly, forming a centrepiece for the extensive parkland. Later on, Bladon Castle was converted for domestic use.



- 7 Continue in the same direction with the fence on your left. Follow the path as it turns left. Cross through the next two large fields, keeping close to the hedge on your left. Continue to follow the path as it rises and falls and then go down over a stile next to a gate and follow the farm track that leads to Newton Lane.



- 8 Take care crossing Newton Lane and turn left to walk on the roadside verge facing the oncoming traffic. After passing the Newton Solney Village sign the road bends sharply. Take extra care of the traffic. Cross the road carefully after the first bend and continue downhill in the same direction as before. Turn left on the bend of the road to travel up a track between cottages and climb the stile into a field.

- 9 Keep close to the hedge on your right until it bends to the right. Then bear left to go over another stile into the next field. Continue ahead with hedge on your right to a stile which leads into the lane that you came up earlier in the walk. Turn right down the lane to Burton Road. At the road turn right to walk through the village passing the Brickmakers Arms and village shop back to the Unicorn Inn.

South Derbyshire District Council gratefully acknowledges the assistance during the production of this walk of Groundwork Derby & Derbyshire.

The Brickmakers Arms is believed to have always been a public house and (unsurprisingly) stands near the site of a former brickyard.



Newton Solney has won best kept village 5 times and East Midlands in Bloom twice. There are two pubs and a village shop so providing opportunity for refreshments at the end of your walk.



- 5 Turn sharp left through Bladon Farnyard and walk down the lane all the way past Bladon Farm Cottages which are on your right. (take care - traffic)

- 6 At the bottom of the lane continue over Dale Brook and then take the first left road - Hollow Lane. Follow this lane until it turns right and instead turn left to re-cross the brook via the bridge beside the ford. Walk up the road verge passing the retirement home on your left. Go through the kissing gate and continue straight ahead through four fields keeping close to the hedge on the right.

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