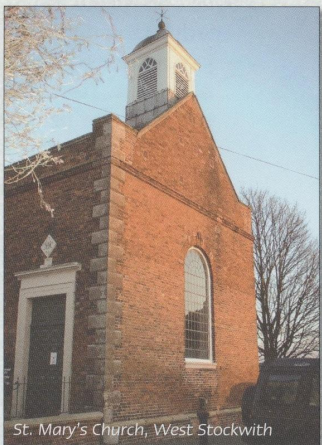


Misterton Soss

Enter a quiet field and follow its right edge, continuing in the direction of two tall chimneys to join a small lane. Turn left, and follow the lane past Misterton Soss pumping house and sluice. Follow a left-hand bend past houses to bear right over a narrow footbridge. Beyond the bridge, turn right and follow the broad grassy floodbank along the slow-moving River Idle for half a mile, to a stile just to the left of a wooden gate.

Misterton Soss pumping house was originally built in 1828 and housed two beam engines which were used to drain the surrounding land. The buildings have now been converted into private houses.



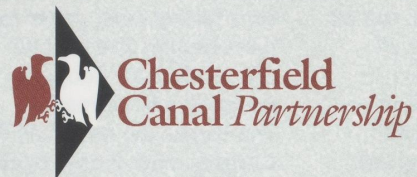
St. Mary's Church, West Stockwith

Directly in front is the new pumping station standing amidst a confusion of water channels and sluice gates. Continue ahead to a second stile. Cross this, then follow a fenced walkway leading towards the station entrance and North Carr Road. Cross the entrance road to regain the floodbank, which is followed to the sluice gate at West Stockwith.

Cross over a ladder stile by the side of the giant sluice gate, cross a further stile then walk through an alleyway at the side of a house to reach the main street at the front of the White Hart Inn.

The approach to West Stockwith beyond the new pumping station is dominated by the huge sluice gate, which stands like a portcullis, protectively at the mouth of the river where it meets the Trent.

West Stockwith is signed from the A161 at Misterton, some 12 miles north east of Retford. Bus services run to Misterton and West Stockwith from Retford, Gainsborough, Bawtry and Doncaster. For details call traveline on 0870 608 2 608.



The Chesterfield Canal Partnership is made up of local authorities, statutory and non-statutory bodies, the voluntary sector and private enterprise, and is fully committed to the protection, restoration and development of the Chesterfield Canal.

All members share the belief that the canal constitutes a major natural history and heritage feature, with the potential to significantly enhance the recreational, tourism and business life of the region. The Partnership works to protect and enhance the natural history and historic value of the canal, whilst promoting the development of its business and amenity potential to benefit all sectors of the community.

The Chesterfield Canal Trust is a charitable company run entirely by volunteers, incorporated in July 1997. In 1998 it took over the assets of the Chesterfield Canal Society (founded in 1976.) The aims of the Trust include the full restoration and appropriate development of the Chesterfield Canal.

Now with over 650 members, the Trust works in partnership with local people, owners, councils, statutory bodies, the voluntary and private sector to ensure the eventual full restoration to navigation of the whole canal.

Contact the Secretary for details of publications setting out the Trust's work and achievements so far, and for details of how you may help by joining the Trust.

*The Secretary, Chesterfield Canal Trust,
C/o Tpton Lock Visitor Centre, Lockoford Lane,
Chesterfield, Derbyshire S41 7JB*

Tel: 01246 551035
www.chesterfield-canal-trust.org.uk

*For information about other walks in the series
contact The Chesterfield Canal Trust.*

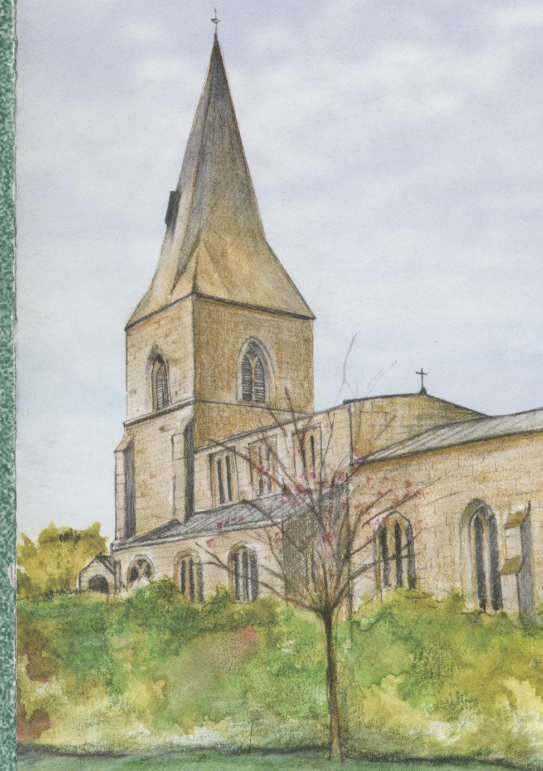


This leaflet was produced with financial assistance from Nottinghamshire County Council and The Chesterfield Canal Trust.

Designed and produced by Oakleaf Graphics Chesterfield Printed on Recycled Paper

Around the Junction

West Stockwith & Misterton



All Saints Church, Misterton



walks
along
the

CUCKOO WAY

a series of
walks based
along the
Chesterfield
Canal towpath

Around the Junction

Starts:

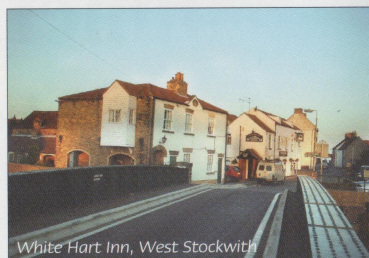
Car Park opposite the White Hart, West Stockwith.

Length: 5 miles (8km)

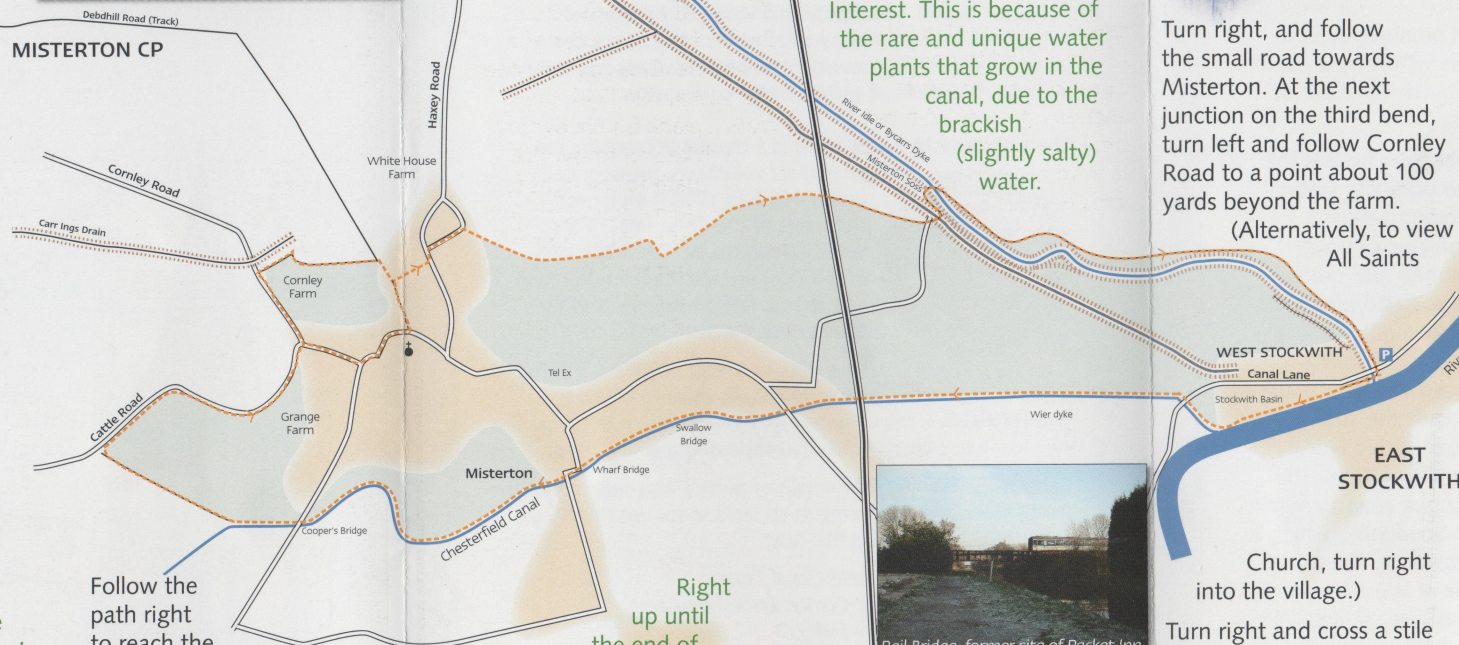
Terrain: Mostly level, but with some short steep sections on flood protection banks. Some muddy cross-field paths. There are 9 stiles on the route including one steep ladder stile. Note: Nottinghamshire County Council is undertaking a rolling programme of replacing stiles with kissing gates, wherever possible. So there may be changes en route.

A walk at the junction of the Chesterfield Canal with the River Trent. From here goods would have been connected to the waterway network; south to Nottingham, the Grand Union, the Trent & Mersey and the Fossdyke; north to the Yorkshire Navigations, the Humber and the North Sea. West Stockwith was also a boat building centre where many of the 'Cuckoo' narrow boats used on the Chesterfield would have been built.

From the car park opposite the White Hart, turn left and cross the steel road bridge over the River Idle. About 200 yards beyond the bridge, turn left by a wire enclosure. Ascend a short flight of steps to reach the grassy river floodbank.



White Hart Inn, West Stockwith



Follow the path right to reach the lock at the entrance of the Chesterfield Canal. Cross over the lock gate, turn right and walk between the two brick buildings at the lock side and pass the yacht club on your right. Climb the steps and pass through a small gate to reach the road. Cross over the bridge and go through the metal barrier on the right bank of the canal.

In its heyday the canal carried a wide range of goods all in horse drawn 'Cuckoos'. These wooden boats had removable rudders which allowed them to be moved to the opposite end of the vessel for their return run.

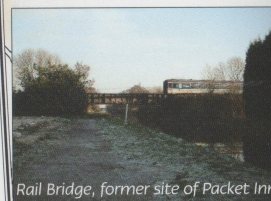
Follow the towpath, and at the end of the straight section, pass beneath a black bridge carrying the railway line north to Doncaster. Continue under two road bridges and past two broad locks. Follow the towpath

Right up until the end of freight traffic in the 1950's all the commercial boats were still horse drawn.

for a further mile, under two more bridges and beyond the bends, until Cooper's Bridge (No.80) is reached. This carries the Misterton to Gringley road. Pass beneath the bridge and continue along the canal for about 100 yards to a stile on the right.

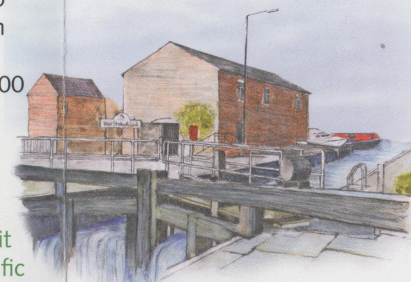
The canal provides an idyllic setting for a walk. This section of canal is of particular importance as it is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. This is because of the rare and unique water plants that grow in the canal, due to the brackish (slightly salty) water.

Turn left, and walk across a meadow, keeping to the right of a row of hawthorn bushes. Cross over a stile at the corner of the meadow then walk directly over an arable field to join Cattle Road.



Rail Bridge, former site of Packet Inn

West Stockwith Lock



Turn right, and follow the small road towards Misterton. At the next junction on the third bend, turn left and follow Cornley Road to a point about 100 yards beyond the farm.

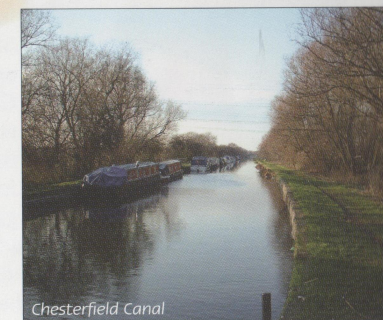
(Alternatively, to view All Saints

Church, turn right into the village.)

Turn right and cross a stile by the side of a small brick bridge. Walk diagonally across a small, secluded meadow lined with tall hawthorn and ash trees, to a stile in the hedge behind the farmyard. Cross this, then walk along the left edge of the yard to a further stile. Enter an arable field and cross this diagonally left of some old farm buildings to reach Debdhill Road. Follow

the lane to the right and turn second left up Rooks Lane. At the top of the lane, turn left along Haxey Road. After a few yards, turn right along Old Haxey Road, which you follow past houses to a left-hand bend. A footpath on your right is signed to West Stockwith.

Cross the stile on the right, and then bear diagonally left across a meadow towards a large barn. At the next fingerpost bear left across the field to the corner of a hedgeline. Cross directly over the next arable field, then cross a plank bridge over a dyke and follow the path to the right to join a track by a line of bushes. Turn left and keep the field on your left, following the hedge along the field edge. Walk over



Chesterfield Canal

a further large field to reach the railway line.

Cross a stile, then ascend a flight of steps to the tracks and cross with care (please observe the crossing instructions). Descend a second flight of steps to reach a stile.