



## *Walk 4 Lowdham*

### **The Old Ship/The Magna Charta**

**Length** – 4 miles (6 km). Allow 2 hours

**Terrain** – Easy walking, a few stiles

**Route** – From the village centre walk up Willow Wong for  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to Highfield Farm. Turn left along the track and after 200 yds cross a stile on the right. Follow field edges and cross two stiles before turning left to cross two more. Turn right by the field edge to a road and cross the road to go down a track to a bridge.

Turn right over the bridge and follow the way-marked path for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles down the valley. After crossing a cattle-grid turn left on a path for 200 yds, and then right across a narrow field to a lane. Cross the lane and follow field edges for  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to Lowdham Church. Turn right and then left to enter the church-yard.

Leave the church-yard by the gate and follow the path on the right bank of the Cocker Beck to the main road. Cross carefully and take the path opposite past the school.

Turn right down Lowdham Main Street to **The Old Ship**. Continue down the Main Street to **The Magna Charta**.

Catch a bus back to Burton Joyce from the bus stop by the War Memorial opposite.

**Information** – Lowdham church is situated on the edge of the village. This is because the original manor house was nearby. The remains of the moat to this manor house can be seen as you walk alongside the beck after leaving the church. There are some fine slate headstones in the church-yard. Inside the church can be found a good Norman font and an effigy of Sir John de Lowdham, 1319, the founder of the chancel. The village name originates from this family who owned the manor.

The Old Ship was referred to in an 1868 document as ‘formerly known as ‘The White Lion’. The Magna Charta dates back to the early 19th Century, and took its name from a famous stage coach which plied between Nottingham and Gainsborough via Lincoln.



*The Old Ship*



*Slate Headstones*



*The Magna Charta*



## *Walk 5 Caythorpe*

### **The Old Volunteer/The Black Horse**

**Length** – 5 miles (8 km) or 6 miles (9½ km). Allow 2½ or 3 Hours.

**Terrain** – Easy walking on field paths and tracks. Some walking on minor roads.

**Route** – From Burton Joyce centre walk down Meadow Lane to cross Church Road and the railway line. Cross the next track and then turn left after the allotments to follow a dyke for about ¾ mile. Turn left on a road for 100 yds and then right on a public footpath.

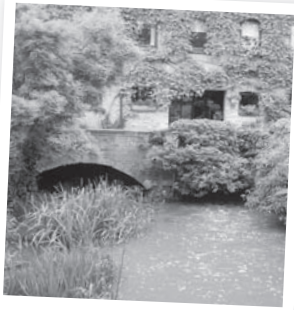
Follow the left edge of the field and the right edge of the next field for 200 yds before turning left across this field. Turn right at the far side for 250 yds to meet the riverside path. Turn left by the river for ¼ mile to a concrete bridge over a stream.

After this bridge veer left away from the river and head across the field to a footbridge in the far left corner. Cross the bridge and turn right to follow the perimeter fence of the caravan storage area all the way to a **metal** gate.

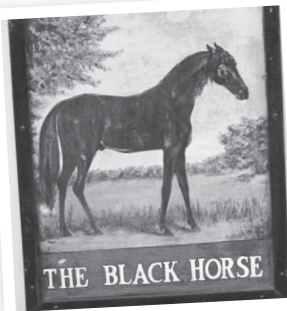
Go through this gate and walk round to another metal gate before carefully crossing the main road. Follow the path opposite into Gunthorpe and turn left on the village street for ¼ mile. Turn right down Peck Lane and after ¼ mile where the lane turns right walk straight ahead.

Follow field edges and marker posts, and turn left over a footbridge after ¼ mile. Continue into Caythorpe, emerging by **The Black Horse** after passing through the mill yard. For **The Old Volunteer** turn left for ¾ mile along the road.

**From The Black Horse**, walk up Main Street for ¼ mile to a bridge over a stream, the Dover Beck. Turn right and follow the Beck for about 1 ¼ miles, passing Hoveringham mill and crossing the railway line to emerge on a main road. There is a bus stop a short distance to the left, but if you cross the road it is much nicer to follow the lane past Cliff Mill for ¼ mile and turn left to follow the path across fields to Lowdham. Here, turn left at the main street to the War Memorial for another bus stop.



Cliff Mill



The Black Horse



Hoveringham Mill

**From The Old Volunteer**, continue along the road for 200 yds and turn right along a track (past Albury and Christotle). Cross the railway and continue to a main road. Turn left into Lowdham for a bus stop by the War Memorial.

**Information** – Caythorpe became another stocking frame knitting village in the first half of the 19th century, employing around 74 men and boys in the 1850s. Agriculture had previously been the main occupation, particularly after the swampy fields around the village became better drained.

The stream that flows through Caythorpe is the Dover Beck. It was once an important milling stream and at one time drove eleven mills in 11 miles. Seven of these mill buildings remain, and on the Black Horse walk you will encounter three of them. There was a corn mill recorded at Caythorpe in 1328. The later mill wheel still exists in this mill, and was last used in 1952. Hoveringham Mill closed in 1920, having been a corn mill. A mill was recorded at Gonalston in the Domesday Book, although the present structure is a renovation of a cotton mill built in 1780 and known as Cliff Mill. Eighty orphans were brought from St. Pancras' workhouse in London to work long hours in arduous conditions, although it is reputed that they were treated "reasonably well". Cliff Mill also still has its wheel.

The Black Horse is reputed to have been a place of refuge for the highwayman Dick Turpin with his horse Black Bess from whom the inn got its name. Dating back for possibly three hundred years, it did not exist as a licensed public house until the 1930s. It used to have its own maltings at the rear.



## *Walk 6 Hoveringham*

### The Reindeer

**Length** – 10 miles (16 km). Allow 5 hours.

**Terrain** – Easy walking on paths and lanes, no stiles

**Route** – From the village centre walk down Meadow Lane and over the railway to the River Trent. Follow the track, keeping straight ahead where the river bends away to the right. After meeting the river again after 1 mile keep by the bank all the way to Gunthorpe Bridge. Pass under the bridge and continue by the river past Gunthorpe Lock for another 2½ miles to meet a road. Follow the road around a left hand bend, keeping by the river for a ¼ mile and you will find the Lancaster Bomber Memorial.

**The Reindeer** pub is along Main Street to the right. Return to the west end of Main Street. From the road junction follow the public footpath across fields for 1 mile to the houses of Brackenhill where you meet a road. Turn right and then in 50 yds take a footpath on the left along a field edge and back to the river.

Follow the river back to Gunthorpe and Burton Joyce.



*The Old Toll House*



*On The River Trent*



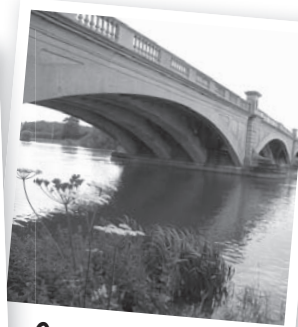
*On The River Trent*



Lancaster Bomber  
Memorial



Gunthorpe Lock



Gunthorpe Bridge

**Information** – Trent Lane, or Green Lane as it is known, is part of the old Nottingham to Grimsby road that existed in 1675. In the C19th there was a toll house near the present Methodist Church in Burton Joyce where tolls had to be paid for using this road. The present Gunthorpe Bridge was opened in 1927 by the Prince of Wales and replaced an iron bridge further downstream built in 1875. The abutment of this earlier bridge can be seen next to a restaurant. This building used to be the tollhouse for the bridge.

The village name of Hoveringham comes from the family name of the Lords of the Manor in the 14th century. The group of buildings where the road bends away from the river is where there was an inn, The Old Elm Tree, which closed in the 1980s. There used to be a ferry across the river here to connect with the village of Kneeton up on the hill. A short distance downstream from this point is a memorial to airmen killed in two separate crashes of Lancaster bombers during World War II, and is worth a short detour.

St. Michael's Church at the west end of Hoveringham was built after the old church was pulled down in 1865. It contains a table tomb with fine effigies of Sir Robert Goushill, 1403, and his wife Elizabeth. The Goushills were one-time Lords of the Manor. The oldest relic from the earlier church is a remarkable Norman tympanum, now over the north door, representing St. Michael defending the Church from the attack of a Dragon. This is best seen when the church is open, but can just be observed through the glazed porch doorway.