



## *Walk 7 Stoke Bardolph* **The Ferry Boat**

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

**Terrain** - Easy walking on the flat, no stiles.

**Route** - From the village centre walk down Chestnut Grove to the riverside. Turn right and follow the river bank to Stoke Bardolph. (There appears to be no objection to climbing the fence on the right side of the road and following the top of the flood bank to a gate back on to the road).

Pass **The Ferry Boat Inn**, and 200 yds beyond turn left through a gate by a cattle grid to follow a track to Stoke Lock. Walk past the lock, and just past a wooden hut turn right through the wood to reach fields. Follow the hedge leading away from the wood and at the far end of the hedge turn right along a track.

This track soon meets a dyke. Follow the right bank of the dyke until you come to a gate onto a road. Carry on by the dyke until you reach the gate by the cattle grid that you passed earlier. Return to the Ferry Boat Inn. To complete the walk return along the riverside back to Burton Joyce.

**Information** - Chestnut Grove follows the route down to the river where there was once a ford to Shelford. Further downstream was once a small wharf. The flood banks on either side of the river were constructed in the 1950s to allow mining under the river towards Shelford from Gedling Colliery and prevent flooding caused by subsidence.

The village name of Stoke Bardolph is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word for a stockade and the family name of the lords of the manor. Much of the land surrounding Stoke Bardolph was purchased by the Nottingham City Corporation at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to build the sewage works. Raw sewage used to be spread on the land prior to the use of settling ponds.

The Ferry Boat Inn is at the site of an ancient crossing to Shelford and its Priory. A ferry here was referred to as far back as 1275. A chain hauled ferry was in operation into the 1940's, and a rowing boat still plied its trade into the 1950's. For over two hundred years the inn was named The Ferry Inn. Stoke Lock was constructed in 1925 to allow large barges to navigate the river.