

Using public rights of way



Public rights of way are mostly marked on the ground by fingerposts and/or small circular disks, the latter containing arrows coloured yellow for Footpaths, blue for Bridleways and plum for Restricted Byways. If you see a fingerpost or waymark disk, you are almost certainly on the right path.

If you have a problem in using a public right of way, please report it to Norfolk County Council, which is the Highways Authority carrying responsibility to assert and protect public rights of way in Norfolk. Reports are best made on line at <http://maps.norfolk.gov.uk/highways/> - zoom into the problem area, click on the path and use the 'Report a problem' link. (If you can't do this, phone on 0344 800 8020.)

- Footpaths can be used by people on foot; there is no public right to push a bicycle or lead a horse, but a push chair may be used where conditions permit.
- Bridleways can be used for walking, riding or leading a horse or pedal cycling. Cyclists must give way to pedestrians and riders. There is no public right to use a horse-drawn vehicle.
- Restricted Byways can be used for walking, cycling, horse riding and carriage driving (ie with a horse and cart). The public cannot use a restricted byway in a mechanically propelled vehicle such as a motorbike or a car.



Dereham Walkers are Welcome

supported by

Dereham Town Council



Walkers are Welcome is a non-profit making Community Interest Company. It's a nationwide initiative, launched in 2007 to encourage towns and villages to be 'welcoming to walkers'. The network has expanded rapidly and there are now some 100 locations across the UK that have joined this innovative community-led scheme to benefit from Walkers are Welcome accreditation. For national information, see www.walkersarewelcome.org.uk/.

Dereham became a *Walkers are Welcome* town in June 2016. This means we will strive to

- be an attractive destination for walkers, with top quality information on local walks;
- offer local people and visitors excellent walking opportunities;
- ensure that footpaths and facilities for walkers are maintained, improved and well signposted;
- contribute to local tourism plans and regeneration strategies;
- promote the health benefits of walking and increase participation; and
- encourage the use of public transport.

We are grateful for the support of Dereham Town Council, which has agreed to work with those responsible to ensure that all public rights of ways are kept in good order at all times. In 2013, the Town Council appointed a voluntary Footpath Warden who regularly checks on the condition of the paths and deals with any problems which have arisen. The Footpath Warden is an active member of the *Dereham Walkers are Welcome* committee. You may meet him and colleagues in the process of keeping the paths in good order.

If you would like to know more, support our work, or come and join us, please see our website at www.DerehamWaW.org.uk or contact us via dtc.fpwarden@talktalk.net or by calling 07561 813243.

What does *Dereham Walkers are Welcome* do?

We have worked to maintain and improve the paths in the town



We regularly walk all of the public rights of way in the town, and where some work is needed (to keep nettles and brambles in check, or remove fallen trees, for example), we do this. For bigger jobs, we call on colleagues in other organisations - we have had help from The Ramblers (using their brush cutter on a few paths that get very overgrown, very quickly) and The Conservation Volunteers (to remove stumps from the surface of a path and to trim back a dangerously intrusive hedge). For any work beyond these resources, we use our positive contacts with Norfolk County Council to ensure the work is put into their programme.

We have publicised the walking opportunities in the town

With funding awarded to the Town Council from Breckland District Council we prepared and distributed 3000 free packs of 4 walks during 2015 and 2016. Following the success of this, we secured further funding from Dereham Town Council and Tesco's *Bags of Help* to produce 3000 copies of an expanded pack of 14 walks, many of them using paths connecting Dereham to the wider area. Half of them use local bus services, or the Mid-Norfolk Railway' trains to take a trip out of town and walk back.



There are many places to walk in Dereham, including public streets, parks and open spaces. This leaflet is mainly about Dereham's 35 public rights of way - paths and tracks which everyone can use by right

How to use this guide

There are four suggested walks in this pack, each with its own map. In total, they cover almost every public right of way within the town (four are currently partly or wholly inaccessible - Footpaths 6, 7 and 8, and Restricted Byway 3). The directions and maps refer to the rights of way by their official numbers, though you won't see these on the signs anywhere. The walks have been carefully checked to make sure the directions are clear, and every effort has been made to ensure that all information is correct at the time of writing, but things can change, so you are urged to make your own judgements - do not follow the directions without thought.

[Note: The main directions are shown in ordinary type; notes in italics give additional information but are not part of the walk.]

While the walks have been devised to provide an interesting experience, you are also encouraged to link them together and make your own walks. All of the walks start from the town centre, but in addition, there is overlap between Walks 1 and 2, Walks 2 and 3, and Walks 3 and 4 - or you could join them all into one mammoth full day circular tour of the town.

Edition 1, July 2015

We have assisted in claiming new routes as rights of way

We have worked with Dereham Town Council to support the successful claim for 6 new public rights of way which had been extensively used but were not recorded on the County Council's Definitive Map - legally the final word on what is a public right of way. All 6 are now open for everyone to use, part of the grand total of 41 in the town.

We have led regular walks for anyone to join



We have led a number of walks for anyone to join, and plan to continue doing this, always making our walks a bit different. We have run walks in conjunction with Konectbus and the Mid-Norfolk Railway, and with local cafés and restaurants (including Dereham Windmill), all including a drink and piece of cake: usual attendance has been 20 or so people, but we can always accommodate more!

We have placed stickers with businesses who will welcome walkers

We have produced peel off 'stickers' for businesses in Dereham to display to support us, and advertise that they will, indeed, provide a Welcome to Walkers. Look out for them on doors and windows throughout the town - they will be pleased to see you!

