

Drifffield – Wansford – Nafferton

WALK
12CIRCULAR
ROUTE

START Parking area at River Head, Drifffield

GRID REF TA 028 573

DISTANCE 7 miles

PARKING Available at River head



CAUTION: The section from Whinhill to Wansford requires great care due to the path following the crest of a narrow embankment.

Converted old warehouses at the head of what was once a busy canal now form part of a pleasant residential area. An information board tells the history of the canal (The Drifffield Navigation) which was created in 1767. Eventually, competition from the railway caused it to fall into disrepair for commercial use in the 1940s, but it has remained open to leisure craft. An old crane on the bank testifies to its industrial history.

1. Follow the right hand (southern) side of the canal, past the houses on the right, heading towards a bungalow and the town lock. Continue on the public footpath, a paved path. Do not be deterred by a Private Driveway notice: the path is a public right of way. Continue past another bungalow on a pebbly path. The River Hull comes into view on the right, and the path becomes rural. Pass through a metal kissing gate and continue on a very pleasant winding route with the river sometimes visible on your right and the canal on your left.
2. After about a mile and a quarter, the sound of traffic heralds the approach to Whinhill Lock. Passing through a kissing gate, the path goes over a wooden footbridge across a beck—to your right a fish farm becomes visible. Shortly afterwards you will reach the lock, and information boards.

3. At Whinhill Lock, cross the canal to continue in the same direction on the other side. There is a further information board on the far side about the local wildlife. Continue along a permissive path which was cleared by volunteer working parties so that walkers could avoid the busy stretch of road into Wansford. **After half a mile this path needs great care as it follows the narrow embankment.**

4. When you reach Wansford, cross to the other side of the main road after reaching the picnic table at Wansford Lock, just past the bus shelter. Continue until you reach the cross roads at the far end of the village.

Turn left here into Chapel Lane and head towards the picturesque converted water mill, passing through a wooden gate. Keep to the water's edge, then cross over a pretty brick bridge and continue through a wooden gate skirting the left hand side of the building.

5. As you continue in a northerly direction, Wansford church comes into sight ahead and to the left. Continue along the beck until you reach a road bridge after about half a mile. Cross here to take the path which continues on the right hand side of the beck. Looking to the east, the wind farm at Lissett is visible. A well-

walked path now takes you all the way to Nafferton, about a mile away.

6. As you approach Nafferton, you will reach a road. Cross over and continue on the path on the other side of the beck, through a kissing gate and alongside a wire fence. After about 50 yards you will reach a railway crossing. Pass through the kissing gate and cross over the railway with care. Nafferton station is visible to the left.

Beyond the railway, pass through a gate followed by a kissing gate and continue along the right hand side of a field. A further kissing gate leads into bumpy rough pasture. Head diagonally across to a metal kissing gate in the far left corner. When you emerge onto a road, turn right and continue north for 200 yards towards the church.

7. Turn left at the church into Westgate (there are some seats on the right near the road junction). Westgate becomes a quiet road (Markman Lane) with wide green verges as you leave the village.

After about three quarters of a mile, the road bears sharply to the right at a large building with big blue doors. Leave the road here and continue in a westerly direction on the field edge path to the left of the building.

8. After about 200 yards, the path bears sharp left and after a further 150 yards sharp right across the dike heading for a belt of trees about 200 yards further on. Pass through a kissing gate into the plantation, which leads to a wide track with trees on the left and a field on the right, before entering the woods again. After about 250 yards you will reach a railway crossing. Cross over and continue to the right in front of a cottage. You will eventually emerge in Meadow Road.
9. Continue straight ahead along the road. When you reach the T-junction at the main road, turn right then very shortly left into Anderson Road. This leads you back to River Head about 500 yards ahead on the left or to Drifffield station beyond it on the right.

