

ABOUT THE WALK

DISTANCE: 2.5 mile

TIME: 1 -2 hours

START/PARKING: park near the five way junction at the entrance to Westhorpe

TERRAIN: most is lane walking but the section round the Dumble can be muddy.

OS MAP: Explorer series No.270 1:25,000 scale

The Westhorpe Dumble Heritage Trail.

The trail is centred in the peaceful hamlet of Westhorpe, where there is a strong feel of its historic past and the lovely countryside around. Until the early 20th century Westhorpe, separated from Southwell by green fields, had a very distinct identity as a working village in its own right. That strong sense of identity and local pride is still there to this day. There is a thriving artistic community which continues to uphold many of the local traditions such as the Christmas festivities. Westhorpe became a Conservation Area in 1971 because of its unique cottages and farmsteads, long brick walls, mature trees and attractive surroundings. Arguably the most distinctive landscape feature is the Westhorpe Dumble, held in great affection by the local residents over the years for its wild life, fine views and opportunities for recreation.

Start the walk by the black and white building, formerly the Dumbles PH, opposite a close of bungalows. Walk slowly towards Westhorpe and the five way junction (old market place). Pause opposite the former Grapes PH/Antique shop (blue plaque on wall and old Warwick Newark brewery markings still on the side of house) and read the information below.

POINT OF INTEREST 1

WESTHORPE MARKET PLACE. As you walk to the old market place, now the junction of five roads, there are a number of things to note.The former Dumbles PH had been for many years the Admiral Nelson, a coaching inn and opposite, the former Grapes PH was a 'local' for Westhorpians until the early 1970's. On the west side of Warrant's Close there used to be a popular Fish and Chip shop, run by John Whitton, demolished in 1973, and on the east side the front garden of Number 11 was the site of a Tramps' Lodging House, pulled down in the 1950's.

Warrant's Close was named after the Warrant family of Westhorpe Hall. One distinguished member, General William Edmund Warrant RE lost an arm when he engaged with Indian mutineers in 1857 at the siege and capture of Delhi.



Cross Warrant's Close and walk up to Sunnyside Cottages (see blue plaque on wall) ahead. Take a good at the cottages on both sides of the road.

FRAMEWORK KNITTING and FARMING.

At the old market place you see a line of Victorian cottages on your left and on your right at right angles a terrace of five cottages 'Sunnyside Cottages'. This fine terrace originally was 16 back to back cottages but conversions and road widening have reduced its number. Some of these cottages would have been used by Framework Knitters, Stockingers. The stocking frame was invented in Calverton in the 1580's. Only effective local action in the 1970's stopped some of these cottages from being demolished. Richard Fisher, who grew up in Westhorpe in the late 19th century noted in his 'Memories' 'that a parson complained that the stockingers of Westhorpe got more money per week than he did and it caused much drunkenness there'. Fisher continues 'Before the coming of steam power men used to work the machines and the women seamed by hand. The stockings were carried to Nottingham to be worsted.....in summer when there was little trade they worked on the land labouring' Some cottages had an extra window light added so they could work longer hours. (see illustration further on) Westhorpe had several small farmsteads such as The Staffords, Calverts, Halifax (now Hall Farmhouse) Home Farm and Stubbins Farm while much of this land is now farmed by the Westhorpe Estate. Many of the old farmsteads have been converted into attractive dwellings.

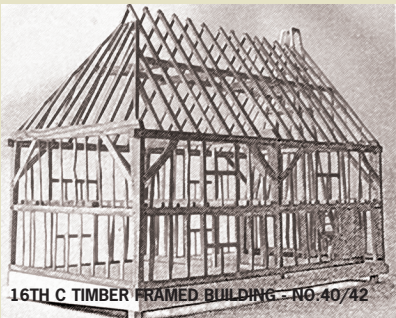
Next walk down the left side of the street until you get to No.35, where you will find a large building at right angles to the previous cottages (see blue plaque).

POINT OF INTEREST 3

THE WORKMAN'S REST is the prominent building at the far end of the cottages opposite Sunnyside. In the 18th century it was owned by a wealthy man – you can see the archway where the carriage and pair went through to the courtyard. In the 19th century Mrs.Warrant of Westhorpe Hall set up the 'Rest' as an institute for local workmen in their leisure hours. A large upper room was also used by local ladies, led by the wife of the Vicar of Holy Trinity, Westhorpe's church, for sewing garments for needy children. The 'Rest' was also used as a Village Meeting location and as a place where soldiers could meet in the two 20th century world wars.



Cross over and pause outside No 40/42. This is a very fine example of a 16th century timber framed building which still has partitions of wattle and daub in the attic. Most probably this cottage was used by framework knitters in the late 18th century. As you continue walking down the street, note how attractively many of the former farms and cottages have been converted and renovated. Several buildings have Georgian fronts, like Westhorpe House No 54. The Westhorpe Estate is still a working farm. Walk as far as Westhorpe Hall, on your right, behind fine old walls - you can catch a view in a gap further along (blue plaque on wall at No 78).



POINT OF INTEREST 4

WESTHORPE HALL. There is an interesting contrast of styles between Westhorpe Hall, built in the grand classical tradition around 1820 and the Joyce's' very modern,'ecological' house sited just inside the entrance of Westhorpe Hall drive. Both are good examples of their period. Above the fine old boundary wall note the Cedar of Lebanon tree which has been dated as 1720. A famous poet, Sophia Burrell, once lived here when she married the Rev.William Clay of Westhorpe Hall in 1797. This building was also home to the Warrant family and, through marriage, to the Hammers who still own the estate. The stables at Hall Farm once housed the race horses of the Westhorpe Estate from the 1950's to 1980. Group Captain Hanmer DFC was a well known owner and breeder of race horses. There was another racing stable at Calverts.



Walk on a short distance to the junction with The Holme, on your left, note the large false acacia tree (white fragrant pea-like flowers adorn the tree in June). As you walk on to 'Top Town' junction look on your right at the garden of Hall Farm cottages No 80. This used to be the former burial ground for Baptist children. Because Baptists did not believe in infant baptism, when their babies and young children died, they were not allowed to be buried in consecrated ground in Southwell as they had not been christened. A local landowner, a Mr.Saunders, gave a piece of land for £1 for use as a Baptist burial ground.

POINT OF INTEREST 5

TOP TOWN. On your left is Top Town Pond which over the years has been more of a cattle watering place than a pond. The pond is fed by a spring from the Dumble and probably also served the

Pinfold's strayed stock. Opposite to you on a slight hill is the former cottage of the Pinder who looked after the Pinfold, which lies to the ground below the cottage. A Pinfold is the place where animals that had strayed would be impounded and could only be reclaimed by the owner on payment of a penalty. At the side of Pinfold Cottage you will see a FP leading straight ahead. Local tradition has it that if you put your ear to the ground on New Year's Eve you will hear the bells of an old church or abbey. Close to here is thought to be the buried hamlet of Woodhouse or Radley. A nearby dairy farm, Thorney Abbey Farm, is a member of LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming). It is another excellent walk from Westhorpe for another day.

Turn left up Bath Lane and walk as far as Bath Cottage on



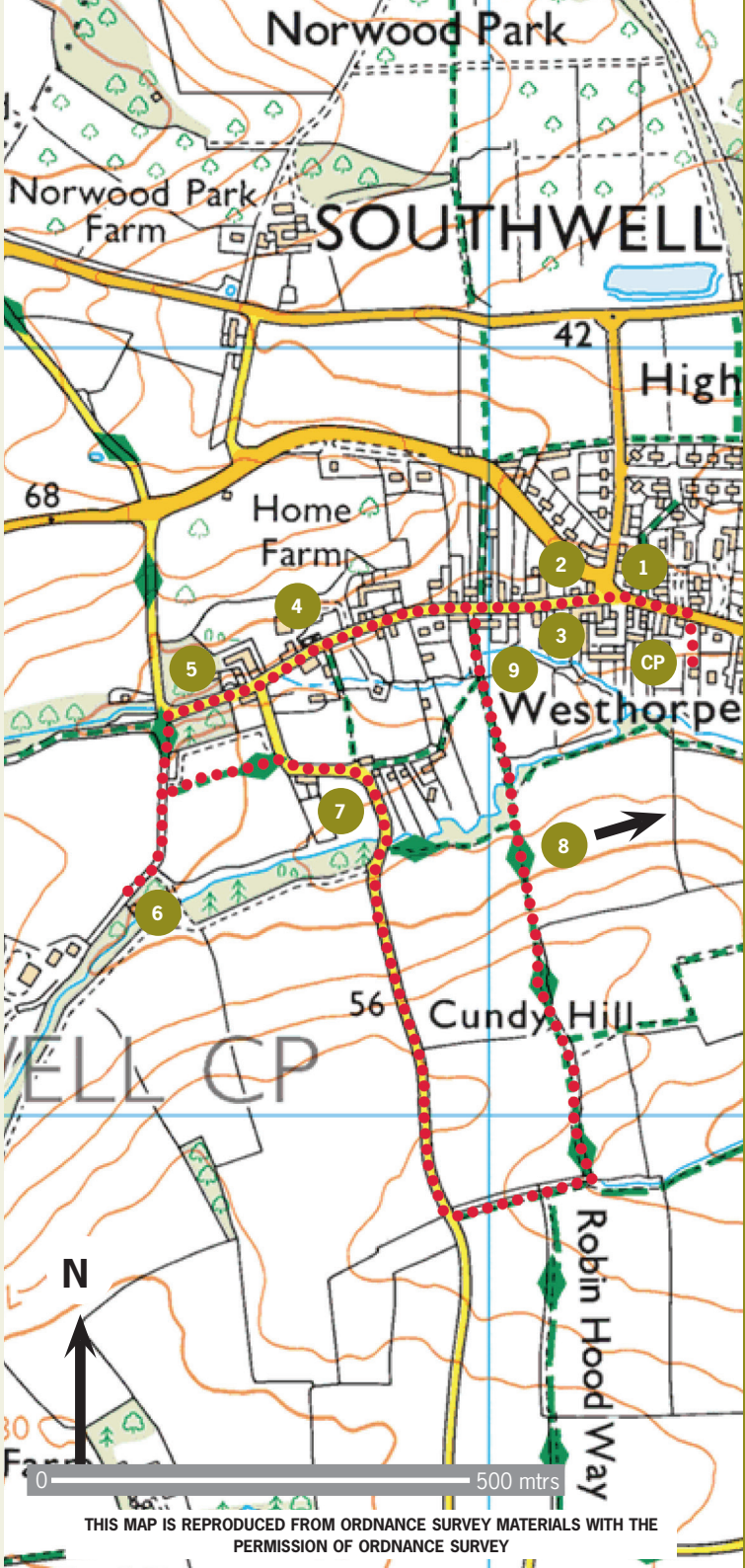
your left in a slight dip.

ST.CATHERINE'S WELL, situated by the side of the Dumble, was said to have water that was extremely pure and cold. People came from far and wide to take the water as a cure for several complaints. In 1720 William Burton of Norwood Park had built a Bath House for the convenience of those who came to bathe. Earlier in 1481 the Archbishop of York had granted a license 'to build a chapel close to the well called St. Catherine's Well in honour of St.Catherine the Virgin and an indulgence for five years to all those helping to build the chapel'. Tradition has it that there were four holy wells of Southwell, the other three being located either close to the Minster or in Easthorpe.

POINT OF INTEREST 6

Southwell Heritage Trails

The WESTHORPE DUMBLE HERITAGE TRAIL



Little remains of any of the original buildings and Bath Cottage is a private house yet there is an atmosphere about the place.

Retrace your steps up Bath Lane as far as the first FP on your right. This will take you to The Holme. Turn right and walk along this attractive lane which takes you past cottages in a lovely rural setting. Eventually you will walk up Cundy Hill



Cross the bridge over the Dumble and walk up and over Cundy Hill as far as a FP on your left. Take the FP and walk as far as another FP on your left, turn left and walk downhill towards the Dumble. Enjoy the superb view of Westhorpe and Norwood Park beyond. To your right is a wonderful view of the Minster and Holy Trinity Church.



POINT OF INTEREST 7
THE HOLME and CUNDY HILL. The Holme is where Richard Fisher, who wrote his memoirs of Westhorpe as a boy, lived. His sister Ellen Groves was a poet and had this to say of her birthplace,

*'Now to the Holme, my birthplace this,
Fond memories arise
Of parents dear and brothers too
And lovely Summer skies,
The lilac bush, the rough old shed,
The swing for rainy day
Where rosy children gathered round
So happy bright and gay.'*
(Ellen Groves born 1869)

Cundy Hill gets its name from 'conduit' - the carrying of water under a road, as you will find at the foot of the hill. The verges of Cundy Hill have meadow cranesbill, red campion and cow parsley. The first sign of Spring brings the banks full of violets. There are fine tall sycamore and ash trees and some unusual false acacia trees with bright green foliage. You may be fortunate enough to hear the green woodpecker or the great spotted woodpecker somewhere in the vicinity.



POINT OF INTEREST 8
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH was built in 1846 by mainly public subscription for the district of Westhorpe for the people of Westhorpe. For such an impressive building the total cost of £2.500 seems, in our day an incredibly cheap price. The nearby elementary school was built at the same time. Over the years the church has had a number of successful vicars, one of which, the Rev. Coghill, held office for 52 years and was held in great affection. His influence in the district was recognised when a local street was named after him, Coghill Court.

Continue walking down the FP to Westhorpe Dumble

POINT OF INTEREST 9
WESTHORPE DUMBLE. A dumble is a stream which has formed a deep wide channel in the clay that is quite out of proportion to the amount of water normally carried. It is also heavily wooded and makes a strong boundary feature. In the shade of the Dumble grow violets, primrose, wood anemone, sanicle and enchanter's nightshade. Blackthorn blooms in profusion in early Spring and there are many fine trees such as oak, beech and ash along the course of the Dumble. The toad, frog and newt are still common place in the gardens and ponds of Westhorpe. The



Holly Blue butterfly has re-established itself in Southwell and the Speckled Wood is an even more recent resident now showing up annually in Westhorpe and Southwell. For Richard Fisher as for many Westhorpe residents, past and present, the Dumble area was something special.

*When the bees are on the clover
And the fledglings tend their wings,
When the sun's high in the heaven's
And I search for cooling springs,
I fain would find St. Catherine's
The cleanest of all wells,
Where her function feeds the Dumble
In the sound of Suth'ell Bells.*
(Richard Fisher 1927)

Go across the Dumble bridge and enter the ridge and furrow meadow. In May and June it is full of wild flowers - meadow buttercup, pignut, cuckoo flower, clover, speedwell, birds-foot-trefoil, knapweed and lady's mantle. The hawthorn hedges are full of May blossom and the hedgerows hide yellow archangel,



violets and later field roses. The first chiff-chaff and the cuckoo are heard across the Dumble. Walk straight through the field and go through the kissing gate into the

twitchel. The twitchels are a rich source of plant life. Along the hedge-line violets, celandine and herb Robert grow and in July bryony and black horehound wind through the hedge. Turn right when you reach the Westhorpe main street and retrace your steps to your parked car.

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There are six Heritage Trails for Southwell

