

The Calverton Circular

Distance: Walks A and B are both 3.5 miles (5.5 km), walk C is 5.5 miles (8.8 km). All follow the same route up to Fox Wood on Spindle Lane.

Disabled Access: The first 1.5 miles (2.5 km) is suitable for disabled adventurers through Calverton's Main St. then left up Hollinwood Lane as far as Hollinwood House, (**Point 1**) but from there access is impractical. It means a return journey.

Start Point: either the library car park just off Main St. in Calverton's centre (**Post Code NG14 6FP**) or round the corner, opposite the Post Office on Crookdole Road (**Post Code NG14 6HZ**). Parking is free (at present). **Bus services:** Trent Barton's frequent Calverton Connection and NCT's SkyBlue 47B.

The Start: From the library car park, turn right along Main St. passing the Folk Museum* (see end) right of the large Baptist Church and the Admiral Rodney. Just past George's Lane you will see the Old School House on the right, where gourmet dinners have been served for many years to a regular clientele.

Eventually, after what seems an interminable 7/8 mile (1.4 km) or more, turn left along a wide straight lane for a further 1/2 mile up to Hollinwood House, right through the middle of Ramsdale Golf Course. Here at **Point 1** the footpath now passes up a narrow fenced track to the right of the House, leading up to an awkward stile that opens to the revelatory vista above.

The track is at first rather overgrown, but near the top it becomes a surfaced path up through the golf links. Pause to take a look round – on a fine day it's well worth the slog. Keep an eye on golfers! The path becomes a track that bears left round the wood, reaching a stile at the wood's far end that leads left on to a lane. As this curves round to the right it encircles the remains of Cockpit Hill, an old Roman defensive encampment that also revealed earlier Iron Age and possibly Neolithic artefacts.

Further round you soon pass some interesting old houses to the right on the way down Ramsdale Hill. At the bottom, cross George's Lane, to go left then right at the corner, walking on the rather uneven grass verge 1/4 mile (.4 km) to the next bend. The hedgerow sometimes blocks this attractive view up towards the B684 on your right.



Library Car park



Folk Museum



Hollinwood Lane



It's well worth the slog



Lane bears left



Opposite Post Office



Old School House



Stile to vista



Track bears left round the wood



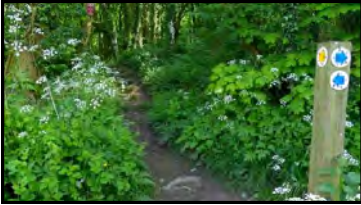
Cross George's lane



Where the road bends left at **Point 2**, walk straight on through the bridleway gate on to Spindle Lane, where you will enjoy spectacular views of a wind turbine right, and Calverton village left, in the valley.



Almost $\frac{3}{4}$ mile (1.1 km) along, Fox Wood appears on your right at **Point 3**.



Fox Wood appears right Point 3

Shortly after this, **Walk A** turns left at a swing gate, following the track (known as Dark Lane) down the left field edge. It wanders in and out the wood, but finally enters it, eventually taking you past a footbridge right (which you ignore) down to a mini T-junction.



Dark Lane down to Calverton



A mini T-junction

The quickest route is right to St Wilfrid's School, left at the entrance, then right again at Main St., back to your start point. Slightly more interesting, turn left at the mini T-junction, reaching a sign for St Clements Riding School on the left. Turn right on Woods Lane, right again at Main St. back to your start.



Turn left here

Walk B bravely ignores the swing gate, continuing on Spindle Lane for another 250 yards (metres) to reach a gap on the left marking your turn down the hill. Whilst enjoying the view, be aware that this track can be rather overgrown and distinctly unfriendly to ankles, especially towards the bottom. Pass through the metal gate here, with Stripes View on your right, out to Brickenell Road where you turn right along this residential road to a jitty at the end. But it's **not** the one in front— turn left along the fenced jitty, to a broken stile which you can sidle past or recklessly climb over, depending on energy levels. Now turn right, along a quiet little backwater, Burnor Pool, until you reach Main Street almost opposite St Wilfrid's Church. Turn left and cross the road to find the library almost immediately.

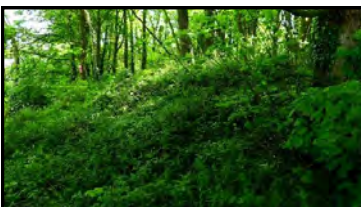


Down to Stripes View



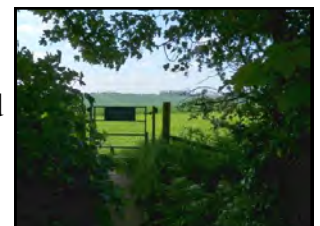
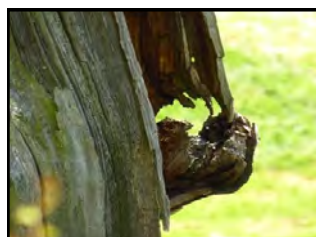
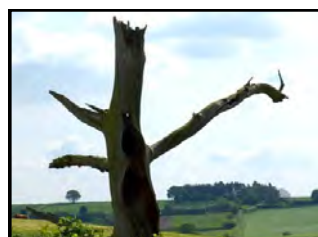
Turn left along the fenced jitty

Walk C although longer, is probably the most rewarding. At **Point 3**, Fox Wood, turn right at the marker post into the wood, noticing immediately right the banked up fortification earthworks of the first early settlers here. Imagine it. No frig, no cooker, no carpets. Just a fight to stay alive.



Banked up earthworks

Trees and the vegetation of centuries hide most of the evidence. A gate on the far edge leads out to a footpath, where a display requests your careful foot placement. Take this path round and down to Woodborough Park Farm with a better view of the wind turbine, passing through a gate to enjoy (or recoil at) the wild extravagant pose of this spooky tree on your left, with its low and monstrous menacing grimace.



Gate at the far edge



Down to the farm buildings

Go down the slope and round the farm outbuildings on a wide path towards Dorket Head. Where it bends right, however, turn sharp left at the marker post, beside a hidden stream along the valley bottom, following this delightful straight path through several fields for a mile. This is a path to linger on, especially to enjoy the tree blossom and flowers like this tiny Common Vetch in spring and summer. Bank Hill is above you right. The colourful rose fields are Timmerman's.



Turn left at this marker post



White tree blossom

You exit at Westfield Lane, an earthly paradise of well-kept gardens, leading to Foxwood Lane on the outskirts of Woodborough. The nearest refreshments



Common vetch

are at The Four Bells just over ¼ mile (.5 km) to the right in the village centre.

From Westfield Lane, turn left up Foxwood Lane, walking on the grass verge right, past Foxwood House towards Calverton. Choices are:-



Foxwood House

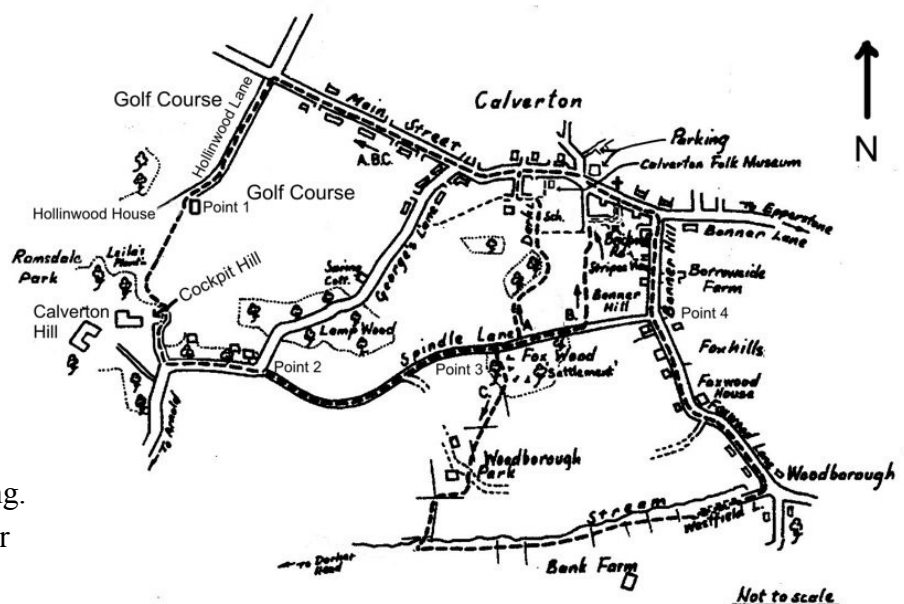
1. You can walk up to the crest and down Bonner Hill (**past Point 4**) into Calverton, turning right at the T-junction to the Gleaners pub and a look at Windles Square, the refurbished former frame-knitters cottages, then walk back into Calverton to your start, adding ¼ mile.
2. Turn left at the bottom of Bonner Hill, past St Wilfrid's Church to your start, ignoring the pub.
3. Turn left at the crest of Foxwood Lane into Spindle Lane by Foxwood Lodge at **Point 4** to the 1st or 2nd track down to Calverton, as in Walks B and C. Less road, better views, same distance.

***Calverton Folk Museum.** Visiting Times: open on the last Sunday of every month April to September, from 2 pm. to 4 pm. Admission: £1.50 for Adults (senior citizens, the jobless and the disabled). 50p for Children (16 years and under).

Footpaths are subject to alteration. Please notify Brian Cluff by email of any significant changes - briancluff@talktalk.net
Please check the web-site from time to time.

Acknowledgement

This walk is included with the agreement of Travelright Gedling. We in the Partnership extend our thanks to Travelright.



Not to scale