

Southwell Dumble and Leaky Barrier walking tour

Tour Leader: Jason Mordan (Notts County Council)

Depart: 9:30am

Return: 5:15pm

Walk Length: 3.4 miles

Southwell is a small Cathedral Town on the western flanks of the River Trent catchment in the heart of the 'Dumbles'. This unusual landscape type is characterised by deep cut narrow valleys in the Mercian Mudstone geology which are prone to flash flooding episodes exasperated by C20th farming practices. As a result of the topology, geology, drainage infrastructure and modern farm management flooding in Southwell has become a regular occurrence. This tour will begin with a short introduction to Natural flood Management research being undertaken on university farmland, visit some of the 'leaky barrier' schemes and follow the route of the Potwell Dyke into town. The local Flood Forum and Agency will be on hand to explain the key issues, discuss projects and answer questions. The tour will finish at the unique National Trust property of Thurgarton Incorporation Workhouse.

Outline itinerary

- 9:30 - 40 minute coach journey to Nottingham Trent University's Brackenhurst Hall Campus.
- 10:15 – Introduction to Brackenhurst Hall Nottingham Trent University site by Julia Davies.
- 10:30 - Introduction to the natural flood management scheme by Jill Labadz, followed by a tour of project (paths along field edges).
- 12:00 - Walk continues via roadside into Southwell and via the Potwell Dyke flood plain to the Minster.
- 12:45 - We will be in the town centre for lunchtime (packed lunch). There should be time for a look around the town and/or Minster.
- 13:45 – Southwell Flood Forum projects (Liz Walker/Jacky Huson)
- 14:15 - The walk continues along King Street to the Burgage and via the award-winning House of Correction development back to the side of the Potwell Dyke to follow it and finish at the Workhouse (15:00)
- 15:00 - Tour of newly opened NT Firbeck House (Matthew Wilde of Lathams Architects)
- 16:30 – Depart back to Nottingham (17:15).
- The walk has been plotted to just under three and a half miles. A GPX file is available on request.

Resources

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dumble>

<http://www.southwellfloodforum.org.uk/>

<https://www.trentriverstrust.org/>

<https://www.ntu.ac.uk/life-at-ntu/campuses/brackenhurst-campus>

<http://www.workhouses.org.uk/Southwell/>

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/the-workhouse-southwell>