

Sponsored Walk at Swanton Morley 18th April 2010

This walk is around the village of Swanton Morley, mainly on country roads, but also footpaths and bridleways. It is a walk of about 5 miles and takes 1½ to 2 hours with excellent views of the countryside and river flood plain.

Parking is permitted by Darby's in their car park but only at the very top. Please respect their wishes.

The walk commences at Darby's, a pub at the Bawdeswell end of the village. Turn right from the car park, and proceed a short distance up the hill (Elsing Road) and take the first metalled lane on the right. Follow this road, looking back after the bends to see Bylaugh hall in the distance. Follow the road to Hazeldene Farm, turning to the right (Woodgate Road) and passing the second aspect of the farm. Continue, passing Woodgate Farm on your right and bearing right (away from Frog's hall Lane), and then after Woodgate Hall Farm turn right beside some new houses into Woodgate Lane.

Continue along this road to its end (keeping left for the final few yards) at the junction with the B1147 Bawdeswell to Dereham Road.

NB For those not wishing to continue the full distance, turn to the right and follow the main road to the starting point near to the shops.

Cross the road by the zebra crossing, turn right and then left into the lane on your left - Mann's Lane).

Follow this lane out of the village, passing the village hall on your right, and take a bridleway to the left in front of the school, opposite 2 cottages. Follow the bridleway to the far end of the school playing field the turn to the right, walking to the road at the end.

Take the road opposite (slightly right) and continue bearing right at the junction to the end of the lane, turn left and then follow the road round the bend in front of Robertson Barracks (Worthing Road). There is a footpath between the 2 fences in front of the buildings. Continue on the road (beware of traffic once the footpath finishes) passing a permissive path sign at the entrance to a field on the right, and continuing to a gateway with a footpath sign about 5 yards in. The footpath allows a shortcut for those not wishing to follow the walk, rejoining without taking in the next paragraph, around the perimeter of the field.

Enter the field, turn left and continue to follow the road inside the field, and then follow the perimeter of the field around 3 sides, until arriving again at the top of the field, leaving to the left on a short stretch of concrete road that becomes a grass bridleway after a few yards.

Follow the bridleway as it becomes a concrete road and bends to the right and comes out onto a road opposite some houses. Turn to the left, and shortly afterwards, right, into the housing estate (Gray's Drive), continue to the end of the road and turn left (Middleton Avenue). Continue again to the end of the houses and take a footpath onto a country road. Turn Left.

Follow the lane a short distance until a permissive path sign showing a track to the right of a field on your right. Follow this track, turn left (Harkers Lane) at the end and follow this lane back to the main road. Turn right to return to Darby's.

