Responsible Walking

This walk uses just a few of our many rights of way to access and enjoy the countryside. A right of way is not owned by the council, it is a right to pass over private land. When you go out please remember that almost all the land you cross is in private ownership, and someone’s livelihood will depend on the crops and livestock there.

Our countryside is not just a beautiful place, but a working environment, please play your part by keeping it tidy for the people who walk and work there tomorrow.

Take a responsible attitude into the countryside, leave only footprints and take only photographs.

Follow the Country Code, happy walking!

All paths around Letwell are shown clearly on the OS Explorer Map 279 Doncaster. Why not pick up a copy at your local bookshop and devise your own walks.

Produced by the Rights of Way Team.

A ‘Family Friendly’ Walk at Letwell

Dyscarr Wood is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, abundant in Ash and Wych Elm. You may see woodpeckers, owls and sparrowhawks in the wood, please respect the status of this woodland and the delicate nature of it’s environment.

How do I get there?

Letwell has good bus links to other areas in the Borough, for up to date information call the Traveline on 01709 515151 or visit www.sypte.co.uk for timetables.

The walk starts at the Letwell (Barker Hades Road /Gildingwells Road) bus stop.

Something to think about

We would like to thank the good people of Letwell for their help and enthusiasm. Local farmers and landowners have given up time and money to help us with the walk, please remember this when you cross their farmland.

For a copy of Nottinghamshire County Councils Langold Park leaflet, which details walks around the park and other items of interest call 01909 501148.

Any enquiries please ring 01709 822168

Remember to keep a track of where you are in the description, occasionally waymarks get vandalised and we may not have had time to replace them.

Doorstep Walk No:3

A ‘Family Friendly’ Walk at Letwell

An easy way to explore the beautiful, local countryside on your ‘doorstep’.

Key

Walk No: 3

Letwell

Design & production by the Design Studio, RMBC 01709 823679

Produced on Recycled Paper

Any enquiries please ring 01709 822168

Remember to keep a track of where you are in the description, occasionally waymarks get vandalised and we may not have had time to replace them.

Produced on Recycled Paper
The St Leger Walk around Letwell

1. Start at the bus stop at the junction of Gildingwells Road and Barker Hades Lane (the Letwell Stop), facing the bus stop turn left and head along the village road. Keep a look out on your right for the dovecote which lies behind a house. This 18th century octagonal structure is one of the very few remaining examples in the country.

2. Stay on the road as it becomes a stone track leaving the village behind and heads out through farmland. Soon the farm track joins a narrow access road, follow this straight ahead, keeping an eye out for private vehicles.

3. After a while the tarmac road bends right (a private road to a farm) and carries on ahead or to your left by a small copse. The track on your left is the one you will be returning on in a little later. The patch of ground ahead and on your left by the coppice is where Swiss Cottage stood (see sidebar). Head straight on along the stone track, there are woods immediately on your right and a large field to your left. The track eventually enters Dyscarr Wood, a local nature reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest. Keep an eye out on your left for a sign about the nature reserve, when you see this follow the path left further into the wood.

4. To visit Langold Country Park carry on along the track and after a very short time you will see an entrance on your right. Head through this and follow the track into the park, which is run by Nottinghamshire County Council. The park, around a large lake, has several short interesting walks and has a snack shop which is open during the summer.

5. Head along the path through the woods, which narrows as it proceeds. At times you will see houses behind the wood to your right, stay on the path as it abuts several fields on your left until, after some time it leaves the wood and comes to the corner of a large field.

6. Turn left and follow the farm track across the field and then along field edges heading towards another small wood in the distance. Eventually you will reach the woodland and head into it, stay on the track and after a short while it turns slightly left and joins another farm track.

7. The main road is a short distance away. Once you have passed the road turn left along the track, which shortly leaves the wood and enters a large field. Pause a moment and look to your left and right, the curve of the hedges is part of the old circuit where the first St Leger was allegedly run (see sidebar). Head straight, following the track, eventually you will rejoin the road you left behind by the site of Swiss Cottage.

8. Turn right, keeping an eye out for vehicles, and follow the tarmac road back towards Letwell, eventually the road heads off to your right at a corner, ignore this and keep going straight along the stone track back into Letwell Village and the start of your walk.

The St Leger Horse Race
It is commonly believed that the St Leger was first run on Canley Common, Doncaster in 1778, but others say that the race actually originated at Piffard, on Anthony St Leger’s private racecourse on the oval field near his home, Park Hill (now near Frinton-on-Sea Park Hill Farm). The shape of the racecourse is still visible today on ordnance survey maps and aerial photographs.

The area around Letwell has some beautiful walking country, this route is very flat and easy, the time is based on an adult walking fairly slowly and having a few good rests. As ever, don’t forget to dress for typical English weather, it can get muddy underfoot at any time of year. For refreshments you need to take a side trip into Langold, where there are pubs, shops and cafes, this side trip is detailed in the walk. For more details, downloads of alternative route descriptions and themed guides check out our web-page on www.rotherham.gov.uk

Swiss Cottage, Letwell

This unusual building was situated on Barker Hades Road, but is no longer in existence having been demolished around 1960. Swiss Cottage was built in the early 1800s as the North lodge to Langold Park for Sir Gilly Knight, apparently after a visit to Switzerland.

The Knight family also owned Letwell Hall, Manor and Estate and in the late 1800s Oliver Cromwell was entertained there. It is thought that Letwell itself derives its name from the many wells in the area and, although only a small community, it has its own Parish Council.

The map used is based on the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 mapping with the sanction of the controller of Her Majesty’s Stationery Office. Crown Copyright Reserved. LAO76287