



Walk 8 Gedling **Inn for a Penny**

Length - 4 miles, with optional 1 mile detour. Allow 2 – 2 ½ hours.

Terrain - Flat, easy walking.

Route - Follow paragraph 1 of Walk 7. As you enter Stoke Bardolph, at the road sign turn right on a Public Footpath and follow the left bank of the outfall from Stoke Sewage Works. Turn left on a track after ½ mile and follow this for 300yds. Turn right on a grassy path alongside a factory.

Cross a road with care and after crossing a stile on the other side follow field edges for ½ mile to reach a stream. For the 1 mile optional detour, cross a footbridge over the stream to enter the Netherfield Nature Reserve, where you can walk either way round the reserve to see wildlife and get an elevated view of the locality.

From the footbridge follow the path upstream for about ½ mile. Keep right at a path junction near some boulders to arrive at the main road. Cross carefully and follow the path opposite for another ½ mile to meet a road near an old bridge. Walk carefully under the bridge (no footpath), and turn right up a path leading over a railway bridge to Carlton playing fields.

Cross the field to the far left hand corner, cross the main road at the pedestrian crossing, and walk straight ahead on the path leading round a bend to the **Inn For A Penny**.

To return to Burton Joyce cross the road to a bus stop opposite the Inn.

Information - The sewage works originally incorporated a farm where animals were reared and where crops were grown for human consumption. After pumping sewage slurry on to the fields for nearly a century, the land is now too contaminated for growing foodstuffs, so the vast crops of maize that are now grown go to a digester plant to produce electricity, enough to supply 4500 homes.

Netherfield Nature Reserve has been created from old industrial processes. In the 1950's old gravel pits were filled with waste flue ash piped from Staythorpe power station near Newark. Huge earth banks were later created to enable waste slurry to be pumped here from Gedling Colliery. Grasses are gradually becoming established on these ponds, but it is unsafe to walk on these areas.

Victoria Park is built on the land occupied by the old Colwick Sidings. These were constructed from 1850, and eventually became one of the largest marshalling yards in Europe. The yard closed on August 13th 1966.

The old bridge that you walk under carried a line built in 1872 to connect Colwick with Derbyshire via Mapperley tunnel. The tunnel closed in 1960, but the section of line from Colwick to Gedling Colliery remained open for coal trains until 1991.

The Inn for a Penny was renamed after being the Royal Oak for many years.