

## En Route.

Cuckney Castle was in the village of Cuckney, Nottinghamshire between Worksop and Market Warsop. It was a motte and bailey fortress founded by Thomas de Cuckney. It was razed after The Anarchy in the reign of King Stephen. There are now the low remains of a motte, partly enclosed by a wide ditch and to the west the faint remnants of a bailey. These remains can be found at the edge of the churchyard of St Mary's Church, Norton Cuckney.

Cuckney motte and bailey castle is listed as a Scheduled Monument by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. In the 1950s, a mass grave of approximately 200 human remains was found in a trench near the churchyard, leading to speculation regarding a battle near the site.

## Route Description

1. From the checkpoint **walk up to the road and turn left**. This is Pear Tree Drive. After 60 metres you meet a junction. **Turn 90° right onto Albine Road**. After 170 metres **turn left to cross the road onto "The Bassett"**. **Go straight across the circular "green" heading slightly left to meet a jitty/path between house No: 15 & 17 leading out of the estate**. After 40 metres this turns into a path bearing right and passing through a small wooded area then out onto open fields. **You traverse these field heading toward some buildings** which are school buildings (Langwith Bassett Junior Academy). Once across the field you meet a metal gate. **Pass through and cross the road (PLEASE TAKE CARE) then turn left to walk downhill along the pavement**
2. At the "corner of the school" you meet a Public Bridleway" sign. **Turn right here**. You are walking "behind" the school. After 150 metres you **cross over a bridge** and you meet the Archaeological Way sign to your left. **However, IGNORE THIS and continue STRAIGHT AHEAD across the fields along the wide track**. Open fields to your right and left. 340 metres on you cross a 2<sup>nd</sup> bridge (this one over the "Robin Hood" rail lines and protected by metal railings). Once over **continue straight ahead** open fields either side. Once across the open field you come to a crossroad of paths. Here, **continue STRAIGHT AHEAD along the narrow public footpath** (not bridleway) which is bordered either side by hedgerow. The hedge on the right soon turns into a wall. After 150 metres you meet a "yellow topped" **post here bear slightly left and the path turns into a wide track** still with bushes left, wall right! This lane does, on occasion, rise and fall and winds left and right. After 200 metres you meet "Top Farm" on your right. 60 metres beyond the farm the wide track swings round to your left. This is the farm access lane. **Cross over the track to the kissing gate by the "yellow topped post" straight ahead. Pass through and continue along the path** which is narrow and has hedgerow either side and meanders along! At an "unofficial" path junction this path swing 90° right and after a few metres 90° left and climbs slightly to meet a stile. **At this stile turn 90° left to walk along a level path bordered on the left by wood/wire fence and hedgerow on you right**. Please note the Quarry warning signs either side. Beyond the fence left are the original Quarry "bunds". The path ends at a point where you meet metal gates either side.

3. At this point **continue straight ahead along the obvious wide track** entering a woodland.

**####Please note the safety warning signs to remain on the path. You will soon see this is a managed woodland with tree clearing in progress and new tree planting.###**

The clearance area soon become obvious....**stick to the track**. After 200 metres the woodland “opens up” on your left. This track swings 90° right and starts to rise.

**Follow this and at the top of the mound the track swing round to the left and continues across a cultivated area.** New planted trees on your right. Once across this area the path meanders slightly to meet a road marked by new wooden posts on which are blue directional arrows and at a point protected by wooden barriers. **Cross over the road** heading slightly left to more wooden barriers which you pass through to continue along the track. Still walking through managed woodland you meet another path crossing marked by a post, **continue straight ahead**. When you meet a small clearing on your right (log store!) **bear left to meet the road by passing between 2 boulders.**

4. **Cross straight across the road onto the open land opposite and follow the public footpath by passing between the two logs.** This “obvious track starts by rising gently. You are now walking along the right hand edge of the woodland. This is a very sandy track and you may notice lots of “offshoots” right and left. **Remain on the wide obvious track for a further 450 metres.** When you meet a “junction” of paths where extensive woodland joins on the right, **continue STRAIGHT AHEAD” up the sandy track** which starts to climb almost immediately. This is an easy to follow managed “permissive footpath”. You will notice a number of posts all of which carry “blue directional” arrows. **Keep following these posts and at the fourth post don’t be tempted by the obvious lane but continue straight ahead as directed by the blue arrows.** This lane starts to climb steeply. Halfway up you pass post 5 and at the top post 6 where the path levels off. This now leads to a kissing gate by the main road just beyond post 7.

**### CAN BE A VERY BUSY ROAD – CROSS WITH EXTREME CAUTION – LIMITED VISIBILITY ###.**

5. **Pass through the kissing gate and cross the road TAKING EXTREME CARE.** Once across turn left **TO WALK “TOWARDS ONCOMING TRAFFIC** and just past the far side of a lay by, you will see a wooden fingerpost. **Turn right to walk down this path** as indicated by the fingerpost and yellow arrow on the fence. This path winds downhill through a narrow strip of woodland with large fields either side. After 1Km the lane comes to an end at the side of a rather nice house (Fourways) where it meets the A616. Here **cross over the road and turn left to walk on the pavement on the opposite side.** Follow the road where it takes a sharp right and then round to the left to the Greendale Oak Public House. **Turn right down Norton Lane** to have the pub on your left and walk a few metres to the Penfold and.....

## CHECKPOINT 5