

TOURIST INFORMATION

Worksop Tourist Information Centre, Worksop Library, Memorial Avenue, Worksop, Nottinghamshire S80 2BP. Tel 01909 501148



Walk on the WILD SIDE

JO VAUGHAN FOLLOWS IN ROBIN HOOD'S FOOTSTEPS AND TAKES A STROLL THROUGH WHAT WAS ONCE SHERWOOD FOREST

Clumber Park today is a magnificent 3800-acre parkland that is great for walking, cycling or horseriding – and caravanning of course! Its long, snaking lake is surrounded by woodland that would make Robin Hood feel quite at home, as this was indeed once the heart of Sherwood Forest. The Club site here can be found just a 20-minute walk from the water's edge. Your entrance into the park is via the longest avenue of lime trees in Europe, setting the scene of this spacious site to perfection.

The park was once home to the Dukes of Newcastle, although their house was demolished in 1938. All that remains is a Gothic revival chapel, a walled kitchen garden and a visitor centre. It's a fair trek around the lake, but good footpaths and fine views make this walk a pleasure. Navigating among the numerous paths can be hard, but don't worry – as long as you continue around the lake and cross at Clumber Bridge, you can't really get lost.

GENERAL INFORMATION

NEAREST CLUB SITE: Clumber Park Caravan Club Site, Lime Tree Avenue, Clumber Park, Worksop S80 3AE. Tel 01909 484758. Open: All year
DISTANCE: 5.8 miles (9.3km)
TERRAIN: Good footpaths and quiet lanes
NUMBER OF STILES: None
ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT: OS Explorer 270
 Sherwood Forest (1:25,000)
LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy
CAR PARKING: Windermere Road Pay and Display car park
REFRESHMENTS: Close to the Visitor Centre
TOILETS: Close to the Visitor Centre



DIRECTIONS

- 1** Leave the Club site via its main access road. At the lane next to the site post turn right to the main road. Cross this, and continue straight ahead towards Hardwick village.
- 2** Continue along the road and pass through the village, but just before you get to a large wooden shed with twin metal doors turn right (sp Car Park and Toilets). Veer left through the car park and pass around a wooden barrier with a National Trust cycleway marker on it, towards the lake.
- 3** On reaching the lake, turn left to walk along its perimeter, keeping it to your right, and cross the bridge over the weir. Continue, following the edge of the lake, then veer around to the right where the footpath forks, keeping to the higher track. Continue circling the lake.
- 4** Go straight through another car park and, when you get to the old stone bridge, veer right to cross it. Turn immediately right again, and continue through the woods, passing through some breaks in the fence. Pass Clumber Grotto. Continue along the footpath closest to the lake.
- 5** When you get to the Pleasure Ground (a landscaped area of gardens), go up the steps to your left and continue across the grass towards the buildings ahead of you. Go through a gap in the hedge and continue past the tea rooms and plant sales (toilets are also here).
- 6** Go through a gateway and, at the crossroads, turn right. Keep straight ahead past the car park and cycle hire. Turn right towards Clumber Chapel, but just before its entrance, turn left up a path marked with green arrows and a disabled buggy sign.
- 7** At the path junction continue straight ahead following the arrow. Don't deviate from the track you're on. Where there's another post with two arrows (one veering to the right and one straight on) continue ahead again. Where the path leads around to the right look out for a green arrow (with a

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

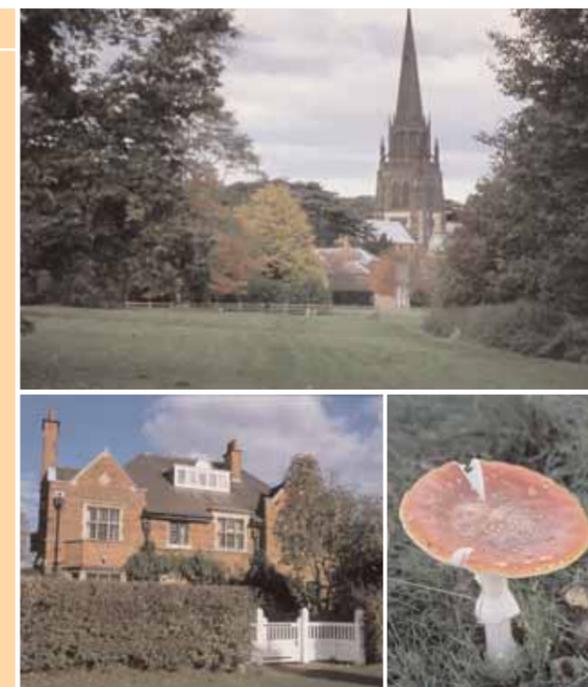
- **Clumber Park** (National Trust). Tel 01909 476592 or see nationaltrust.org.uk. Parking: £5.20 per car. Walled kitchen garden: £1 (children free). Members enter and park for free. Coarse fishing 16 June to 14 March: £4 per day ticket. Website nationaltrust.org.uk. Toilets for disabled, but few trails are suitable for wheelchair users
- **Mr Straw's House**, 7 Blyth Grove, Worksop S81 0JG (National Trust). Tel 01909 482380 or see nationaltrust.org.uk. Open: 19 March to 29 October. Cost: Adults £4.60, children £2.30, families £11.50. A modest semi-detached Edwardian house, completely unaltered since 1923. Includes displays of family costume, letters and photos. The nature of the building makes disabled access difficult and impossible for wheelchair users
- **Rufford Country Park**, Ollerton, Nottinghamshire NG22 9DF. Tel 01623 822933 or see ruffordcraftcentre.org.uk. 150-acre park is centred on the remains of a 12th century Cistercian monastery and country house. There is also a craft centre. Disabled facilities provided

disabled buggy mark) indicating a turn to the left. Take this turn, but note that the low signpost is partially hidden by a fir tree.

8 Follow the arrows again to the right, and pass through the black iron gate under a stone arch. Keep straight ahead between two fences towards two chest-height stone pillars. Pass through them, and continue ahead following two arrows (one with a buggy and one with a cycle).

9 Continue heading straight along the track until you get to a wooden vehicle barrier. There's a wooden post just ahead with a number '8' written on it. Continue across the road and down the track on the other side.

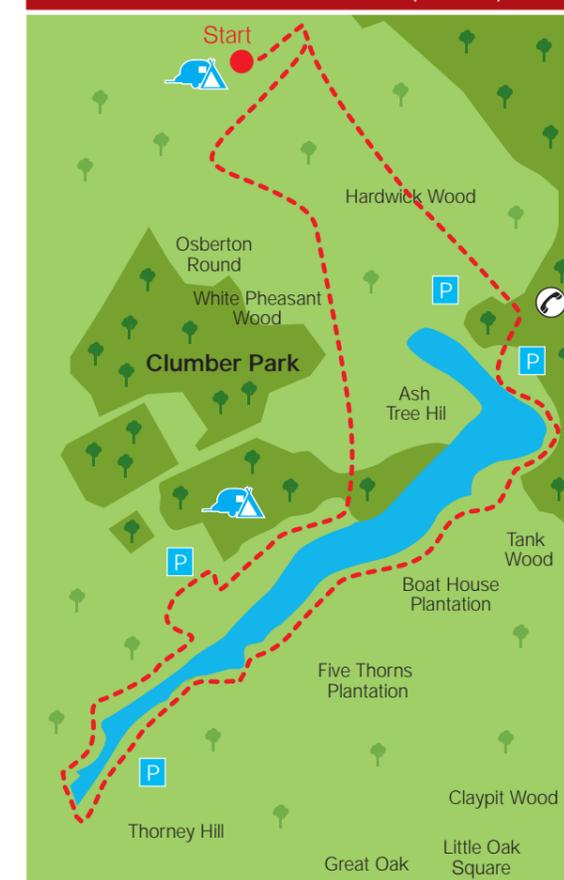
10 Continue ahead again around another wooden vehicle barrier, following the green arrow with a cyclist upon it, after which the footpath narrows. Go around another wooden barrier, cross another (smaller) road and then veer left to walk along the line of trees, still following the arrow with the cyclist.



11 When you get to the main road, turn right and continue along the avenue of trees – there are footpaths on both sides of the road. When you get to the crossroads turn left following the campsite's sign and then go left again to re-enter the site.

TOP AND ABOVE RIGHT: Clumber Park
 ABOVE LEFT: Hardwick village

CLUMBER PARK: 5.8 miles (9.3km)



ABOVE: Clumber Park – once the heart of Sherwood Forest
 RIGHT: Clumber Park Caravan Club Site