

Ketton Country

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Stretch

Rural/Distance: 10.3 miles [16.7km] **Grade:** moderate **Time:** allow 5-6 hours



A delightful walk, taking in the historic Old Pack Horse Route of Salters Lane and Ketton Bridge, the attractive villages of Brafferton and East Ketton, Ketton Hall and the Skerningham Community Woodland.

Recommended route:

- 1 Start on Green Lane, head north-west to Glebe Road, turn right, walk to the end of the road and go through a metal kissing gate onto a bridleway. Cross a bridge over the East Coast Main Line and turn left. Follow the track, the Ancient Pack Horse Route of Salters Lane.
- 2 This section zigzags to another bridge [with a yellow pipe across it to stop motorcycles]. Cross the bridge, turn left and follow the field edge path around the corner of the field to meet a hard stony track by a railway bridge. Do not go under the bridge but head north following the track by the field edge path and over a cultivated field. Cross the concrete bridge over the River Skerne to come to Ketton Packhorse Bridge, under which the River Skerne used to originally flow.
- 3 Take the right hand track and follow it to meet a tarmac road, [with a cattle grid on your right]. Turn left up the hill towards Ketton Hall. At the top go through a bridge gate adjacent to a cattle grid and turn right along another tarmac road. Follow the track past a copse of trees to a field gate on your left, waymarked as a bridleway.
- 4 Go through the gate, turn left and follow the field boundary, keeping the copse of trees on your left. At the bottom of the hill go through a bridge gate offset to your right. Follow the headland bridleway to reach a gate near the main railway line.
- 5 Go through the gate and up along the wide lane towards Brafferton Village, turn right at the top into the village. Follow the road to come to a bridleway sign outside Manor Farm. Turn right through a gate, follow the track through the farmyard and onward to end at a field gate.
- 6 Go through the gate, turn left and follow the field boundary to exit via a bridge gate. Turn right into an enclosed track [fenced on either side]. Follow the track to East Ketton Farm. At the farm follow the permissive waymarks through the farmyard onto a track leading back to Ketton Hall.



Start & finish: Green Lane, [entrance to Darlington Golf Course]

Map Key

How to get there: Follow signs for the A167 North/Durham. On the outskirts of Darlington at the large roundabout take the A1150 (3rd exit from the South, 2nd exit from the North). Proceed to the mini-roundabout and go straight ahead. Take the first turning right, then right again into the Springfield Pub car park

- S Start & finish:** Green Lane, (entrance to Darlington Golf Course)
- P Parking:** The Springfield Pub, for patrons
- Public Transport:** Public transport information **0871 200 2233** (calls cost 10p per minute plus network extras) **www.traveline.info Text 84268**
- Places of interest:** a Ketton Packhorse Bridge
- Refreshments:** The Springfield Pub, **tel 01325 288669**
- Toilets:** The Springfield Pub, for patrons

- 7 At Ketton Hall, turn left back down the tarmac road to the bottom of the hill. Just before the cattle grid, turn right along a surfaced track, which goes around the edge of a field, then bears left towards Ketton Bridge. From Ketton Bridge follow the bridleway southwards across a cultivated field, then a field edge path to the bridge with the yellow pipe barrier. Cross the bridge, turn sharp left and head towards Skerningham Plantation.
- 8 Go through the Plantation and into Skerningham Community Woodland, following any of the way marked routes

to arrive at Hutton Plantation. Go through the plantation to come to a stony track, turn right then right again and follow the track up to a 'T' Junction. Turn left and follow the track back to the railway bridge at the end of Glebe Road.

- 9 Cross the bridge and retrace your route: up Glebe Road then back along Green Lane to complete your walk.

