

DOORSTEP WALK

Short, Easy to follow and local

Take an easy walk around the historic woodlands and fields of Letwell.

- This walk will take about 1½ hours, it is flat throughout and offers one of our easiest and most rewarding walks.
- Letwell is steeped in history, you will cross the racecourse where the first St Leger was allegedly run, and follow the walk through woodlands and parkland. You will pass a magnificent dovecote and through the beautiful village of Letwell – all without a single hill in sight and, for the most part along broad, surfaced tracks and lanes.
- You do not need to read a map.
- You do not need fancy equipment.

Just follow the GREEN Doorstep waymark

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/prow

All paths around Laughton 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.

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!

How do I get there?

Letwell has good bus links to other areas in the Borough. For up-to-date information call the Travel South Yorkshire on **01709 515151** or visit www.travelsouthyorkshire.com 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. 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 its environment.

Any enquiries please ring **01709 336003** or email streetpride@rotherham.gov.uk

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 Number 3

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

A 'Family Friendly' Walk
at Letwell



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DOORSTEP WALK Number 3

A 'Family Friendly' walk around Letwell (4 Miles)

A Family Friendly Walk

This route is particularly easy, ideal for parents and children, although bear in mind that some short sections can get muddy underfoot, the section as far as Dyscarr Wood from Letwell is also pushchair friendly. Allow a morning or afternoon for you all to enjoy this walk and the beautiful countryside around it. Why not download the kids pack from our web-site.

Follow the Countryside Code:

- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

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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 1800's as the North lodge to Langold Park by Sir Gally Knight, apparently after a visit to Switzerland.

The Knight family also owned Letwell Hall, Manor and Estate and in the late 1600's 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.



'Courtesy of Mr Scott, Langold Farm'

St Leger Horse Race

It is commonly believed that the St Leger was first run on Cantley Common, Doncaster in 1776, but others say that the race actually originated at Firbeck, on Anthony St Leger's private racecourse on the oval field near his home, Park Hill Hall near Firbeck (now Park Hill Farm). The shape of the racecourse is still visible today on Ordnance Survey maps and aerial photographs.



- 1** Start at the Bus Stop at the junction of Gildingwells Road and Barker Hades Lane, adjacent War Memorial, 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 houses. 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 tarmac 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 tracks carry on ahead or to your left by a small copse. The track on your left is the one you will be returning on a little later. The patch of ground ahead and on your left by the copse is where Swiss Cottage once stood (see sidebar). Head straight on along the stoned 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.
To visit Langold, which has refreshments, ignore the side track into the park and stay on Church Street as it passes houses, at the end of the street turn right and you will arrive at the village.
To return to the trail from either place retrace your steps.
- 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 on your right, 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.