

Bonney Doles - Doles were divisions of the old Manorial pasture lands, the Lord of the Manor and each commoner having the hay on one or more doles. After cutting the meadow was usually grazed as common pasture for the rest of the season. Unlike the ridge and furrow strips of arable land, which were curved, doles were defined by straight lines between stakes and were often reallocated each year. Doles were often superimposed over the earlier ridge and furrows when land was grazed rather than ploughed.

The area is now owned by the Woodland Trust who planted new woodland areas in yr 2000. The name-bonney- is thought to be a corruption of Burnet-a wild fodder plant. The great burnet still grows here in profusion, producing oval wine-red flower heads in late summer

Over the bridge bear left following the path round to another bridge (on the left)

- In the field corner you pass an area where two streams join, forming a steeply banked landform-known locally as Monkey Island- a popular children`s play area. Here you can see where the main Dumbles stream has cut down through the red Mercia mudstones exposing bands of grey skerry sandstones. These resist erosion and form waterfalls at several places along the Dumbles

- The field between the bridges has recently been restored as a wildflower meadow, using locally collected seed. It is being managed to provide a habitat for wildlife and is used by the now scarce Harvest Mouse



Local grassland provides suitable habitat for the Harvest Mouse

Cross the footbridge and bear left.

- Growing at various levels beneath the trees; bushes, brambles and various wildflowers in this area provide important displaying places and food sources for butterflies and other insects



- The path joins an old double hedged Green Lane, formerly used as a night soil lane whereby, human wastes and animal dung was transported onto cultivated land to improve its fertility.

Follow the Dumbleside path to the left

- Under the trees you will notice plants such as archangel and dogs mercury that indicate the great age of the woods growing along the Dumbles. The natural woodland is dominated by oak, ash, field maple and hazel. Here and there some wych elm has survived the elm disease of the 1970`s and 80`s, supporting a small colony of white letter hairstreak butterflies

- There are several places to look down into the Dumble- where there are varied moist habitats-banks of mud and silt, dead wood and sheer banksides –often overgrown by mosses, liverworts and ferns

Cross into the large field at the stile

- This area, Foxhills, is also recorded on old maps of Lambley. It too is an old Ridge and Furrow pasture which is a very valuable relic of our past for not least for its` many wildflowers, including the cowslip. Cowslips once grew in profusion around Lambley and the Dumbles and were traditionally collected on Cowslip Sunday (the first in May) This delightful early-summer wildflower has been adopted as the village emblem.



- Please keep to the path (which follows the line of the old track marked by rows of field maple trees) and do not pick any wildflowers or disturb any grazing animals in this field

Cross the stile and follow the track to the road. Keep left.

- At the bridge view the newly restored old timber-framed building Brookside Cottage. The modern name Catfoot Lane could be a corruption of Cartford, or more probably from Caput, meaning estate centre- the Medieval Manor House being quite nearby.

Return to START

Lambley Dumbles Nature Trail



DP&P 4-08/EXT/4427

Lambley Dumbles Nature Trail

More Lea Farm

Catfoot Lane

School

Start ●

Bonney Doles

Top Dumble

Foxhills

Spring Lane

Wicketwood Hill

Nature Trail

- Main Trail
- (FB) Foot Bridge

Distance: 1.7 km/ 1.06 miles

Duration: Approx 50 minutes

Route details: From **START** at the Village Hall/ School car park walk down the playing field keeping the hedge on your left. Go through the gate where the hedges join and proceed down the pathway

- The Main or Top Lambley Dumble runs alongside you- the **Dumbles** are deep, steep-sided river valleys that date back some 10,000 years to the end of the last Ice Age when meltwaters eroded courses to the River Trent.
- The Dumbles form ribbons of woodland that punctuate the rolling landscaped that are characteristic of much of the claylands of Nottinghamshire. The Lambley Dumbles provide a great attraction for local people and visitors who enjoy walking alongside the deep wooded valleys and through the picturesque meadows. The area is valuable for its wildlife habitats and archaeological evidence of the past preserved in the old field patterns, names and landforms

At the end of the cultivated field you encounter a grass field known as **Bonney Doles**, follow the path across it

- The name and field pattern of this area can be traced back to the 1600`s
- The meadow land here is very rich in wildflowers and grasses as it has been largely undisturbed and left

unploughed. You may notice it retains low Ridges and Furrows-which date back to the late Saxon open field system where ploughland was divided up and shared by individual farmers

- Crossing the field look to your right. The large block of woodland over the next field is actually an old orchard. The production of soft and orchard fruits was common in the district. Orchards were often planted on old ridge and furrow pasture and undergrazed. They are now largely unmanaged but are super wildlife habitats especially for birds such as woodpeckers, owls, turtle dove and bullfinch.



On reaching the footbridge, cross the Dumble tributary stream. From here you can see what impressive features the Dumbles are-some 5mtrs/16ft deep at this point, with well vegetated banks overgrown by old trees

