

large-indeed the largest -common fields, Lambley Feilde, probably established under the Saxon open field system. Later modified under the Medieval Manorial system, farming was organized with three larger areas of land being farmed to the west, north and east of the village. Much of the land to your left was only bought under cultivation with the clearance of woodland after the 1792 Enclosure Act.

b) A shorter route, apt to be muddy in winter

Go straight on, crossing the stile at the gate take the path to the rear of gardens -this follows the old Back Lane of the Village. Again notice the long narrow gardens with fruit trees. Typically each dwelling would have drawn its water from a garden well

Continue From the cemetery car park, where you can see the Millenium Oak, TAKE CARE and cross the road to the Reed Pond .

- The pond here is spring fed and was probably created as a fish pond for the first Rectory built around the 1440`s. The site is now grazed and managed as a Nature Reserve by the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

Follow the path to the gate in the corner of the field. From here there are alternative routes:-

c) A hillier option with superb views over the village

Take the right hand path at the gate, cross stile and bear left, uphill across the field to Round Hill

- This mound marks the position of a Medieval Post Mill, so-called as the entire structure was turned on an upright post, to face into the wind. The site stands in the Medieval East field and was excavated in the 1930s

Follow the path towards the road and at end house turn left, following the footpath to the rear of the houses. Some of these dwellings were Framesmiths Cottages. By the mid 1700`s framework knitting had become an important industry, employing many villagers-young and old alike.

At the bottom of the hill take the steps on the right

d) A more direct route

Take the right hand path at gate, cross stile and bear left, taking the path following the hedge. Continue over stiles to reach steps down to road

Continue: At foot of steps cross road carefully! at corner near the Woodlark pub. Follow "The Dumbles" and continue, to pass the isolated cottage on the left. On reaching the kissing gate, bear left crossing the Dumble Valley via the footbridge.

- This is the northern or Bottom Dumble of Lambley Dumbles system, 3.5 metres/12ft deep at this point. The two streams join in the village forming the Cocker Beck which flows via Lowdham to the River Trent
- The valleys provide moist sheltered environments for wildlife and are lined with ancient woodland rich in wildflowers. Ferns such as the harts tongue fern can be seen from the footbridge.



On reaching the field go straight on uphill, following hedgerow to the ladderstile. Cross stile and follow road (Catfoot Lane) left for a short distance, taking footpath/ track on right before the bend in the road. Follow path downhill, diagonally across field, crossing the Ridge and Furrow pasture. Probably a remnant of Saxon Common Lands and later, the Manorial Westfield, this field is called Caput close from which the modern `Catfoot` Lane possibly derives.

On reaching the school field. **Return to START**

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Lambley Dumbles

Top Trail

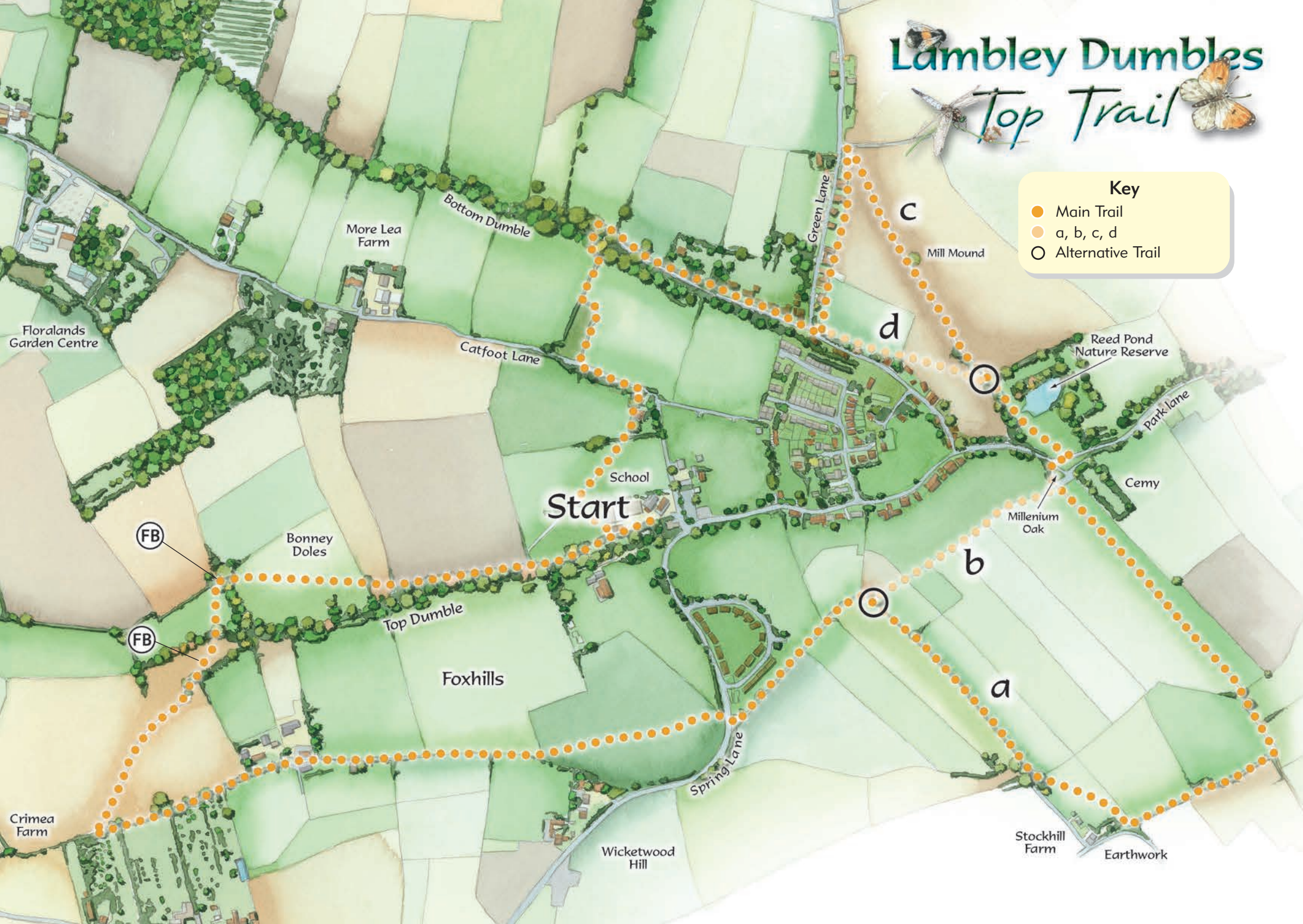


Lambley Dumbles

Top Trail

Key

- Main Trail
- a, b, c, d
- Alternative Trail



Distance: Short route 5.7km/3.5m
Duration: 1 1/2 hours

Distance: Long route 7.5km/4.7m
Duration: 2 hours

Route details: From **START** at the village hall/school car park follow the footpath (part of the Dumbles Nature Trail) alongside the Dumble, through the gate and along the field edge to Bonney Doles. Cross to the footbridge and bear left, following round to a second footbridge across the main Dumble.

Cross the top of Foxhills, fields which are old pastures growing a variety of fine grasses and wildflowers. Some still show remnant Ridges and Furrows. Head downhill across the grass field. **CAREFULLY** cross Spring Lane to follow the footpath down track beside the houses. Cross stile (at gate) and field to second gate.

From here there are alternative routes:-

a) A hillier route with good views
 Turn right at gate, take stile over hedge and follow path up to Stockhill farm

- Notice that the fields retain the medieval Ridge and Furrows indicating that they have not been disturbed by modern ploughing. And notice the fine views behind you!



Fields along the Dumbles have been restored to wildflower meadows

- This area was once wooded and known as Wicketwood. 'Wicket' is probably derived from the old English Wichat meaning elm, wice. Locally, elms are still frequent in the hedges and the old name of the long field you are walking- Whitehedge Dole, also belies this.

From here follow the path to the right, across the small field, cross the old trackway and stile into the cultivated field. Follow path uphill and at stile bear left

- At the end of the field, to the right the Parish boundary follows the track on the ridge between Stockhill and Wicketwood Hill and there is bank and ditch evidence that this could have been an ancient boundary

- The path skirts the rear of long narrow gardens typical of the old village. Note that there are good views of the Dumbles landscape from this path and the old fruit trees associated with orchard fruit growing around Lambley

Go straight on, to the left of the pond., crossing the field to join the bridle path.. Bear left through gate and proceed. On reaching the rough road, turn left. Keeping left follow track downhill to village.

- This track crosses what was one of the