

Remaining in field, follow hedge to kissing gate and follow the road verge to right until you draw level with footpath on the opposite side of the road.

From this point there are alternative routes:-

a) A slightly longer route over fields with excellent views:-

Cross road and take path turning right at small copse and then left over ditch

- This ditch is the source of the Bottom Dumble stream which becomes the impressive ravine you will cross later

Follow path along field boundaries through the undulating landforms. At gate cross small field retaining ridge and furrows

- Under the Medieval manorial system in the 15th century a three field system was operated, the land being divided into sections-closes or wongs. Hereabouts these were part of the great North Field with Longhedge Lane (now Catfoot Lane) dividing the North and West fields.

Follow path skirting wooded copses and through attractive parkland of Lambley House Farm. On reaching the Bridleway Track bear right, along the Hungerhill ridge.

Follow the Lane until it reaches the road; traverse the right hand verge for a short distance and take the path on the right at stile. Cross the field.

- To your left on the roadside near Jericho Farm, stands an ancient landmark Oak Tree- The Blasted Oak. So called as it is reputed to have been partially destroyed by lightning strike, it dates back many hundreds of years.



Illustration of Blasted Oak

Follow path downhill. On reaching gate go straight on over footbridge

- From here you can enjoy the rather impressive Bottom Dumble, some,3.7m/12ft deep at this point. The Dumbles date back some 10,000 years to the end of the last Ice Age when copious amounts of water from melting ice sheets began a process of rapid erosion through the underlying rocks



b) Route continuing on road for a short distance but joining Lambley Bottom Dumble:-

Continue on the road passing Cottage Farm on the right and Orchard farm on the left. On passing Foxhill farm and buildings on right, take footpath on left. Follow path downhill to join the Bottom Dumble. Follow path round to right and over stiles until meeting a path joining from the left. You may wish to take a closer look at the Dumble from the bridge which crosses it at this place. Return to field.

From this point, again you can follow alternative routes:-

c) A more direct route back to start:- Take path uphill away from Dumble to reach road at ladder stile. Follow road to left for short distance taking footpath /track on right just before bend in road. Follow path downhill across ridge and furrow pasture, once part of the Medieval Westfield; to the School field.

Return to START

d) A slightly longer route with good views over the Village:-

Take path towards village, cross stile to road and bear right taking tarmac path uphill, crossing road and continue to top of hill.

- Atop the hill, beyond the gate, stood a windmill. The base mound of which can be seen to the right. Buildings associated with it stand to the left and included a bakehouse on corner.

Do not go through gate, follow track to right. Beyond end of gardens on right, look at view to the north over village

- Notice how many of the old long gardens retain fruit trees. The modern housing to your right is built on land once occupied by a large orchard. Established close to the Manor in the Middle Ages, it was known in later times as Steeles Orchard, until it was built over in the 1970`s.

- Beyond the village to your right was the medieval Eastfield where you can see the mound (at around two o'clock) on which stood the old Manorial post-windmill.

Follow track to road. Avoiding hill at bend, **CROSS CAREFULLY** and follow path/ track beyond first property on left. Follow path downhill across ridge and furrow pasture (school close) to school.

Return to START

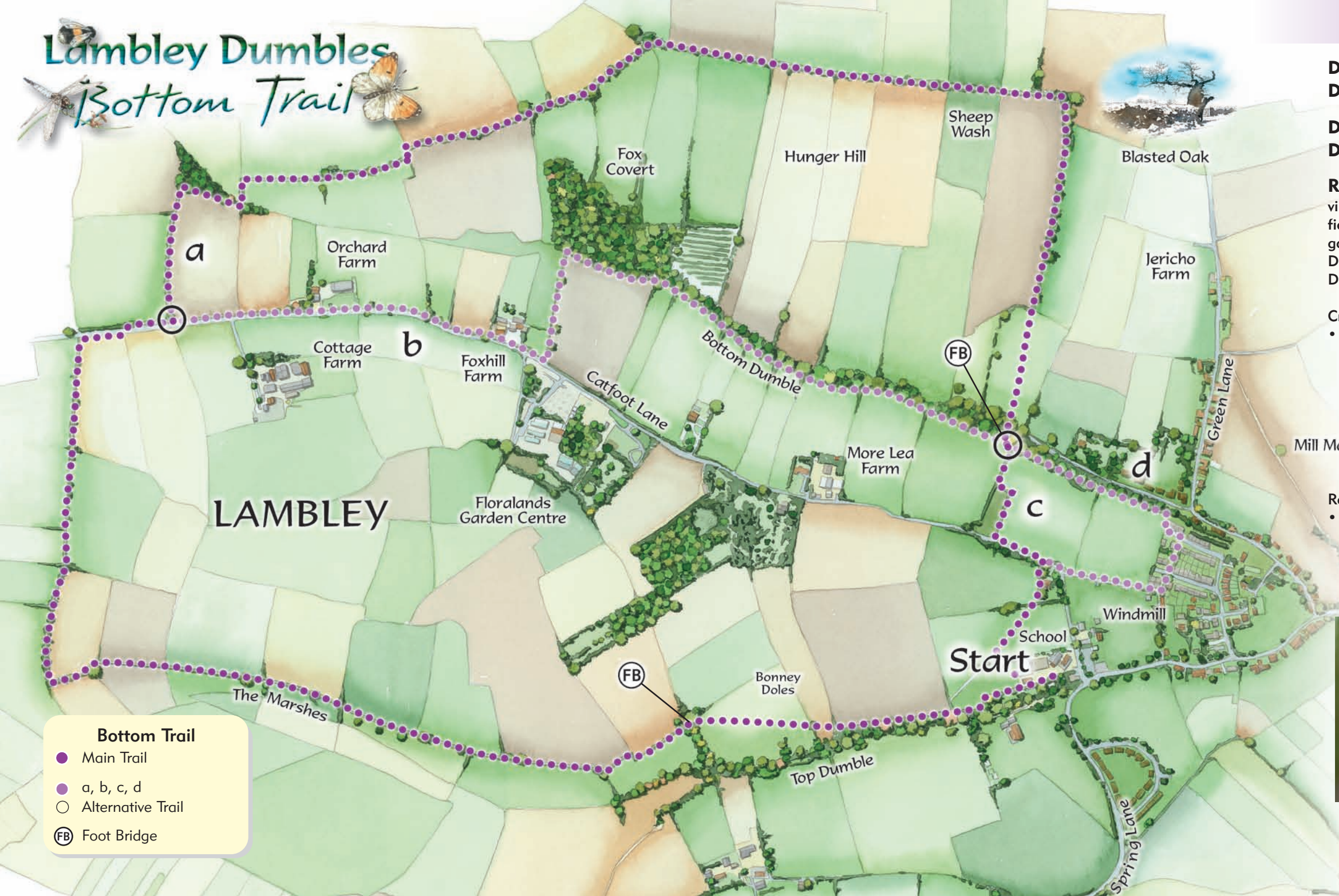
Lambley Dumbles Bottom Trail



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Lambley Dumbles

Bottom Trail



Bottom Trail

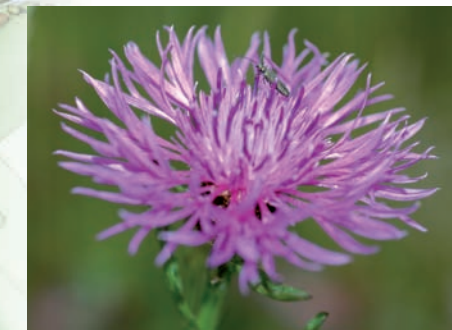
- Main Trail
- a, b, c, d
- Alternative Trail
- (FB) Foot Bridge

Distance: Longest 8km/5m
Duration: 2 1/4 hrs

Distance: Shortest 5.8km/3.6m
Duration: 2 1/2 hrs

Route details: From **START** at the village hall car park walk down the field with the hedgerow on your left to gate. Follow the footpath (part of the Dumbles Nature Trail) alongside the Dumble, to **Bonney Doles**.

- Cross the footbridge.**
- If you bear right almost immediately after crossing the bridge notice a path that enters the bushes. This leads to a picturesque spring to left, issuing from the mudstone and bands of sandstone. The rock faces are covered in mosses and liverworts which will only live in damp sheltered places
- Return to path and bear right**
- To your left the field is a newly created wildflower meadow sown with seed collected locally to recreate floristically rich grassland and habitat for insects and small mammals



Follow path more or less straight on, keeping hedgerow to your right, At end of small field follow path past old oak tree, straight on with the hedge to your left.

- To your left, over hedge and narrow field, you can make out the course of the main Dumble Stream marked by pollarded willow trees. They have their branches periodically cut back to the trunk at 6-8ft above the ground. Trees are traditionally managed in this way to prolong their life and provide useful crops of straight branches and browse for livestock.

After crossing two further hedges, look to your left again over several grass fields divided by the Dumble stream.

- In the past was it is recorded that oxen, the common beast of burden prior to the introduction of horses, were kept and bred in this area. There is evidence that at least some of the ridge and furrows in the fields around Lambley were raised by the old eight-ox plough. The area remained boggy and more recently was known as The Marshes where a range of interesting plants flourished

At the point where the path crosses a hedge and ditch via small bridge at tree, take the right hand path with the hedge on your left. Continue over three fields to meet the road (Catfoot Lane) at field gate.