

Val Wood - The Kitchen Maid Trail 10km - 15km

You've read the book, now visit all of the locations that feature in Val Wood's novel, *The Kitchen Maid*. Begin the trail at the **Beverley Racecourse** and witness for yourself the "pleasant bit of countryside round about." that Jenny mentions in the book's opening chapter. From here you have some wonderful views across Beverley. You can see the **Minster**, which you will visit later on and if you look closely across the grass you can see Beverley's **Black Mill**. It was also on the **Westwood** where Master Christy and Jenny began their unlikely friendship.

Either stroll across the grass through the racecourse itself or, depending on the weather, you may prefer to stick to the roadside path as you head towards Beverley. As the **Westwood** comes to an end and you approach the houses facing the racecourse, bare walk along the grass at the bottom of the racecourse, alongside the houses and into the far corner where you will reach the cut through onto **Norton Street**. Here you'll encounter a lovely mixture of Georgian and Jacobean style houses. Turn right at the bottom of **Norton Street** onto **New Walk** where you will find the houses that impressed Jenny. This is the location of Jenny's employment as Kitchen Maid. Which house do you think Jenny worked in? Continue to walk towards the **North Bar** into **Beverley Town Centre**.

As you walk into Beverley, pause at the **North Bar**, this building mesmerised Jenny upon her first visit to the town. "I learnt later that it was called the North Bar the inside of it which is called Within and the outside which is called Without". Within the Bar you will approach **Saint Mary's Church** - the place of Jenny and Billy Brown's Wedding. Across the road from here you will see the **Beverley Arms Hotel**. Can you imagine the servant girls hanging out of the window, keen to see the woman who had stolen the heart of Beverley's last eligible bachelor?

Now, continue along until you reach **Saturday Market**. When stood at the **Market Cross**, you will see that the row of shops running adjacent to it is the location of **Kubana Cocktail bar**. This bar exists the former location of **Akrill's Gun Shop**, where Mr Laslett called in to "see Akrill for some powder and a shot". Across the other side of the road from the Market Cross, to the left, you will be able to see **The Green Dragon**.

Cut down the passage at the side of **The Green Dragon** and walk up **Newbegin** towards the **Westwood**, as you approach the pastureland from the top of **Westwood Road**, turn right and here you will encounter the many dips and valleys in all their splendour. Here is the very place where Jenny and Christy began their special friendship. Alternatively, you can stay in **Saturday Market** for a drink at the **King's Head Hotel**. It is in the corner of the marketplace that Jenny used to meet the carrier for her lift to and from her home in Hull.

Take a stroll down **Toll Gavel**, the location of Billy's dad's new shop. As you reach a fork in the pedestrianised road, take a right down **Cross Street**, it is off here where you will find **The Guildhall** where Jenny was held on remand following the death of Christy. Back on **Toll Gavel**, continue onto **Butcher Row** and head to **Wednesday Market**. **Ye Olde Porke Shoppe** will bring back memories of Jenny and Billy's encounters but it is in the **Wednesday Market** area where Christina dragged Jenny into a teashop adjacent to a grocers. A lot has changed over time, where do you think the teashop was situated? If you fancy a quick brew yourself, you could always stop off at Lempika for a pot of tea before pursuing the next part of the trail, the search for Paradise. Jenny laughed when she heard that there was a place called Paradise in Beverley. "I found out later it was true" she said. Head down **Eastgate** and see if you can find Paradise yourself.

After **Paradise Square**, continue down **Eastgate** to the Minster, a place that overwhelmed Jenny on her first trip to Beverley. **The Minster** is a fascinating place to visit and at certain times of the year, rooftop tours are available offering spectacular views of the town. Once you have exhausted all that the Minster has to offer, head over the railway lines and onto **Flemingate**. Pass the new shopping development and continue until you reach the **Beverley Beck**. Stop at the **Traveller's Rest** for a coffee and a bite to eat or stop in one of the nearby pubs for a light lunch.

At this point you have now walked approx 4.8km, You can end your walk here before heading back or those looking to extend their walk by an approximate additional 4km, read on.

Continue alongside the **Beck** for a lovely walk by the water. Stop to feed the ducks or witness the latest catch from a fisherman as you head underneath the flyover and out towards the lock. Past the boatyard, you will eventually reach the lock-keeper's cottage, where you will be able to see the barges passing through. It is here that you are able to cross the lock to the other side of the **Beck** and walk back in the direction you came.

Retrace your steps back to the **Minster** and take a look around Beverley's new shopping destination on **Flemingate**. Back at the **Minster**, turn left onto **Minster Yard South** before heading right onto **Keldgate** and continue the walk straight ahead until you reach the double roundabout. Here, head straight ahead onto **Cartwright Lane** at the top you will meet the **Westwood** again, taking you back to the beginning of the trail. From here you can stroll over the hills back to the **Racecourse** which becomes visible as you head past the grazing cows. I hope you've enjoyed the Kitchen Maid Trail. Do send us any stories, feedback or photographs of your trail experience.

Walk lengths will vary depending on the options you choose. Should you end your walk at the **Beverley Beck** & return to your starting point you will have walked approx 11km. Should you wish to continue on the waterside walk this will extend your walk to an approximate 15km.