

100 WALKS FROM THE POPPY & PINT

WALKS FROM LADY BAY
DURING LOCKDOWN

VOLUME 2

Introduction

Welcome to our second volume of '*100 Walks from the Poppy and Pint*'. I hope that you find it useful. You will find a range of walks suitable for exercise during and just after 'lockdown'. They all start within 20 minutes' drive from the Poppy and Pint. They are all specially selected or formulated walks with several things in common: the paths are quiet; the paths are varied and hold interest; all are on good, waymarked paths. Moreover, on all the walks it is possible to be 'socially distant' from others and on all walks is the right kind of 'atmosphere' in green spaces.

What I have discovered is that walking in Nottinghamshire can be a restorative experience. Nottinghamshire villages are beautiful. Its landscape is many and varied. Apart from the big rivers and canals, there are wonderful streams and hills and rolling countryside – all a joy to behold. These walks take you to such places; lesser known, quiet and tranquil places – all on your very doorstep.

This is the second volume of walks to complement Volume One, Edition 2. Unfortunately, it is not possible to put these publications together as the subsequent size of the file would be too big to e mail!

Thanks so much for your support and interest. I hope that this publication encourages you to 'get out there' and I hope to see you on the trail one day. If not, maybe in The Poppy and Pint when this is all over to compare notes and share ideas.

Happy Rambling from Lady Bay and be sure to stay in touch!

Best wishes,

Trevor Riddiough

Route-finding

You should be able to follow the **clues** to get you around each route without a map.

Useful maps are: Ordnance Survey: OS Landranger 129 Nottingham and Loughborough 1:50,000 **or** Explorer 260 Nottingham Vale of Belvoir 1:25,000 **or** Ordnance Survey OS Explorer 246 Loughborough 1:25,000

You can download these maps onto your mobile once you have bought them.



ViewRanger is a free App and navigational aid. Once downloaded you may never get lost again as it shows your exact location on a clear base map! It uses GPS signals and so does not use your data allowance and is economical with your phone battery.

If you would like a five-minute quick start guide, e mail me and we can arrange a phone call to get you going!

Acknowledgements

This project has been a collaboration between people. I am really grateful to the following people who have helped me enormously during this task:

Front Cover: Louie McGavin – Year 5 Hambrook Primary School, Bristol – our Grandson.

Suggestions for routes: Colin Gibson, Sheila Hyde, Anthony Jay, Richard Marriott, Ed Myers, Steve Nelson, Karen and Keith Rainford, Catherine Todd, Ernie and Cathy.

James Halfpenny, manager of the Poppy and Pint and The Castle Rock Brewery for their support and encouragement.





Andy Allan, CEO of Thunderforest Maps, for allowing me to use the map images free of charge. This was so important, as this leaflet would not be useful without the maps. Maps © www.thunderforest.com, Data © www.osm.org/copyright.

Contact: E mail: trevor.riddiough@yahoo.com





I am currently a volunteer walk and trek leader for Ramblers Walking Holidays at home and abroad. If you would like to join us on any of our tours, why not check out the brochure and dream of better times to come: <https://www.ramblersholidays.co.uk/>










Ramblers Walking Holidays is a social enterprise with a not-for-profit ethos: part of its income is channelled back into charities and initiatives that support access to the great outdoors and benefit people living in the less-advantaged destinations that we visit.

100 Walks from the Poppy and Pint – Volume 2

-  Bike friendly route  Canalside section
 Especially good for birds  Riverside section

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Walk 44: An Exploration of Wilwell Farm Cutting, Ruddington

Description

Wilwell Cutting was dug out in 1895 and formed part of the last Victorian railway construction projects to link Manchester and London with a high-speed line. The Great Central line closed in 1967 as part of the “Beeching” cuts and Wilwell was abandoned. In the late 1970s proposals to use it as a landfill site sparked a vocal campaign to protect the site due to its diverse wildflower populations. In 1981 the proposals were rejected, and the site was declared a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

The Cutting has a mix of habitats but is particularly noted for its rare species, rich grassland, along with areas of marsh. It is said that the flora of Wilwell is a glimpse of “Victorian” countryside, as many plants found on the site will have been relatively common in the late 19th and early 20th Century, but are no longer common locally. Notable species include green wing orchid and meadow saxifrage, southern marsh orchid, yellow wort, common centaury, cypress spurge (almost certainly brought in by the railway), cowslip, great burnet and meadowsweet. Wilwell is used by a range of local birds including great tits, blue tits, robins, blackbirds and sparrowhawks. Also, you can pretty much guarantee to hear a green woodpecker - as both meadows are covered in yellow meadow anthills, a popular food source for them.

Further details are available from the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust: <http://www.southnottswildlife.org.uk/content/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Wilwell-Factsheet.pdf>

Parking

The reserve is on the B680 between Ruddington and Wilford. From West Bridgford, go past County Hall and take the B679 Wilford Lane. Just past the Co-op, turn left onto B680 Ruddington Lane. Then, turn onto the farm track on the right just after the Ring Road bridge. If using SatNav, enter NG2 7UT. There is limited parking space so please leave the gate clear, walk along the track, and the reserve entrance is on the left just past a wooded area.

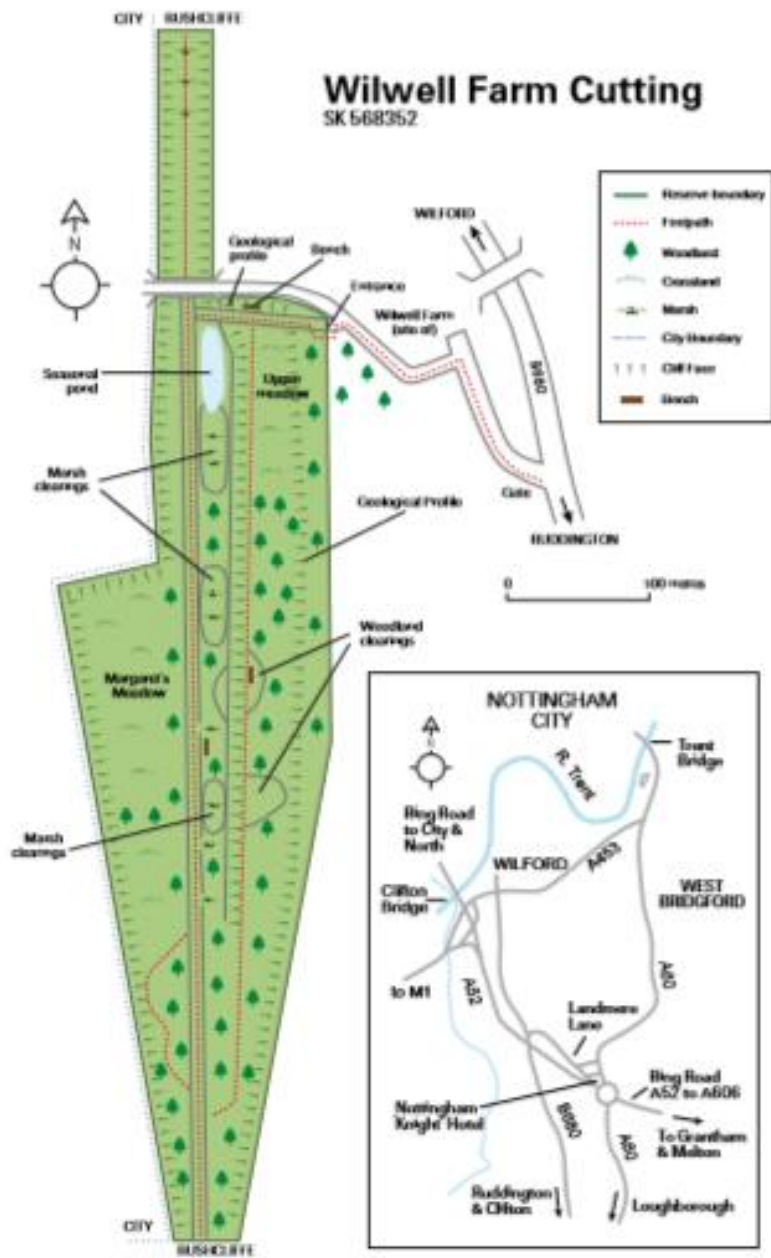
Clues

Walk down the cutting towards its very end. Take the left-hand path just before the main path ends. Return on this path back to the entrance to the reserve.

Distance: 2 kms

Walking Time: 1 hour





Walk 45: Sutton Bonington, River Soar Circuit

Description

The River Soar makes a refreshing change from the River Trent. It is gently flowing, calm, with soft edges. The River Soar is rich in wildlife with thriving bird, fish and plant populations. Try this walk if you wish to take in the river with a beautiful aspect together with a short walk to and from Sutton Bonington. Originally, Sutton and Bonington were two settlements, probably originating in Anglo-Saxon times. Sutton was to the south of Bonington. The two villages gradually grew together along the edge of the flood plain of the River Soar to make one long, narrow village. Sutton Bonington is the proud host to Nottingham University Agriculture Campus. The university campus was originally the Midland Agricultural and Dairy College, which formed in the first decades of the 20th century. The site was used as a prisoner of war camp during the First World War. In 1948 the college became part of the University of Nottingham.

Parking

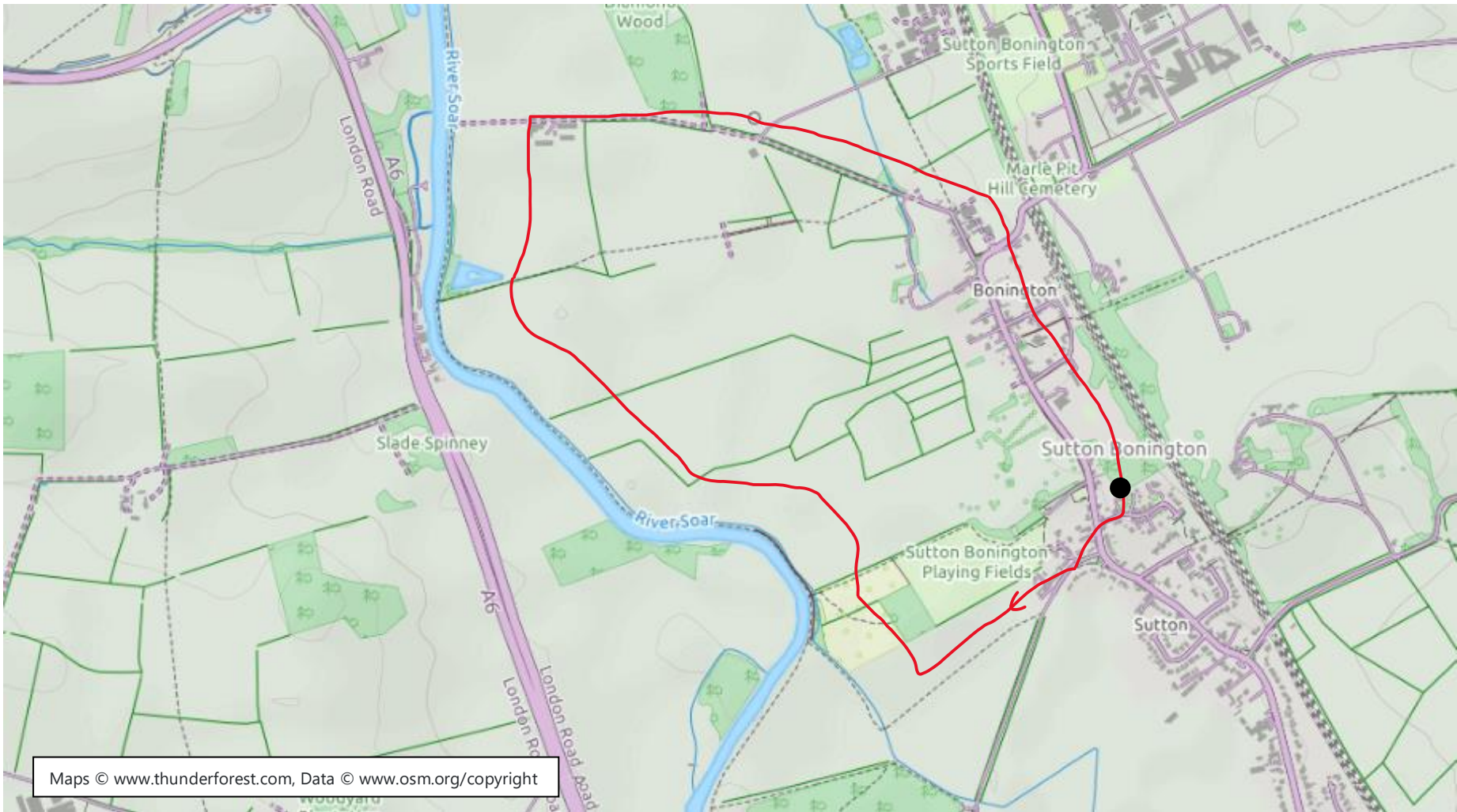
Start in Sutton Bonington. Park near The Kings Head Pub, on Main Street in Sutton Bonington.

Clues

Coming out of Kings Head Pub, turn right along Main Street. Just after the Pub, turn right along Pasture Lane. After approx. 300m look for a path right, off Pasture Lane, marked by a kissing gate and a bright red dog bin. Take this path, which forms a grassy corridor between a series of horse paddocks. At the end of this corridor is a metal gate, a yellow fingerpost, and a kissing gate. Go through the kissing gate and swing 90 degrees right along a path at the right-hand edge of the field. This brings you to a second kissing gate, and a plank bridge, bringing you to the River Soar. Turn right and follow the River Soar for one kilometre until you come opposite a pub: 'The Otter'. Just past The Otter there is a footpath on the right, leading back to Sutton Bonington. Ignore this path and continue along the Soar for another 300m until you come to a lane on the right. The lane is called Soar Lane and it brings you back to Main Street in Sutton Bonington. Turn right onto Main Street, past the church and back to the Kings Head Pub.

Distance: 4 kms

Walking Time: 1 hour



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Walk 46: An Exploration of Ploughman Wood

Description

Ploughman Wood is managed by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. This is one of Nottinghamshire's few remaining ancient woodlands. Documentary evidence shows that it dates back to the 13th century. It is mainly ash/oak woodland with some other species and this mix provides an excellent range of habitats for wildlife. The presence of substantial quantities of dead wood provide an excellent habitat for a wide range of flora and fauna. Over 280 species of invertebrates have so far been recorded. It is, apparently, one of the few places where all three resident species of woodpecker can be found: the great spotted woodpecker, lesser spotted woodpecker and green woodpecker. Ploughman Wood was featured in The Guardian for having the best show of bluebells in the UK! This is a great walk to do in the early evening!

Parking

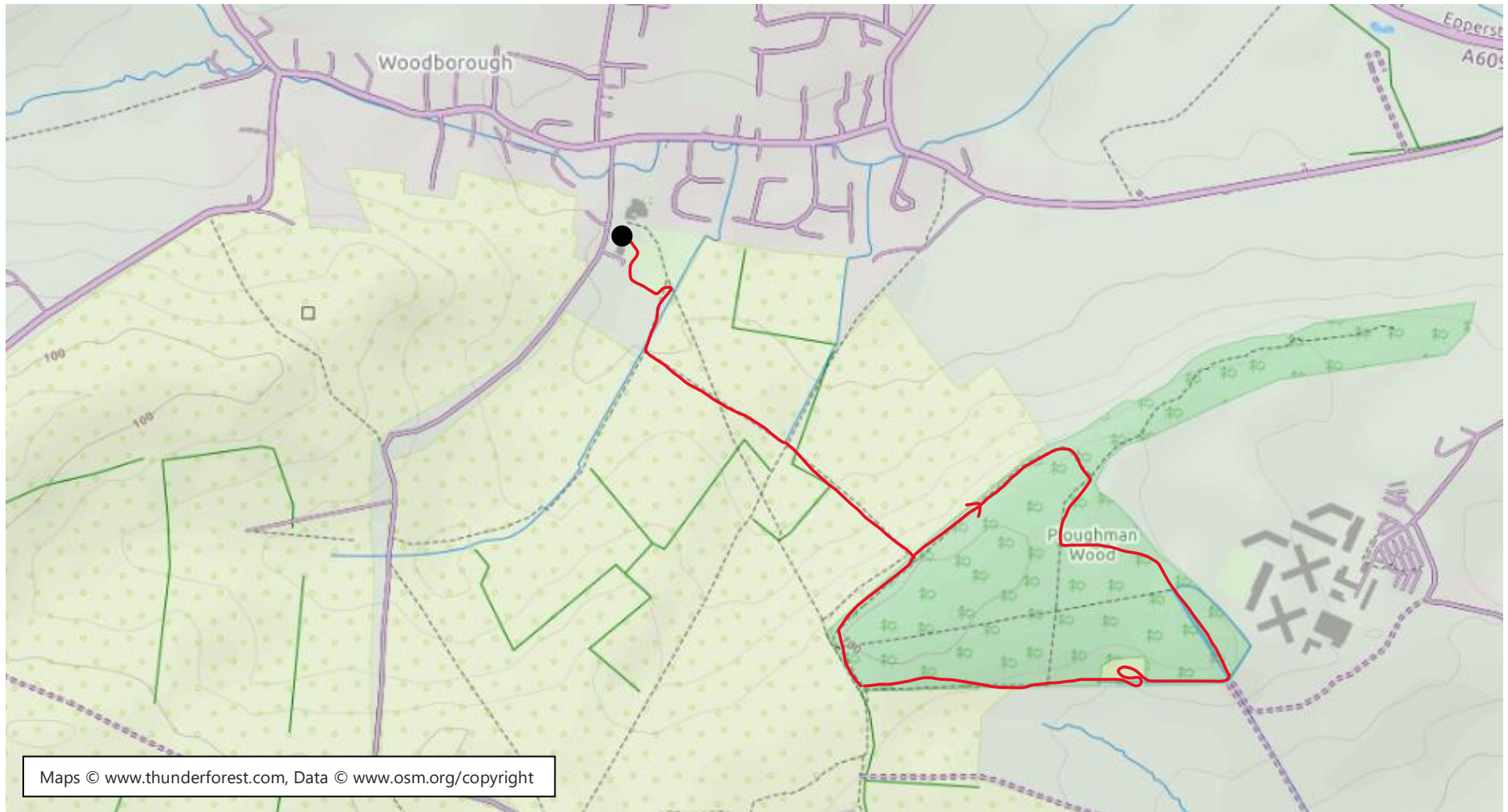
Start in Woodborough. Park in the Village Hall Car Park on Lingwood Lane – just off Main Street and by the church.

Clues

Go to the back of the Village Hall car park and onto the playing fields. Across the field and just to the right, in the opposite hedge, is a wooden bridge by a red litter bin. Head across to the bridge. The path goes around the edge of the field to get there. Over the bridge, turn right and take the wide path to the corner of the field where you turn left. A yellow marker right in the hedge indicates this turn. Head up the wide path with the hedge on your right. Go to the next field and turn left then immediately right and up to the wood in front of you. This is Ploughman Wood. The entrance to the wood is at the end of this path in the left-hand corner, through the hedge. Once on the wood, there is a circular perimeter path that goes all around the wood and one that dissects it. Walk on the perimeter path clockwise until you return to this point. Then retrace your steps to Woodborough Village Hall Car Park.

Distance: 4.5 kms

Walking Time: 1.5 hours



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Walk 47: Oxton to Robin Hood Hill

Description

Rich in Bronze Age and Roman relics and offering enviable views across the otherwise gently undulating landscape of Nottinghamshire, this unusually pointy wind-whipped promontory is actually a 3,000-year-old burial mound, and part of a larger complex of ancient structures in the vicinity. An 18th-century excavation revealed the ancient hillock to contain a sword, dagger, beads, and a rusty funerary urn. The feature was marked on early maps as “Robin Hood’s Piss-Pot,” named for a basin-like stone that once lay on the summit of the 20-foot-high, 80-foot-diameter burial mound. This now-vanished vessel with its stagnant pool of water may have been the base of a medieval stone cross, which would have once commanded the impressive view over Sherwood Forest offered by the tumulus. Victorian mapmakers, however, eschewed vulgar colloquial nomenclature in favour of renaming the prehistoric promontory “Robin Hood’s Hill” according to the sensibilities of the time.

The sheep-cropped Bronze Age knoll towers over the visible remains of a possible defensive settlement of the same era known as Oldox Camp, just 400 feet away. All that remains of this 3,000-year-old site is a roughly triangular ditch enclosed by a pair of earth banks, with a well-defined entrance at the northern side of the site. Archaeologists are unsure whether the “camp” was an enclosure for livestock or a fortified village. If the latter, it is unusual as it sits in a natural amphitheatre, rather than being on a hilltop like most defensive settlements. To the north of the Bronze Age complex, is a second mound, called Loath Hill, which may be the site of a further burial mound, and possibly that of a Roman encampment. Shards of Roman pottery were found on the hill and several hordes of Romano-British coins have been discovered in the locality.

This short walk explores Robin Hood Hill, the Saxon Burial Ground and the Oxton Bronze Age Settlement.

Parking

Start in Oxton. Park near the Village Hall by the church and post office on Main Street.

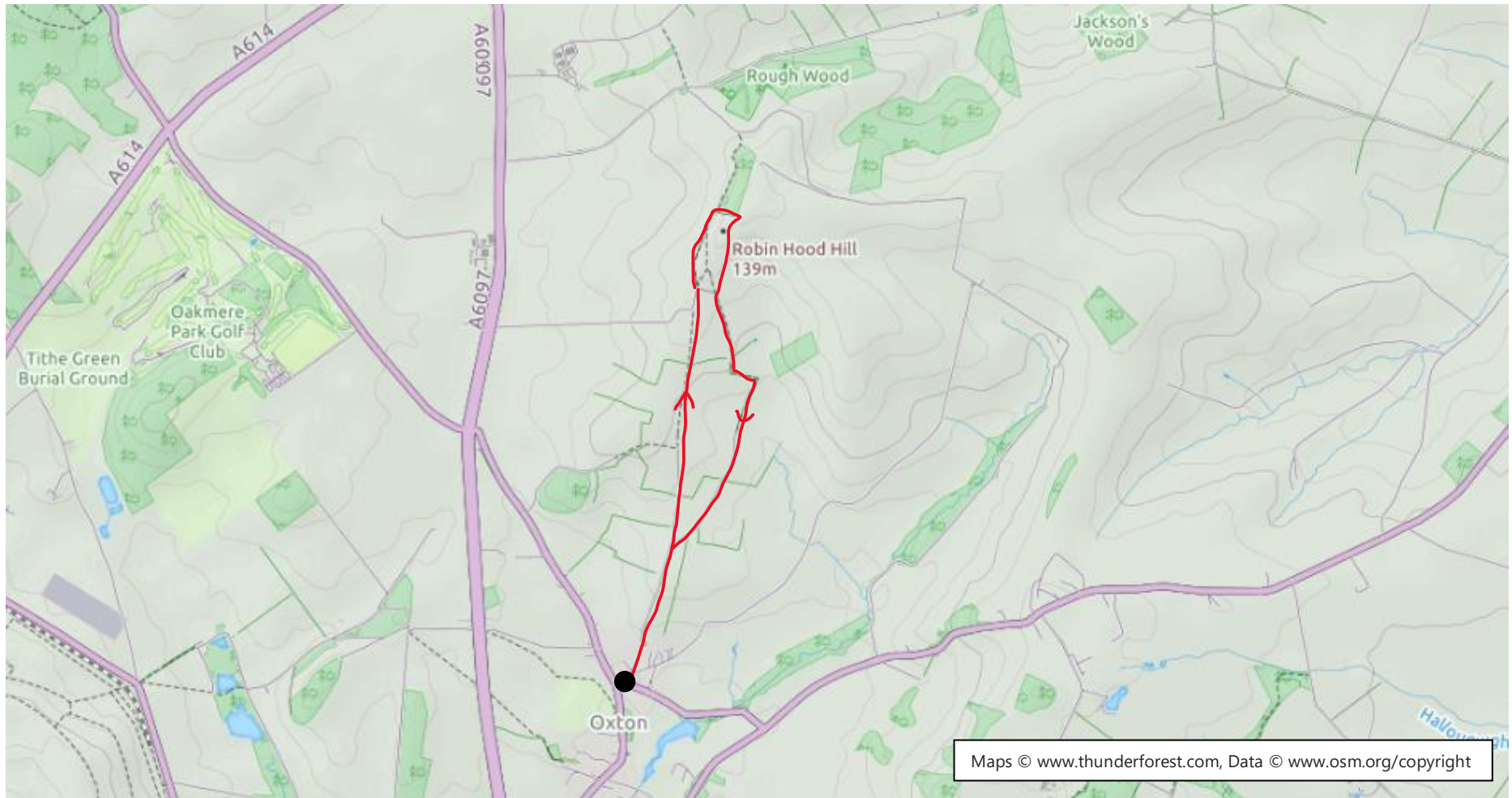
Clues

The burial mound is visible from the A6097 Ollerton Road and Oxton Bypass. A public footpath ascends the hill from Oxton Village. As ancient sites go, this one is off the beaten track. It has no entry fee, no car park and no information signs. It persists within a working farm. To find it, walk out of the Village Hall and turn left. After the Post Office, you will see the The Old Green Dragon Pub. To the right of the pub is a no-through road called Windmill Hill. Follow this lane until it becomes a track. After about 1.5 kms, the track ends at a kissing gate. Oldox Camp Settlement will be clearly visible on the right, and Robin Hood's Hill straight ahead. Once through the kissing gate, take the path line next to, and on the right of, a wire fence to another kissing gate. Turn right here and ascend a steep grassy path to the ridge above you. This is the summit of Robin Hood Hill – 144m. Turn right and descend on the ridge line heading slightly left to a kissing gate below you. Go through the kissing gate and then through the next one. Continue downhill on a grassy path with a wire fence on

your right. Go over a stile to a finger post: '*Millennium Permissive Footpath*'. Follow the line of the fingerpost around a tree and then left to a field with the hedge on your right. Take the perimeter of this field with the hedge on your right, under some pylon cables, and onwards. Eventually, the path switches to the right-hand side of the hedge and then has a hedge on both sides. Follow this clear path to a T junction. Turn left and descend on the track back to the The Old Green Dragon Pub and back to your car.

Distance: 4.6 kms

Walking Time: 1.5 hour



Walk 48: The Netherfield Lagoons

Description

*Netherfield Lagoons are all that remains of a large industrial site. They consist of two deep tanks built in the 1960s, one of which is now full of coal slurry (Slurry Lagoon) and the other one is still nearly empty (Deep Pit). Beyond them are two disused gravel pits with the river Trent beyond them. Over the years the area was used for railway sidings, with allotments, gravel extraction and depositing coal mining waste. A host of birdlife can be found here: **The Ouse Dyke:** Kingfisher, Little Egret, Grey Wagtail, Water Rail, Green Sandpiper and Chiffchaffs. **The Slurry Lagoon:** Water Rail, Bittern, Bearded Tit and Marsh Harrier, Reed Warbler and Reed Bunting. The water is home to a large flock of Teal for most of the winter, with Gadwall, Mallard, Shoveler, Tufted Duck and Pochard. **The Deep Pit:** Common Tern and Cormorant. **'It's an absolute jewel and a thrill every time. It's just lovely. It is a wildlife haven, filled with common, rare and very rare species of birds and insects. Some of which have never been seen in Nottinghamshire before'.***

Parking

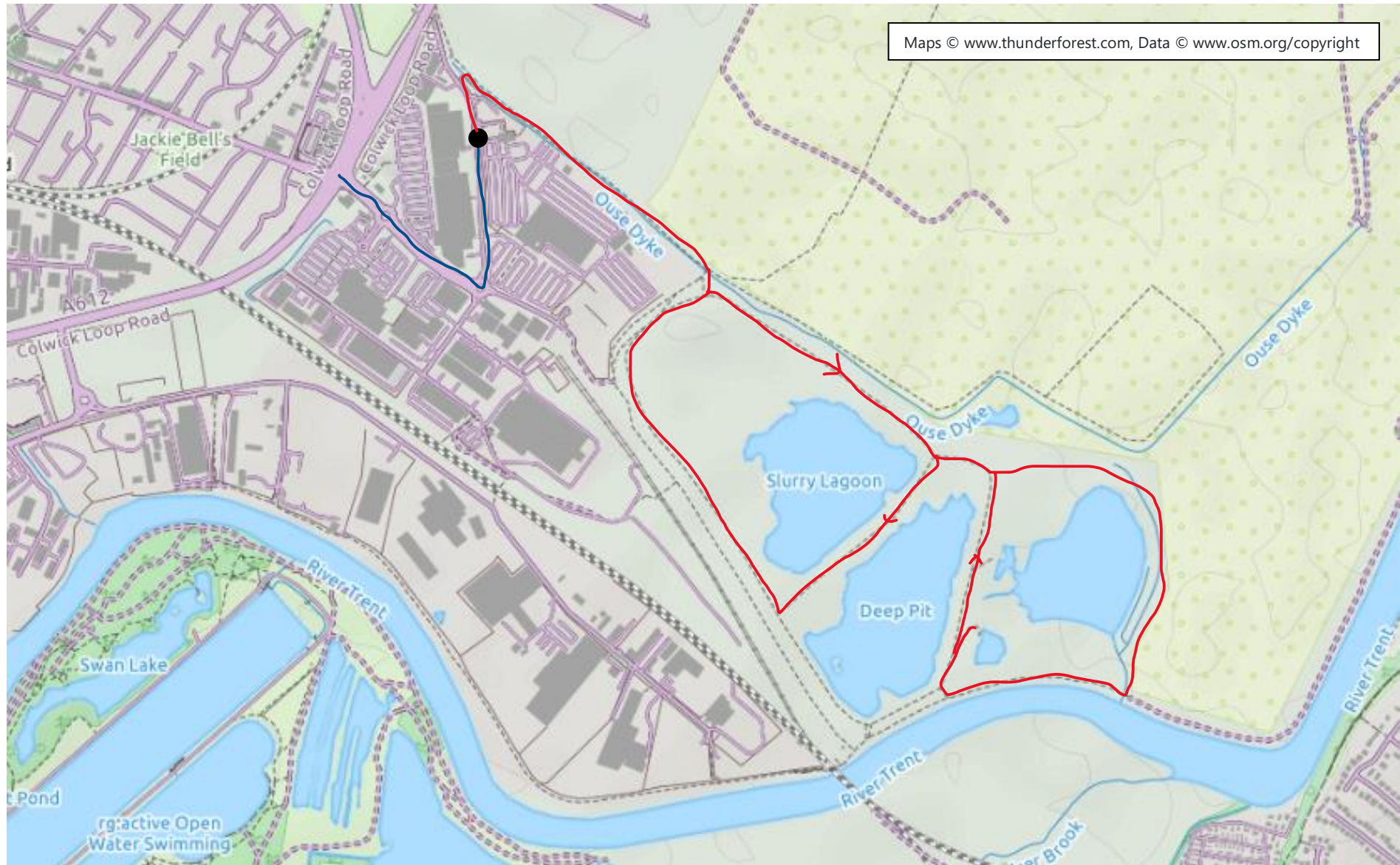
The Netherfield Lagoons Local Nature Reserve is best approached from the Colwick Loop Road via the Victoria Retail Park. From A612 Colwick Loop Road, turn right into the Victoria Retail Park. Take Teal Close left off the second round-about and park near the end of the road opposite the back entrance to B and M Stores and Halfords!

Clues

Take the footpath by a black rubbish bin on the pavement opposite Halfords' back entrance. Cross the Ouse Dyke and walk right, along its North bank until you reach the foot bridge (about ½ km). Cross back across the foot bridge and enter the nature reserve. At the main information board, turn left up some steps to reach the elevated perimeter path for the lagoons. Take this footpath and follow it either clockwise or anti clockwise around the lagoons.

Distance: 6 kms

Walking Time: 2 hours



Dogstod - Creative Services
NETHERFIELD



NETHERFIELD LAGOONS

Walk 49: Exploring Lambley Dumbles

Description

The hidden Dells of Lambley's Dumbles make Nottingham seem far away. Dumble is a local term for a small wooded dell through which streams have carved out twisting and steep-sided gullies. The Dumbles were formed at the end of the last ice-age when large amounts of ice thawed forming streams that cut the steep valleys into the bedrock. This walk provides a great way to enjoy the Dumble valleys and landscapes providing fine views of rolling countryside, farmland, old orchards, and woodlands.

Parking

Start between Lambley and Woodborough. Park on the Woodborough Road between Lambley and Woodborough. Drive to Lambley then turn off onto the Woodborough Road. Go past the Woodcock Inn, then up the hill. Take the 90-degree left bend. Continue for 200m and park on the off-road area just where the road turns 90 degrees right. The road here is marked as Lingwood Lane. Grid Ref: SK626464.

Clues

Take the bridleway that starts in the corner of the parking space, by a large green metal gate. Head westwards. When you come to a sign that says: '*Private Road Ahead – Turn Right for Bridleway*' – ignore the bridleway on your right and continue ahead to a green metal gate. At the metal gate, turn left, over a plank bridge, through a small wooded area and out on to a good path by the field edge. At the end of this field, go right at the corner, through another small wooded area and out onto another field edge. Walk the path with the hedge on your right to a 90-degree left bend by a finger post. Turn left and continue along two sides of the field edge. Along the second side, take a kissing gate on your left. Walk across this field to a kissing gate opposite, next to a large horse paddock. Turn right, after the kissing gate. Walk straight ahead with the paddock on your left until the paddock ends when you go straight ahead across a field edge and onwards to the boundary of a new crematorium. Walk with the crematorium fields on your right to a road. Turn right at the road and then left onto a path that is waymarked by a green Public Footpath sign. Take this path through a kissing gate and onto a field which you cross to a gate on the other side. Go through the gate and along the next field edge to a gap in the hedge next to a wooden waymark sign. Continue on the field edge to the end of this field where there is a path T junction. Turn left and continue along the field edge. Take the clear path in front of you, through several fields until you get to the Lambley Dumbles, marked by an information board. Go over a metal bridge and continue across a series of fields until you get to see a school in front of you. At this point, take a path left away from the school to a style in the hedge. Over the style, cut diagonally right to the top hedge where there is a gap in the hedge. Here, the fields are of the ancient 'ridge and furrow' type. Through the gap, cut across another field to a style in the right-hand corner and then along a short grassy path to a road. Turn left along the road and walk along the road until you get to house number 49. Opposite this house is a ladder style, half hidden in the hedge. Take the style, turn left, and walk the field edge all the way round to a gap in the hedge at the second corner. Through the gap is a clear path to a second Lambley Dumbles information board. At this board, cut through the trees and down onto a narrow

wooden bridge. Beyond the bridge are some steps leading up to a kissing gate. Cross a further four fields straight ahead of you and come to a kissing gate leading directly to the parking space and your car.

Distance: 7 kms

Walking Time: 2.5 hours

Walk 50: Bunny Woods and Beyond

Description

Bunny Old Wood is an ancient coppiced woodland, referred to in the Domesday Book. Bunny Wood was probably used by Saxon settlers as a source of wood. In 1487, Henry VII and his army camped nearby on their way to the Battle of East Stoke. Coppiced ash is very common here and field maple is widespread. Great and lesser spotted woodpeckers are amongst the 50 bird species recorded. This walk takes you through the entire length of Bunny Wood and then on to Wysall. The return is on the field paths of the Midshires Way and the Notts Wolds Way.

Parking

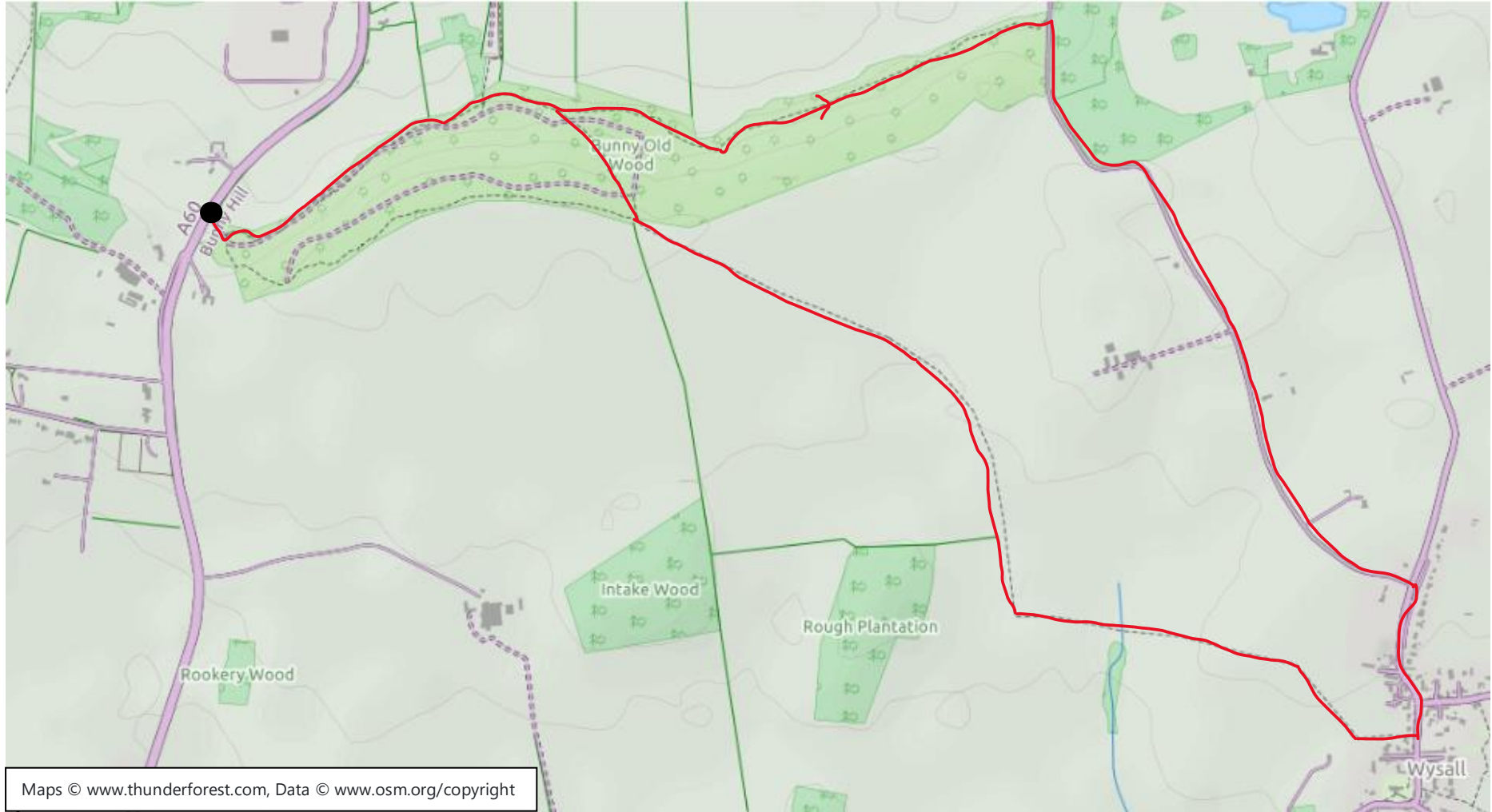
Start at the West Entrance to Bunny Woods. Park by the entrance to Bunny Woods on the A60, on the left-hand side when coming from Nottingham. The entrance is at the bottom of Bunny Hill on the A60. It is just before the road: Bunny Hill Top which is on the right when coming from Nottingham. Use Sat Nav co-ordinates: NG11 6QQ.

Clues

Go through the pedestrian gate at the entrance to the woods and take the footpath to the left of the main track all the way through the woods to the road at the other side. Keep on the main footpath all the way, ignoring paths off on either side. At the road, turn right and walk along the road, past Lodge Farm on the right and into Wysall Village. At the T junction, turn right and walk along Wysall Main Street until you come to a phone box and bus stop on your left-hand side. Look out for a marked path on the opposite right hand side which starts as an alley way between houses and is marked by a black arrow: the Notts Wolds Way. **Follow this black arrow waymark all the way back to Bunny Woods.** From the alley way, the path opens up into a field. Take the cross-field path diagonally across to a gate in the hedge on the opposite side, by a yellow wooden waymarker post. Go through the hedge and into the three more fields. Follow the yellow waymarkers and continue on the field edge with the hedge on your right-hand side. You will then arrive at a plank bridge in the gap in the hedge. Here, turn 90 degrees right and continue along the field edge and through to another field. After about 100m, the path strikes out left across the field, again waymarked. Follow the waymarker post on the other side of this field to another field where the path again goes diagonally left across the field towards the wood in the distance. This cross-field path leads to a plank bridge and then to another cross-field path leading to an entrance to the wood on the other side. Go through a gate and follow the waymarks across the wood, turning left and right on the way. Cross a track and continue to join the path that you came out on. Turn left here and continue back the West Entrance of Bunny Woods.

Distance: 7.4 kms

Walking Time: 2.5 hours



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Walk 51: The Gunthorpe River Round

Description

A delectable, delightful walk along The River Trent. This circular walk follows a section of the River Trent and explores the adjoining countryside to the north of the river. This is a great introduction to walking in The Trent Valley. A visit to Gunthorpe Lock is a blissful way to spend some time. The first Gunthorpe Bridge was built in 1875 and was an important river crossing on the River Trent for many years. Before this a ferry was the only means of crossing the river here.

 Look out for: Black Headed Gull, Little Egret, Greylag Goose, Great Crested Grebe

Parking

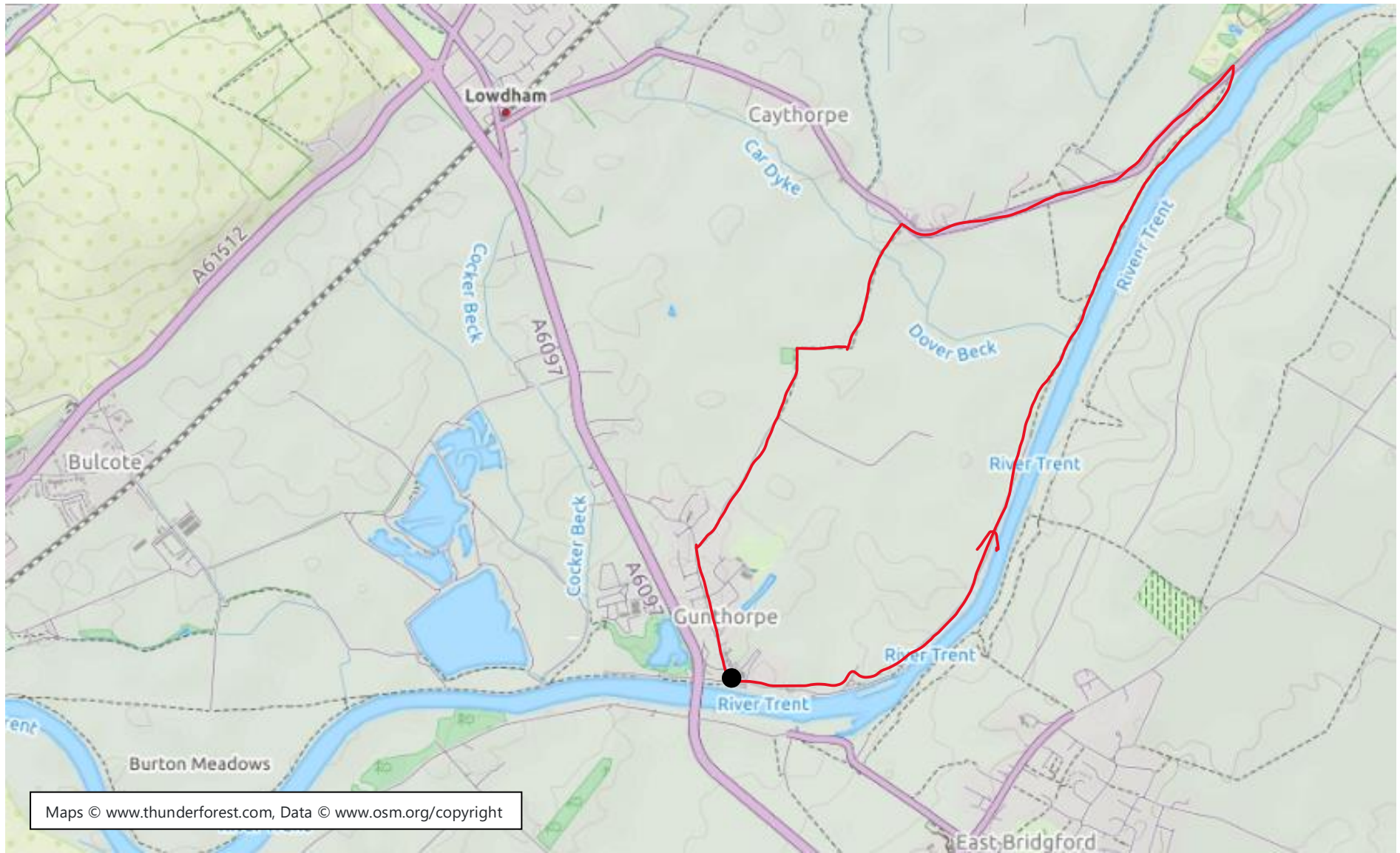
Start at Gunthorpe Bridge. Park at the car park at Gunthorpe Bridge, opposite The Unicorn Hotel.

Clues

From Gunthorpe Bridge, walk downstream, following the Public Bridleway on the wide grassy bank of the river. Pass the 'Bridge and Bayleaf' Restaurant and make your way to Gunthorpe Lock. Continue on the footpath past the lock and through four gates until you get to the road via a white wooden gate. (Gate No. 5!). Turn left along the road for about 1 km. Pass the Caythorpe Village sign and come to The Black Horse Pub. On your left and directly opposite the pub is 'The Old Mill' cottage. By the left-hand side of this cottage is the Public Footpath. There is a green waymark here, but it is hidden in the shrubbery. Follow the path by the left-hand side of cottage, and then down the right-hand side of a house to an alley way. Take the alley way which leads to a metal gate. Through this metal gate you are in open country. Take the path on the right of a hedge and go straight ahead. Go over three small wooden bridges in succession. At the third bridge, turn right. Follow the path on the left of a hedge. Come to a T junction. Turn left and walk along the track to another junction by Glebe Farm. Carry straight on here and keep to the track all the way, past some houses, to a road junction. Turn left here and proceed down the road and back to the car park at Gunthorpe Bridge.

Distance: 7.5 kms

Walking Time: 1.75 hours



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Walk 52: Kinoulton Canal Round

Description

The section along the Grantham Canal is wide, interesting, and varied. It is a wonderful stretch which includes much wildlife. This a short, simple, almost 'out and back' walk with plenty to keep you involved in the rich habitats before you!

Parking

Start in Kinoulton. Park near the Village Green and Neville Arms.

Clues

Start by the Village Green in Kinoulton. Walk along Main Street, past the Neville Arms, a converted chapel, and the village church to the Grantham Canal. Take the towpath right. Continue along the towpath until the third road crossing. You will pass on the way: Road No. 1 by Vimy Ridge Farm; Road No. 2 by Wild's Bridge; Road No 3 – Mackley's Bridge. At Mackley's bridge, come onto the road and turn left towards Mackley's Farm. At about 150m from the canal you will come to a car park on the right. Opposite the car park is a footpath sign back along the canal in the same direction that you came, only on the other side of the canal. Follow this canal footpath all the way back to Kinoulton. Leave the footpath at Kinoulton and walk back along the road to your car.

Distance: 8 kms


Walking Time: 2 hours



Walk 53: Aslockton, Orston and Whatton along the River Smite

Description

A fascinating and beautiful walk by the River Smite. The walk takes in three beautiful Nottinghamshire villages, steeped in history. All that remains of the 12th-century Aslockton Castle are some earthworks. The motte and bailey castle, called Cranmer's Mound, stands about 16 feet (5 m) high. Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury 1533–1553, was born in Aslockton and lived until the age of 14 in his parents' cottage, which still stands in Abbey Lane. In Orston Church, the North Aisle displays a restored military drum beaten at the Battle of Waterloo.

 Look out for: Chiff Chaff, Reed Bunting, Skylark, Yellow Hammer, Willow Warbler

Parking

Start in Aslockton. On street parking is available on Main Street in Aslockton, by the church.

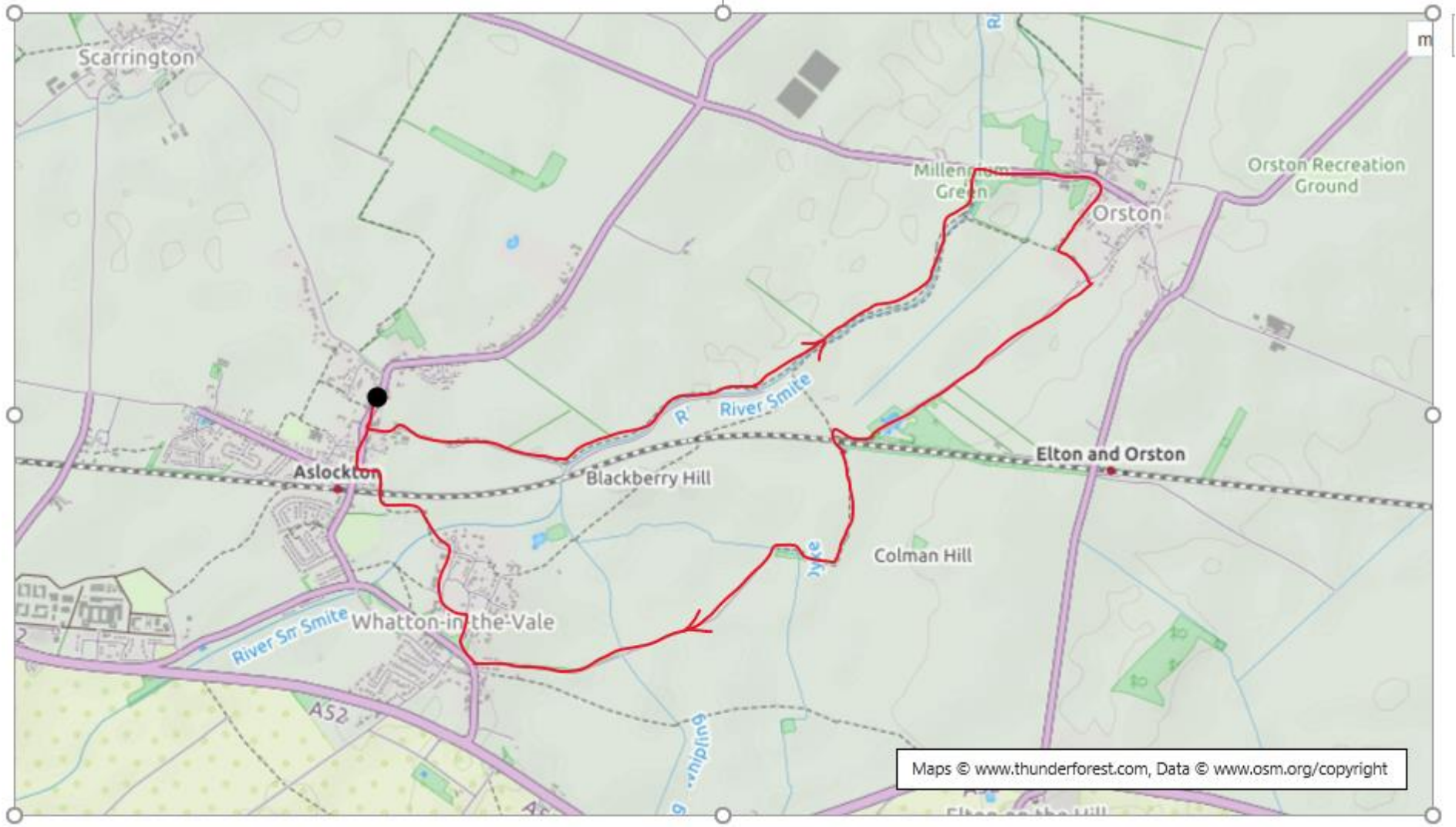
Clues

Start at the church in Aslockton. To the right of the church and church yard is a footpath indicated by a green footpath sign. Take this path to a metal latch gate. Go through the gate and look on the left for the remains of the motte and bailey castle, known as Cranmer's Mound. Continue down the path which bends left to a narrow path. Go through a kissing gate and a small wooden footbridge. Skirt the field with the hedge on your right, through a gap in the hedge to another field. Continue on this path until the path turns left at 90 degrees by a wooden finger post. The river Smite comes in here on your right and will be your companion until you get to Orton. Continue on the field side path with the River Smite on your right. After about 2 kms, you will eventually get to a kissing gate. Pass three fields on your left and get to a wooden gate. Go straight ahead here and get to a metal latch gate by the road. Turn right onto the road and proceed into Orston village. Go past the Orston village road sign and bear right past a blue telephone box! Go past Orston Church and turn right onto Chapel Street. Continue to the end of Chapel Street, past the chapel at the end and onto a narrow track. Go over a small footbridge to a small T junction. Turn left and pass some houses and their gardens. At the road, turn right following a green Public Bridleway sign. The road turns into a track and then into a narrow path. It passes some claypits and small lakes on both sides of this path – Known as Orston Plaster Pits – Site of Special Scientific Interest. Continue to an open field. Take the periphery path clockwise and look left for a foot tunnel under the Nottingham to Grantham railway line. Continue on the path on the other side of the tunnel, with the hedge on your right, then through a gap in the hedge so that the hedge is now on the left of the path. Continue on this periphery path clockwise around the field until you come to a very large tree log (about 1.5m high!) on a flat concrete 'bridge' over a water dyke. Turn left here, away from the field, and over the 'bridge' onto a straight path all the way to Whatton. At the road in Whatton, turn right and then right again. Take the first left fork and the first left fork again onto Church Street. Continue past the church on your left. Pass the church, turn immediately onto a narrow path on Church Walk. Walk on this path down the side of the church yard to a metal gate. Go through the gate and over the

River Smite. Continue to a railway crossing. Cross the railway line and follow a narrow path past some houses and onto Main Street in Aslockton. Turn right along main street back to the church and your car.

Distance: 9 kms

Walking Time: 2.5 hours



Walk 54: Barton in Fabis to Gotham Hill

Description

This walk takes you through two Nottinghamshire villages, past the River Trent and then up onto Gotham Hill. The panoramas from Gotham Hill make this walk so worthwhile. On one side, you will see the Trent Valley onto Nottingham City and beyond; on the other side you will see the Soar Valley onto Leicester. The village Barton in Fabis is just south of Nottingham, being on the other side of the River Trent from Attenborough. A ferry, Barton Ferry, used to cross the River Trent to the Attenborough side near to the mouth of the River Erewash. A ferry has crossed the River Trent at this point since before 1774.

 Look out for Finches, Meadow Pipit, Song Thrush, Reed Bunting, Tits

Parking

Start at Barton in Fabis. Park by the church on Manor Road.

Clues

Come out of the church and turn right along Manor Road to Rectory Place. Turn right into Rectory Place. After 50m look for a path left, alongside a new-build house marked by a green Public Bridleway sign. Take this grassy path across a field, onto a flood bank defence and across another field to the right-hand corner of a wood. Go through a metal gate, skirt the wood on your left to another gate by a fingerpost. Go through the gate and onto a farm track by the River Trent. Walk left along the track, past several mobile homes, following the blue footpath arrows. The track becomes a tarmac road just before the gatehouse of Thrumpton Hall. Go past the gatehouse and then past Laburnum Cottage on your left. Immediately after the cottage on the left is a driveway with a track leading to a footpath and a style. Cross the style and then cross a paddock to a style in the far-right hand corner. Then cross three successive fields to a road. Turn right along the road. At Manor Farm entrance, turn left marked with a green Public Bridleway sign. Go over the footbridge over the A453 to a T junction. Turn right along a marked Public Bridleway: Gotham 2m. Follow this road to a left turn marked by another Public Bridleway sign. Take this track past Hillside Cottage to a right-hand path immediately after the cottage marked Public Bridleway. Take this path, through a metal gate and then left and up into the wood ahead. At the top of the hill you will come out of the wood and to two gate posts marked by a green cross paths sign. Take the Bridleway left and walk along the ridge of the wood with the trees on your left. Go through a gate marked by three horseshoes on a pole! Go through the gate and ignore the next two paths on your left. Keep to the ridge and past an information board with information about the Trent Valley View. Continue to a gate, and then to a second gate by a finger post. Go left and through the gate. You come to a grassy field where the footpath is indistinct. Aim just to the left of the telegraph pole in front of you and you will then see a yellow wooden signpost indicating the path through a kissing gate. Go through the kissing gate and down some steep wooden steps to another grassy field where the path is indistinct. Follow the line of the telegraph poles downhill and you will then see a style in front of you. Go over the style, but do NOT take the obvious track right and down to the Pig Farm. Instead, go left and follow yellow wooden waymarkers along the side of a wire fence. Keep to the wire fence and go through a gate in the corner. Go straight ahead, aiming for the left of the farm buildings in front of you. Keep the buildings just to your right. Walk past these farm buildings to a brown wooden hut, then swing left and head

towards a pylon. The main farm track passes to the left of this pylon. Continue down the track, past a farm, to a T junction. Turn left and follow the road round to a Public Bridleway sign: Barton in Fabis 1m. Turn right at this sign and follow the side road to the A453 for about 1 km. Eventually, you will get to a road junction by a green public bridleway sign: Barton in Fabis ½ m. Go left here and under the main road: A453. At the other side of the tunnel turn left and then immediately right onto New Road. Follow New Road to Manor Road and past the Village Hall to the church and your car.

Distance: 9 kms

Walking Time: 2 hours



Walk 55: Epperstone Countryside ☞

Description

*An entirely rural walk. Experience vast rolling countryside and fine views all around. The paths are good, and the hills roll out before you. This is a walk to savour like a fine wine! It is thought that the undulating field behind Church Cottages, off Church Lane in Epperstone, inspired the Barrow-Downs in J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Fellowship of the Ring*.*

☞ Look out for: Buzzard, Goldfinch, Mistle Thrush, Greater Spotted Woodpecker, Song Thrush, Red Kite, Swallow, Warblers, Yellow Hammer

Parking

Start in Epperstone Village. Park near The Cross Keys Pub on Main Street.

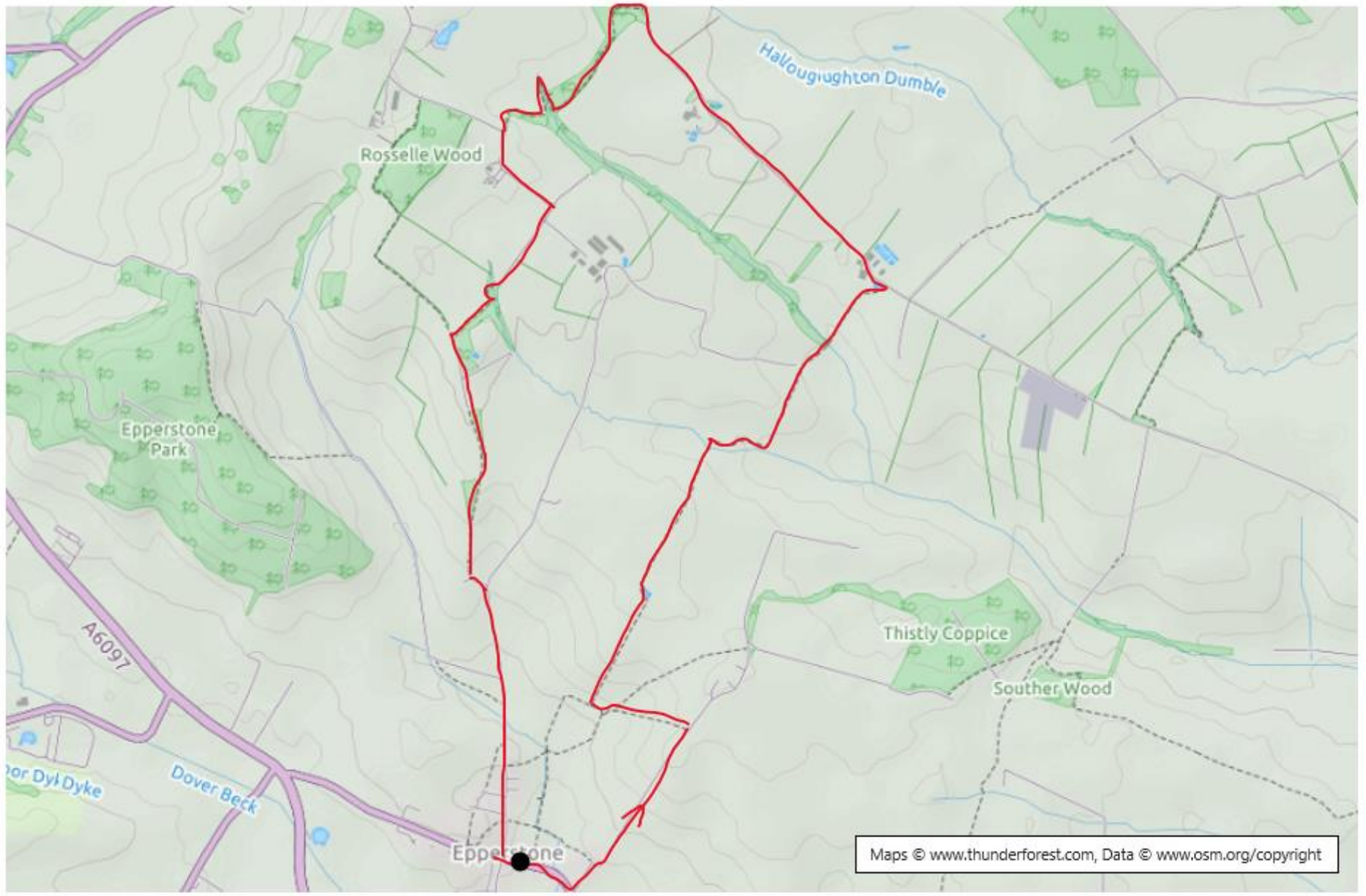
Clues

Walking out of the Cross Keys Pub turn left and walk along Main Street until you get to Hagg Lane on your left. Walk up Hagg Lane, ignoring paths on the left and right in the early section. The road bends right, then left, then uphill. At the end of this uphill section, look for a green Public Footpath sign, left. This turn off is about 300m before Eastwood Farm. Take this path over a plank bridge and descend along a grassy path with the hedge on your right. At the bottom of the field, take the wooden footbridge right, by a yellow waymark post. Go ahead along the side of a field, with the hedge on your right. Look out for the path bending to the right, through the hedge, up some steps by a yellow waymark. Beyond the steps, continue along the edge of the field in front of you, with the hedge on your right. Carry on to a hidden pond. Here, turn left and skirt the pond, then continue rightwards to another yellow waymark post. Eventually, you will arrive at an unmetalled road. Cross over and continue along the edge of a field in front with the hedge on your right. At the other side of this field, go through a dark hole on the hedge and down to a wooden bridge. Go over the bridge to another field; this time turn right and follow the edge of the field to its right-hand corner. Turn left here at 90 degrees and walk up the right-hand side of the hedge belonging to the same field. Continue to a large cottage and keep on the well-marked path to a concrete bridge and a new wooden kissing gate. Beyond this gate, the path is well marked by yellow wooden posts. By Bankwood House – a smart wedding venue – take the inside line of the hedge to a road. Turn left and follow this road through the farm buildings and farmyard to a long straight track in front of you. Walk along this track, past Thurgarton Quarters Farm, until you get to two new build houses. Here you will find a green Public Bridleway sign left. Take this left-hand path and continue along it as it wends its way left and right – always following the yellow wooden way posts and keeping to the main path. Eventually you will come to a gap in the hedge leading onto an open field. Turn left here and follow the perimeter of the field around. You will soon pick up yellow wooden waymarks again. Turn right, indicated by a wooden finger post, onto a track leading to Norwood Farm. At this farm, comprising a number of smaller dwellings, turn left – following the bridleway finger post. At the bottom of this track, turn right and proceed until an electric gate bars the way. Go straight ahead here, along a grassy path by the side of a field. Come to a wooden footbridge.

Follow the finger post as the path bends left. Continue along a field-edge path straight all the way to a driveway by Cottage Farm. Turn right at the road and continue straight all the way back to Main Street at Epperstone Village.

Distance: 9.4 kms

Walking Time: 2.5 hours



Rosselle Wood

Halougiughton Dumble

Epperstone Park

Thistly Coppice

Souther Wood

A6097

Dover Beck

Dyl Dyke

Epperstone

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Walk 56: The Owthorpe Circuit

Description

Owthorpe is a small village in the Wolds of Nottinghamshire with a population of around 90. The Wolds of Nottinghamshire comprise a series of low hills and steep valleys above the Trent Valley. Owthorpe has an unusual Grade I listed Anglican church, dedicated to St Margaret of Antioch, once considered a patron saint of pregnancy. It stands away from the village in farmland, surrounded by a low wall, next to the site where the manor stood. Access is only along a public footpath – a narrow grass track and through a timber gate.

This walk takes you far from the madding crowd. It is varied – across woodland, fields and returns along the Grantham Canal towpath. The towpath is relatively quiet now, as it is a long way from the city walkers.

Parking

Start at Owthorpe Village. Take the A52 towards Grantham. Turn right at the first traffic lights onto Stragglethorpe Road. Take the first right, towards Cotgrave. Go past The Shepherds Pub. At Cotgrave, turn right onto Plumtree Road, then immediately left onto Owthorpe Road. Cross the A46 and Owthorpe is the first village on the left. Park on Village Street in Owthorpe, or better still, on Kinoulton Lane opposite Village Street.

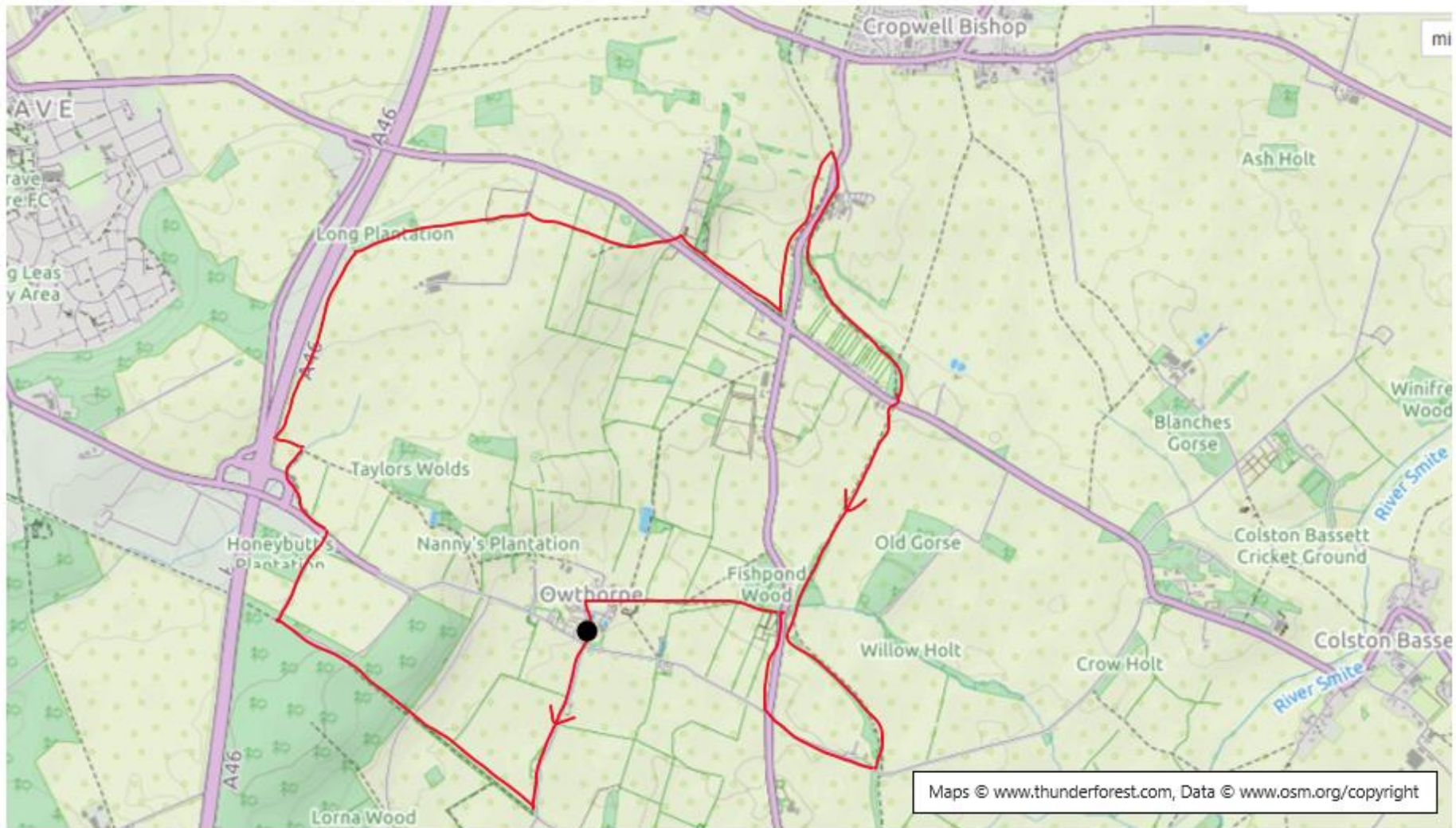
Clues

From Owthorpe, walk back along Village Street and across the road to Kinoulton Lane. At the end of the lane, the road bends left. In the elbow of the bend is a footpath sign right, by a green metal gate, signposted 'Restricted Byway'. Go through the gate and up the narrow path to Borders Wood. This track is marked as Merrywell Lane on the map. Look out for Cow Slips on the way. The track crosses a tarmac private road and continues deep into the forest. Follow the yellow marker posts on the way. Eventually the track bends to the right and takes you to a road. Turn left at the road, and head towards the A46. After about 300m you will see a green footpath sign on the other side of the road. Cross the road and follow the sign down some steps and then left across a grassy path. Cross a stile and follow the black and yellow path arrows straight across the field to another yellow signpost on a low wooden post. The obvious path here is on your right. However, turn left and head straight for the hedge and the A46 in front of you. At the hedge you will see a yellow signpost indicating right. Turn right and keep the hedge on your left. The path takes you through a hedge and then continues around a farm field, keeping the hedge and A46 on your left. Head for the small wood in front of you. The path bends right at the wood. Ignore the left-hand path indicated by a black arrow on a yellow signpost and go straight on following the edge of the field. Head out towards an unusual brick tower. This is part of a reservoir. Past the reservoir, you will get to a tarmac road. Cross the road and continue on a faint path through an arable field to a hedge. Go through two hedges on the way. Now walk on the edge of a field, with the hedge on your left all the way to a small brick house: Groundwells Farm. At the farm turn right onto the road. At the first drive on the left, by Skylark Hill Private Road you will see a narrow path running parallel to the road, marked by a finger post – literally! Take this narrow path alongside the road. Eventually, the path bends to the left alongside another road: Kinoulton Road. Keep going along the footpath straight

ahead, through a wooden gate, and out onto the road. Turn left and walk to a sign: 'Indust. Park'. You will see the canal on your left. The canal across the road is less obvious. Cross the road at the 'Indust. Park' sign and you will find the opposite tow path heading diagonally back on itself. Take the towpath. Go past the industrial units and back into the countryside. The towpath eventually crosses a road. Here, turn left along the road and just past the Cropwell Bishop village sign you will see a clear path going back down to the canal to re-join the towpath on the other side of the road. Follow this tow path until you get to the next road at Spencer's Bridge. Leave the towpath and turn right here and walk along the road. Go past Oddhouse Farm. Turn right at the next road junction marked 'Cropwell Bishop 2' along Swabs Lane and then take the first footpath left – opposite Canal Cottages. This footpath brings you back to Owthorpe across a series of styles. After the style by a small wooden footbridge, turn left and walk alongside the hedge. Go through a gate with a style next to it and then through another next style. You will then see in front of you the buildings of Owthorpe. The final style is to the left of a long wooden building. Once over this style – left will, take you to the church – right will take you to Village Street in Owthorpe where you started.

Distance: 10 kms

Walking Time: 3 hours



Walk 57: Melbourne, Breedon-on-the-Hill Circuit

Description

Starting from the tiny village of Wilson, our walk takes in two extraordinary villages: Breedon and Melbourne. Breedon is notable for its limestone hill that rises 122m (400ft) above sea level in a generally low-lying landscape and affords distant views across several counties. It is even possible to see Cardiff on a clear day! A large portion of the hill has been cut away by an active quarry. On top of the hill is The Bulwarks Iron Age hill fort, within which is Breedon's historic Church of St Mary and St Hardulph parish church. It dates from the 12th century church and is known for its collection of Saxon carvings. Breedon has a circular stone-built village lock-up. It is 18th-century and was used for detaining local drunks or lost cattle. Melbourne is predominantly Georgian in character and is notable for its wide range of historic buildings. It gave its name to a tiny settlement, now the city of Melbourne, Australia. On High Street you will find The Cruck Cottage, and The Memorial Cottages built in 1890- 91 by one of Melbourne's famous sons, Thomas Cook of travel agency fame who was born here in 1808 and is known as the 'father of modern tourism'. On this walk you will pass Melbourne Hall and Melbourne Pool – originally a medieval Mill Pond.

Parking

Start in Wilson. Park near to the Bullshead Pub on Main Street.

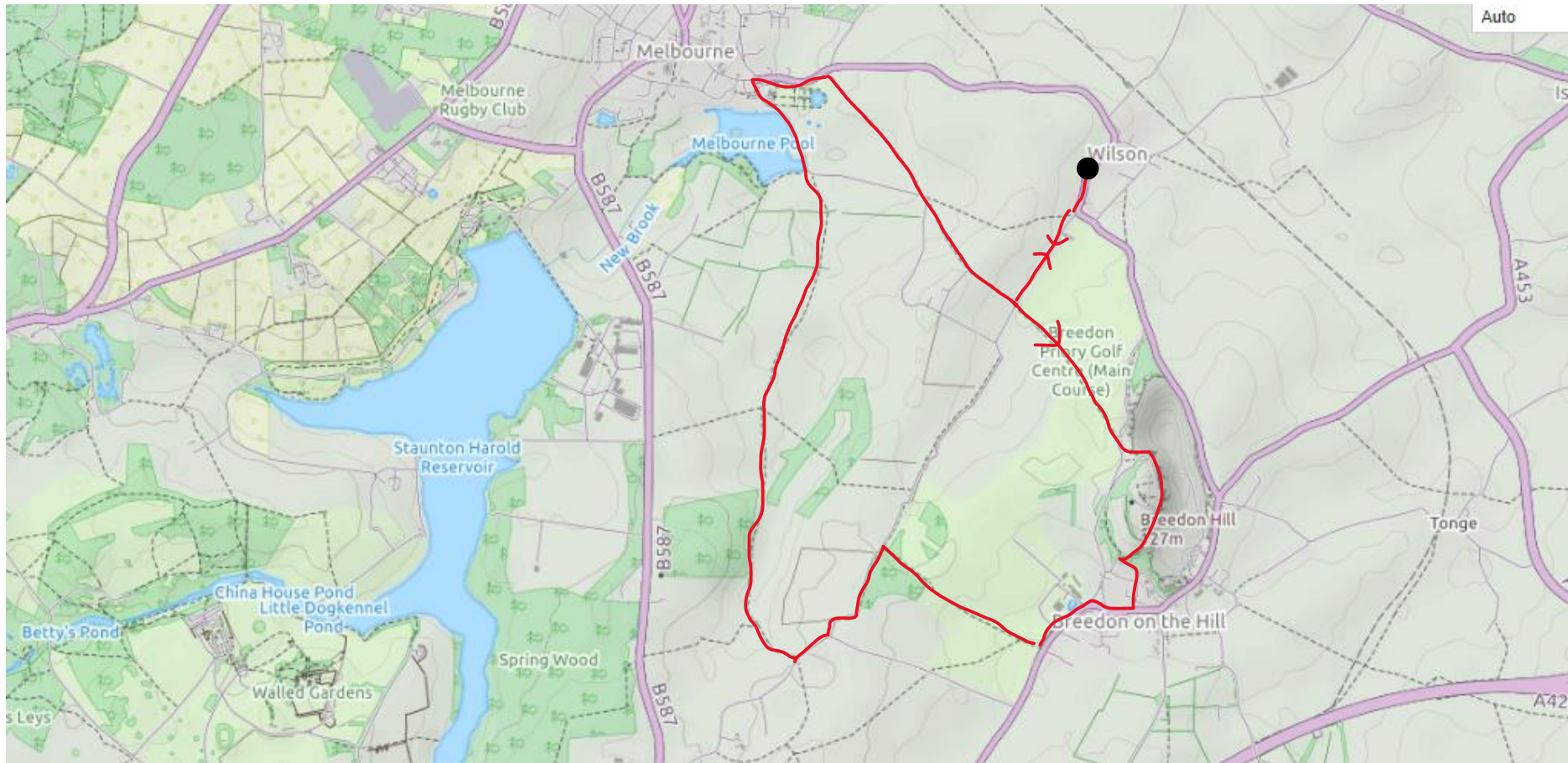
Clues

Coming out of the Bullshead Pub, turn left and walk until the road bends left. Go straight ahead here, onto a 'no through road'. Pass the 'Park Farm' sign, Breedon Priory and some pylon cables. Soon you will see a green Public Footpath sign pointing left and a wooden footpath sign pointing right. Take the path left, through a wooden gate and onto a disused golf course. Go straight ahead across a field to another gate. Once through the gate, head in the same direction and on the left a row of very tall Beech trees. Continue past a wooden bench, across a grassy path and over a style. Follow yellow waymarker posts. You will soon come off the grassy path onto a gravelly path. This path leads into a wooded area and through a gate onto a tarmac road. Turn right along the road and immediately, take the footpath on the left of this road. Shortly the path deviates left from the road and heads upwards to another road. Turn left here and follow the road uphill to Breedon Hill Viewpoint and Breedon on the Hill Church. Beyond the church is another viewpoint. Continue past the viewpoint to a black metal gate. Go through the gate and follow the yellow waymarker posts downhill. Turn left at a path junction and continue to a road on the outskirts of Breedon village. Turn right and head down along Cross Street to Main Street where you turn right. Go past the War memorial where Main Street then becomes Ashby Road. On the left you will see a milestone: 'Tamworth 18 Miles'. Just past this and on the right is a footpath marked by a fingerpost. Take this path, which runs parallel to the road and then bends right to form a wide avenue with hedges on both sides. Continue straight ahead and slightly uphill. Follow the yellow waymarkers all the way until you come to the end of the path at a yellow waymarker, now indicating a path junction left and right. Take the path left and along a second avenue between two hedges. Follow the yellow waymarkers and come to a metal gate and

onto a road. Turn right and take the road for approx. 300m to a path on your right indicated by a green public footpath sign. Take the path right through the hedge and over a stile. Take the cross-field path to a series of field and gates and styles all marked by yellow waymarker posts. Head northwards following a grassy path always straight ahead. You will soon come off the grassy path and onto a track. Continue on the track until it bends 90 degrees left to a farm building. Come off the track here and take a faint grassy path straight ahead, over more styles and across more fields until you come to a gravel track on the outskirts of Melbourne. Turn left and take the track to a road. Turn right and you are now skirting the Mill Pool outside Melbourne Hall. Continue to the church, turn right onto Blackwell Lane and take this road out of Melbourne. Continue on the road until you get to a 40mph speed limit sign. Opposite is your path, indicated by a green Public Footpath Sign which includes Wilson. Take this path through trees and into open fields, going diagonally left. Look right for some fantastic views of Melbourne Hall! Continue across fields and through small wooden gates until you get to a cross paths junction by two metal gates. Go through the gate and take the path diagonally right up the hill and to the left of a more obvious track. Up the hill the path brings you to a gate and a tarmac track. Go straight across the tarmac and continue on the path in front of you. You will soon come to a tarmac road on the outskirts of Wilson. Turn left here and take the road back to Wilson and the Bullshead Pub.

Distance: 10 kms

Walking Time: 2.5 hours



Walk 58: Cropwell Bishop and Cropwell Butler

Description

A wonderful circular walk taking in the two Cropwells and the village of Tithby. Mostly open countryside, farms, and fields with fine views. Cropwell Bishop has one of a select six creameries that produce Stilton cheese. The three villages form part of the Vale of Belvoir.

Parking

Start in Cropwell Bishop. Park near the Chequers Inn on Church Street, off the Nottingham Road.

Clues

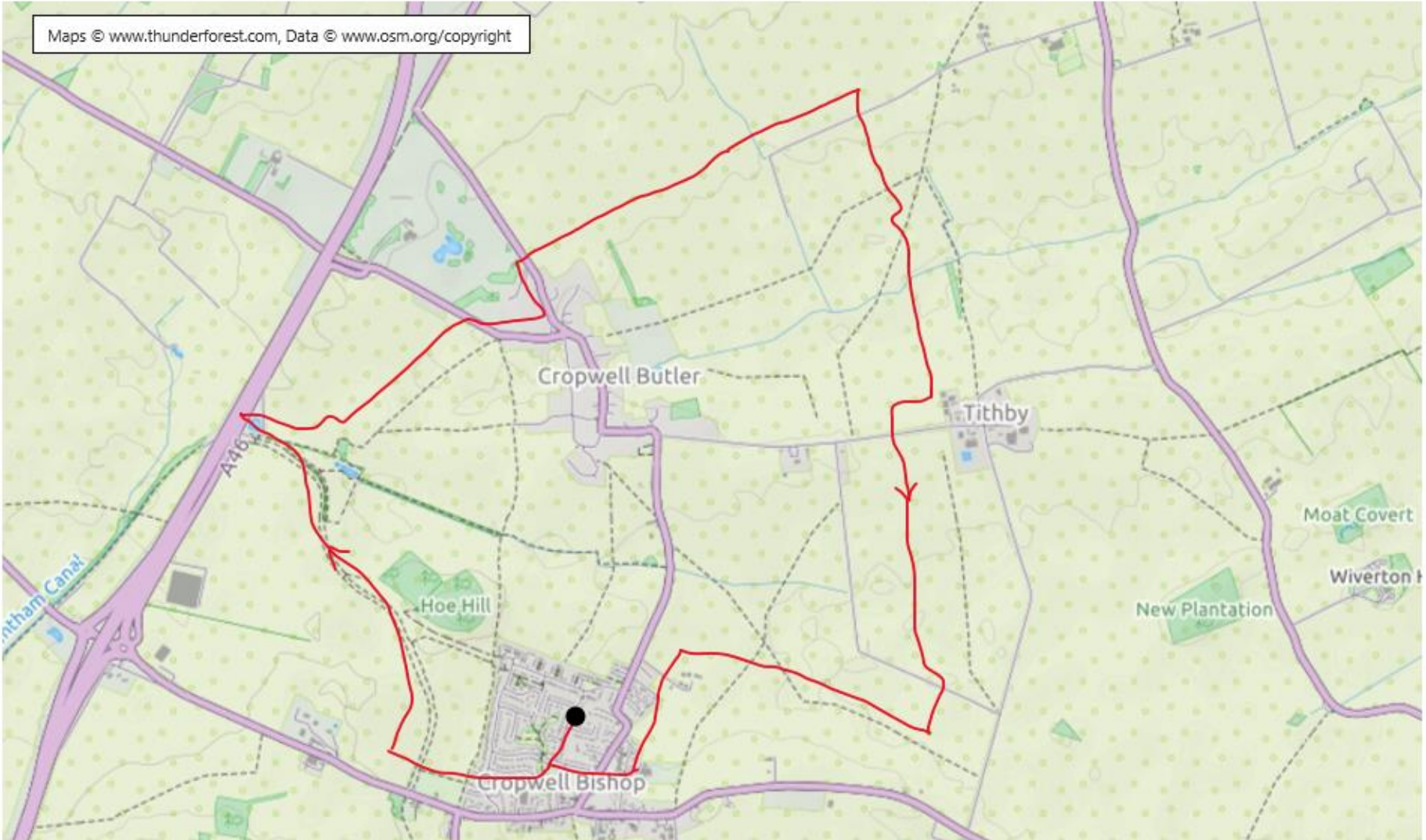
From the Chequers Pub, walk back along Church Street to Nottingham Road. Turn right onto Nottingham Road and continue past a car park with a height restriction notice. Immediately past the car park is the Grantham canal. Cross the canal and turn right onto the towpath with the canal on your right. Continue past Bridge 20 until you get to Bridge 19. Cross over the canal on the bridge and turn left into a car park. At the exit to the car park is a footpath right, indicated by a blue footpath arrow. Take this path and go along a narrow path which is fenced on the left-hand side. Go past 'Pond Number 6' and continue straight ahead to a small wood. At this wood, turn left and skirt the wood clockwise. Go through an archway in the hedge in front of you. About 100m beyond the archway is a yellow wooden footpath post indicating a diagonal left turn. At this post, head diagonally left across a field and aim for a wooden gate opposite you on the other side. At this gate, turn right and walk along a short section of fenced path to a cross field path. Walk diagonally across this field to a style by a horse stables on the other side. Cross two styles and enter a road. Turn right and continue until you get to the village green at Cropwell Butler. Take the first left and then left again onto Hardigate Road. Walk up Hardigate Road to Court Cottage on the left. Opposite the cottage is a finger post leading to a narrow alleyway. At the end of the alley way is a farm track. Turn right and go straight ahead for just over one kilometre towards New Banks Farm. Go through a metal gate, and onto a made-up track. Continue along this track to a hedge with a Sycamore tree on the left of the track and a telegraph pole on the right. You will see a broken fingerpost by the telegraph pole. Turn right and go down a path with a hedge on its right. At the next field, the path switches so that the path is now on the right of the hedge. Continue to the end of this field, where there is a small wooden bridge that goes over a tributary of the River Smite. Immediately after the bridge, turn right, then left and proceed straight along a path with the hedge on the right. You will come to a road by Church Farm House in Tithby. Go straight ahead, past the farm and the church. Turn right at a road sign: 'Cropwell Butler 1'. Keep the church on your right and then look for a green Public Footpath sign going off the road left. Take this path over a style and go straight ahead for about one kilometre. At the end of the first field is a style. Cross the next field to a wooden bridge and kissing gate. Once through the kissing gate, head for an isolated kissing gate in the middle of the field in front of you. A straight line from there will take you to the gate and wooden bridge on the opposite side of the field in front of you. Once over the bridge, head for the right-hand corner of the field in front of you to an excessively high style and a road! Turn right and walk down the road for approximately 300m to a green Public Footpath sign. Turn right onto this path and go over a small wooden footbridge into the first field.

Cross seven fields in succession. You will eventually arrive at a hedge at the other end by a yellow wooden signpost. Go left and head diagonally right across a field to the corner of a school's playing fields. Walk alongside the fence of the school field, over a style and across a field to another style and onto a road. Turn right here, past the church and right again onto Church Street and back to the Chequers Pub and your car.

Distance: 10.5 kms

Walking Time: 2.5 hours

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Walk 59: Granby and Plungar in the Vale of Belvoir ☞

Description

A beautiful walk in the Vale of Belvoir on the borders of Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire. It follows farm paths, farm tracks, a disused railway and a quiet, pleasant section of the Grantham Canal. The railway line was part of the former Melton to Bingham Railway line.

☞ Look out for Buzzard, Chaffinch, Long Tailed Tits, Meadow Pipit, Skylark

Parking

Start in Granby. Park by Granby Church near Church Street.

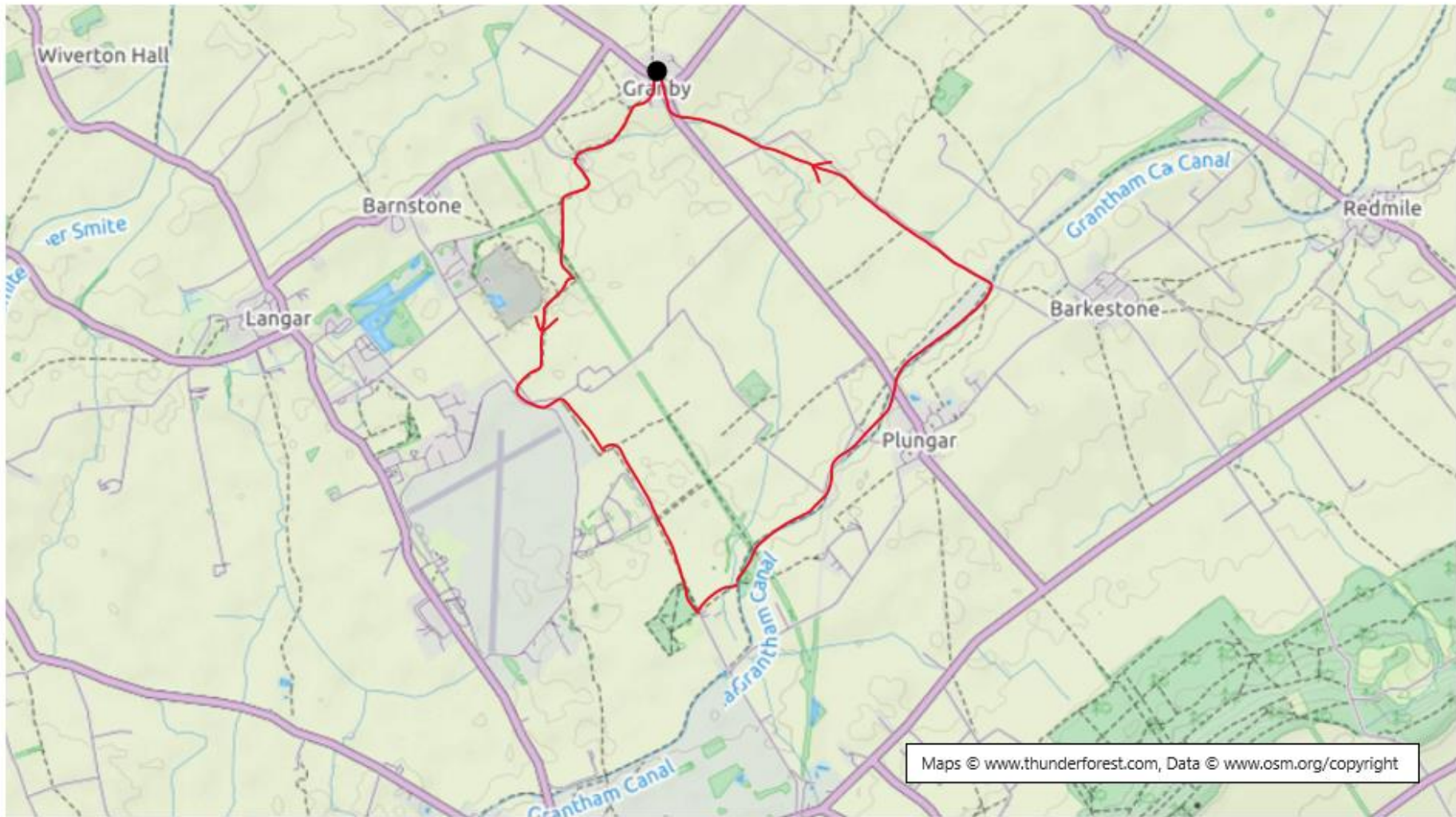
Clues

From the crossroads in Granby walk along Church Street. Just past the village pump, turn left and enter a short lane leading to a style. The path goes alongside some green railings to another style which leads into a complex of horses' paddocks. Head for the left of the green barn ahead of you and go through a fence corridor across the paddocks leading to a kissing gate and fingerpost at the other side. Head across a grassy field with the hedge on your left to another kissing gate at the end of the field. Once through the gate, aim for a brick bridge ahead of you, and walk the perimeter path of the field clockwise to get to it. Pass this brick bridge to a wooden bridge beyond. Cross on the wooden bridge and arrive at Station Farm. Here, you will see a wooden fingerpost by the farm name plate. Turn right and walk across a grassy field keeping the hedge to your left to a style in the far-left hand corner. Over the style, cross another grassy field, once again keeping the hedge on your left. At the far end of this field, come to a metal gate and style. Then take a cross field path straight across the field to a wooden bridge and waymark post at the other side. Beyond this 'bridge' turn right and go straight ahead ignoring the field boundary as it turns left and going straight ahead along a grassy track to a yellow lichen stone post. Beyond this is the disused railway track. Swing left and follow the track. Just before a wooden barrier, turn right and take the path which goes down and then up some steps. The path then follows a chain link fence, past a metal gate on the right and onwards through a hedge tunnel to a wooden bridge and yellow waymarker post. Once off the bridge, take the cross-field path diagonally left across the field aiming for a green zinc building on the other side. Once across the field, turn right and take the track to a metal gate. To the right of this gate is a finger post and style. The style takes you to a gravel road. Turn left and walk down the gravel road, past a cattery on your left. Just before Barnstone Lodge, and before a 20mph sign, turn right along a cement path by the side of the airfield. Continue along this path to a left bend at a yellow finger post. Turn left and continue along the path with the hedge on your right until you get to a red 'No Entry' sign. Turn right here over a wooden bridge and continue straight ahead with the hedge on your left following yellow waymarks to a concrete path, again by the airfield. Turn left along this concrete path and follow the hedge line to a metal gate in front of you. Just before the metal gate, turn left and walk along a path with the hedge on your right to a white wooden bridge by a prominent yellow waymark. You are now at the canal. Turn left along the canal towpath and walk until you get to Bridge 50. At this bridge, leave the towpath up a path just beyond the bridge and onto a track. Turn right and go straight along the track. Pass a footpath

with a finger post on your left and continue to the next yellow waymark on your left by a small wooden bridge. Cross the bridge and take the cross-field path diagonally left to a kissing gate. Go through three more fields, picking your way carefully along the grassy paths until you get to a metal gate with a kissing gate on its left. This gate is situated just to the right of the left-hand corner of the last field. Once through the gate, cross the gravel track and go into the open field opposite. Follow the left-hand hedge of this field to a dilapidated brick bridge, beyond which is a wooden bridge with a prominent yellow waymark. Go over the bridge and turn immediately right. Follow this path to a road. Turn right and take the road back to Granby crossroads and the church.

Distance: 10.8 kms

Walking Time: 3 hours



Walk 60: Epperstone to Halloughton – Byron Country!

Description

This walk takes you cross country from Epperstone to Halloughton, then back along rolling countryside. There are fine views across Southwell and beyond. This is a walk where you will really feel the open spaces around you. There are some points of interest along the way. The Dovecote in Epperstone which stands all on its own opposite the Cross Keys Pub; the Pinfold – perfectly restored and situated on the Main Street; the 17th century sheep wash – where you will see the remains of a wooden ‘pulpit’ in the centre of a stream immediately below a bridge. The pulpit could accommodate one man and was sufficiently tall and watertight to keep him dry as he washed the sheep which were driven past him through the stream. There are strong Lord Byron connections in this valley.

Parking

Start in Epperstone Village. Park near The Cross Keys Pub on Main Street.

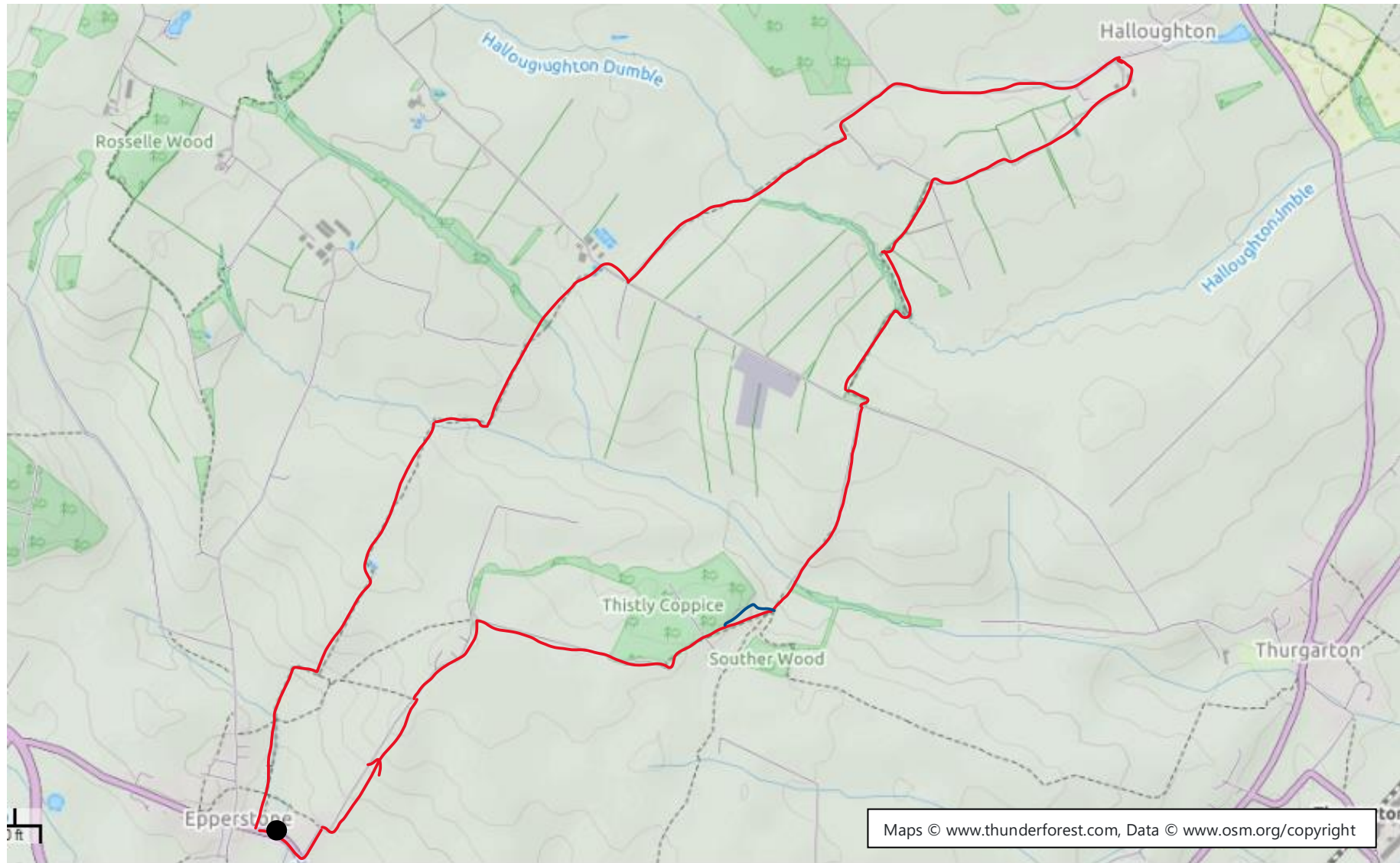
Clues

Walking out of the Cross Keys Pub turn left and walk along Main Street until you get to Hagg Lane on your left. Walk up Hagg Lane, ignoring paths on the left and right in the early section. The road bends right, then left, then uphill. Walk past Eastwood Farm. 100m beyond the last farm gate look for a yellow wooden waymark post in the right-hand hedge. Turn right here onto a wide track and follow this to the edge of a wood. Look for a white flagpole, a log and yellow wooden waymarker post. Turn left here (If you have got to Hagg Farm, you have gone too far.) and take the path alongside the wood. At a narrow track, go straight over. Arrive in a field with a wide mud section on the left-hand side. In this field, there should be a cross field path going from front left to bottom right. In the absence of a clear diagonal path, walk the perimeter of this field, clockwise until you come to the bottom-right hand corner. Here, you will find a yellow waymarker post and a track going through the hedge to another field. Walk on the edge of this field with the hedge on your left. Come to a gap in the hedge with a bridge and a clear wide track ahead. Under this bridge are the remains of a 17th century sheep dip! Go over this bridge and take this track up to a concrete road at Far Barn. Turn right onto the concrete road and then immediately left onto a waymarked footpath. Walk with the hedge on your left, around a small wooded area towards a large new barn. Then turn right and follow the path as it continues down the side of a field with a hedge on your left. Continue to the end of this field and go through a gap at the end over a wooden bridge which goes over the River Halloughton Dumble. Go through a metal gate and turn immediately left and cut across the field to a metal gate on the other side. Continue on this path to another metal gate. Go straight ahead through another gate and continue on the perimeter of a field to two wooden gates in succession. Continue following yellow waymarkers. The path turns into a track which takes you through a farm and onto the road at Halloughton Village. Turn left at the road and walk up the road for about one kilometre. Eventually you come to the entrance to Halloughton Wood Farm. Go up the main drive of this farm to a cattle grid where you turn immediately left and alongside some houses. Beyond the houses is a kissing gate on your right. Go through the kissing gate and walk the length of the

long thin field in front of you. The path is not clear in this field and so aim for the bottom right of the field where there is a kissing gate by a yellow waymarker. Go through the gate and over a bridge. Turn right and walk up to and then past a lone house on your right. Continue to a T junction and turn right along a track. Take the first track on your left, by a yellow waymark. Continue past Bankwood House following clear yellow waymarkers. Arrive at a new wooden kissing gate and onto a footbridge. Follow the path ahead of you which is well marked. The path wends right along a wooded area to a waymark and a path on your left which leads down to a bridge. Here, you are going through a small, narrow woodland. Beyond the bridge is a field which you follow with the hedge on your left. Cross a track and continue on the path straight ahead. The path bends left around a hidden pond. Then turn right and head down a field side path to a yellow waymarker by a gap in the hedge in front of you. Go through the gap and turn right. Follow this path, which soon bends left, down into Epperstone. Ignore paths going off to the right, keeping straight ahead and eventually into a children's play area and pub garden. Extricate yourself from the pub garden and you are on the main road in Epperstone by the Cross Keys Pub.

Distance: 11.5 kms

Walking Time: 3.5 hours



Walk 61: Woodborough Circuit

Parking

Start in Woodborough. Park in the Village Hall Car Park on Lingwood Lane – just off Main Street and by the church.

Description

A lovely walk taking in the best footpaths around Woodborough. There are some fine views on the return leg and open countryside throughout. Visit St. Swithun's Church in - Woodborough with a 13th-century tower, a 14th-century chancel and a William Morris stained glass.

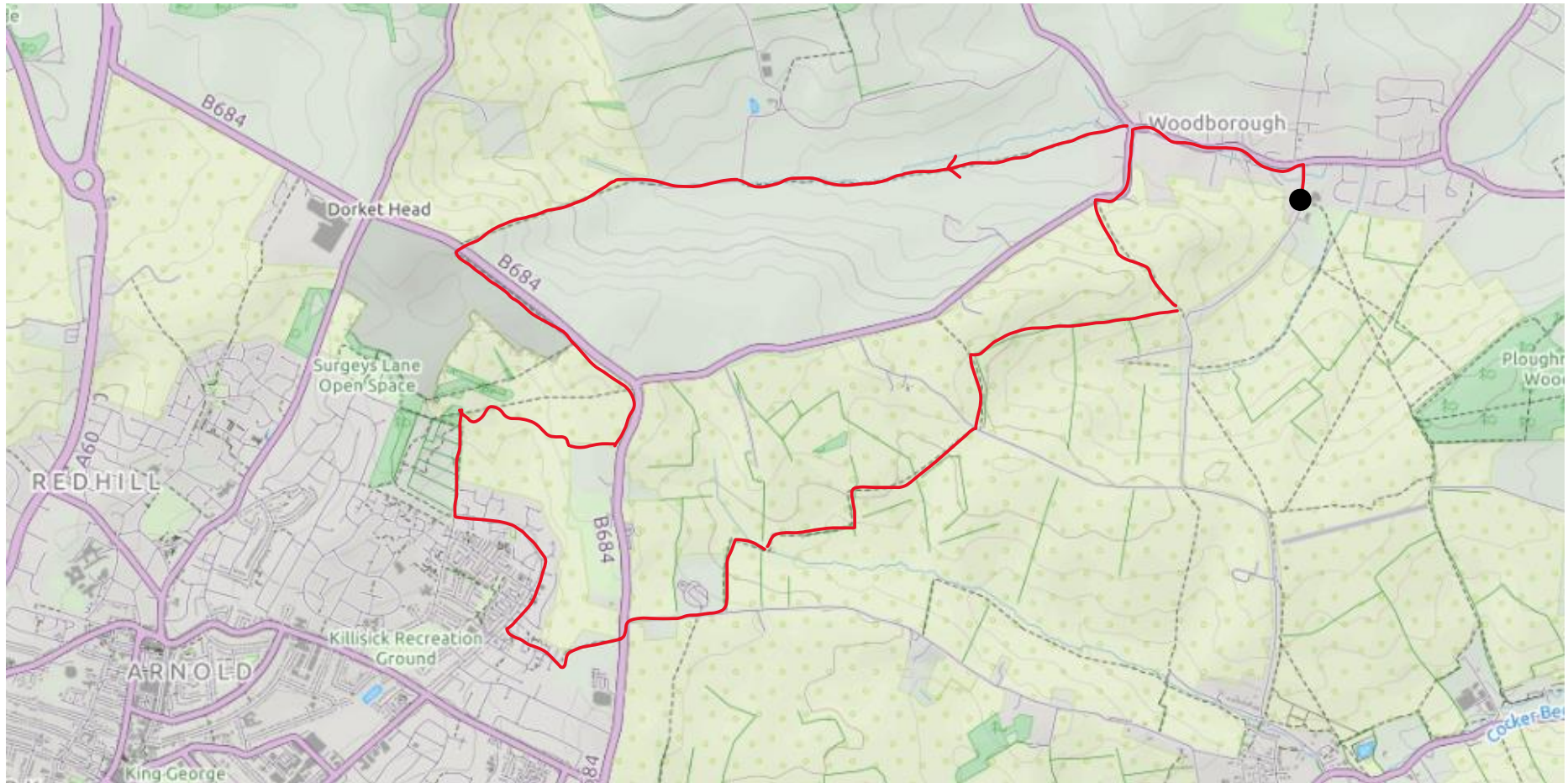
Clues

From the Village Hall, walk down Lingwood Lane to Main Street and turn left. Continue to a road junction to Nottingham. Continue straight ahead to the next road on the left: Westfield Lane. Here you will see a green Public Footpath sign. Follow this sign up Westfield Lane to the end where the lane becomes a grassy track. Follow this track straight ahead for around 2 kms until you get to a main road: Woodborough Lane. On the way, the grassy track meets a stony track T junction. Turn left here and continue straight ahead. The stony track soon reverts to a grassy track as it winds right around a hedge and onto the final ascent to the main road. At the top of this hill, you will see a gate in a gap in the hedge on the left that brings you out onto the main road. Cross the main road and look for the continuation footpath, slightly to the left. Take this path and turn left. Initially this path runs parallel to the Woodborough Road alongside some green fencing. Eventually, the path takes a right-hand bend away from the main road. Continue until you come to a large wooden gate. Take the kissing gate on the left of this wooden gate and cut across some animal pens to the kissing gate on the other side. Follow the clear path ahead of you with hedges on both sides of the path. Go past the Richard Bonington information sign and continue to a clearing. Take the kissing gate directly opposite you and over a wooden bridge. Turn left through a gate and follow the green fence line on a wide grassy path through a kissing gate by a green Public Footpath sign on the fence, round to another kissing gate to the left of the fence. Through this gate is a track T junction. Turn left and take the track all the way down to a road: Howbeck Road. You are now on the outskirts of Arnold. Turn left onto this road and follow it all the way as it bends right. Then, look out for Crawford Rise on the left, just after Ladybank Rise. Walk up Crawford Rise and continue straight up with some white bungalows on your right. At the end of this road is a dead end, but with a narrow path to the left signed: Numbers 67 to 81 Crawford Rise. Take this narrow path which opens into a field through a kissing gate. Walk straight across the field to a gap in the hedge on the other side and to the main road. Turn left and walk up the road to Catford Lane on the right. Cross the road and take Catford Lane. Walk past the Crematorium and then take the next path on the left waymarked by a green Public Footpath sign. Take this path and follow it as it bends to the right and past a horses' field. Go through a kissing gate and continue on the path ahead of you to another kissing gate on the opposite side of the field. Through the kissing gate, turn right and take a good path to a fingerpost. Turn left here, then right at the next fingerpost. Continue along a wide, grassy track. At a confluence of tracks, the track you are on reverts to a narrow, grassy path going straight ahead, waymarked by a virtually hidden waymarker post. Go through some trees, along the next field, though some more trees, onto a

wooden plank bridge to a track by a green metal gate. Turn right onto the track and then almost immediately turn left onto a narrow path marked: 'Bridleway'. Continue on this path. Turn right at the green 'Footpath' sign. Walk through three fields and come to a kissing gate just by a road. Immediately before this kissing gate is a footpath left, indicated by a green Public Footpath sign. Take this path, through a series of gates to a farm. Keep close to the left-hand hedge and pass the farm, and through a kissing gate by a yellow wooden waymarker post. Walk down the farm drive to the road. Turn right and follow this road into Woodborough and back to the Village Hall.

Distance: 11.5 kms

Walking Time: 2.45 hours



Walk 62: Woolsthorpe to Muston – Canal, Countryside and Quiet

Description

Woolsthorpe Village is most famous for the nearby Belvoir Castle and the impressive 19th century fortress dominates the hilltops here and is visible for part of the walk, giving it a strange fairy-tale-like feel. A varied walk with fine views of Belvoir Castle. The Grantham Canal section is open and wide. The remainder of the walk is in peaceful, open countryside. Some paths may be muddy just after rain. The walk takes in part of The Viking Way, a long-distance footpath between North Lincolnshire and Rutland. Nearby is Muston Meadows, a grassland nature reserve featuring 33 types of grass and over 100 other species of flowering plant. The reserve is notable for its colony of over 10,000 Green-winged Orchids.

Parking

Start in Woolsthorpe. Park on or around Main Street by the Village Shop.

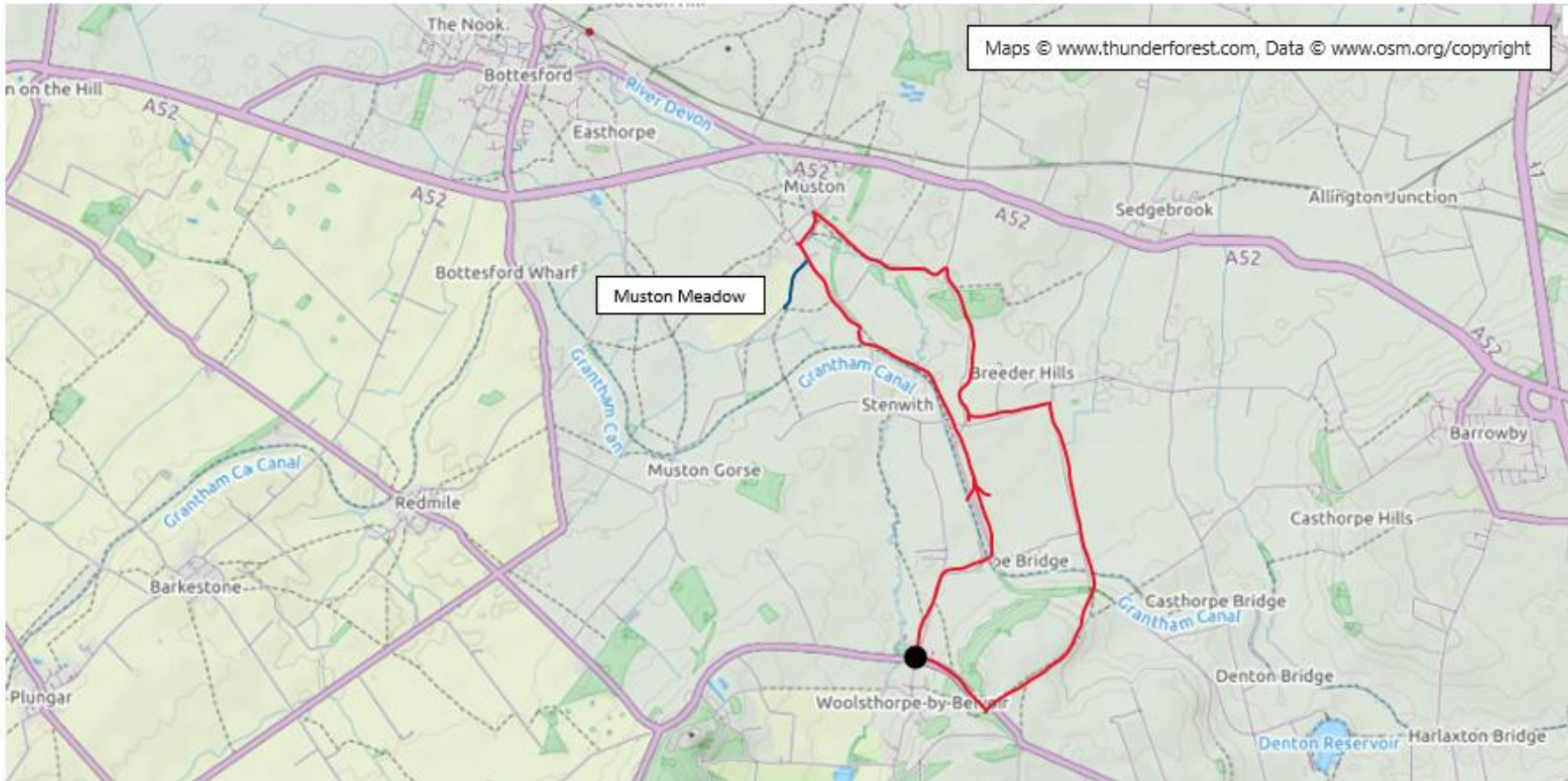
Clues

From Woolsthorpe Village Stores, walk down Main Street towards Belvoir Road where you came in. At the crossroads, take Sedgebrook Road straight ahead for half a kilometre. Take the first road right, sign posted Cycle Trail 15 and for The Dirty Duck Pub. Continue along the road, past the Dirty Duck Pub and over the canal bridge. Turn left onto the canal towpath and walk past Woolsthorpe Bottom Lock. Just after the lock, the towpath is temporarily closed due to lock and towpath repairs. No matter! Turn right at the temporary fencing, join the disused railway line and then turn left. The disused railway line follows the line of the canal, goes under a bridge, and then re-joins the towpath after the lock repairs. Continue on the towpath to Lock number 12 which is just before Bridge number 59. Just before this bridge, take the path up to the road. Turn right and follow the road into Muston. Pass the village sign. Here you will find a path left to Muston Meadows, should you wish to take a detour. Otherwise, continue into the village and pass the 14th-century cross on the village green. Immediately after the green, turn right and take the path down The Green, past some houses, to a narrow path between two hedges. Go over a small wooden bridge to a field where you take the left path and finally over a stile, to the church. Once at the church, go back over the stile and take the left path across a grassy field to a stile with a yellow waymarker. Continue on the narrow path beyond the stile to a field where you take the perimeter path anti-clockwise. Aim for some farm buildings at the other side of the field. Come to a path junction and turn right, still heading for the farm buildings. Continue on the track past the farm buildings, skirt around a brick house, to a large metal gate. Go through the gate and turn right onto a road which quickly becomes a track – you are now on the Viking Way. Here are some fine views of Belvoir Castle on your right. Continue on the track, which is deeply rutted in places. Come to a road. Turn left and walk down the road, to a sharp left-hand bend in the road. Here, turn right onto another track – marked Public Bridleway. Walk straight down the track for about one kilometre. Keep going straight ahead to an old canal bridge. Go over the bridge and continue straight along the path. You will soon cross the disused railway. Beyond the railway, pass a path that comes in on your left. Just past this path junction on the left is a path junction right – through an open path to a field. The waymarking for this junction is well hidden in the right-hand hedge! Take this right

turn and continue on the cross-field path diagonally right to a gap in the hedge where you will find a broken stile leading to a road. Turn right at the road and walk down the road, past the Woolsthorpe Village sign to a crossroads. Turn left here onto Main Street and back to the Village Stores.

Distance: 12 kms

Walking Time: 3 hours



Walk 63: Upper Broughton, Old Dalby, Nether Broughton

Description

This walk is a veritable walking wonderland. There is much variety: open land, farm land and woodlands – all with great views over Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire. Upper Broughton is a small village situated on the Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire border. It is on the edge of the Vale of Belvoir, occupying a hilltop position which gives the village commanding views over wide open countryside. Upper Broughton is very near to Melton Mowbray, famous for Pork Pies, Stilton cheese and Fox Hunting.

Parking

Start in Upper Broughton. Park in Upper Broughton, on Top Green, just off the A606 to Melton. Top Green is on your right as you drive through Upper Broughton from the main road. If you go past the 'Tap and Run' pub, then you have gone too far.

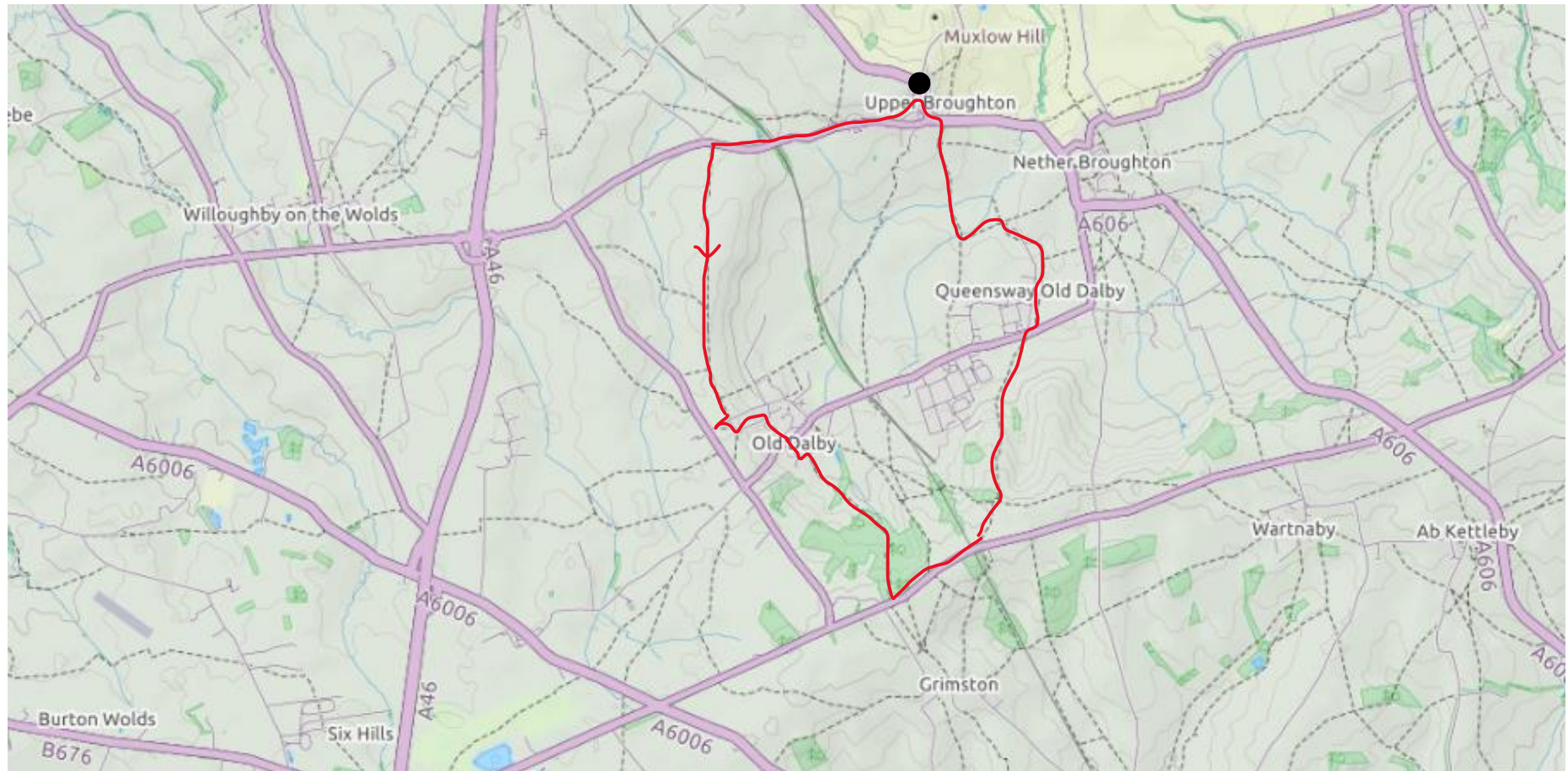
Clues

From Top Green, walk along the road, away from the main A 606 Road. At a T junction, turn right to Bottom Green and Station Road. Walk along Station Road for about one kilometre. After the railway line, and just past Sulney Nursery, look for a footpath left, signed by a green Public Bridleway sign. Go through the metal gate and head straight ahead across the edge of ten fields until you get to a road on the outskirts of Old Dalby. This section of the path is clearly marked and is usually delineated by a hedge on one side and a blue rope on the other. At the road, turn right and walk 30m to the next road junction. Just before this road junction, and on the left, is a green Public Footpath sign hidden in the hedge. Take this path left and over a style, into a paddock. Cross this paddock following the angle of the arrow on the yellow waymark post to a style on the other side of the paddock. Go over this style and head for another style across the paddock in front of you. Go over this style and then follow the fence on your left to a tarmac track in front of you. (Do **not** go right from the style onto the more obvious waymarked path). Once on the tarmac track, turn right and follow it down to The Crown Inn. Just before the Crown Inn, take a footpath right. This is waymarked by a green shoe print! Take this path to The Green. Turn left and then immediately right onto a path alongside the green to a road. Cross the road and take Church Lane all the way to the church. At the church, turn left and then look for a green Public Footpath sign on the right. Take this path which leads out onto a vast green open space. Head for the oak tree in the middle of the field and then continue at the same angle to get to a yellow waymarked style ahead of you at the edge of the wood. Take the style and go through the wood. Keep right and get to a gate. Go through the gate and take the cross-field path in front of you. Head for the trees ahead. Look for a yellow waymarked post by a small concrete bridge. Beyond the bridge is a clear path through the wood. Take this path and get to a track. Turn left onto this track and stay on the main track all the way to a road. Do not be tempted by a more obvious path on the left a short way along this track., Keep to the main track. At the road, turn left and walk along this road for just under a kilometre. You will soon come to a red brick house and barn on its own on the left-hand side of the road. At this house, look for a path waymarked by a yellow post on the right-hand side of its drive. Take this path and walk through a small wood. After the wood, the path goes to the

right of a wooden fence. And then along a field with a hedge on the right of the path. Next is a metal gate by a yellow waymarker post. Go through the gate to a short track. A few metres further on is a yellow waymarker post. Go straight ahead NOT right. Follow the track to an open field. Walk straight across the field, to a metal gate on the other side. Turn right and walk along the hedge for 10m to a gap in the hedge and a hidden style. Over the style, follow the path at the left-hand edge of the field with the hedge on the left. Continue to another field where the path goes cross-field. Come to a metal gate, with the style on the right. Cross the style and then follow the direction of the arrow on the waymarker cross field, diagonally right. Look for a style by a yellow waymarker post on the other side. Over the style, turn left onto a track, then right, and over a series of styles. Finally, cross a green field, past a row of tyres, aiming for a small, dark brown, wooden stables. Left of the stables is a style and a yellow marker. Over the style and follow the path cross field, to a style and yellow post in the left-hand corner of the field. Cross the style to a road. Cross the road turn right and look for the continuation path on the left. This path is marked by a green Public Footpath sign. Cross the style and go into the field. Then walk along the edge of a series of fields with the gardens of houses on your left. Eventually, the field edge path diverts left by a telegraph pole and a streetlamp over a style and onto a tarmac path, still going in the same direction. At a right-hand bend in the tarmac path, go straight on. The final section of this path is quite overgrown! Go over a wooden plank bridge to the left, and then take a grassy pathway straight ahead to a gap in the hedge and a style. Continue along the edge of a grassy field to a wooden gate, next to a metal gate. Take the gravelly track right and immediately look for a footpath sign on a telegraph pole. Follow the direction of the arrow left across some grass and into a hedge. Go over the style and left along an overgrown path with a fence on your right. Follow this path as it bends right and right again alongside the fence— past the water treatment works. Come to a style with a yellow waymarker. DO NOT CROSS THIS STYLE, but take the almost hidden path on your left, over a plank bridge and into an open field. You need to cross this field directly across. Head for the oak tree in front of you. Beyond the oak tree is the corner of a hedge where there is a broken tree with all its logs. To the right of this is a faint path leading to a wooden bridge. Beyond the bridge, go straight ahead across a series of fields until you get to the A606 Melton Road. Head for some red brick buildings in front of you and pass them on your left to get to the road. Turn right onto the A606 and walk uphill, past the 'Tap and Run' pub and back to Top Green.

Distance: 12.5 kms

Walking Time: 3 hours



Walk 64: Hickling to Hose by Canal and Field

Description

A varied walk in open countryside. The outward canal section is highly worthy as it is mostly open with fine views all around. There is much birdlife on the water, and in the reeds and hedgerows. The return section is equally fine, on farm fields again with open views. The Hickling Basin on the Grantham Canal is now fully restored. The basin features traditional canal side architecture as well as a tearoom and pub. It acts as a good starting point for walks. The Grantham Canal is now known as the 'Romantic Canal', and Hickling Basin is something like its centrepiece. Hickling Basin would have once bustled with boats carrying cargo but is now a pleasant spot for walking and picnicking, boasting a large population of waterfowl and other birdlife. Hickling Basin also boasts The Old Wharf, a tearoom that offers food and drink from a restored canal side warehouse, while the Plough Inn is a popular destination for walkers who stroll along the Grantham Canal before taking a pit-stop at this picturesque destination.

Parking

Start at Hickling. Park by the Plough Inn opposite the Hickling Canal Basin.

Clues

Coming out of The Plough, turn left and walk along the canal basin to the canal towpath. Turn right and walk eastwards along the towpath for approximately 5 kms. Pass on the way: Swing Bridge 31; Bridge 32; Swing Bridge 33; Swing Bridge 34; Bridge 36; Road Bridge 37 (here you have to go under the bridge despite its low headroom to continue along the tow path as the route over the road is closed); Road Bridge 38; Road Bridge 39. At Road bridge 39, come onto the road and turn right into Hose. Pass the Hose Village Sign and go on to The Green. Pass the Post Office. Come to Church Walk in front of the church. Take the pathway to the right of the church to a T junction. Turn right along then road. At the first bend right, look for green Bridleway and Footpath signs going straight on. Follow the track ahead, to a junction. Ignore the path right and continue straight ahead, waymarked: Public Bridleway. Ignore the path left after about 100m. Go straight on and pick up a series of yellow wooden waymarker posts. Follow these to a wooden gate and go ahead to a yellow post next to a concrete bridge. Cross the bridge and take the cross-field path ahead of you to a metal gate on the other side of the field. Take the path ahead, in between two hedges and come to a large metal gate with a small gate on its right. Head across this field to a similar gate arrangement on the other side of the field next to a yellow waymarker. Continue straight ahead. Ignore a path coming in on your right. Come to a road. Go straight over the road and take the Public Bridleway on the other side through a gate on the right of the Bridleway sign. Follow the waymarkers and go straight ahead across two fields to a narrow path; to a metal gate and across four more fields, all waymarked, until you come alongside a long wooden fence. Follow this fence line to the driveway of 'Paddocks Stud'. Take the driveway to a road which forms the entrance to Brook Farm. Turn right here and follow the road for about one km. Take the Public Footpath left, directly opposite Canal Farm. Go over the plank bridge and cut across the field diagonally right to a wooden bridge on the other side, marked by two yellow posts. Follow the same diagonal line across the next field to a wooden bridge, to the right of the corner of the field,

half hidden in the hedge. Finally head across the next field, taking a line just to the left of the perimeter of the field, aiming for the houses ahead of you. Take the grassy driveway between the houses to bring you onto a short road the takes you to a T junction on the outskirts of Hickling. Turn right and follow the road straight ahead, past the church, and back to The Plough and the Canal Basin.

Distance: 12.8 kms

Walking Time: 3 hours



Walk 65: Kingston on Soar and the River Soar

Description

This is a walk of two brilliant halves. The first half takes you through some amazing countryside around the River Soar valley through West Leake and Sutton Bonington. The second half is back along the River Soar itself. The River Soar makes a refreshing change from the River Trent. It is gently flowing, calm, with soft edges. The River Soar does not pass through the village of Kingston, but very close by to the west. At this point the Soar, flowing south to north, forms the border with Leicestershire. The River Soar is rich in wildlife with thriving bird, fish and plant populations.

Parking

Start at Kingston on Soar. Park at the Village Hall Car Park on The Green, by the church.

Clues

From the Village Hall, turn right along The Green. Take the right fork: Long Row, opposite the church. As Long Row joins Station Road, look out for a footpath opposite. It is marked by a green Public Footpath sign, on a post with Dog Bags and a red litter bin! The path goes east, away from Kingston. Go over the style, and take the path, which goes parallel to the Gotham Road for a while. It then runs alongside a brook. You will soon see Kingston Hall on your left. Continue along this path, with the brook on your left and through a metal gate. You will soon get to a sluice gate and 'The Pool' as marked on the map. Carry on with the hedge on your left. At the next metal gate, go left over a wooden bridge, then immediately right, so that the brook is now on your right. Go over a style, following yellow waymarker arrows. Continue to a style, by a gravel track T junction. Turn left at the track and walk towards Scotland Farm. Just before the farm, the path swings right, across some grass to a wooden gate with a blue waymarker arrow. Go through the gate and on to a wide grassy path, with the farm now on your left. Continue along this wide, grassy path following various waymarker arrows to a road. Turn right and walk along the road to a T junction. Turn right again and walk past the Star Pub. Just past the Pub, look for a footpath on your left marked by a wooden style next to a wooden gate, set back from the road. By the style is a fingerpost hidden among the overgrowth. Go over the style and walk diagonally right across a number of paddocks. Eventually, you come to a hedge which you go through, over a style and out to an open field. Walk down the field edge, with the hedge on your right. About halfway along this field is a path junction. Here, go right, through the hedge and over a wooden bridge. Head straight ahead along the next field edge with the hedge on your left towards Glebe Farm. At the end corner of this field and by the farm, turn left over a style, hidden in the hedge right in the corner and walk closely alongside a brown wooden fence apparently going into the undergrowth. At the end of this fence is a wooden bridge and style on your left. Follow the path beyond this. It is long and straight, but the first section is relatively overgrown. After about one kilometre you will come to a house by a road. The path goes straight ahead here and over a railway bridge and then onto the Main Street at Sutton Bonington. However, there is a path closure here, up to August 31, 2020. If so, turn right along the road by the house and walk 300m to a road. Turn left and left again and go straight ahead and over the railway bridge. At the end of the left-hand brickwork of the bridge is a tiny gap, with steps down to a path that goes back

alongside the railway line. Take this path. The path bends to the right and then comes to a driveway. Go left down the driveway and then right, past The Anchor Pub to the Main Road in Sutton Bonington. This is where you would come out if the original path was open. Turn left along Main Street, past the church on your left, and The Kings Head Pub on your right. Just after the Pub, turn right along Pasture Lane. After approx. 300m look for a path right, off Pasture Lane, marked by a kissing gate and a bright red dog bin. Take this path, which forms a grassy corridor between a series of horse paddocks. At the end of this corridor is a metal gate, a yellow fingerpost, and a kissing gate. Go through the kissing gate and swing 90 degrees right along a path at the right-hand edge of the field. This brings you to a second kissing gate, and a plank bridge, bringing you to the River Soar. Turn right and follow the River Soar for about 2.5 kms. Go past Kegworth New Lock to a road bridge (Kegworth Road Bridge). Go up some steps to the road. Go over the road and turn right to the entrance of a car park. Opposite here you will see a green Public Footpath sign, a red litter bin and a wooden bridge. Go over the bridge and take the clear cross-field path to a tunnel under the railway. Beyond the tunnel, go straight ahead again, across a cross-field path to a track. Go straight across the track, through a kissing gate and along another clear cross-field path to a kissing gate which brings you onto the road: Long Row, where you started in Kingston. Turn left onto The Green and return to the Village Hall.

Distance: 13.5 kms

Walking Time: 3.5 hours

Walk 66: Belvoir Castle and Stathern

Description

Fantastic views of Belvoir Castle followed by a walk along an extended escarpment with fine views northwards to the horizon. There are open fields and woods all around; this is hunting country. The Belvoir hounds are kept nearby. This is an out-and-back walk. No matter, the views are fantastic both ways and those of Belvoir Castle take some beating. Stathern has a 13th century Anglican church, a village primary school dating back at least to 1868 and a public house, which doubles up as a post office.

Parking

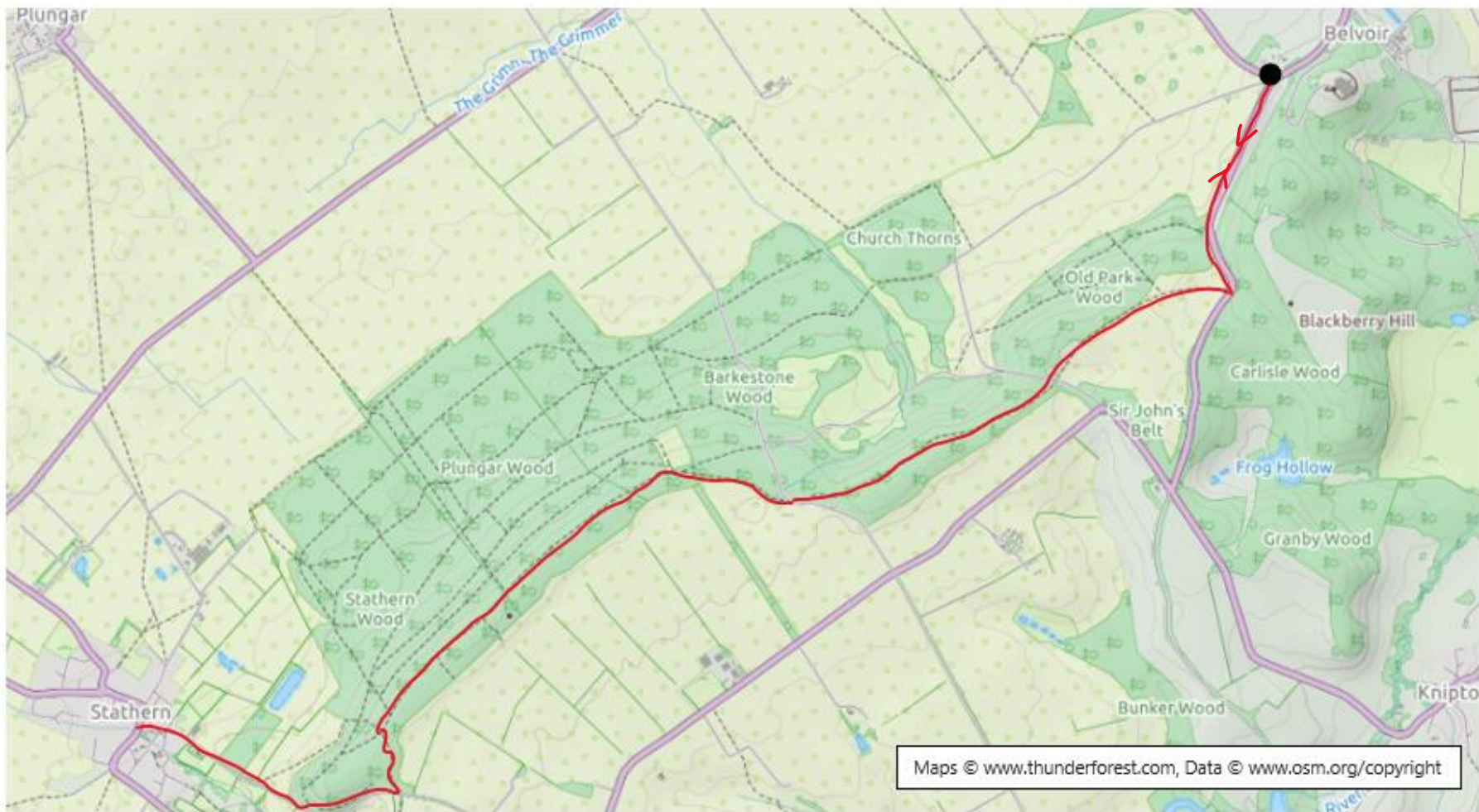
Start at Belvoir Castle. There is plenty of parking on the wide verges to the right of the castle entrance

Clues

From Belvoir Castle main entrance, walk down the street and away from Woolsthorpe Road where you came in. Walk past Belvoir Castle main entrance on your left. Ignore the right turn at the road by the Engine Yard and go straight on. You may walk on the grass verges, which become quite wide on this section. At a bend in the road you will see a sign right: 'Jubilee Way, Public Bridleway to Terrace Hills'. Take this right turn onto a track and continue to a cross paths. Take the Jubilee Way straight ahead. Cross a metal gate and continue to a small road. Turn right here and immediately you will see a small car park on the left. Go to the back of the car park where you will see the continuing path. Take this path deep into the woods. Follow yellow wooden post markers all the way. Eventually you will come to a metal gate with a narrow roadway behind forming a T junction. Go right at this T junction. This track will take you straight down to Stathern village. At Stathern village, retrace your steps back to Belvoir Castle.

Distance: 14 kms

Walking Time: 3 hours



Walk 67: Oxton, Robin Hood Hill and Farnsfield.

Description

This walk takes you to Robin Hood Hill, the Saxon burial ground and the Oxten Bronze Age Settlement. This is followed by a circuit to Farnsfield, along some ancient walkways. The return brings you back to Robin Hood Hill for a chance to explore the summit, before returning to Oxton. Oxton boasts two fine pubs, both award winning. Oxton also has two fords – a small ford within the village itself, and a much larger ford on Beanford Lane – often as deep as 1 ft whilst remaining open to all traffic. It is however closed each March, so that the toads found in the swamp-like area, which the ford crosses, can breed!

Parking

Start in Oxton. Park near the Village Hall by the church and post office on Main Street.

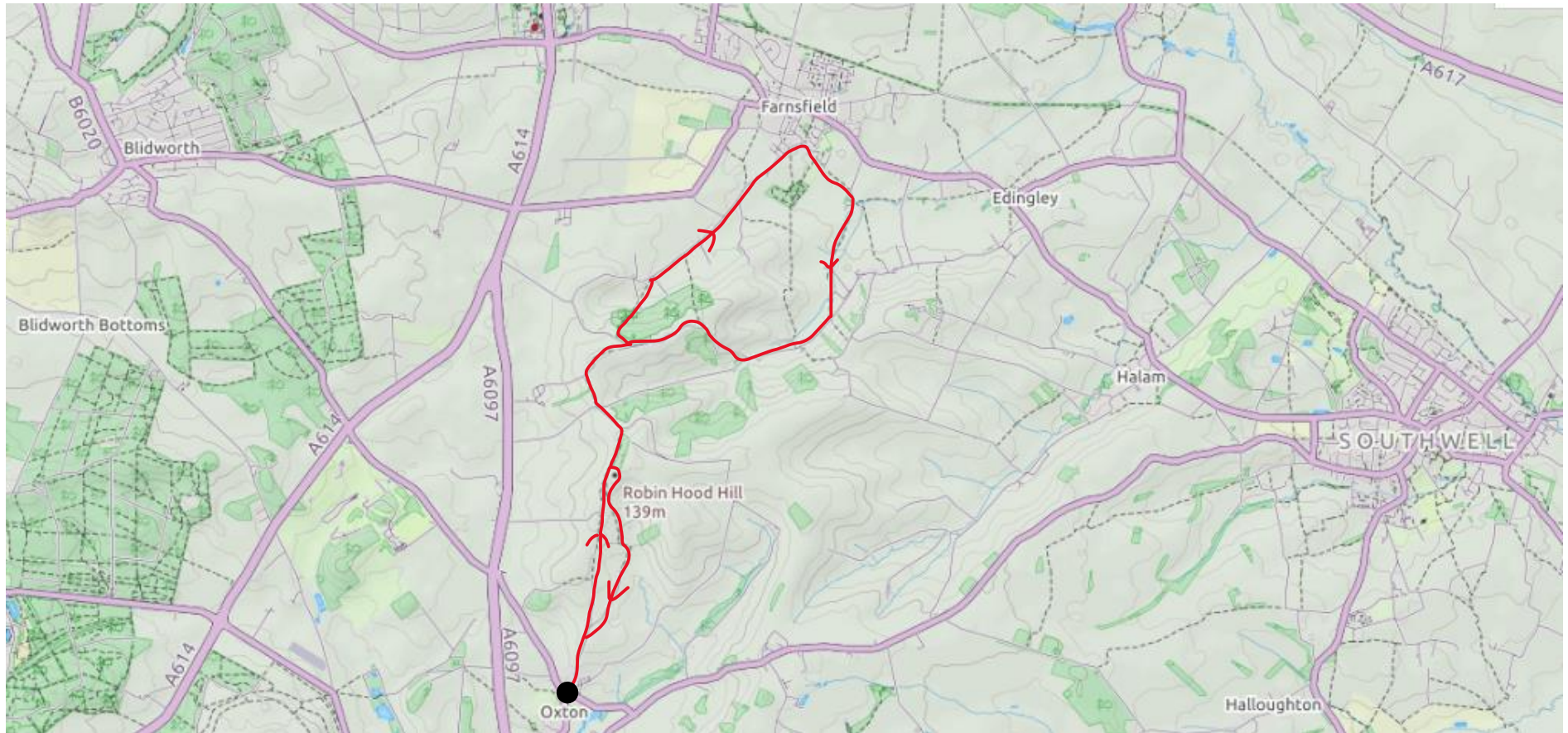
Clues

Walk out of the Village Hall and turn left. After the Post Office, you will see the The Old Green Dragon Pub. To the right of the pub is a no-through road called Windmill Hill. Follow this lane until it becomes a track. After about 1.5 kms, the track ends at a kissing gate. Oldox Camp Settlement will be clearly visible on the right, and Robin Hood's Hill straight ahead. Once through the kissing gate, take the path line next to, and on the right of, a wire fence to another kissing gate. **Make a note of this gate, as you will return to it later.** Continue on the path by the wire fence. The path eventually comes to a track which is waymarked by a yellow wooden post. Turn left and walk down the track to the road. Cross over the road and take the path in front of you across a field. Follow the yellow waymarks as the path bends to the right. Stay on this path alongside a wood to a gap in the trees on the left. Here, the green footpath sign takes you left, through the trees and onto a white gravelly track. Look out for a big log (great lunch spot) and a 'Combs Farm Information Board'. **Make a note of this log, as you will return to it later.** Turn left along the gravelly track. After about 100m look for a style in the right-hand hedge, waymarked by a yellow post deep in the hedge. Cross the style and walk steeply down the field with the wood on your right (Combs Wood). Come to a waymarked style in the right-hand corner of the field. Cross the style and take the muddy path through the wood to a style and finger post at the other side. Follow the fingerpost across a field to a track (Combs Lane). Walk straight down the lane for about 2 kms until you get to a road T junction by some houses. You are now at the edge of Farnsfield. Turn right along Quaker Lane. Then turn right again along a lane signposted: 'Acres Sports Fields' and 'Public Bridleway'. This is Cotton Mill Lane. Walk down the lane all the way to the sports field. Here, turn left and take the yellow waymarked path with the sports field on your right through two gates and then by a tall hedge on your left. Go through a wooden gate and take the track straight ahead and walk past some houses to Cotton Mill Farm. At the farm, take the muddy track straight ahead and look out for a large blue shipping container in front of you and to the left of the barns. Our path goes to the left of the blue shipping container over a style. The next section of the walk is not waymarked. From the style walk across a grassy field by the fence, with the fence on your right. At the end of this field is another style, leading to a field with a cross field path, going straight ahead to a gap in the hedge opposite, on the other side. On closer inspection, you will see a yellow waymark, buried in the hedge alongside a style.

Once over the style, take another cross-field path straight ahead to another gap in the hedge on the other side. Once through this hedge, take the muddy track left to a track T junction. Turn right here and look for a dilapidated wooden bridge about 100m from the junction. Take this bridge over a river and then cross two fields diagonally right. In the second field, aim for the telegraph pole and then head for the brick building behind (Black Rock Barn). Here you will find a kissing gate and a finger post leading to a road. Turn right and walk up the road. When you get to Wood Farm on your left, look for a wide gate opposite, waymarked by a green 'Robin Hood Way' sign together with a dramatic 'No Vehicular Access' sign. Here is the beginning of an ancient pathway in a deep cutting. Walk up the path, past a metal gate and an information sign, until the muddy track converts to a white stoned track. Just after a 'Private Wood No Access' sign on a tree on your right, you will see the gap in the trees on your left and the large log, where you first entered this track. Take this path over the log and then retrace your steps along the path until you get to the kissing gate mentioned above. At this gate, turn left here and ascend a steep grassy path to the ridge above you. This is the summit of Robin Hood Hill – 144m. Turn right and descend on the ridge line heading slightly left to a kissing gate below you. Go through the kissing gate and then through the next one. Continue downhill on a grassy path with a wire fence on your right. Go over a style to a finger post: '*Millennium Permissive Footpath*'. Follow the line of the fingerpost around a tree and then left to a field with the hedge on your right. Take the perimeter of this field with the hedge on your right, under some pylon cables, and onwards. Eventually, the path switches to the right-hand side of the hedge and then has a hedge on both sides. Follow this clear path to a T junction. Turn left and descend on the track back to the The Old Green Dragon Pub in Oxton and back to your car.

Distance: 14.1 kms


Walking Time: 4 hours



Walk 68: Kinoulton, Cropwell Bishop and Colston Bassett

Description

This walk explores three Nottinghamshire villages. The section along the Grantham Canal is relatively long and is a wonderful stretch which includes much wildlife. From Cropwell Bishop the paths are straightforward leading you into open countryside. You pass the ruin of St. Mary's Church which stands on a site known to have been occupied from Norman times. The well-preserved ruin provides a great example of a building where architectural styles have developed over eight centuries. It is truly spectacular!

 Look out for: Blue Tit, Chaffinch, Dunnock, Green Finch, Gold Finch, Reed Bunting, Song Thrush, Whitethroat, Yellow Hammer

Parking

Start in Kinoulton. Park near the Village Green and Neville Arms.

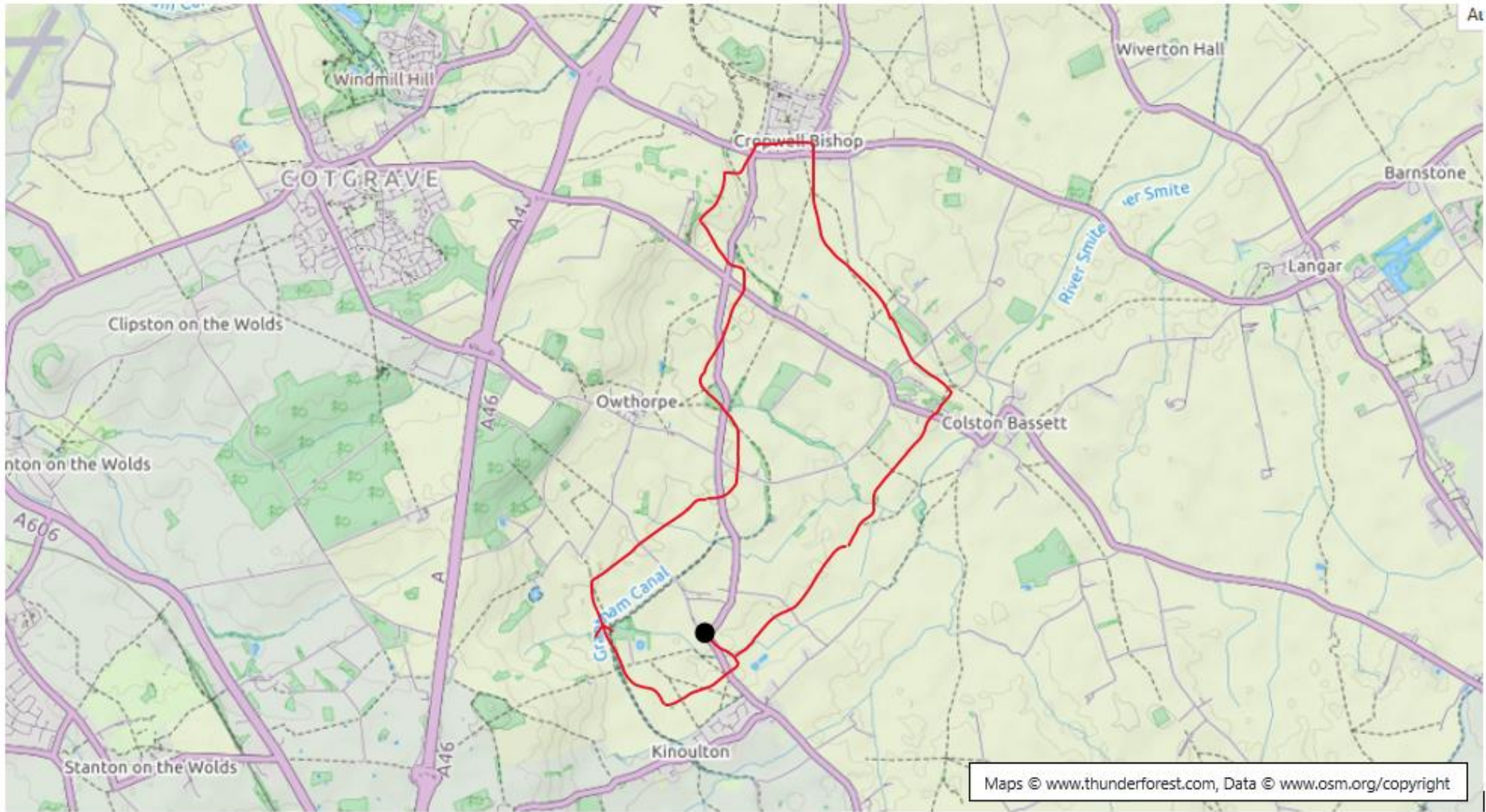
Clues

Start by the Village Green in Kinoulton. Walk along Main Street, past the Neville Arms, a converted chapel, and the village church to the Grantham Canal. Take the towpath right. Continue along the towpath for around 7 kms. You will pass on the way: Road No. 1 by Vimy Ridge Farm; Road No. 2 by Wild's Bridge; Road No 3 – Mackley's Bridge; Bridge 24; Bridge 23 – where you turn right to the road, then left back to the towpath on the other side of the road; some industrial units on the right; Bridge 22; a road. At this road just past the industrial units, turn right and walk along the road for about 200m to a footpath right – just before the Cropwell Bishop village sign. Cross a stile to get off the road and into a field. Walk along the field edge. About halfway along this field go left through a gap in the hedge, over a stile and then take a cross-field path diagonally right. Go through a new kissing gate and go diagonally onwards to a kissing gate between some houses. Beyond the kissing gate, the path narrows and takes you to a road. Turn right and you are in Cropwell Bishop. Walk along this road to Fern Road, by the church. Pass the church on your left and walk out of the village to 'The Veg Box' farm shop, by Manor Farm. Turn right here. The path is waymarked as a Public Bridleway. Take the straight track past the farm and walk along the track to its end, by a telegraph pole. Turn right and walk across a field, under electricity wires, to a wooden gate. Go through the gate and continue with the hedge close to your left side. Walk past a brick wall and then past Home Farm and onwards down the farm drive to a road. Ahead you will see the remains of St Mary's Church. Cross the road and take the path opposite and pass the ruined church. Go through a gap in the hedge and continue straight ahead to a cricket ground. Walk with the cricket ground buildings on your left and continue along a grassy path. Head for the church spire straight in front of you. Continue with the hedge on your left side to a small wooden bridge. Over the bridge is a narrow path which takes you past a brick building to a road. Turn right and walk along the road. You are now in Colston Bassett. Pass the church on your left and continue straight ahead along Church Gate. When you reach the corner of the road, go straight into School Lane with The Martin's Arms on your right. Go forward into School Lane past a memorial following the path waymarked: Bridle Road to Kinoulton. Head straight along School Lane to the end where the road turns into a track. Follow this track straight ahead, on a path waymarked Public

Bridleway. Walk along the path with fields on both sides to a wooden gate. Through the gate the track continues. Go over a concrete bridge and walk along the perimeter of the next field with the hedge on the left to a wooden bridge. Follow the blue waymark arrows. Over the bridge, look ahead. You will see a tall poplar tree in the distance. Head for the left of this tree and walk along the track in front of you, now with fields on both sides. At the hedge corner, by the poplar tree, go ahead and keep the hedge to your right. You will arrive at a small road by Hall Farm. Walk down this road and back into Kinoulton. Just by the main road in Kinoulton this road forks. The left fork will take you back to the Village green in Kinoulton where you started.

Distance: 14.2 kms

Walking Time: 3.5 hours



Walk 69: The Cotgrave Round – By Footpath

Description

This is a great circular walk from your own doorstep. Footpaths all the way. This walk takes you into open fields and away from the crowds. Fine landscape and fine views.

Parking

Start and finish at The Poppy and Pint. No transport needed!

Clues

From the Poppy and Pint, walk to The Hook via Mona Road. Once on The Hook, take the path immediately right alongside the allotments. Once in open space on Trent Fields, keep the ‘flood pool’ on your left and head for the Sailing Club. Continue on the river path past the Sailing Club. At the next fence turn right and walk around the cricket ground heading towards ‘Desperate Measures’ canoe shop which is to the left of the cricket pavilion. Continue down some steps to the Water Sports area. Walk anticlockwise around the Regatta Lake until you pass the main building and the spectators’ area. Then take a path diagonally right, past a memorial stone and three benches, and down to a metal gate. Go through the gate and cross a field with the hedge on your immediate left. Enter the ‘e combat zone’ and look for a path diagonally rightwards that takes you to the road and the main Skylarks Nature Reserve car park. Turn left onto the road. Pass Blotts. At the entrance to Holme Pierrepont Hall, turn right on a gravel track that takes you directly to the A52 alongside Hackett Lake. Cross the A52 at the traffic lights and look for a footpath at the A52 / Stragglethorpe Road junction. This path heads diagonally left across a farmer’s field. Head for the telegraph pole with the yellow and black stripes on the support cables. Go through the gate by the telegraph pole and follow the marked path as it winds right then left across fields, following yellow waymarker posts. You will shortly arrive at the edge of Bassingfield village. At Bassingfield, take the first footpath on your left and head for the canal. Go to the canal towpath by crossing the canal bridge. Turn left here and walk down the canal footpath, away from Nottingham. Just before a gate across the towpath, take the first footpath on your right and walk southwards towards Cotgrave. Go past Peashill Farm to the water treatment works. Shortly after the treatment works, take a path right off the main track and head towards Tollerton Airport. Look out for path signs all the way. Turn right through a hedge and you are in open country. Go ahead and cross straight over the Tollerton Road. Follow the path NW to the A52 where there is a crossing. Cross the A52. Find the continuation path on your right and follow signs: Radcliffe Road (Quiet Route) to the Grantham Canal by Morrisons. Continue along the canal to Radcliffe Road and back to the Poppy and Pint.

Distance: 15.6 kms

Walking Time: 4 hours



Walk 70: Kingston on Soar, Zouch and the River Soar

Description

This is a walk of two brilliant halves. The first half takes you through some amazing countryside around the River Soar valley through West Leake and Sutton Bonington. The second half is back along the River Soar itself. The River Soar makes a refreshing change from the River Trent. It is gently flowing, calm, with soft edges. This walk enables you to enjoy a long stretch of the River Soar from Zouch Cut back to Kingston. The River Soar does not pass through the village of Kingston, but very close by to the west. At this point the Soar, flowing south to north, forms the border with Leicestershire. The River Soar is rich in wildlife with thriving bird, fish and plant populations.

Parking

Start at Kingston on Soar. Park at the Village Hall Car Park on The Green, by the church.

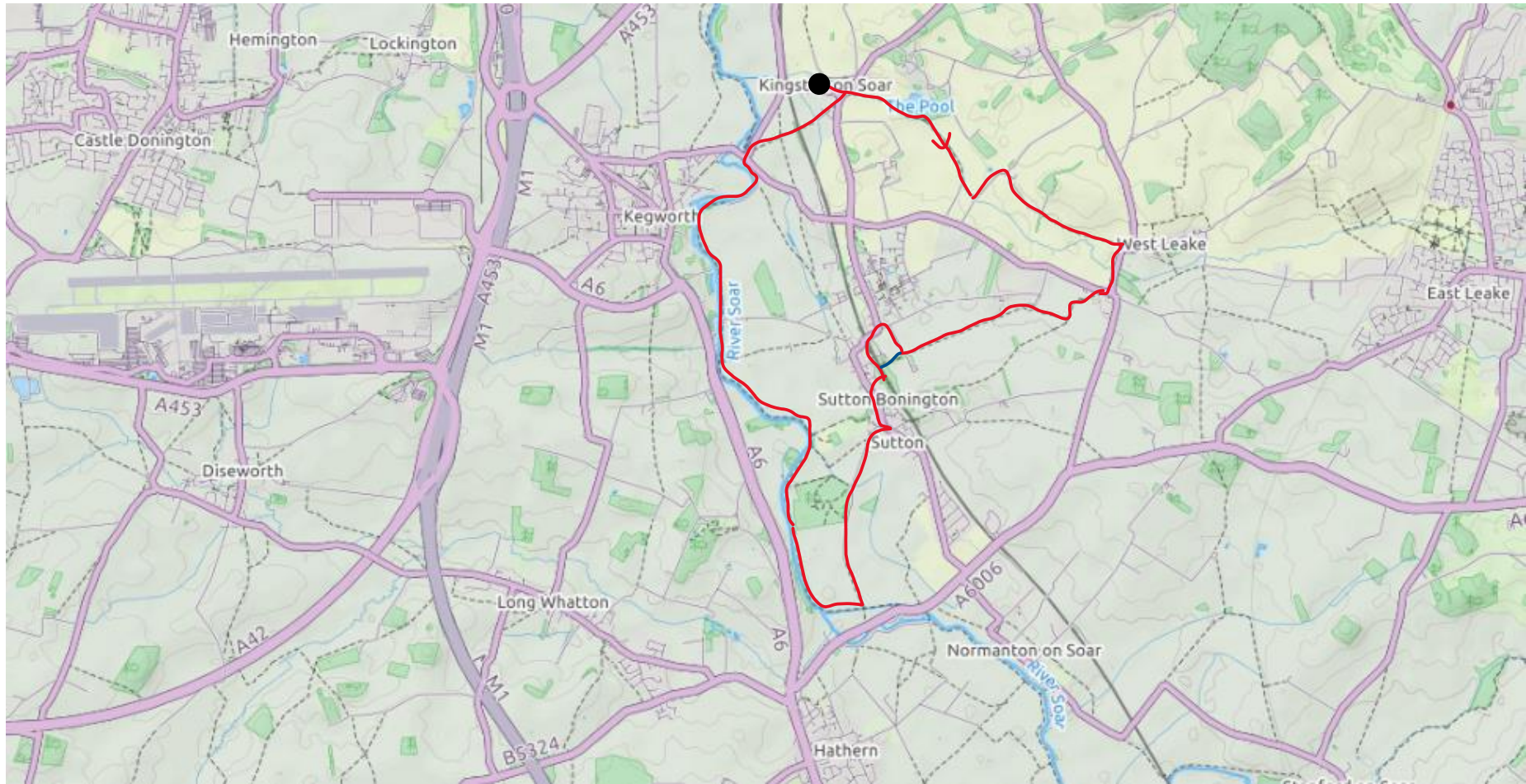
Clues

From the Village Hall, turn right along The Green. Take the right fork: Long Row, opposite the church. As Long Row joins Station Road, look out for a footpath opposite. It is marked by a green Public Footpath sign, on a post with Dog Bags and a red litter bin! The path goes east, away from Kingston. Go over the style, and take the path, which goes parallel to the Gotham Road for a while. It then runs alongside a brook. You will soon see Kingston Hall on your left. Continue along this path, with the brook on your left and through a metal gate. You will soon get to a sluice gate and 'The Pool' as marked on the map. Carry on with the hedge on your left. At the next metal gate, go left over a wooden bridge, then immediately right, so that the brook is now on your right. Go over a style, following yellow waymarker arrows. Continue to a style, by a gravel track T junction. Turn left at the track and walk towards Scotland Farm. Just before the farm, the path swings right, across some grass to a wooden gate with a blue waymarker arrow. Go through the gate and on to a wide grassy path, with the farm now on your left. Continue along this wide, grassy path following various waymarker arrows to a road. Turn right and walk along the road to a T junction. Turn right again and walk past the Star Pub. Just past the Pub, look for a footpath on your left marked by a wooden style next to a wooden gate, set back from the road. By the style is a fingerpost hidden among the overgrowth. Go over the style and walk diagonally right across a number of paddocks. Eventually, you come to a hedge which you go through, over a style and out to an open field. Walk down the field edge, with the hedge on your right. About halfway along this field is a path junction. Here, go right, through the hedge and over a wooden bridge. Head straight ahead along the next field edge with the hedge on your left towards Glebe Farm. At the end corner of this field and by the farm, turn left over a style, hidden in the hedge right in the corner and walk closely alongside a brown wooden fence apparently going into the undergrowth. At the end of this fence is a wooden bridge and style on your left. Follow the path beyond this. It is long and straight, but the first section is relatively overgrown. After about one kilometre you will come to a house by a road. The path goes straight ahead here and over a railway bridge and then onto the Main Street at Sutton Bonington. However, there is a path closure here, up to August 31, 2020. If so, turn right along the road by the house and walk 300m to a road. Turn left and left again and go

straight ahead and over the railway bridge. At the end of the left-hand brickwork of the bridge is a tiny gap, with steps down to a path that goes back alongside the railway line. Take this path. The path bends to the right and then comes to a driveway. Go left down the driveway and then right, past The Anchor Pub to the Main Road in Sutton Bonington. This is where you would come out if the original path was open. Turn left along Main Street, past the church on your left, and The Kings Head Pub on your right. Just after the Pub, turn right along Pasture Lane. Pasture Lane takes you to Diamond Wood, where it turns into a track and then a footpath, leading straight to the Zouch Cut (a short canal section of the River Soar). At the canal and lock, turn right and follow the River Soar for about 5kms. Go past 'Devil's Elbow', Kegworth New Lock to a road bridge (Kegworth Road Bridge). Go up some steps to the road. Go over the road and turn right to the entrance of a car park. Opposite here you will see a green Public Footpath sign, a red litter bin and a wooden bridge. Go over the bridge and take the clear cross-field path to a tunnel under the railway. Beyond the tunnel, go straight ahead again, across a cross-field path to a track. Go straight across the track, through a kissing gate and along another clear cross-field path to a kissing gate which brings you onto the road: Long Row, where you started in Kingston. Turn left onto The Green and return to the Village Hall.

Distance: 16.5 kms

Walking Time: 4 hours



Walk 71: Woolsthorpe, Belvoir Castle and Stathern

Description

Fantastic views of Belvoir Castle followed by a walk along an extended escarpment with fine views northwards to the horizon. There are open fields and woods all around; this is hunting country. The Belvoir hounds are kept nearby. This is an out-and-back walk. No matter, the views are fantastic both ways and those of Belvoir Castle take some beating. Stathern has a 13th century Anglican church, a village primary school dating back at least to 1868 and a public house, which doubles up as a post office.

Parking

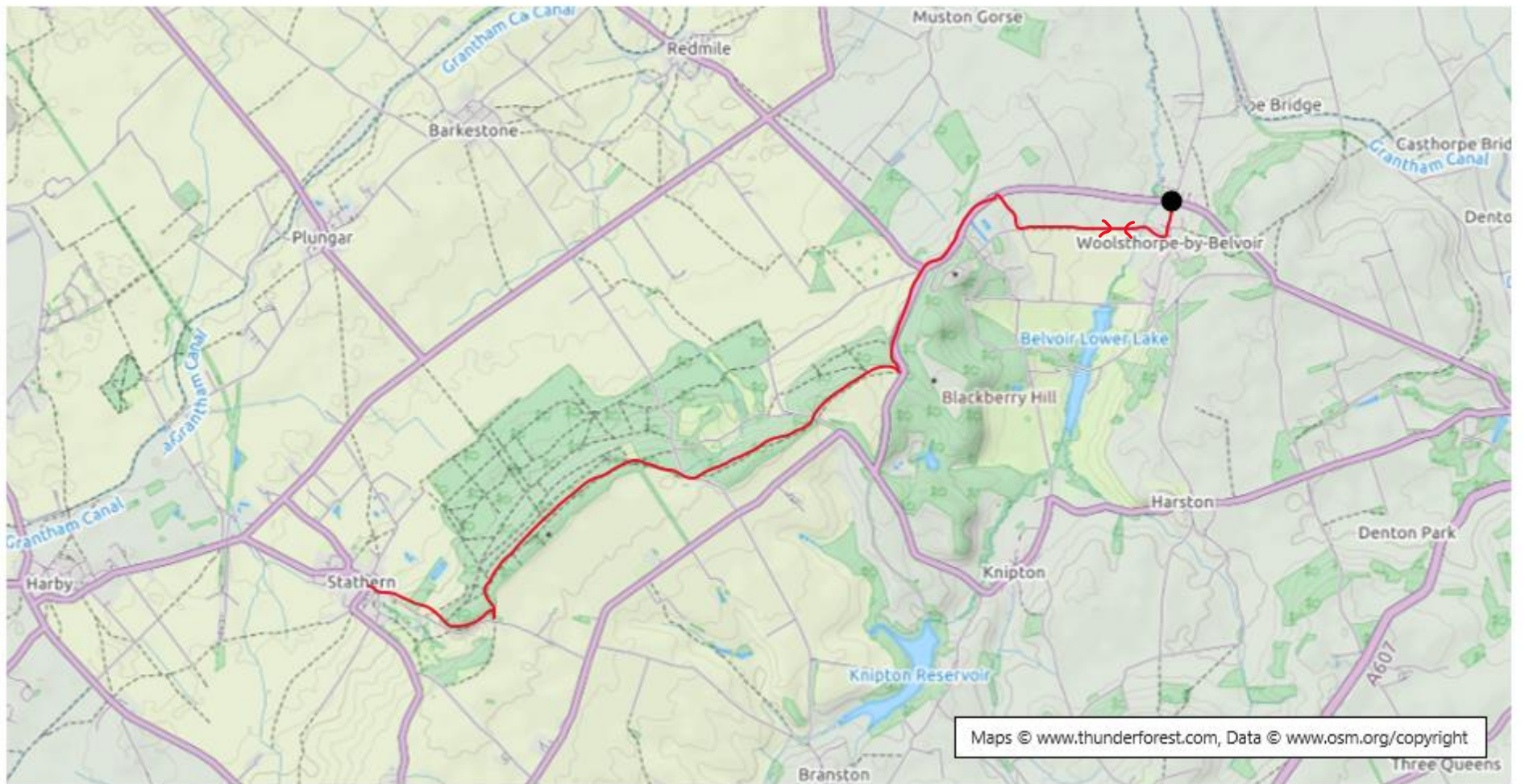
Start in Woolsthorpe. Park on or around Main Street by the Village shop.

Clues

From Woolsthorpe Village Stores, walk down Main Street away from Belvoir Road where you came in. Take the first road on the right: Belvoir Lane. The road develops into a track to a metal gate. DO NOT take the obvious path straight ahead. Instead, turn right and go over a small bridge to a stile. Now you will see a footpath sign, half hidden in the trees on the left of the stile. Cross the stile and head towards Belvoir Castle, keeping the trees and the fence to your right. Go over a series of styles until you get to high wooden yellow footpath post on the right by a gate next to a delapidated stile. Cross the stile and take the wide track to the road. At the road, turn left and follow signs for the Jubilee Way. Initially, this path runs next to the road. The road can be avoided by walking on the grass verges. Walk past the Belvoir village sign, past the Engine Yard on your right, and past Belvoir Castle main entrance on your left. Ignore the right turn at the road by the Engine Yard and go straight on. You may continue walking on the grass verges, which become quite wide on this section. At a bend in the road you will see a sign right: 'Jubilee Way, Public Bridleway to Terrace Hills'. Take this right turn onto a track and continue to a cross paths. Take the Jubilee Way straight ahead. Cross a metal gate and continue to a small road. Turn right here and immediately you will see a small car park on the left. Go to the back of the car park where you will see the continuing path. Take this path deep into the woods. Follow yellow wooden post markers all the way. Eventually you will come to a metal gate with a narrow roadway behind forming a T junction. Go right at this T junction. This track will take you straight down to Stathern village. At Stathern village, retrace your steps back to Woolsthorpe.

Distance: 20 kms

Walking Time: 4.5 hours



Notts Wolds Way – Your Chance to Walk a Long-Distance Footpath

Introduction

The Notts Wolds Way was established in 2016 as a linear path of 26 miles (42 kms) set up by the Nottinghamshire Footpaths Preservation Society with the support of Nottinghamshire County Council and with the aid of a grant from Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust (RHCT). The path, from Bunny to Cropwell Butler is divided into 4 linear stages each passing through an attractive and interesting part of South Nottinghamshire. Although there are a few short road sections, the route is mostly on rights of way in the form of field and woodland paths and tracks. It makes use of several paths which have been recently added to the Definitive Map and which have yet to find their way onto even the latest OS maps.



The route has been comprehensively way-marked throughout with a characteristic black arrow on a white background. A 20-page colour booklet gives detailed walk instructions and information on points of interest along the route. The route has been comprehensively way-marked throughout with a characteristic black arrow on a white background. A 20-page colour booklet gives detailed walk instructions and information on points of interest along the route.

The name Wold is derived from the Old English wald meaning "forest". Over the years the meaning has changed from "forest" to "open high ground". Wold originally would have applied to high forest land. However, when the forest was cleared, it is probable that the original name survived.

Further information is available on <https://www.nottsfps.org.uk/notts-wolds-way>

This is your chance to walk a Long-Distance Footpath! I have devised a circular walk for each linear stage so that this course can be walked in five separate days as five circular walks.

The full course: Bunny ~ Wysall ~ Willoughby-on-the-Wolds ~ Widmerpool ~ Keyworth ~ Normanton-on-the-Wolds ~ Clipston-on-the-Wolds ~ Stanton-on-the-Wolds ~ Cropwell Bishop ~ Cropwell Butler

Each stage is only 15 minutes away from Lady Bay and the Poppy and Pint!

Notts Wolds Way: The Stages

The official route is broken down into four stages. I have broken it down into five stages to make the day circular walks more manageable.

The Stages:

Stage 1 Bunny to Willoughby-on-the-Wolds: 9.6 kms

Stage 2 Willoughby-on-the-Wolds to Keyworth: 8.8 kms


Stage 3 Keyworth to Stanton-on-the-Wolds: 10.2 kms


Stage 4 Stanton-on-the-Wolds to Owthorpe: 8.3 kms

Stage 5: Owthorpe to Cropwell Butler: 7.5 kms

Total: 44.4 kms

Map Key:

 = Notts Wolds Way

 = Return leg of the walk

Walk 72: Notts Wolds Way: Stage 1 Bunny to Wysall to Willoughby-on-the-Wolds

Parking

Park by the beginning of the route at the entrance to the British Gypsum Silver Seal Mine. Go south along the A60 towards Loughborough. At Bunny, you pass the Jet Garage on your left. Take the next Lane on your left. You will see the footpath and black 'Notts Wolds Way' sign on a wooden signpost to the left of the mine entrance.

Clues

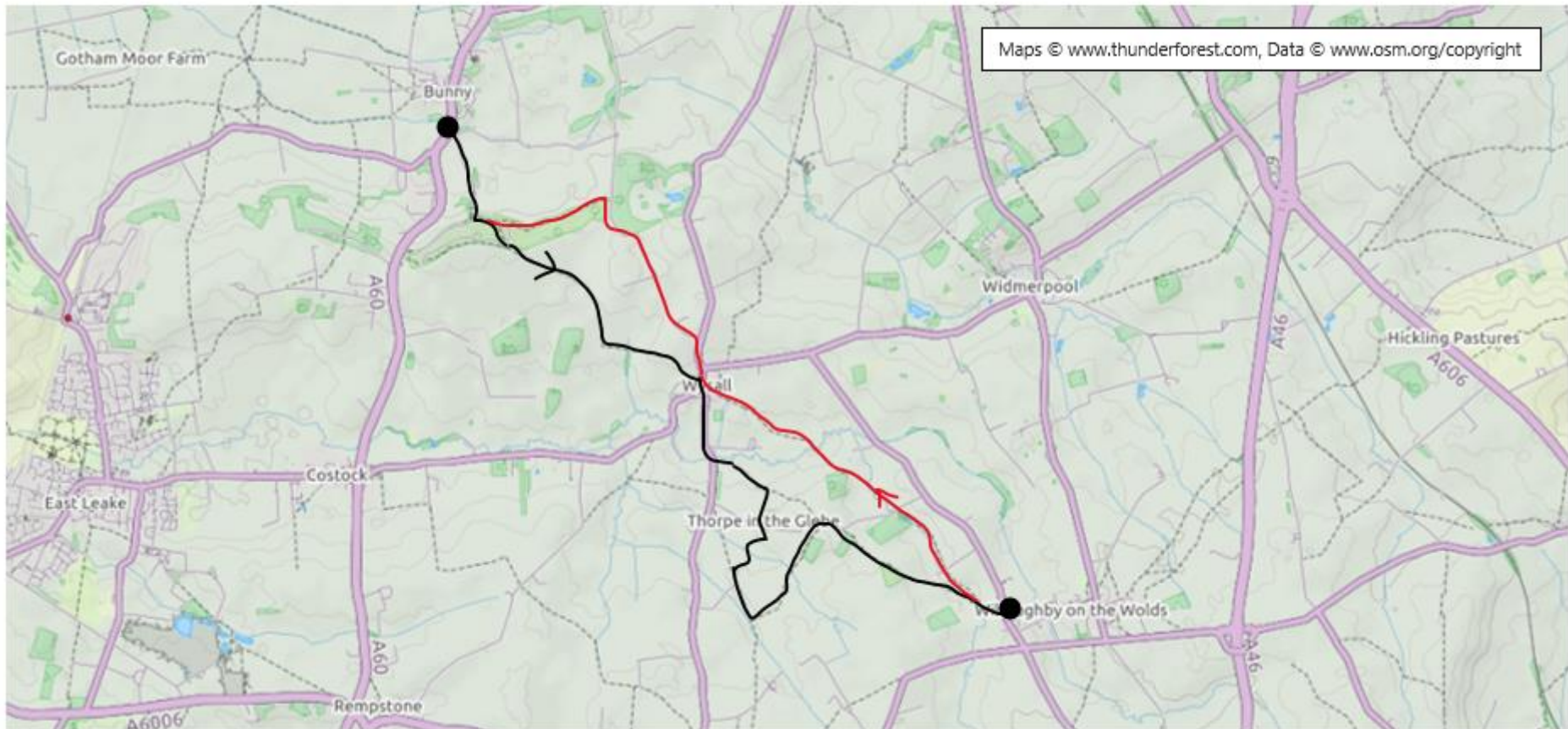
Out: Follow the black waymark Notts Wolds Way signs throughout. From the Gypsum Mine entrance, go through the gate and take the concrete path to a gate. The path continues on the left of the gate to 'Old Wood'. At the T junction, turn left and walk through the wood. Look out for a right turn 200ms along this path. Turn right through two narrow posts and follow signposts to Wysall. Head across a series of fields, with your path now marked by black arrows on yellow wooden posts. Head towards the church spire along field paths and grassy paths. Go past a house on your right and come to the road at Wysall. Turn right. Walk down the road and take the left turn towards Wymeswold and Leicester on the Wymeswold Road. Walk out of Wysall along this road. Take the first track on the left once past the 'Thorpe in the Glebe' village road sign – marked Brook Lea Farm. Go along the roadway towards the farm. Just before the farm, leave the roadway and take a grassy path on the right. Follow the fence line. Go through a series of gates following grassy paths and cutting across fields. The path comes out at the access road to a farm. Cross the road to a stile opposite and cross the farmer's field opposite. Pass on the left-hand side of the pylon to reach a kissing gate. Continue across the next field aiming for the left-hand end of the open fence where it borders a hedge. Go through the kissing gate in the left corner of the hedge. Continue on narrow paths to a derelict farm. Pass with the farm on your right and look for a yellow signpost in front of the farm by a gate. Continue across a series of fields through a series of gates until you eventually get to a red brick house. At one of the arable fields that you pass on the way, the path is again vague. When in doubt, follow the perimeter of the field anti clockwise until you see a kissing gate on the other side. Leave the red brick house by its driveway, but at the first bend left, cut straight ahead to a gate in the hedge. Continue along well marked paths across various fields until you come to a cross paths where the Notts Wolds Way is marked both left **and** right! Make a note of this path junction as you will come back to here on the return leg. Turn right at this point and head towards the houses of Willoughby across two more grassy fields. Come out onto 'West Thorpe' road in Willoughby.

Return: Retrace your steps to the cross-path junction previously mentioned. At this junction go straight ahead. You will be following the black Notts Wolds Way signs AND the Yellow Arrow public footpath signs for a while. You are now walking on the 'Midshires Way' all the way back to Wysall. Cross more styles and fields until you come to a small wooden footbridge. The Notts Wolds Way goes right just before this footbridge, but we go over the footbridge following just the yellow footpath signs from now onwards. Follow the well-marked signs across fields. You will eventually come out at the recreation ground in Wysall. Walk to the road and turn right towards Keyworth and Widmerpool. Go up the main street passing The Plough pub. Take the first road on the left: Bradmore Road. Pass Lodge Farm and continue along the road. Look out for a green footpath sign on your left once the road enters a wooded area.

Take this path left into 'Old Woods'. Continue on this path past the Notts Wolds Way on your left (where you first started the walk). Take the next footpath right back along the track to the British Gypsum entrance and to your car.

Distance: Out on Notts Wolds Way: 10 kms; Return 8.2 kms; Total: 18.2 kms

Walking Time: Out on Notts Wolds Way: 2.45 hours; Return: 2 hours; Total: 4.75 hours



Walk 73: Notts Wolds Way: Stage 2: Willoughby-on-the-Wolds to Widmerpool to Keyworth ☞

Parking

Park in Willoughby on West Thorpe. There is a small car park next to the village sign.

☞ Look out for Lapwing, Partridge, Skylark and Snipe

Clues

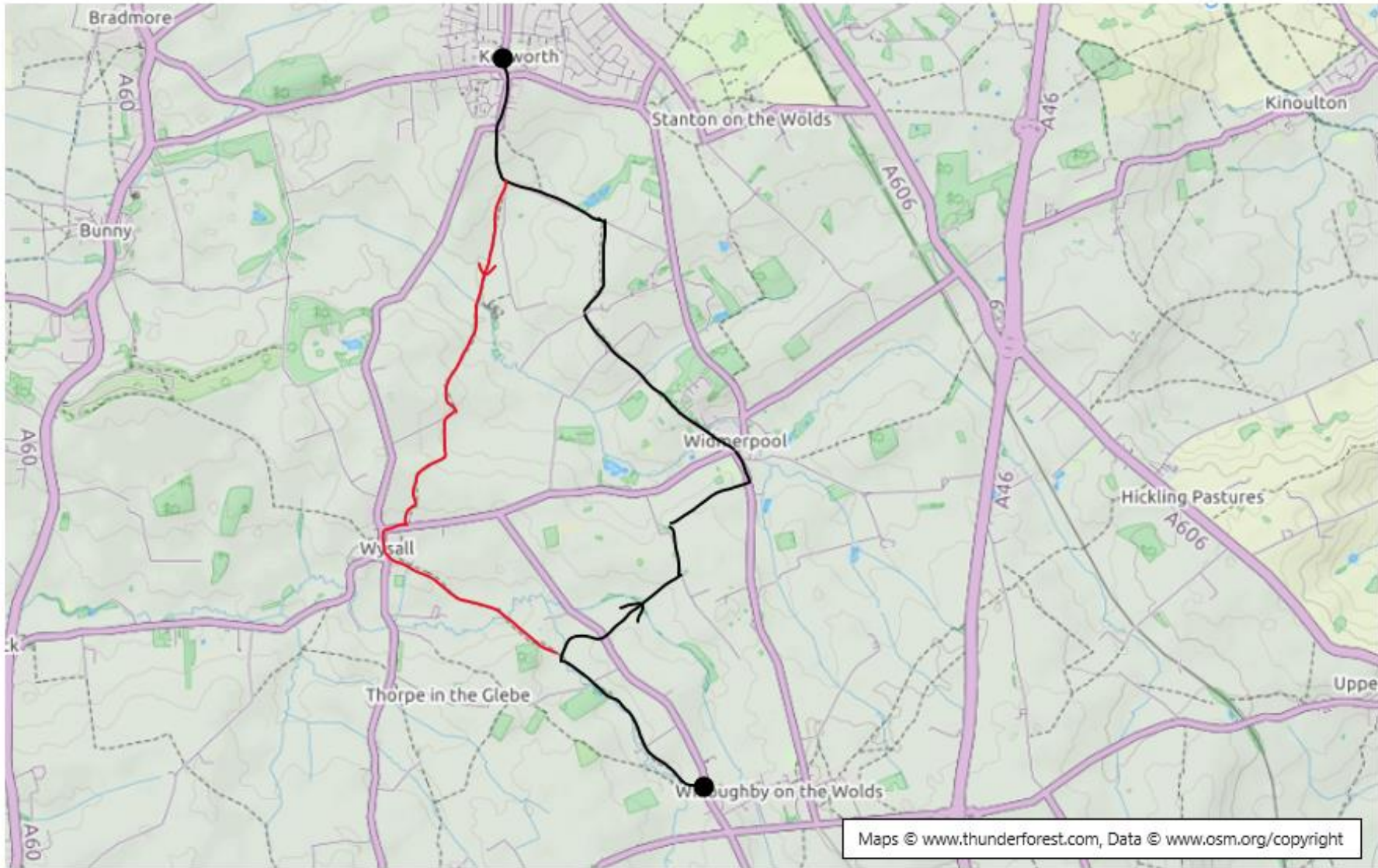
Out: Follow the black waymark Notts Wolds Way signs throughout. Opposite the small car park is a small gate where this section of the walk starts. Cross fields and styles following both the black Notts Wolds Way arrows and the yellow footpath arrows. When you get to a small wooden footbridge by a concrete culvert the two paths part company. Turn right. Do NOT cross the small wooden footbridge. Continue across fields following the black waymarks. Cross a road. Continue across fields following the black waymarks. At a tarmac track, turn right. At a T junction, you will see a yellow wooden signpost in front of you. Turn right. Continue along the track. Eventually, you will pass a red gate which enters a field by some rugby pitches. Walk diagonally across the field to a corner by the pavilion buildings. And enter the grounds of the rugby club. Walk behind the pavilion to reach Willoughby Road in Widmerpool. Turn left along the road. To a T junction. Go across the crossroads into Church Lane. Follow this lane as it bends to the left opposite a pale-yellow house. The lane now turns into a path. Follow the path over a small bridge to a black lamppost. Note the church on your right. Follow the footpath to the left of the lamppost to a kissing gate on the left. Follow this path across fields to North Lodge Farm. The path then skirts neatly around the farm in a clockwise direction along well-marked paths. You will eventually reach a track where you turn left. Continue along this track to a T junction and turn right. You are now on the main track into Keyworth. Note a footpath almost immediately on your left. This is the path you take on the return leg. Continue straight ahead. Cross the road ahead onto 'Main Street' to the church in Keyworth.

Return: retrace your steps. At the end of Main Street take Lings Lane opposite. Just after the last white house on your left, look out for a wooden footpath sign right which goes over a small wooden bridge. Take this path. You are now on the Keyworth/ Wysall Footpath. This is well marked by yellow arrows all the way. Cross fields and styles. There is one field where the signpost indicates that you go diagonally left across the field. If this is not possible, take the perimeter path clockwise until you arrive at the gate on the other side. When you get to a T junction at the end of a fairly open field, turn right and then look for a wooden footbridge almost hidden on your left. Take this footbridge and continue. You eventually meet the road just outside Wysall. Turn right here and then take the left turn signposted Costock and East Leake. Walk down the road. Just after Manor House Drive you will see a wooden footpath signpost over a rubbish bin. Turn left here through a jitty and into a recreation ground. Go to the back of the recreation ground and follow the yellow waymarks back to Willoughby along the Midshires Way. The paths are well marked. Yet again, you will come to a field where the signpost indicates that you go diagonally right across the field. If this is not possible, take the perimeter path right. When you get to a jeep track, turn left along the perimeter of the field to a gap in the hedge at the back-right hand corner. Once through this gap, look for a small wooden bridge almost immediately on your left. Cross the

bridge and you arrive at the concrete culvert that you passed on the way out. Take the right-hand path, following both black and yellow arrows across fields and styles until you get back to West Thorpe in Willoughby where you parked the car.

Distance: Out on Notts Wolds Way: 8.2 kms; Return 8 kms; Total: 16.2 kms


Walking Time: Out on Notts Wolds Way: 2 hours; Return: 2 hours; Total: 4 hours



Walk 74: Stage 3: Keyworth to Plumtree to Normanton to Stanton-on-the-Wolds

Parking

Park in Keyworth – Lings Lane Car park. From the church in Keyworth take Main Street to the end. The Lings Lane Car Park is opposite the end of Main Street.

 Look out for Buzzard, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Kestrel, Pheasant, Yellow Hammer

Clues

Out: Follow the black waymark Notts Wolds Way signs throughout. Walk back down Main Street to the church. Continue on Nottingham Road, past the playing fields on your right. At a sharp bend right, take the footpath alongside the left-hand side of The Pear Tree Pub. Proceed around a primary school to open country. Continue downhill across a wooden footbridge and into a field. The path bends rightwards to an archway under the railway line. Cross more fields and styles to a road. At the road, turn left towards Plumtree. At the plumtree village sign, cross the road by a central reservation and continue on a path straight ahead. This path is just to the right of a private road. The signpost here is hidden by the hedge. Continue straight to the far corner of the field and cross another style. The path goes to the right of a small brick building, through some trees, some of which are quite low. Coming out of the trees, immediately look for a style on the right-hand side. Cross the style and take the path which goes at 90 degrees right of the path just taken. Cross the field to a gate and then another field to a main road – The Melton Road (A606). Cross this road and take the path opposite indicated by a green footpath sign. Take the cross-field path and continue to a narrow path by a large house until you reach a road. Go straight ahead to another road. Opposite here is a white house. Go right and walk down the road. Go past Normanton Manor on your left and then turn left through a gate. Follow the waymarks over styles and across fields to the road just outside Clipston. Turn right and take the road into Clipston. At the T junction by Church Gate turn right (signpost Bridle Road to Lamin Gap Lane) and go past Harker's Farm Shop (Closed on Sunday and Monday). Continue on a track into the forest. You will come to a T junction with blue and black path markers. Follow the black marker right. At the next track, turn right and continue along Lamin Gap Lane to a main road. Cross the road by the Stanton village sign and enter the field opposite. Continue over a railway bridge, then take the path immediately left. Follow this path which runs parallel to the railway line to a wood. Continue through the wood, past two large brick ventilation shafts to Browns Lane on the edge of Stanton, where this stage ends.

Return: Turn right at Brown's Lane and head towards Stanton. Very soon you will see a wooden fingerpost indicating a path off diagonally to the right. Take this path across a field, keeping close to the road. You will see two gaps in the hedge in front: one to the left, the other far on the right. Take the left-hand gap and proceed across a field to a kissing gate. Beyond the gate is a golf course. Turn left at the golf course and take the path on the edge. Follow yellow wooden waymarkers. The path takes you into a wooded area and past a small church. At a path T junction, turn right, cross the golf course, follow yellow post markers, and head to the right of the club house. Go down the right side of some maintenance buildings and turn left onto the main entrance drive of

the golf club. At the end of the drive, take the footpath opposite. Go past a primary school, keeping the green fence to your right. Go across two fields to a road: Willow Brook. Turn left and then right onto Selby Road. Keyworth Church is 2 kms along this road. At the church, turn left onto Main Street, then to Lings Lane car park.

Distance: Out on Notts Wolds Way: 11.6 kms; Return 3.4 kms; Total: 15 kms

Walking Time: Out on Notts Wolds Way: 3 hours; Return: 1 hours; Total: 4 hours



Walk 75: Stage 4: Stanton-on-the-Wolds to Owthorpe – Return ☞

Parking

Park near to the All Saints Church on Browns Lane – the road between Stanton on the Wolds and the A606/Melton Road. The church is a Grade II listed parish church, just off the road - identified by a large blue sign on the wall by the road.

☞ Look out for Buzzard, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Kestrel, Pheasant, Yellow Hammer

Clues

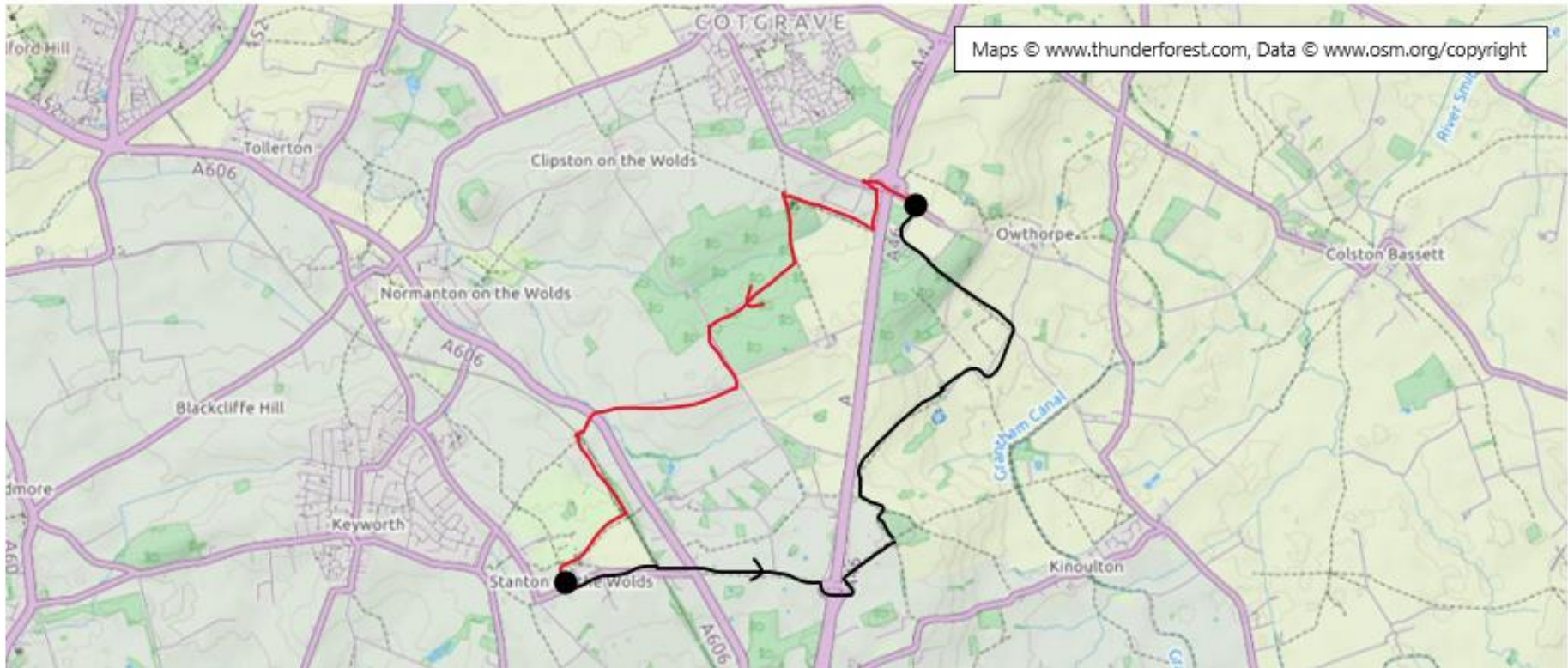
Out: Follow the black waymark Notts Wolds Way signs throughout. Walk to the church and go left around it to join a path on the golf course. Turn right and keep to the right-hand edge of the golf course to a gate. Continue on a 'cross field path' diagonally rightwards to a stile. Continue across a grassy field, again diagonally rightwards to join Browns Road. Go left along the road, past where the Notts Wolds Way joins it on the left and continue to the A606/Melton Road. Cross the road and continue with the hedge on your left until you get to a wooden gate. Go through the gate then look for a metal gate on the left. Here the path switches sides with the hedge. Go through this metal gate and continue ahead with the hedge now on your right-hand side. When you reach a farm track, continue right – following the green Bridleway sign. After 100m turn sharp left through a gate onto the A46 slip road. Go over the A46 and then turn left, following the green Bridleway sign. Walk down this access road and after about 150m take the Bridleway right. Go through a metal gate and head through a 'cross field path' following yellow post markers. When you get to a wood turn left and walk clockwise around two sides of the wood. Then turn left towards Owthorpe Lodge. Beware, the yellow post markers are hidden in this area by hedges. When you get to a driveway, turn right and walk towards Owthorpe Lodge. Just before the Lodge you will see a green bridleway path right. Follow this track and keep straight ahead until you get to a concrete block with red and white paint stripes. Here, walk diagonally right along a 'cross field path'. You will see a lake and extensive views on your right. The 'cross field path' continues as a farm track which turns 90 degrees right then left to a road. Once on the road, turn immediately left and go through a green metal gate, signposted 'Restricted Byway'. Walk up the narrow path to Borders Wood. Soon, you will see a path on your left turn over a small wooden footbridge marked by a green footpath sign. This is the Notts Wolds Way. However, this path is temporarily closed. Worry not! It is easy to circumvent this closure. Continue up the path, cross a tarmac private road and continue deep into the forest. Follow the yellow marker posts on the way. You will pass a footpath on your left, blocked off by a large concrete block. This is where the Notts Wolds Way re-joins this path. You are now back on the Notts Wolds Way and should continue to follow the black arrows. Eventually the track bends to the right and takes you to a road. Turn left at the road, and head towards the A46. After about 300m you will see a green footpath sign on the other side of the road. This is where this stage ends.

Return: Continue along the road, following signs to Cotgrave. Cross the A46 and then turn left onto an access road signposted 'Restricted Byway and Wolds Farm'. Go through the Private Road sign. Continue on the access road as it bends to the right. Then take the first footpath on your right, signed: 'Restricted Byway'. Continue on this track, past a farm compound, to a cross paths. Go left, indicated 'Public Bridleway' and go deep into Clipston Woods. As you come

out of the woods on the other side, you will see electricity pylons and cables above you. Just after that, turn right, signposted 'Public Bridleway'. Go through a green metal gate and continue to a path T junction. Turn left, following yellow post markers with black arrows – you are now on the Notts Wolds Way from the previous stage. At the next track, turn right and continue along Lamin Gap Lane to a main road. Cross the road by the Stanton village sign and enter the field opposite. Continue over a railway bridge, then take the path immediately left. Follow this path which runs parallel to the railway line to a wood. Continue through the wood, up a short wooden staircase to a T junction. The Notts Wolds Way goes left, but we go right following yellow path markers. Go through a kissing gate, along a narrow track, and across a double stile. Cross the next field, slightly diagonally left, to a gate with a yellow path marker in the hedge in front. After the stile, take the 'cross field path' to a stile where you enter a golf course. Go immediately left, around the Tee area, following yellow wooden path markers. At the next gate you will see the church on your left. Go through the gate, through the small cemetery and around the church and back to the main drive off Browns Lane where your car is parked.

Distance: Out on Notts Wolds Way: 8.3 kms; Return 7.2 kms; Total: 15.5 kms

Walking Time: Out on Notts Wolds Way: 2 hours; Return: 2 hours; Total: 4 hours



Walk 76: Stage 5: Owthorpe to Cropwell Bishop to Cropwell Butler – Return

Parking

Park on the Owthorpe Road by the A46 junction. There are a few lay-bys along the first section of the road.

Clues

Out: Follow the black waymark Notts Wolds Way signs throughout. Start at the A46 Junction on the Owthorpe Road heading towards Owthorpe. Take the first footpath on the left from the A46 junction. Follow the sign down some steps and then left across a grassy path. Cross a style and follow the black and yellow path arrows straight across the field to another yellow signpost on a low post. The obvious path here is on your right. However, turn left and head straight for the hedge and the A46 in front of you. At the hedge you will see a yellow signpost indicating right. Turn right and keep the hedge on your left. The path takes you through a hedge and then continues around a farm field, keeping the hedge and A46 on your left. Head for the small wood in front of you. The path bends right at the wood. Look for a left-hand path indicated by a black arrow on a yellow signpost going left and down into the wood. Come out at a field and skirt round the boundary with the hedge and the A46 on your left. Cross into the next field and keep to the edge as it skirts round to the right. After 300m the path turns left up a staircase to a road. Cross the road and take the footpath opposite. Go over style and keep the copse on your left as you turn left and then right. A waymark in the fence eventually shows that you go diagonally right across the field to a small wooden footbridge. Cross three more fields and arrive at The Nottingham Road. Follow the green footpath sign right, along the road and past the Cropwell Bishop Creamery. After the Cropwell Bishop Village sign, look for a path on the opposite side of the road, by a car park with a 'maximum height' barrier. This is just after the towpath of the Grantham Canal. Go into the car park and take the path on the right of the canal. Continue along this narrow path and keep going straight ahead until you reach Bridge 20. This path is very narrow at times. At the bridge, turn right. Immediately on your right here you will see a kissing gate, a wooden gate and then another kissing gate. Ignore the first kissing gate and the large wooden gate. Go through the second kissing gate that takes you down a narrow path into the woods. Continue on this narrow path to a T junction and turn left into a wood. Continue through the wood to another T junction. Take the bridleway left. (Make a note of this junction as you come back to here on the return leg). Continue along the bridleway, straight ahead at a cross paths. After approx. 100m further along, look for a right turn in the right-hand hedge – the footpath sign is hidden by the hedge. Turn right here, go through the kissing gate and take a path diagonally right across a field. This path brings you to Back Lane in Cropwell Butler. Turn right and then left into Main Street to The Plough Pub on your left-hand side and the end of this Long-Distance Path. Congratulations! You have completed the Notts Wolds way!

Return: Retrace your steps to the T junction at the Bridleway mentioned above. Go straight ahead and from now on, follow yellow path arrows, not the Notts Wolds Way arrows! The path takes you alongside a housing estate on your left. At the Nottingham Road, cross over and take the Kinoulton Road to the Grantham Canal. You will see a sign: 'Indust Park' by the canal. Continue past the canal along the road and take the first footpath right. This travels alongside the road in a wooded area. When the path bends to the right, take a path left just after a wooden gate back onto the road. Take Swabs Lane opposite. Just after the speed limit sign, take a footpath right, marked by a green footpath sign. Go over a style and across a farm compound to a series of

paths across fields. Go across three fields and then head for the right-hand corner of this last field and follow a grassy path right, past a pond to another 'cross field path' Take this path and head for a large bungalow ahead of you. Pass to the left of this dwelling to a style. Walk diagonally left across the field to another style by the village hall. Cross the style and turn right onto the main street of Owthorpe. The church is now directly behind you. Turn right along the road to a track with a green metal gate. Pass the gate by a style and follow the track past an old farm barn to a wood. Take the path on the left of this wood and then keep to the boundary of the wood with the wood on your right. When you come to a style into a field, cross diagonally right towards the wood on the hill to your right. Keep the wood on your right. At the end of this wood, head straight down through two fields until you reach a field with a low wooden yellow path marker. (NB You passed here on the way out). Turn left here to a grassy path and a staircase leading to the Owthorpe Road by the A46 where you started.

Distance: Out on Notts Wolds Way: 7.5 kms; Return 6.3 kms; Total: 13.8 kms

Walking Time: Out on Notts Wolds Way: 2 hours; Return: 1.75 hours; Total: 3.75 hours



Walk 77: The Complete Notts Wolds Way: Bunny to Cropwell Butler

Start

Bunny - Park by the beginning of the route at the entrance to the British Gypsum Silver Seal Mine. Go south along the A60 towards Loughborough. At Bunny, you pass the Jet Garage on your left. Take the next Lane on your left. You will see the footpath and black 'Notts Wolds Way' sign on a wooden signpost to the left of the mine entrance.

Finish

Cropwell Butler – The Plough Pub on Main Street Cropwell Butler

Clues

Follow the out instructions for Walk 72 to Walk 76

Distance: 44.4 kms

Walking Time: 11.45 hours

NB: Some of these walks are in country parks that may be closed. Similarly, some may not be on rights of way. In these cases, do get the landowners permission. This author cannot be held responsible in the case of accidents or problems occurring on these walks.