

## **STEPPING OUT – a series of walks around the East Leake Area.**

This month's walk is a circular walk around three Leicestershire villages: Quorn, Barrow on Soar and Mountsorrel. The walk can be started at any of the three villages. The following description starts in Quorn and goes in a clockwise direction.

Quorn; Barrow on Soar; Mount Sorrel circular.

7 miles; 11½ km.

Allow 3½ hours. Longer if you wish to stop for refreshment at one of the pubs at Barrow or Mountsorrel which are en route.

If starting from Quorn, the car park in Station Road is a good place to leave your car. Come into Quorn down the High Street and turn left into Station Road at the round about. The car park is on the right. From the car park turn right and walk down Station Road. Carry straight ahead where Stoop Lane goes off to the right. Look for house number 120 on the left and bear right onto a footpath into Victoria Street. Walk along Victoria Street following directions to Quorn Hall. Take the footpath that goes alongside and to the left of the drive to Quorn Hall. This brings you to the footbridge over the dual carriageway by-pass. On the other side of the bridge follow the footpath diagonally right, making for the road bridge into Barrow on Soar.

Turn right along the road, go over the bridge and immediately turn right along the canal-side footpath. Turn right over the bridge across the canal and then immediately left along the canal towpath with the canal on your left. Cross the weir by the footbridge – this is where the River Soar takes a meandering route that is cut out by the canal. The route now becomes a pleasant waterside walk along a good field edge path.

The path follows the river round a right-angled bend to the right and eventually goes underneath the by-pass road. About 200m after the by-pass bear left to go over a substantial pedestrian bridge to the other side of the river, - this is the Mountsorrel Turnover Bridge. Now continue walking with the river on your right and you will come to Sibley Road at the Waterside Inn – a good spot for refreshment. Walk along Sibley Road which brings you to the market place in Mountsorrel. Turn left at the market place and then right along Watling Street. Bear right near the top of the hill and follow the Leicestershire Round along Cuffins Pit Lane. This circuits the quarry on the right and brings you out into Bond Lane. Turn left along Bond Lane to the junction with Swithland Lane. Turn left along Swithland Lane and then turn right into Kinchley Lane.

Follow this lane down to Swithland reservoir and then follow it right with the reservoir on your left and turn left across the dam wall. At the end of the dam wall follow the track up through the trees and then just before the track crosses a bridge over the railway turn right along a footpath at the foot of the railway embankment.

After crossing two stiles, on leaving the wood the path leaves the railway and goes diagonally to the right to some iron railings in the far corner. You cross a footbridge and follow an enclosed path with railings on the right and a hedge on the left. The path turns right and then left and you leave the railings behind to continue on a fenced field edge path that eventually runs alongside the stream that is the outflow from Swithland reservoir.

You follow this path with the stream on your right to come into Quorn at Mill Farm. On reaching the road, turn right and walk along Meeting Street to the cross roads in the middle of the village. Station Road and the car park are just the other side of the roundabout.

Dennis Fox