

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

*(This is a continuation of the August walk)*

This is a ten mile walk which starts from Bradgate Park and which takes you right into the heart of Charnwood Forrest. You will visit three of the most significant viewpoints in Charnwood and pass the ruins of Ulverscroft Priory.

I described the first part of this walk last month. The following is a description of the second part from Bawden Castle back to Bradgate Park.

**Bradgate Park, Newtown Linford, Ulverscroft Priory, Bawdon Castle, Charlie Chapel, Beacon Hill, Broombriggs, Lingdale Golf Course,**

A circular walk of about 9½ miles. Allow 4½ - 5 hours

Part 2 Bawden Castle to Bradgate Park via Charlie Chapel, Beacon Hill, Broombriggs and Lingdale Golf Course.

The first part of the walk (described last month) took you from Bradgate Park past Ulverscroft Priory to the road from Woodhouse Eaves to Copt Oak.

Cross the road to the right and take the footpath with the hedge on your right. At the end of this field take two stiles on your right. These take you onto a footpath alongside the wall on your right. At the end of this field more stiles take you along footpaths with the wall on your right past Bawdon Castle Farm also on your right.

Here you turn left along a track and then as you approach the trees you follow the farm track down hill to the right. Follow this track as it swings to the left with a hedge and wall on your right. On the other side of the wall is a rocky plantation which is the site of Bawden Castle. There are no castle remains but this is presumed to be the site of “Baldwyn’s Castell” which is mentioned in old documents. At the end of the plantation on your right there is a gate in the wall and many people go through the gate and follow the wall round to the right where it joins the footpath. The official route from the gate is to go down the hill with the hedge on your right to a stile. Cross the stile and walk back up the hill to the wall by the plantation. Although the hill here is not as high as Beacon Hill or Old John, it still gives excellent views across the valley to Broombriggs, Mt St Bernard’s Abbey and Copt Oak.

After skirting the plantation on your right go down hill to your left to join the road at Charley Chapel. This is an old early Victorian Methodist chapel now modernised as a house. It is so isolated that one wonders where the congregation came from.

Cross the road and follow the path to the left of the chapel with the hedge first on your right then on your left. You cross a small stream and then climb the hill up to the left of the farm buildings onto the road. Walk down Deans Lane opposite for about 400m and take the footpath on your right into the Beacon Hill Country Park.

You are now on Jubilee path which takes you to the summit of Beacon Hill. As you clear the wooded area you can see the rocks of the summit up to your left and you make your way up through these to the trig point and another toposcope giving you information about what you can see from the viewpoint.

To continue your walk go down hill on a track to your right – but take care not to go too far right to the car park. The track you want goes down through the woods parallel to the road and eventually it is only a few tens of metres from the road. You continue down this track for just over a kilometre to a seat on your right dedicated to Lewis and Elliot Barden. Here you turn right along a well-marked track to the road. Cross the road and enter Broombriggs along the drive that goes to the main offices.

After about 100m you take a footpath through a kissing gate on your left and cross the field diagonally to another kissing gate. You don't go through this gate but go straight on with the wall on your left.

You ignore several paths to the right and the path you are on gradually swings to the left and comes out onto the road from Woodhouse Eaves. Turn right along the road and then left at a footpath signpost.

This leads you down a track which swings to the right by Maplewell Farm. After the first field this path crosses a stile into Lingfield Golf Course.

You will now be on the golf course for about a kilometre and it is important to keep to the right-of-way which is very well marked with yellow topped waymark posts. (Don't confuse the waymark posts with posts with red or white tops which are indications to golfers of hazards and out of bounds areas.)

Initially you keep close to the hedge on your right. You then cross to the left and bear right between two greens and then right again towards a red ash track. Before reaching the track turn right up between the trees. Turn left then right past the 5<sup>th</sup> tee on your left then the 9<sup>th</sup> tee on your right as you proceed towards the road with the hedge on your left. Cross the road and with a stream on your right you cross several fairways and finally exit the golf course into a large area of woodland. A well cleared path goes up through this woodland for about 600m to the road.

Turn left along the road and you are back at the Hunt's Hill car park.

This is the route followed by Rushcliffe Ramblers on one of their walks at the end of June. If you would like more information about Rushcliffe Ramblers and access to their programme of walks visit their website at [www.rushclifferamblers.org](http://www.rushclifferamblers.org).

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