

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

### **The Reservoirs walk.**

This walk links the two largest reservoirs in the National Forest - Staunton Harold and Foremark. Both reservoirs have car parks, visitors' centres, children's playgrounds and sailing clubs.

The walk starts from the visitors' centre at Staunton Harold Reservoir and then goes through the Calke Abbey Estate and Scaddows Farm to Foremark Reservoir. From Foremark Reservoir the walk visits the village of Ticknall and goes through some of the new woods of the National Forest on its way back to Staunton Harold Reservoir.

This is a splendid walk of about ten miles which will take about 5 hours. However the walk is almost a figure of 8 with the village of Ticknall in the centre and it is very easy to do it in two halves. Last month I described the circular loop from Staunton Harold Reservoir to Ticknall and back to Staunton Harold. This month I will describe the other loop from Ticknall via Foremark Reservoir.

Last month's description left the full walk where the route crosses the B5006 on the outskirts of Ticknall so if you are doing the whole walk in one go you follow last month's instructions and at this point cross the B5006 and follow the footpath directly opposite. You then follow the directions below which will bring you back to Ticknall. You then follow last month's directions from Ticknall back to Staunton Harold reservoir.

If however you are only doing the loop from Ticknall via Foremark Reservoir you will start at the public car park by the village hall in the centre of Ticknall.

### **Part 2**

**Ticknall; The Scaddows; Foremark Reservoir; Hangman's Stone; Windmill Wood; Ticknall**

**5 miles**

**Allow about 2½hours**

From the car park by the village hall at Ticknall walk down to the main street and turn right. Walk through the village to the road junction where the B5006 goes off the left.

Turn left, go past the Staff of Life pub and about 500m down the road you will come to the place where the paths cross the road at the point where I left the description last month. Turn right along the footpath which, after about 400m, emerges onto the main road (A 514).

Turn left along the main road past Scaddows Cottage and then take the path on your left. Stay on this path across four fields until you reach Scaddows Farm. Head down hill to a solitary ash tree and find the next stile in the field corner. Follow the edge of the field to the next stile and then straight-ahead across the next field to a stile onto the road.

Cross the road and go through the gap into Severn Trent property at Foremark Reservoir. Cross the grassy area and turn right along the metalled road until you reach the old disused car park with picnic benches.

Your route from the old car park is down the left hand bank of the steep hill in the direction of a finger post pointing to the right.

Follow the route indicated by the finger post. You will cross a ditch and making sure that the reservoir is on your left you will soon find yourself on a well-marked path through the woods. This is a rather undulating path but eventually comes out into a grass clearing where you walk on a path alongside the reservoir to the visitor centre.

From the visitor centre you can simply walk along the drive to the entrance to the park. An alternative route follows the grassed clearings to the left of the drive. These bring you to the road at the entrance.

Turn left along the road and then take the bridleway to the right just after Bendalls Farm. Almost immediately after leaving the road you take a well-marked footpath to the right of the bridleway. This initially goes alongside a wood and then becomes a field-edge path with the hedge on your right. After two fields you arrive at a four-way junction of paths (called hangman's stone).

Here you turn right, go over the brow of the hill and then follow the path down hill with Windmill Wood on your left until you reach the outskirts of Ticknall with the playing field on your right. Ignore a footpath to the right and you will reach the car park at the village hall at Ticknall.

If you are doing the full walk and going on to Staunton Harold Reservoir go through the car park turn right and then left into Chapel Street and follow the instructions for the route described last month.