

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

This month's walk is a five and a half mile circular walk from Hoton. For the less energetic it can be shortened to just under three miles. If you do the walk in the morning, the Packe Arms is a good place to have lunch. If you do this and want to leave your car in the pub car park check with the landlord first.

Hoton, Kings Brook, Stanford on Soar, Hoton Hills.

5½ miles (3 miles shortened version)

Allow at least 2½ hours for full distance

From Hoton walk down the main road towards Rempstone and, about 300m after the pub, take the bridleway on your left. Just down the slope from the road you will find a waymark post indicating the bridleway up the track to your right between the trees. Follow this track and at the top of the hill there is another waymark sign indicating a bridleway to your left and the footpath straight ahead. Go straight ahead and down the hill with the hedge on your left.

At the bottom of the hill turn left along the path with the Kings Brook on your right. In 300m you cross the bridge on your right and then turn left and make for a waymark post by a bridge over a small stream. Cross the bridge and make for a stile in the left hand end of the next fence. This takes you into a small copse and you follow the well marked path through this copse to a small concrete bridge which takes you back across the Kings Brook.

Turn right and continue along the footpath with the brook on your right. At the third field boundary there is a way mark post indicating a footpath up hill to the left.

(If you want to take the short cut you turn left here and then at the top of the hill turn left again on the bridleway of the main walk indicated with a * in the following description.)

For the main walk you continue alongside the brook until you reach the road at Stanford on Soar.

Turn left along the road and in about 500m look out for a well marked track going up the hill on your left. Follow this track up the hill through Moat Hill Spinney and come out on the top of the hill. Walk along the field edge path first with the hedge on your left then turn right with the hedge on your right. Then turn left again at the end of the next field and you are on the bridleway that goes right along the ridge of the Hoton Hills for about two kilometres. About half way along is Hoton Hills Farm on your right and about 200m after that is a waymark post indicating a footpath to your left.

* This is the footpath you would come up if you were taking the short cut.

Continue walking along the ridge of the hill and on a good day there are splendid views. Stanford Hall, the Convent of the Holy Cross and Remptone Church successively come into view on your left.

At the end of the ridge you will find a waymark post directing you down the hill on your right along the track that you climbed at the beginning of your walk.

Go down this track between the trees then up the slope to the road.

Turn right along the road and you are back in Hoton.

Dennis Fox