

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

This month's walk is a five mile circular walk from Walton on the Wolds. It starts from The Anchor pub in the middle of the village and this is a good place to have your lunch if you timed your walk well. You may well wonder about the name of the pub. The village is a typical wolds village on a hill-top, miles away from any canal or river let alone the sea. However it seems that one of Walton's more famous sons was admiral Hobart Pasha who was born in the rectory in 1822 and became an admiral in both the British and Turkish navies. What a splendid reason to drop your anchor at The Anchor.

### **Walton on the Wolds; Barrow on Soar circular** **5 miles; allow 2½ hours**

From The Anchor, cross the road and a little way up the Seagrave Road turn right up School Hill. Take the footpath at the end of the road and take the left fork into the Church yard keeping to the right of the church emerging through an iron gate into Church Road. Turn right and follow the road down the hill. As the road turns sharply right you take the bridleway to the left and climb the hill through the wood. As you emerge from the wood you will come to a four-path junction indicated by a fingerpost. (Note the path to your left which you will take later at the end of your walk.) For now go straight ahead following the track parallel to the hedge on your left. At the field boundary there is a waymark post indicating the bridleway between two hedges. Follow this bridleway for about ¾ mile – initially down the slope then up the slope onto the Melton Road out of Barrow on Soar. Cross the road and continue along the bridleway for another 150m and you come to a gate where the bridleway goes straight ahead but there is a footpath sign to the right. Follow this footpath making for a waymark post by a stile at the field edge. Over the stile continue in the same direction with Pandy Farm on your right. At the next waymark post continue with the hedge on your left.

Over the next stile in the corner of the field make for a waymark post and stile up the hill to your right. Over this stile bear left and continue along the footpath for about 700m with the hedge on your right. You will enter a short uncultivated stretch where you will find a bridleway sign (blue arrow) to your right. Walk along this bridleway with the hedge on your left for about 400m and you will come out onto the Melton Road at its junction with Fishpool way.

Here is one of the entrances to Barrow-on-Soar's Millennium Park. If you have time you may wish to explore the park and the gigantic sundial with a gnomon over 22 feet high.

To continue your walk, you carry on along the bridleway to the right of the Millennium Park with the hedge on your left.

You will cross Brook Lane and drop down to a stream near Brook Lane Farm. Bear right for a few yards and then turn left through a metal gate. You follow this bridleway (initially between hedges) for 300m and come out onto the main Nottingham Road from Barrow. Turn right and walk along the road for about 400m then turn right up the drive to Tithe Farm. Walk between the farm buildings and turn left along a farm track. This becomes a bridleway with the hedge on your left. After about 200m beyond the farm look carefully for a footpath sign to the left. This is the point at which you **turn right** along the bridleway with the hedge on your left. It is very easy to miss this turn and follow the farm track down the hill. If you find yourself going down hill you have gone too far!

After the path junction you follow the bridleway for about 600m to the four-path junction which you will recognise from the beginning of your walk. Instead of turning left to retrace your earlier steps, go straight ahead over the stile into the gardens of the Manor House. There is a public footpath through this area and you follow the waymark posts down through mown grass to the drive that will bring you to the entrance gate. The footpath goes through the pedestrian gate to the side of the main gate.

You will now find yourself opposite the Church and you can retrace your steps through the churchyard back to the Anchor Inn.

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