

STEPPING OUT

A series of walks in the East Leake area.

This year, each month I will describe a walk over some of the rights of way in the parish of East Leake. Through the year I will cover all the 27 rights of way in the parish. Each path has an official number, but the numbers go only as far as 25. Because of an error in the numbering there are two number 19's and two number 25's.

So far in this series I have covered footpaths 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. This month I will describe a walk which takes you along bridleway 6 and footpath 7.

This walk takes you along one of the two ancient ridgeways that pass through East Leake. The Streetway is a very ancient track that runs along the ridge from Rempstone to West Leake. This was a track used by early nomadic tribes long before the Romans came.

Footpaths 19, 5, 6 and 7. The Streetway and Calke Hall Farm; return via West Leake Road 3 miles - 1½ hours

Start from the Church and go past the Three Horseshoes along the Nook. The Nook is one of two footpaths given the number 19. The other number 19 is near footpath 3 and was covered last month. The Nook brings you into Burton Walk. You then go up Burton Walk and take footpath 5 which I described last month. It goes up the steps between numbers 36 and 38, through the kissing gate and down the field with the hedge on your right. You cross the Sheepwash Brook and continue through two more fields to the Rempstone Road. One or both of these fields are likely to have ewes and lambs and if you have a dog with you please keep it on a lead.

When you reach the road you turn right and you are now following the line of the Streetway.

You pass the end of Kirk Ley and bear left along Woodgate Road. As the road bears left it leaves the line of the Streetway which carries straight on along the ridge – but this line was interrupted in much more recent times by the construction of the railway through a cutting below the Streetway.

So you carry on along the road, cross the railway by the bridge and then almost immediately turn right at a footpath sign. This is bridleway 6 which goes across a field and then picks up the line of the Streetway again as it bears left to go along the ridge in the direction of West Leake. There are good views along this ridge on a clear day.

When you arrive at the kennels at Calke Hall Farm you are at the parish boundary. The line of the Streetway (and the bridleway) goes on towards West Leake but because it is in another parish it has a different number. It now becomes West Leake bridleway number 8. The parish boundary follows the west side of the drive to Calke Hall Farm. This means that the drive itself is in East Leake parish and it is given the number footpath 7. Please note that although the drive is a right of way, this is for pedestrians. This is one of those instances where a private road is also a public footpath.

So you turn left down footpath 7 which brings you to West Leake Road.

Turn right along the road which becomes Station Road as it comes back into the village.

Dennis Fox