

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

During the course of the year I have set out to describe walks that will take you along all the 27 rights-of-way in the parish of East Leake. Each right-of-way is given an official number and so far in this series I have covered numbers 1 to 11 and also numbers 16, 19, 21, 24 and 25. This month's walk is a short walk that will include numbers 12, 13 and 14.

Last month I explained that rights-of-way are footpaths, bridleways or byways. Most rights-of-way are footpaths. Numbers 6 and 16 are bridleways and both continue as bridleways in the neighbouring parish of West Leake. Numbers 11 and 12 are byways.

A short figure-of-eight walk along footpaths 13 and 14 and byway 12. 1½ miles. Allow ¾ of an hour

Walk along Costock Road in the direction of Costock. Footpath 13 leaves the road on your left through a metal gate between numbers 19 and 21.

The footpath circuits the boundary of number 21 and enters the field over a stile.

Make diagonally left for the corner of the field where there is a bridge over the Kingston Brook. Crossing the brook by the bridge, you are now on byway 12 – Sheep Plank Lane. (I have been unable to find out the origin of this name – if anyone has any information please let me know.).

About 100m further along the lane look out for a stile on your right. This leads to footpath 14. Cross the field to another stile and ditchboard and then cross the next field in the direction of the fence round the school playing fields. Climb a stile to access the footpath around the outside of the fence. This footpath leads you through a gate onto byway number 11 (described last month).

Turn left along the lane and in 300m on our left you will find the entrance to Sheep Plank Lane (Byway 12).

Walk down the lane to Kingston Brook where there is a ford for horses and vehicles. Cyclists and pedestrians cross the brook by the footbridge (crossed earlier in the other direction) and continue down the lane to Costock Road. Turn right along the road to the centre of the village.

Dennis Fox