

Thurlaston Online - Walk 7

Leicester Forest approx 5½ miles

A walk on the ancient royal forest.

The route:

This walk starts from The White Horse (Wiltshire's Restaurant), near Desford Cross Roads. You will need to ask permission if you wish to use the pub car park. Alternatively, Walk 1 will take you from Thurlaston to the start point.

Leave the pub car park and turn right onto Leicester Lane.

Pass the footpath sign on your left between the houses and take the next footpath on your left along the track towards Hollows Farm.

Follow the drive, ignoring the footpath to the left, until you come to the sharp left-hand bend. Leave the drive at the bend through the gap in the hedge on your right (i.e. carry straight on rather than turn left along the drive). The footpath sign is broken.

Follow the path, with the hedge on your right, through a swing gate. At the next footpath sign, just before a stile, turn left and walk along the farm track with the hedge on your right.

Pass into the next field and follow the hedge on your left. After passing a ruined farm on your left you will walk between a hedge and a barbed wire fence and eventually go through a swing gate and across a footbridge.

Carry straight on with the hedge on your left and you will come to a farm track, bear right and follow the track to the farm, between the farm buildings and onto a tarmac drive.

The drive continues onto a road of large houses. About 400 yards/metres from the farm there is a footpath sign on the left next to a telegraph pole. Take this path, between two hedges and cross over the stile into the field. Turn left and follow the footpath parallel to the gardens of the houses. Head for the pylon in the distance where a footpath sign can be seen.

Go straight over a stile and pass to the left of the pylon. Cross the next stile (and farm track) and carry straight on - there are some lovely views at this point.

Over the next stile you carry on and pass to the right of the farm buildings and then towards the bungalow on your left. Bear right at the bungalow, off the farm track. Keep the hedge on your right. Cross into the next field and at the corner go over the stile.

Looking across the field you will see a footbridge across a stream - cross the bridge and turn left. You will come onto a busy road where you turn left.

Walking on the verge for about 400 yards/metres will bring you to a pavement that will take you back to the White Horse.

The road is busy and great care should be taken on this section if walking with children.

An alternative is to follow the farm drive from the bungalow to the road thus avoiding the walk on the roadside verge. This is not a public right of way but we understand that the current landowner has no objection to this.

Happy Walking!

THURLASTON WALKS

WALK 7 – LEICESTER FOREST – APPROX. 5½ MILES

