

Cotes, Stanford Hall, Church and Burton

Marion North

Fourteen Family Walks around Charrwood
 @ Charrwood Borough Council /
 Loughborough & District CHA Rambling Club.
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This is a walk which is local for Loughborough. There are very good views and attractive places along the route, several of which can only be reached by foot. It is mostly easy walking, but has some up hill sections and some field footpaths. If you start at about 11am there will be a pub stop at a pub that caters for children.

The easiest place to park a car to start this walk is Back Lane in Cotes. This means turning off the A60 road from Loughborough to Nottingham on to the B676 signposted for Melton. Back Lane is the first left and is about 70 metres from the turning into the B676. It is also possible to get to the start by taking a bus to Stanford on Soar village. The bus route goes from Loughborough to Nottingham via East Leake.

To get to the start point from Back Lane proceed along the lane towards the Nottingham Road, cross that road and go along the road opposite marked as going to Stanford On Soar. From the bus stop at Stanford On Soar go down the road opposite the church. This road is signposted to Cotes. Next find a bridle way going in a direction away from Loughborough, about half way between Stanford On Soar and Cotes and is marked by a post in the hedge with the horseshoe bridle way sign (not the shoe foot path sign). The path goes uphill and a small wood is close to the start of this path. You turn into this bridleway and follow the clearly defined route for just under two miles. The path goes along the ridge of a hill and you will have fine views, including one of the back of Stanford hall and its grounds. At an early

stage the path takes a right and then left hand turn, later on it passes another bridleway on the right and later on you can see the main road at the bottom of the hill on your right. Eventually the path comes to a T junction of paths where you turn right down a grassy track between hedges. This path leads to the Loughborough to Nottingham road. Here you turn right and soon come to the Packe Inn which is a children friendly pub that serves lunches.

You then proceed in the same direction to the sharp right hand turn in the road. Here you cross the road and will then see a footpath sign which is the start of a path which crosses a field to a minor road. Here you turn right, walk along that road and then left at the T junction. Now you are walking along the road towards Barrow on Soar past the old wartime Wymswold Aerodrome on the left and some pretty houses on the right. You will soon see a continuous wall on the left and you need to look out for a gap in this wall, which has a footpath sign. Take this pretty path, which goes through the grounds of Prestwold Hall. After crossing a stile and the drive you then come to the lovely Prestwold Church. The church has a low stone wall around it and this makes a good site for picnic refreshments.

Go through the church yard to a gate into a field, then turn left and walk to the corner behind the church. You then take a diagonal line to cross the field to a brook, here turn left and follow the brook to a bridge. Cross the bridge and continue by the brook in the direction of a wood. You then go through this small wood and along a field edge until you reach Burton on the Wolds. Here you turn

right into a cul-de-sac (Mundy Close) and through an alley way at the top and out onto Burton Road. Cross the road then turn right and almost immediately left into Springfield Close. Walk along this road to a path, which goes between house numbers 22 and 24. Follow this path to reach the road that goes from Burton to Barrow.

At the Barrow Road turn right and pass houses and a sports ground. You then see a footpath sign marking a path on the right. Take this path keeping to the hedge on the right until you reach a gap with wide views over this part of the Soar Valley. Go through this gap, turn left and walk along the other side of the hedge. After a short while you reach the busy B676 road. Here you turn

right, cross the road, and walk a short distance to the next hedge. Here there is a sign indicating a footpath. You follow this path marked with yellow posts until it becomes a track which bears right to reach some farm buildings. This is where 'Ugly Mug' pottery is made and you may be able to visit the workshop. You then proceed along the drive and turn left at the footpath sign. This path follows the hedge and comes to the road that goes from Cotes to Barrow. Here you turn right and then soon reach Back Lane, either to come back to the car or to go along and cross the Nottingham Road to reach the road back to Stanford on Soar and the bus stop.

8 miles
 Age: 8/9 upwards
 Time: 4 to 6 hours

