

From: Rowan Roenisch [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 July 2021 10:14
To: localplans@charnwood.gov.uk
Subject: r response to Charnwood Local Plan 2021-2037 (pre submission) Consultation
Attachments: Leicester to Stoneywell.docx

Dear Colleague,

[REDACTED] I also regularly visit Bradgate Park and also Beacon Hill near Woodhouse Eaves as do so many others from Leicester. It is in this capacity I write to contribute to your pre-submission consultation.

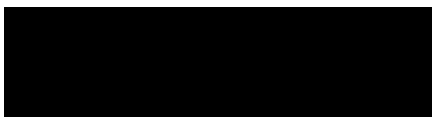
Transport: One way you could encourage much lower or even zero carbon travel is to encourage more bus travel and walking to and from the city of Leicester to important sites in Charnwood such as Bradgate Park, Woodhouse Eaves and Stoneywell Cottage.

Bus Travel: As a regular volunteer at the NT Stoneywell Cottage I tend to use the 29 bus from St Margaret's bus station which is a good service every half hour – I then walk the last couple of miles from Markfield bus stop. But there is not a regular and frequent bus service to and from Newtown Linford that I can rely upon at any time of day; nor to Woodhouse Eaves. Travel both ways is always hasardous given the infrequent timetables and early finsh in the day. Moreover, the few buses that do go to these areas are not well publicised in Leicester so people use their cars.

Walking: I am also surprised that the excellent footpath from Leicester to Bradgate Park and Stoneywell is not properly advertised and promoted to encourage people to follow in the footsteps of Ernest Gimson, the Secular Society and so many other Leicester folk in the nineteenth century – a time when as the city industrialised people walked the ten miles or so as they sought the fresh air and unique flora, fauna and landscape of Charnwood. The route has been recently upgraded at the Leicester end and I attached a detailed description of it – which I believe should be very actively and widely disseminated as well as being renamed The Gimson Footpath.

I really hope you take these proposals seriously for the future of the planet.

FROM:
Rowan Roenisch



'The Gimson Footpath': Leicester to Stoneywell Footpath via Newtown Linford & Bradgate Park: an historic green route

It is well-known that in the second half of the nineteenth century, Ernest and Sydney Gimson, members of the Secular Society and many Leicester residents regularly walked the ten miles from Leicester to Charnwood to enjoy exercise, fresh air and the distinctive natural environment. They might camp, but more often would have a picnic and then return home in the evening.

A footpath survives that goes directly to Bradgate Park and onto the National Trust's Stoneywell Cottage. It's a pity it is not better known or promoted. Surely if people knew that they were following in the footsteps of the Gimson's it would add an extra significance to the route? Dare I even suggest a name for the route: 'The Gimson Footpath'.

I first discovered the Leicester to Charnwood footpath about ten years ago. Recently the county council improved the footpath and its signage where the path meets the Leicester city boundary (previously not clearly shown on maps). I have set out the route below with help from Steve Crane of the Ramblers Association.

If walkers feel the return journey is too much, they might choose to return to Leicester by public transport. There is an Arriva bus, number 29 or 29A from the Ashby Road Bus shelter in Markfield – see notes further on.

The footpath to Bradgate Park and Stoneywell from The Clock Tower in Leicester City Centre

Starting from the Clocktower in the city centre, the first part of the walk is to Gorse Hill City Farm. Walk up High Street and cross the Holiday Inn roundabout via the north side of St Nicholas Circle to St Augustine Road. After crossing Bow Bridge join the footpath to The Rally.

Follow The Rally green corridor all the way to Stokes Wood Park. Then take the exit onto Stokes Drive and walk along Mary Road, at the end of which are traffic lights on the A50 Groby Road. Cross the A50 and walk west up to the entry of The Orchard Nature Reserve, which is signposted. Follow the well-used footpath, to the Gorse Hill City Farm.

From Gorse Hill City Farm, Anstey Lane to Bradgate Park

The footpath continues west through fields and Gilroes Cemetery. Cross the A563 Glenfrith Way and walk to the right until you reach Hallgate Drive on the left. Walk down Hallgate and Lady Hay Roads through a small, modern housing estate. Turn into Martinshaw Close, the end of which overlooks a steep grassy slope going down to the Western-by-pass. To your left of this slope, the renewed county footpath is signposted and takes one down and across Gynsill Lane. Then the footpath runs via an underpass below the A46.

From here the path heads NW through new housing on the edge of Anstey and on to Newtown Linford and Bradgate Park. Refreshments in one of the cafes here might be an option at this point.

From Newtown Linford to Stoneywell

At Newtown Linford choose between two routes to reach Stoneywell. Both continue NW along the Newtown Linford main road until the left-hand junction with Markfield Lane.

For the first option, turn left and immediately on the right, after the junction, a footpath runs west to join the Leicestershire Round leading to Markfield. Before passing under the A50, it joins the footpath through fields to Polly Bott's Lane. When you get to Polly Bott's Lane, turn left, walk and go straight over the crossroads into Whitcroft's Lane. The NT car park is on the left – the NT mini-bus will take you to Stoneywell.

Alternatively, continue walking past the junction and immediately on the left take the footpath which joins Ulverscroft Lane just beyond Bailey Sam Wood. Turn left along the lane and, after a short distance, turn left again and walk up Polly Bott's Lane. Carry on straight over the crossroads into Whitcroft's Lane. The NT car park is on the left – the NT mini-bus will take you to Stoneywell.

Return Journey by Public Transport

Walkers wishing to return from Stoneywell to Leicester by public transport can take the bus from Markfield after a thirty-minute walk to the sheltered bus stop, which has a bench. The **29 or 29A Arriva bus** (coming from Burton, Ashby de la Zouch and Coalville) runs every twenty minutes or hourly on Bank Holidays and Sundays, to **Leicester's St Margaret's bus station**. The bus journey is about thirty minutes. NB. Currently (2021) the bus station is being rebuilt and bus stands relocated around the site. Do check the timetable before travel.

Two routes to the Markfield bus stop from the NT car park

Leaving Stoneywell, take the NT mini-bus to the NT car park on Whitcroft's Lane, Ulverscroft, LE67 9QE.

One option is to walk across the fields. You may be able to ask the mini-bus driver to drop you off at the Markfield footpath on Polly Bott's Lane. The footpath sign is on the left opposite a bench on the right. Take the footpath south across the fields, through woodland and under the A50 to Ashby Road, Markfield. The bus shelter is up the hill on the right-hand side.

Alternatively, walk back from the NT car park along Whitcroft's lane to the crossroad. Turn right into Priory Lane, then at the T junction turn left into Whitwick Road and follow it over the A50. Carry on up the hill and turn left into Ashby Road where the bus shelter is a short distance down the road.

When walking on roads and lanes always keep to the right-hand side, facing oncoming traffic.

Rowan Roenisch

(Many thanks to Steve Crane and The Leicester Ramblers).

Maps:

Ordnance Survey, [Explorer 233 Leicester & Hinckley](#)

Ordnance Survey, [Explorer 246 Loughborough, Melton Mowbray & Syston](#)

[Leicester A-Z Street Atlas](#)