

**How to get there:** From Leicester take the A607 towards Melton. Turn right in Rearsby on B674 through Gaddesby to Ashby Folville (SatNav – Folville Street LE14 2TE)

**Car parking:** Ashby Folville pub car park is for customers only. You need to check when the gates will be closed. There is plenty of space on Highfield End (the dead-end road next to the pub) but be considerate of other users. There is some space near the Church but the little road is busy.

**Public transport:** Service 100 Syston to Melton Mowbray for Ashby Folville, Twyford and Thorpe Satchwell. See <http://traveline.info/> or phone 0871 200 22 33

**Map:** Ordnance Survey Explorer 246 Loughborough

**Route:** This lovely walk starts at the pretty village of Ashby Folville near a good pub. It begins with an easy section of the Leicestershire Round through interesting countryside to the village of Thorpe Satchville. The return route is on a bridleway and easy to follow footpaths, with great views. Some fields will be sown with crops, but the route is likely to be quite easy to follow in spite of the crops, since they are well signed and well used. There are no difficult stiles to cross

**Refreshments:** Carrington Arms in Ashby Folville is a very popular pub serving good beer and food.

**Items of interest:** Beautiful Leicestershire! Hills and fields, a pleasant meandering stream (Gaddesby Brook), two pretty villages and a lovely church in Ashby Folville. The map shows some old fish ponds next to the Manor House, and the whole village of Ashby Folville has a feeling of still being part of a Manor, with its long tree-lined drive heading towards the pub, and impressive wide "tile topped" brick wall round the Manor, and dramatically big houses. We pass the lovely Church and the converted stables which must have been part of Folville Manor at some time. The Elms a large house in Thorpe Satchwell next to the church has an interesting history. From 1896 for 30 years the house



belonged to George Hilliard who was the lead person responsible for Wimbledon moving to its current location. He was also the club secretary for 18 years and married to six times Wimbledon champion Blanche Bingley. The house had two immaculate tennis courts and their party weekends drew tennis players from around the World. Also located in the village on the B6047 is another large house called The Ferns which was used during the Second World War to billet soldiers of the 10th Paratroop Regiment famous for the role in the raid on Arnhem. There is a plaque commemorating this on the front of the house.

**The walk:** From Ashby Folville church make your way (west) to the Carrington Arms pub. Turn right up Highfield End for 200m. Turn right at the Leicestershire Round signpost. Walk slightly uphill close to the hedge of the white house on your left and keep in the same direction. Follow the groove down the middle of the field to a big tree. (Ashby Folville is now over to your right, in its woodland setting.) Keep in the same direction across the big open fields, with the tree-lined stream over to your right. Pass close to the telegraph pole in the middle of the field and continue to the huge electricity pylon ahead. Pass an isolated house over to your right (Markham House) and make your way up to the far-left corner of this open field. The houses of Thorpe Satchville come into view on the hill ahead. Continue in the same direction, across the little corner of one field and into the corner of a very large field, bordered ahead by the hedge of

the tree-lined railway line. Keep moving diagonally left to cross under the tall arched brick bridge of the dismantled railway. (From the high ground of this field you get fine views.)

Continue across the little corner of the field and continue steeply uphill to Thorpe Satchville, moving gradually away from the hedge on your left. (The hall is in parkland beyond this hedge.) Pass close to big farm barns on your left and cross the waymarked stile in the top corner of the field.



The little bell tower of Thorpe Satchville church comes into view. Swing left around the ha ha wall of The Elms a large house and garden on your left and turn left across a stile into the church yard.

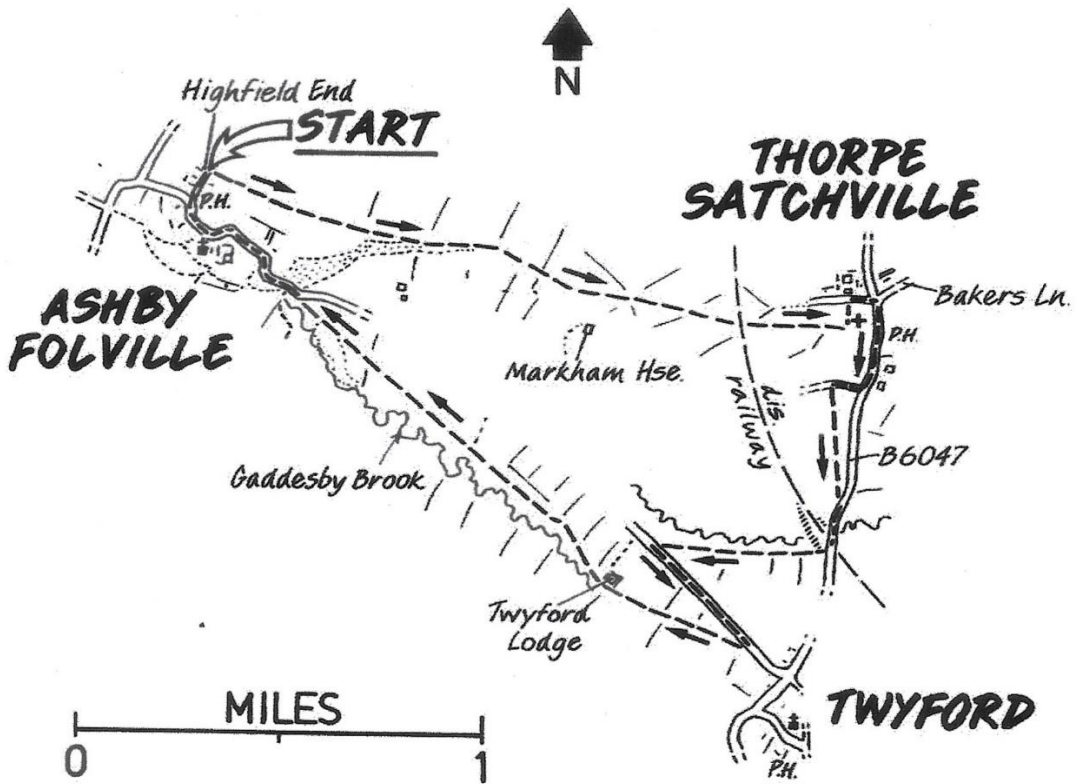
Turn right to meet the main A6047 Melton-Market Harborough Road, opposite Bakers Lane, Thorpe Satchville. Here we leave the Leicestershire Round.

Turn right and follow the road towards Twyford passing the Ferns and the semi derelict former Fox Inn pub on your left. At the end of the houses just before the road bends turn right onto a lane. Go through the road gate and turn left at the way marker post. Head for a gap in the trees with a shed on the right. Go through the gate and head for the bottom left corner of the field admiring the views along the way. Cross the stile where the old railway line meets the road and turn right. Immediately after the railway embankment turn right at the bridleway sign and almost immediately turn left through a gate. Follow the signs ahead through three gates. After the third gate head across the large field keeping close to the hedge on your right to reach the bottom corner of the field.

Meet the road and turn left for about a quarter of a mile. Immediately after Brookside House turn right onto way marked footpath. Cross the stile and turn right again. Walk diagonally to the far corner of the field passing a large barn on your right. Cross the next two fields by the waymarked stiles and then take the gate on the left in the third. Turn right onto the fenced footpath meeting a stream on your left and passing Twyford Lodge on your right.

Follow the left hedge of the field near the meandering brook. Cross the stile and follow the waymark pointing ahead, to the right of a large pylon. From the pylon, make for the waymark post ahead. (The stream meanders left then rejoins the path). Go through the gate to another waymark post on the right of a small wood. Cross the footbridge into a big field where the next waymark can be seen at the far edge of the field. Cross the stile and move slightly right to skirt the edge of the next wood. From the corner of the wood make for the road sign, which shows above the hedge. When close to the road sign follow the hedge left for a short distance. Go through the gate, where our route crosses the Midshires Way and turn right to meet the road. Go left to follow the road back to Ashby Folville church and the pub.

John Cutting: "A really nice circular route on fairly well used paths with good gates/ stiles, well signposted and no problem crops or barbed wire and no nettles or in sight (in August)."



A walk from **32 Short Circular Walks** based on The Leicestershire Round. Copyright: © Heather MacDermid for Leicestershire Footpaths Association 2000 Updated by David Hinds. November 2022