

How to get there: Bruntingthorpe (Satnav LE17 5QH) is due south of Leicester. It can be reached via Countesthorpe or from the A5199 via Arnesby or Shearsby.

Car parking: No public car parks but there is plenty of street parking, for example as you approach the village from Arnesby.

Public transport: None.

Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer 233 Leicester and Hinckley.

Route: Bruntingthorpe to Peatling Magna, 2 miles, some of it beside a stream. Peatling Magna to Willoughby Waterleys 1.5 miles on headland paths in flat arable country. All this section of the walk follows the Leicestershire Round and is waymarked as such. Willoughby to Peatling Parva 2 miles through well waymarked pasture fields. Peatling Parva to Bruntingthorpe 1 mile over interesting fields.

Refreshments: The Shires pub in Peatling Parva, the Joiners in Bruntingthorpe and the Cock Inn, Peatling Magna, all serve food as well as drink. The Plough in Bruntingthorpe serves drinks. Check online for opening hours and food service times.

The walk: From the main street in Bruntingthorpe follow the road towards Peatling Magna. The final house is Apple Tree Cottage. Take the footpath immediately to your left (signposted Leicestershire Round) and cross the field, moving to your right away from the house and road. Cross the fence by an ash tree about 40 metres from the field corner. Continue in the same direction and cross into a third field close to a hedge on your right. Keep this hedge to your right but move gradually down to a well-hidden gate near the stream. Ignore the marked footpath over the stream to your left and keep straight on. You will be following the stream, keeping it on your left, nearly all the way into Peatling Magna. The church spire will come into view ahead and slightly to your right.

Move to the far-left corner of the last field, crossing the cart bridge to emerge at the crossroad junction. Follow the road uphill into Peatling Magna. The church lies in the field to your right and the Cock Inn further up the road beyond where you turn off. Turn left at Postal Cottage, opposite Holly Tree Farm. The footpath goes along the drive between the house and garage. Follow the drive into the open field and cross to the right-hand corner. Follow the hedge on your right for three fields until you meet the old boundary hedged track (Mere Road).

Turn right along Mere Road and after 100 metres turn left through the gate into the field corner. Keep the hedge on your right all the way to Willoughby Waterleys going gradually downhill and then up towards the village. When the houses come into view turn right through the gate onto the drive that leads to the cemetery. Turn left and then swing right onto a lane that leads you through the churchyard. Pass the church on your left and follow the tarmacked path onto the main street.

Turn left along the road past the Village Hall with the sign “Old School”. Ignore the footpath on your right and continue straight on (this is where you leave the Leicestershire Round). At the end of the village take the left turn towards Peatling Magna and then immediately to your right join the footpath at the sign. Go round the edge of the field to your right and continue through the gap in the hedge, bearing diagonally slightly left across a large field.

Go over the next stile to the right of four ash trees. Continue across the next field, passing Willoughby Lodge Farm to your right and then follow waymarks for five further fields. This brings you out onto Mere Road, which you cross. Continue to follow the waymarks, moving diagonally to your right for the next two fields, passing Stresa Glebe Farm to your left. Then go diagonally left for two fields. On your left Peatling Parva Hall comes into view. Just before the first house you come to, turn left into the churchyard. Pass the church on your left and join the road. Along the road to your right are the village green and the Shires pub.

Cross the road and follow the footpath sign to Bruntingthorpe, which is almost opposite the church. Initially it runs between fences and when you come to a field you will see signs for two footpaths. Take the right-hand fork, cross the stream and go through trees and up the steep bank, bearing left. Walk diagonally left for two fields and diagonally right for one field. Cross the drive to the Manor House, enter the field and follow the fence. This takes you through the churchyard, then follow the tarmacked path and enter Church Walk. Pass the Joiners on your left and shortly afterwards join the main street.

There are a fair number of stiles on this walk, mostly in the stretch between Willoughby Waterleys and Bruntingthorpe.

