

How to get there: From Leicester take the A607 Melton Road, through Syston and onto the Rearsby ByPass. In approx. 2 miles at traffic lights turn left on the minor road signposted to Brooksby Agricultural College. Follow this road for approx 1 mile to Hoby. (SatNav – Hoby Main Street LE14 3DT)

Car Parking: Street parking only. The road is quite wide near the church.

No Public Transport to Hoby: previous service discontinued.

Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer 246 Loughborough

Route: Mainly fields, some farm tracks and some road. There is one steep(ish) climb out of Frisby to the main road but no other difficulties.

Refreshments: Pubs at Hoby, Gaddesby and Frisby. The Bell, at Frisby, is now community owned & at present only open for lunch on Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays.

Items of interest: Churches in Gaddesby, Brooksby and Rotherby. The river Wreake winds very prettily by Hoby and Brooksby. Rotherby village has pretty houses but no public facilities.



The walk: The walk starts from the Village Hall which is between the Church and the Blue Bell pub. As you face the Village Hall there is a footpath on the right. The footpath takes you down a metalled track beside the village hall, between walls of houses to reach Back Lane, where you turn left and then right away from the row of brick cottages and walk steeply downhill on the fenced-off path. Cross the footbridge over the stream and go diagonally left across the big field to meet the river in the corner of the field. A good spot for kingfishers!

Turn left and walk with the river on your right and eventually cross the long, arched footbridge spanning the river by the old weir. Keep in the same direction, aiming for the left of the houses of Rotherby, visible in the distance. Cross the footbridge. Go through the railway hand gates and cross the line carefully. Continue in the same direction, close to the hedge on your right. In the top corner of the field cross the hedge and turn left. (Rotherby village is now behind you.)

Keep the hedge on your left for two fields. In the third field continue in the same direction, parallel with the hedge over to your right. Cross the stile (mind your head on the finger post!) by the road sign 'To Frisby 1 mile'.

Cross into the field on the opposite side of the road and walk close to the hedge on your right for three fields. The road moves away to the right but the footpath keeps in the same direction across pasture fields with interesting humps and hollows. Frisby church spire comes into view. Go through a small rectangular field. Move slightly left towards the spinney, cross the stile and move slightly right to find the crossing directly 'under' the church spire! Follow the gravel drive to emerge on Water Lane, Frisby, near the old village cross. The Bell Inn lies opposite you.

(If you detour straight ahead along the Main Street, pass the general store and post office, turn left along Church Lane, you can visit Frisby Church with its Norman Tower. Several of the houses have 18th century dates.)

From Frisby pass the Bell Inn over to your left and walk along Rotherby Lane passing the old cross stump on your right. Go round the right-hand bend and around the corner on your left you will see the signpost "Leicestershire Round Footpath to Gaddesby 2 3/4 miles".

Cross two stiles and walk straight ahead uphill close to the hedge on your left. The hill flattens out and you meet the main A607 Melton to Leicester road.

Carefully cross the road, the signpost is about 20 metres to your right, and continue in the same direction. The path to Gaddesby is well marked with yellow posts. In front of you lie the bands of low hills which you cross to reach Gaddesby.



Go downhill at first, keeping parallel with a hedge over to your right. Pass close to a pond in the bushes on your right. Continue straight on and cross a footbridge, then move slightly to your left and walk close to the hedge on your left.

Continue in the same direction crossing fields and a track. After the track, there are several fields and as you approach Gaddesby you will see a large house slightly to your right. Aim for the stile to the left of the house.

Meet the road, there is a signpost "Leicestershire Round Footpath to Frisby 2 3/4 miles", turn right into Gaddesby and walk ahead to the crossroads.

(If you wish to explore the very pretty village of Gaddesby, with its lovely church and hall and fine old brick houses and visit the pub you need to turn left and make a half mile detour and return refreshed to this point to continue the walk. (The Cheney Arms pub stands on the corner of Main Street and Rearsby Road.)



At the crossroads you will see a sign Brooksby 3km (note the change to metric) in front of a metal gate, go through the gate, turn slightly to the right and take the footpath to Brooksby. Cross several fields and turn left at a green lane which is part of the Midshires Way bridlepath. This finishes just before the wood on your left and then becomes a well-defined track which bears right. Follow the track with the hedge on your left. When it turns right towards the farm, walk straight on, through the gate, with the hedge on the left to reach a hand gate.

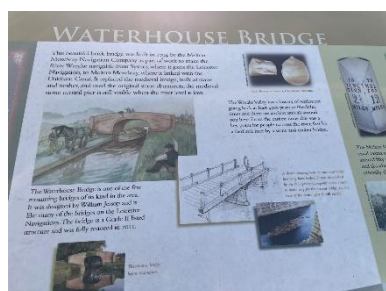
The main A607 road lies ahead. In the distance to your left, you can see the spire of Brooksby Church and on a clear day you can see Ragdale Hall.

Carry on in the same direction along a track which will lead you down past the mothballed quarry and towards the new Brooksby Spinney housing development. The track by the side of the housing development is clear and you will reach the A607 Melton Leicester Road. To your right is a pedestrian crossing over this busy road. Continue down the lane slightly to your left which takes you past Brooksby College. The college stands in grounds on your left, where the parish church may be open to visitors and well worth a visit.

Turn right along the gated road signposted to Rotherby. Turn left when you reach Rotherby church and follow the footpath with the church wall on your right. Keep in this direction to go downhill to cross the railway. TAKE CARE. FAST TRAINS PASS FREQUENTLY.



Now walk close to the River Wreake on your left and cross the brick, hump-backed bridge.



Turn right immediately and go through the little gate which leads you onto the cobbled path in front of The Waterhouse.

When the stream bends right keep straight ahead, ignoring the yellow marker on your right, to go uphill to the waymarked stile onto the road. Turn right and walk carefully along the road to reach Hoby Village Hall where the walk began.

A walk from **32 Short Circular Walks** based on The Leicestershire Round. Copyright: © Heather MacDermid for Leicestershire Footpaths Association 2000. Updated by Jeanne Knowles and Steph Sharpe 2023

