

How to get there: Woodhouse Eaves is south of Loughborough (SatNav – Main Street LE12 8RZ) on the B591 road, well signposted from Quorn, Rothley and Anstey.

Car parking: There is a public car park in the centre of Woodhouse Eaves on Main Street next to the Village Hall (LE12 8RZ). This walk could also be started at either Upper or Lower Beacon car parks (Pay and Display machines with clearly displayed locking up times.) All three car parks have toilets.

Public transport: See www.traveline.info

Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer 246 Loughborough

Route: Easy tracks in a popular area of Charnwood. There are many possible routes over Broombriggs and Beacon Hill, all well used and well waymarked – though not with Leicestershire Round waymarks, as this walk only follows a short section of the Round along Maplewell Road. This walk partly uses the permissive paths of Broombriggs Country Park.

Abbreviations in the text: Metal kissing gate – MKG. Metal bridle gate – MBG.

Refreshments: Several options in Woodhouse Eaves: as well as places to eat, there are small shops selling food for a picnic. There is a café by Lower Beacon car park.

Items of interest:



Woodhouse Eaves has a church built over a cave in a rock. The windmill which stood on Windmill Hill was destroyed in the 1940s. Only the base now remains. This can be visited by using a detour at the end of the walk.

Broombriggs Farm was given to the County Council in 1970. Beacon Hill – formerly owned by the Beaumanor Estate – was bought for the public in 1946. The views from both are magnificent.

The walk

Out of the car park, turn left down Main Street. You pick up the short section of Leicestershire Round at the bottom of Maplewell Road (where there is a general village store on the corner).

Go up Maplewell Road. Shortly after Hastings Road on the right, look for the ‘Welcome to Broombriggs Farm’ sign on the right. Go through the metal gate – beside house number 100 – and take the path through a grassy area. This is a permissive path and part of the National Forest Way.

Turn left through the first metal gate on your left, then immediately right to walk on the well-used path, close to the hedge on your right. You pass, on your left, the wooded knoll of Round Stye Spinney and walk towards Long Stye Spinney, the wood that goes up the hill ahead to your left.

When you reach the foot of Long Stye Spinney, turn left and follow the path going steeply uphill, close to the stone wall of the wood on your right.



The views are worth the climb! You can look back to Windmill Hill and beyond to Quorn and the Soar Valley.

Go through the little triangular, walled enclosure and enter the next field through a metal kissing gate (MKG). Continue in the same direction, now with a fence on your left.

You now have views over the other side of the hill, eastwards to Copt Oak and Ulverscroft. Ahead, over to your left, are the buildings of Upper Broombriggs Farm.

At the end of Long Stye Spinney, go through a MKG. Head for another MKG just beyond the two farm gates on your right. The path now takes you between bushes and trees.

Go uphill – crossing a farm track via two MKGs and going through another MKG – to reach a little clump of holly and beech trees, surrounded by a stone wall, in the top left corner of the field. There is a wooden seat and, just to the right of this where the wall ends, a MKG. Go through this and follow the path between walled and fenced off bracken, bushes and trees – going gradually uphill to the top of Broombriggs Hill. After a MKG, the view opens out once more.

You are now 200m above sea level, with the white walls of Broombriggs House visible down to your right. There are several seats along the path from which to admire the view.

Keeping close to the left-hand fence, the path now makes a big, semicircular sweep around Broombriggs House and, just before a MKG, starts to descend. After the MKG, there is now a stone wall on your left. After a small tree plantation on a bend, a separate route for horse riders appears on your right. Where the two routes converge at a gateway, there is a MKG for walkers on the left, leading down to another MKG. Go through this and turn right to meet the wide, walled drive from Broombriggs House.



Turn left down the drive to meet Beacon Road (B591). Woodhouse Eaves village lies to your right. Cross carefully over to the path between wooden fences and keep on in the same direction, crossing over the first track through the woodland to meet the next, main track up Beacon Hill. Here, turn left and walk to the top of the hill, passing the Upper Beacon car park on your left shortly before reaching the summit.



At the top of Beacon Hill, keep on the main track, unless you want to take a detour over to your right to visit the trig point and toposcope, from both of which there are very good views in all directions.

The main track goes around the highest point and then descends gradually to the Lower Beacon car park (signed 'café'). Ignore any side-turnings. When you reach the car park on your left, look for a well-used path on the right, running along the edge of woodland, on the right hand

side of an open, grassy clearing. Cross a tarmac track to continue on the edge of woodland, now with a stone wall on your left.

At a second track crossing, do not go straight ahead here through the wooden barrier to meet the road. Instead turn left, crossing the track and immediately bearing right to go through the metal bridle gate (MBG) ahead. Turn right to meet the road. (At this point, the path continues directly ahead over the road.)

Cross Beacon Road (B591) straight over into the Broombriggs Farm and Windmill Hill car park. Go through a MBG to the left of the main car park. After another MBG, you are on the left hand edge of a field, but after a third MBG, the path is once more inside woodland.

On this stretch of the walk, there are woodland paths on the left leading to and from the top of Windmill Hill, where the base of the old mill has been preserved as a viewing platform. The main path is signed with a finger post.

If you are not planning a detour to see the windmill, keep ahead on the track, passing houses to emerge on Maplewell Road. Turn left to return to the centre of Woodhouse Eaves.



Typical Swithland slate roofed cottages.

