

How to get there Gaddesby is midway between Leicester and Melton Mowbray.

Leave the Leicester-Melton Road at Rearsby, following signs to Gaddesby. (SatNav - Main Street LE7 4WG)

Car parking Park on Gaddesby, Main Street or, if you have permission in the Cheyney Arms carpark.

Public transport: Unavailable

Map Ordnance Survey Explorer 246 Loughborough

Route This is a very easy walk, mostly pasture, all paths well used and clearly defined on the ground.

Refreshment Cheney Arms pub at Gaddesby and Carrington Arms at Ashby Folville

Items of interest In Gaddesby visit the church to see the Colonel Cheney monument. Note the date stones on Harewell cottages, Harewell House and, less obvious, Morton House.

In Barsby we pass a small building known as Tower House or Godson's Folly, which resembles a church and stands on Church Lane. It may never have been consecrated as a church and is now simply a dwelling. More date stones to inspect, much older this time: 1701 in brick on The Cottage, 1691 next door at Stoneleigh and opposite, 1701.

The Walk. From the Cheney Arms, Gaddesby head towards Rearsby and then turn right into Chapel Lane passing Cross Street on your right. Take the signposted footpath on your left then bare right along a narrow-fenced path. Pass through two gates and cross a plank bridge and at the end turn right onto a path with a hedge on your right and a tree nursery on your left. At end of the nursery pass through the gate and turn right and when you reach the road cross straight over onto Pastures Lane. Immediately after the last house turn right onto the Leicestershire Round.

After passing through three gates and crossing a stile move diagonally left going downhill to the corner of the field. Continue in the same direction, uphill, making for the left side of a clump of trees. These trees actually border a stream on a sharp meander below the hill.

Continue down to the bottom left corner of the field. The route now follows the valley past the disused windmill base of Mill Farm and the stream to your right. Keep in this direction, crossing the fenced off Midshires Way bridle track and making for the stile in the corner of the field, near the stream, slightly to your right. Cross the open field and meet a hedge on your right, keep in the same direction and then move left to pass a sewage works which is over to your right. Continue moving left uphill to reach the far-left corner of the big field, near Pool House on the lovely tree line road from Ashby Folville to Great Daley.

Cross the road baring slightly left to pick up the continuation of the route. Move slightly right in the field away from the hedge on your left. A line of houses lies ahead with Ashby Folville church over to the right in the trees. Pass through a gate half way along the line of houses and emerge onto Highfields End via a steep flight of brick steps.

Turn right and go along Highfields End baring left along the road in front of the Carrington Arms and village hall, both overlooking the village cricket field.



Turn right into Church Lane and right again onto a footpath in front of Brook Cottage. Cross two bridges, a small paddock and the Manor House drive. Continue in the same direction through parkland pasture with gates located close to the fence on the left.

The isolated house over to your right was formerly a school serving Ashby Folville and Barsby, being convenient for neither village. The hedge steps in close to your left and you pass through a narrow field. In the next, much bigger field the path crosses to the centre of the far hedge. Leave the field by a hand gate onto a hedge lined path.

Enter Barsby by a brick towered building (Godson's Folly). Turn right through the village and go straight ahead at the cross roads onto Main Street. When Main Street turns right turn left onto The Lane passing down the side of what was formerly the King William pub now 19 Main Street a private residence.

Turn right onto the footpath track and then cross the stile into a field. Bare slightly right, looking for a pond by the hedge and a well-hidden stile just beyond. As you climb the stile note the fine view of Gaddesby church, much better from here than in the village it serves. Bare left across the field and after another stile, head for the far-left corner. Continue across two more fields and turn right after the ditch crossing and follow the field edge to a clump of trees. Cross into the next field and turn half left across the field towards the double gabled house in the distance. Cross the footbridge and follow the track back to the Cheney Arms, Gaddesby 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 David Hinds. November 2022

