

How to get there From the A47 Leicester towards Uppingham ([SatNav – Nether Street LE15 9LD](#))

Car parking No public parking space but some of the village streets are quite wide. Park with discretion. Nether Street is quite wide.

Public transport [Service 747 \(hourly\) Leicester to Uppingham](#). See <http://traveline.info/> or phone 0871 200 22 33

Map [Ordnance Survey Explorer 234 Rutland Water small part of longer walk on 233 Leicester & Hinckley](#)

Route Hilly, with lovely views over wooded countryside. Mixed sheep pasture and arable land. The Leicestershire Round section goes beside the little River Chater and then up and over the Ridlington Ridge on farm tracks which are sometimes very muddy. There are spectacular views. Rutland Water and the Eyebrook reservoir can be seen from the top of the ridge.

Refreshment Belton, The Sun Inn on Main Street and tea room. Village shop near the church. [Coffee at Launde Abbey on longer walk](#)

Items of interest Launde Abbey chapel, sometimes open to the public. Withcote, a lovely redundant church with old glass. Belton a pretty village. Leigh Lodge, with its old fishponds, the site of a hunting lodge in the forest in the time of King John.

The walk From Belton church pass the war memorial on your right and continue left down Chapel Street. At the fork take the road to the right, signposted to Lambley Lodge, No Through Road (and waymarked as the Leighfield Way). When the lane turns left to Lambley Lodge, continue straight ahead with the hedge on your left.

At the top of the hill turn left along a wide track until you reach a big barn, where you turn right at the bridleway sign. Go downhill on the asphalted drive. Cross the bridge over the River Chater and follow the drive past Leigh Lodge on your left. Ignore the bridleway which turns right. Pass close to the conservatory and indoor swimming pool of Leigh Lodge.

Ignore the footpath which goes off diagonally right and continue on the farm track ahead. At the T-junction of tracks keep straight ahead and cross the open field, moving towards the hedge on your right. At the end of the field pass a waymarker and walk between two lines of barbed wire. Cross a bridge over the stream and continue up the slope and through a gap in the hedge. Keep in the same direction, heading for a large gap in the hedge ahead. In the next field walk with the hedge on your right. Meet a track.

To return to Belton on the 5 mile walk, turn left on the track and omit the next section.

Optional extra loop (4 miles)

Continue for a short distance on the track, passing a farm track on your right and then turn right to walk uphill through a new plantation of trees close to the hedge on your left. At the top of the hill turn left at the T-junction of paths and follow the hedge on your right. At the end of the field ignore the bridleway which goes off to the left but continue straight on with the hedge still on your right. At the end of the field turn left. Pass one waymarked opening and continue to the next. Go through the metal gate and walk downhill with the hedge on your left, heading towards some sheds. Go through the metal gate in the bottom corner of the field, passing to the left of the sheds.

Meet the track and turn right towards Cottage Farm and Dowry Cottage. Pass the cottage on your right and cross the road. Follow the drive to Avenue Farm. Pass the farmhouse on your right and swing slightly right to follow the splendid avenue of trees. When you reach the big barn at the end of the avenue, turn left to join the Leicestershire Round.

A walk from **32 Short Circular Walks** based on The Leicestershire Round
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Make your way past the isolated big barn and turn left. Walk close to fencing on your right and join a well-defined track close to Withcote lake on your right. Once past the barn, move uphill, away from the lake. The path to Launde Abbey goes over the hill (just to the right of the brow) and down to a footbridge over the River Chater at the point where the telegraph wires cross the stream.

Cross the footbridge and go up the gully. At the top of the rise you should see Abbey Farm ahead. Veer slightly left as you cross the big pasture, to meet the road which can be seen coming steeply downhill to Launde Abbey. The chimneys of Launde Abbey come into view and then you see the whole building. Turn left at the cattle grid just before the road junctions. (For a closer look at the beautiful house you need to cross the grid.)

Turn along the road towards Withcote for a short distance and then turn right along the well-marked bridleway between the abbey and the lake. Go through the gate and continue up the slope. (On your left is the restored entrance to the Abbey's 'ice house'.)

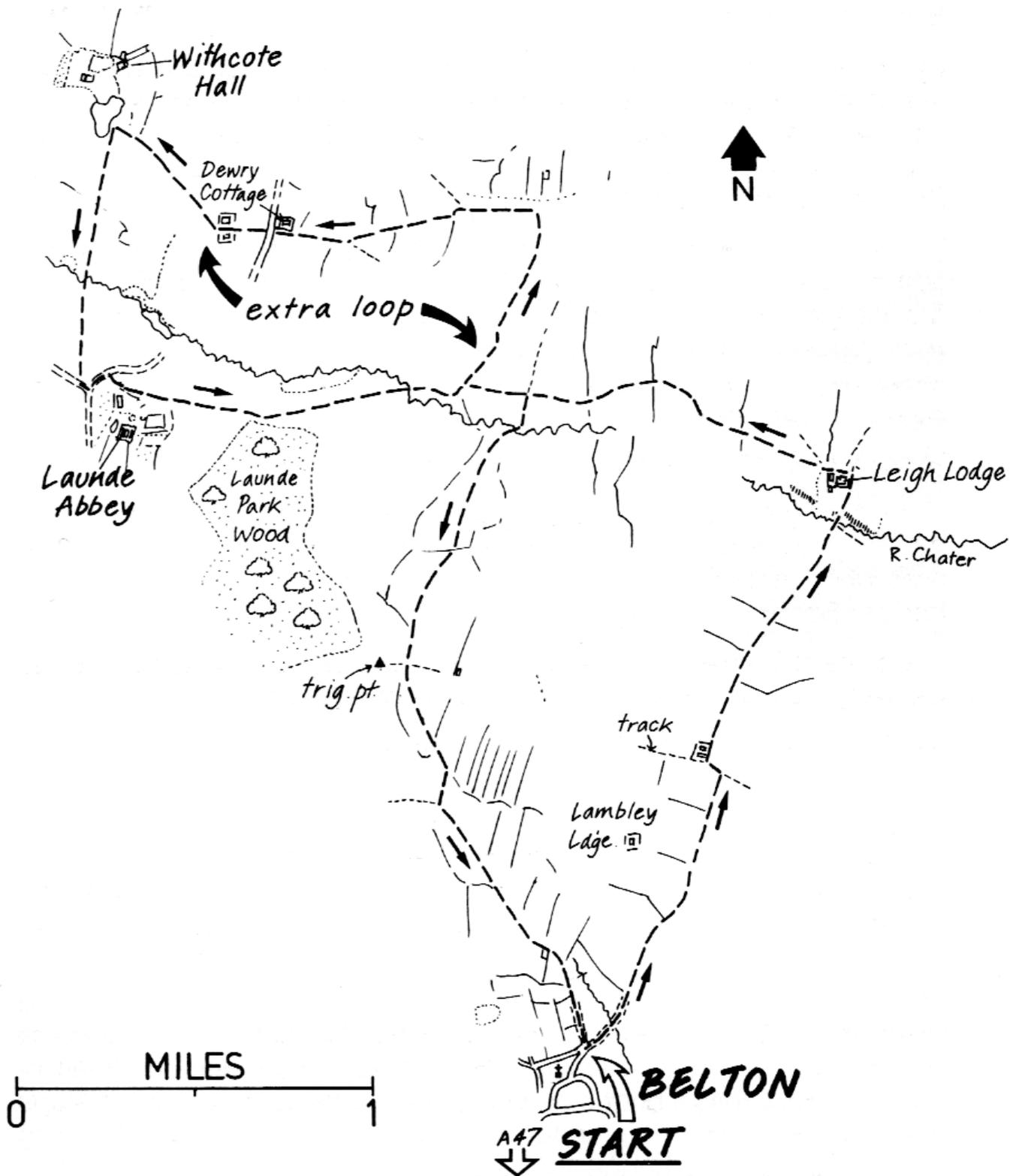
*The path leads you, parallel with a railing fence over to your right, towards the corner of Launde Park Wood. Go through the gate to the left of this corner and continue diagonally across the big field to the far left corner. Go through the gate and cross the bridge over the little river Chater. Keep to the right in the next field along a fairly well marked path, with the river on your right. Go through the wide gap in the hedge and then follow the path as it swings left. Go up the slope and follow the hedge on your right, passing a new plantation on your left. **HERE YOU REJOIN THE SHORT WALK** by turning right on the wide farm track.*

THE SHORT WALK *Follow this track all the way up to the top of the hill. From the top you can look left along the Ridlington ridge and perhaps catch a glimpse of Rutland Water. Go through the bridle gate in front of you, where views open up ahead towards the Eyebrook reservoir.*

Keep the hedge on your right at first as you descend the hill then follow the green track down to the bottom left corner of the field and continue with the hedge on your left until you reach the road, near the big brick house, Brickie Farm.

Turn left along the road and walk for a mile into Belton. Chapel Street leads you to the memorial cross and the church and the general shop. The Sun pub is a little further down the hill, on Main Street.

Steve Westby: The extra loop is worth the effort.



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