

How to get there Sharnford ([SatNav – LE10 3PP](#)) is south of Leicester, 2 miles from the Warwickshire border.

Car parking Sharnford has a public car park near the toilets on the main road.

Smithy Lane car park near Burbage Wood, off the Burbage-Sapcote Road near the M69, makes a good alternative starting point. Grid Ref. SP 452 945.

Public transport [Service X55 Leicester to Hinckley](#) See <http://traveline.info/> or phone 0871 200 22 33

Map [Ordnance Survey Explorer 233 Leicester and Hinckley](#)

Route Easy walking in rather flat, mixed pasture and arable land, with some beautiful open areas and lovely woodland tracks.

Refreshment May's Cafe, Wood House Farm near Burbage Wood, gives a good welcome to walkers. Sharnford and Sapcote both have welcoming pubs.

Items of interest Burbage Wood and the Common are well worth exploring. There is an information centre at Lynden Lea. (Grid Ref. 447 953). On Sapcote recreation ground slight humps in the grass indicate the remains of a Norman castle mound (Toot Hill).

Aston Flamville has a dovecote dated 1715, in brick patterning.

The walk *From Sharnford pass The Countryman pub over to your left and continue straight ahead (on the right of the One Way triangle). Turn right along Aston Lane, passing Ivy House. Turn left keeping the old redbrick farm buildings on your left. Go through the small paddock, close to the fencing on your right.*

Keep in the same direction to cross the cartbridge and go through the gap. Pass the big modern grey farm sheds over to your right and continue in the same direction, close to the hedge on your right. Cross the stile (into a very muddy patch) and turn left to follow the same hedge. (Keep in the same direction to cross the open corner of the field.)

In the third field, with the tall spire of Burbage church ahead of you, walk close to the hedge on your right. When it bends, cross into the corner of a field and walk down to the footbridge over the stream. Cross the stile on the left. Cross the farm track and turn right to walk close to it.

As you go slightly uphill, the pretty hamlet of Aston Flamville lies to your right, just off our route. Join the lane on your right, and continue on the road towards Burbage, (Lychgate Lane). Cross the motorway bridge and turn right along the signposted farmtrack. Walk close to the motorway on your right and then turn left to reach a big pylon in the next field. Cross the stiles and footbridge in the field corner and pass the pylon on your right. Walk with the hedge on your left.

Burbage church spire lies ahead. When you see Cottage Farm, the redbrick house at the end of the next field, move right. Cross into the field on your right and walk close to the hedge on your left until you are level with Cottage Farm. Cross the stile. Our route to Burbage Common avoids Burbage. Turn sharp right, and with your back to Cottage Farm, walk towards Burbage woods, with Burbage church spire over to your left. Walk close to the hedge on your right, cross the stile in the corner and continue in the same direction across the open fields to reach the housing estate. Waymarked stiles lead into Sherborne Road. Follow this estate road round to the left to join Salisbury road and then turn right, into Winchester Drive.

Cross the main Hinckley-Sapcote road (A5070) and go through a gap between bungalows (nos 97 and 99) along a gravel path to a waymarked stile beside a gate, and into a field with a hedge on your left. Half way along this very long field go through the sparse hawthorn hedge and turn left to cross the stile. Continue in the same direction, but with the hedge now on your right.

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Go through three large fields, passing Burbage Wood on your right. (Note that there is a good metalled track inside the wood, parallel with this footpath. You may prefer to use it.) Cross a plank cartbridge into the open field at the end of the wood.

(Wood House Farm, ahead to your left, serves teas to thirsty walkers.)

At the end of the wood turn right, to keep the woods on your right for about 100 yards. Turn right to go through a gate or gap into Smithy Lane Car park under the trees. Walk along Smithy Lane, passing one open field on your left (with more car parking) to the crossroads of tracks in the wood.

Turn left through the gate into Aston Firs Wood along a good stony path. At the end of the wood keep straight on, close to the hedge on your right, through two arable fields. (Grand views of Earl Shilton and Barwell over to your right.)

When you reach the third field turn sharp right. Keep the hedge on your right. Pass a small pond on your left. Go through two arable fields, which may be muddy, keeping close to the hedge on your right. At the end of the second field cross the stile into a lovely old meadow. Go straight across this meadow and cross the stile opposite, into Freeholt Wood.

Freeholt Wood is old and well coppiced. Go through this delightful woodland, keeping to the waymarked path. Emerge in a lovely meadow. Cross diagonally to the far corner, past a caravan site over to your right. Cross the stile and turn right to another stile onto a lane. Turn right to pass the caravan site entrance. Climb the iron railings on the left to the road by the M69 roundabout.

Cross the road and go anti-clockwise to the far side of the M69 roundabout, walking along the grass verge towards Sapcote. Go through a bridle gate on your right. Turn right. (The bridleway may be muddy in wet weather.)

At the corner of the field turn left, keeping close to the hedge on your right. Go under the power lines and continue on the bridleway through four gates. (Lovely views of Charnwood over to your left.) At the fourth gate turn left onto a green track for about 200 yards then continue straight on along a concrete drive. Just before you reach the busy Sapcote-Hinckley Road turn right at the footpath sign and cross the stile.

Keep the hedge on your right for four fields. Pass the Limes farm over to your left. In the fourth field cross the (slightly hidden) waymarked stile in the right hand corner of the field. Then go slightly left across the next field, keeping Sapcote church over to your right. Cross the next stile onto a narrow path between a fence and a hedge. Go about 100 yards to meet the road.

Cross the road and go onto a playing field by houses on your right. In about 200 yards, turn right at the footpath sign and go down a narrow path by the old rectory to reach the road, with the Sapcote primary school in front of you.

Turn right along the road and then left at the T-junction to follow a country lane (known to the locals as Donkey Lane). Pass the cemetery on your left and continue through a gate into pasture land. Pass through the next gate and follow a green track (which may be muddy in wet weather). After about 200 yards enter an open field, with a hedge on your right. Bear right and keep the hedge on your right to go through the bridlegate in the field corner. Turn sharp left and join a track, with Sharnford church in view.

Go through another gate, where the track becomes Mill Lane. At the bottom of Mill Lane turn right into Chapel Lane and left at the bottom to the main road. Turn right along the main road to reach your starting point in Sharnford.

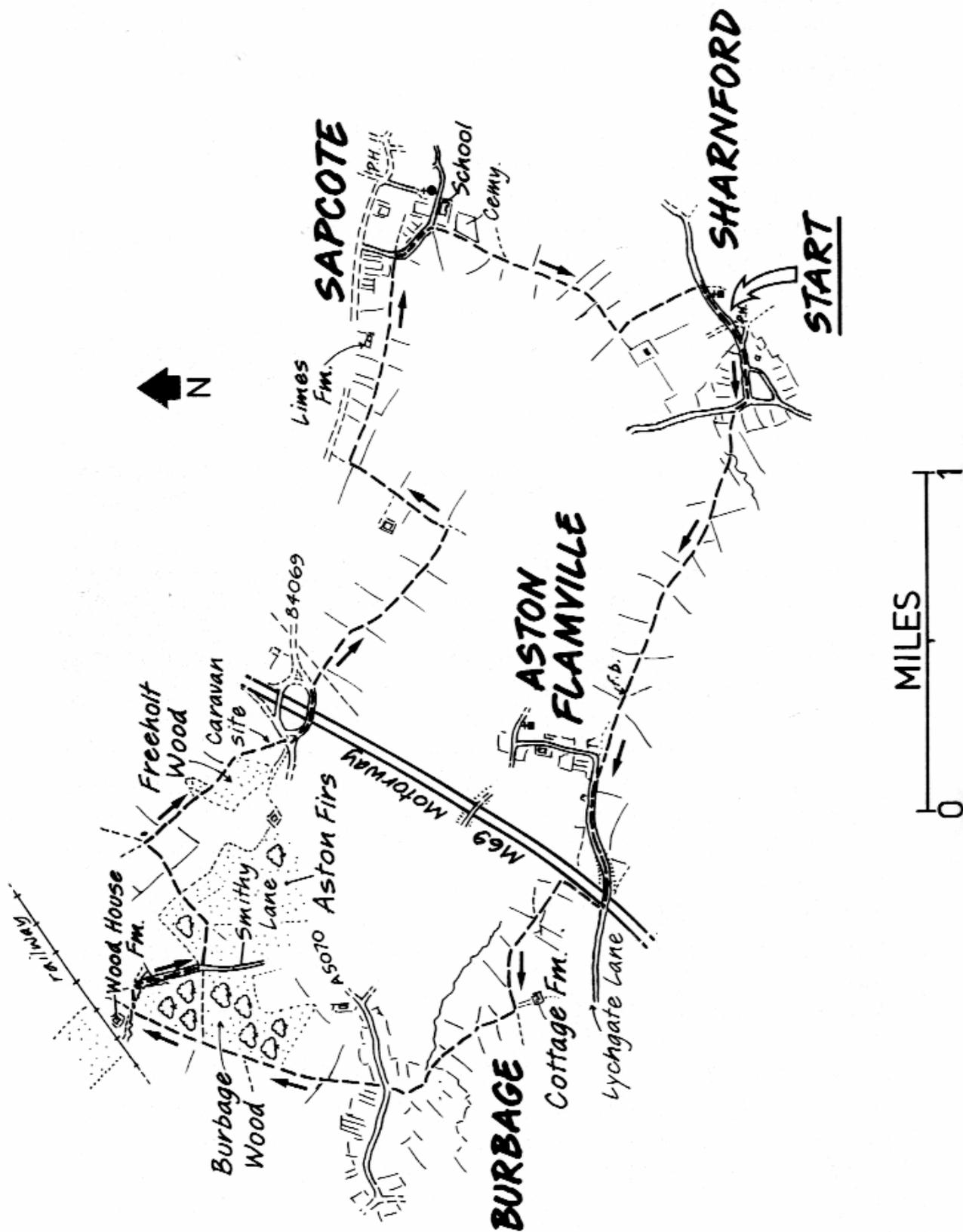
Jean Farmer: "A very pretty walk although it involves crossing the M69 and skirting the urban areas of Hinckley and Ban/veil."

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