

**How to get there** Rearsby is just off A607 Leicester - Melton Mowbray. ([SatNav – Church Ln. LE7 4YE](#))

**Car parking** Roadside parking only, with discretion. You may find space in Brookside, Rearsby

**Public transport** [Arriva 5A Leicester \(Haymarket\) to Melton Mowbray](#). See <http://traveline.info/>

**Map** [Ordnance Survey Explorer 246 Loughborough](#)

**Route** Mainly meadowland, with some crop fields. Pretty villages in the Wreake valley and fine views from the higher ridge between Brooksby and Rearsby.

**Refreshments** The Wheel and The Horse and Groom, Rearsby and The Blue Bell, Hoby all serve bar snacks.

**Items of interest** Brooksby, famous for its connections with the Villiers family George Villiers leapt to fame and power as the favourite of James I and of Charles I . He became the Duke of Buckingham and was reported to have possessed every vice and only one virtue (that of being generous to his mother, brothers and sisters!)

The Hall, once lived in by Lord Cardigan and Earl Beatty of the North Sea is now an agricultural college. (Little remains of the original building.)

The church is lovely, with early Tudor features. There are monuments in the church to William Villiers and his young wife who both died in 1711.

**The walk** *From Rearsby church turn right at the top of Church Lane and follow the tarmac path which goes round two sides of the church wall to emerge on Church Leys Avenue. At number 22 turn left and go between houses, through the kissing gate and turn right in an open grassy area between the convent grounds and an avenue of chestnut trees.*

*Pass the convent garden wall on your left and meet the road. Turn left to go downhill and cross the road to walk along Wreake Drive. At number 7 turn left. Cross the double stile into the open field and move diagonally right across the ridge and furrow to the railway crossing.*

*Cross the railway line carefully. Thrussington church tower lies straight ahead but our route goes diagonally right to reach Thrussington Mill. Keep diagonally across two fields, but in the third turn left to follow the hedge on your left. (If the diagonal route is obstructed by crops you might find it easier to turn sharp right when you have crossed the railway and keep to the edge of the next two fields, keeping close to the railway at first and then turning sharp left to reach the stream.)*

*Walk to the river side and then turn right, to keep close to the river on your left. Cross the brick bridge over the river and walk with it on your right and the old mill lock on your left. Swing left over the metal footbridge and pass the mill house and garden on your left. Cross the concrete cartbridge beside the old mill wheel housing (the marks of the old wheel are just about visible on the wall). Pass between the outbuilding and the big sheds and continue along the mill access drive.*

*As you go along the drive, note Thrussington church tower to your left and Hoby church spire over to your right. When you are level with Thrussington church, turn right, into a field with huge pylon. Pass the pylon on your left and continue in the same direction across a very big field. Pass the end of one hedge and carry on to meet another in front of you. Keep this hedge on your left and continue with it on your left in the next two, long, fields. (You will be aiming for Brooksby church spire at this point and an arched brick bridge, which you pass but do not cross.) (The beautiful grounds over to your right are Brooksby Agricultural College grounds.)*

A walk from **32 Short Circular Walks** based on The Leicestershire Round  
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*Aim for the red brick house of The Lodge farm. Hoby church spire is clearly visible beyond it. Pass to the left of the house and follow the drive. Cross the road and continue straight across the open field. Move slightly left in the next two small fields. Pass an isolated house over to your left. Cross the cartbridge at the end of a line of trees and continue to the stile which leads you out onto the Brooksby-Hoby road ahead. Cross this road and swing left in the field, keeping the road on your left. Cross old gravel hollows and rejoin the road at a waymarked concrete post crossing. Continue uphill to the road junction and turn right, to pass Hoby church on your left.*

*From Hoby church take the metalled footpath next to the Village Hall and go between wall and houses to reach Back Lane.*

*Turn left then right to walk down a steep hill on narrow path. Cross the stile and bear left to reach the yellow marker post in the corner.*

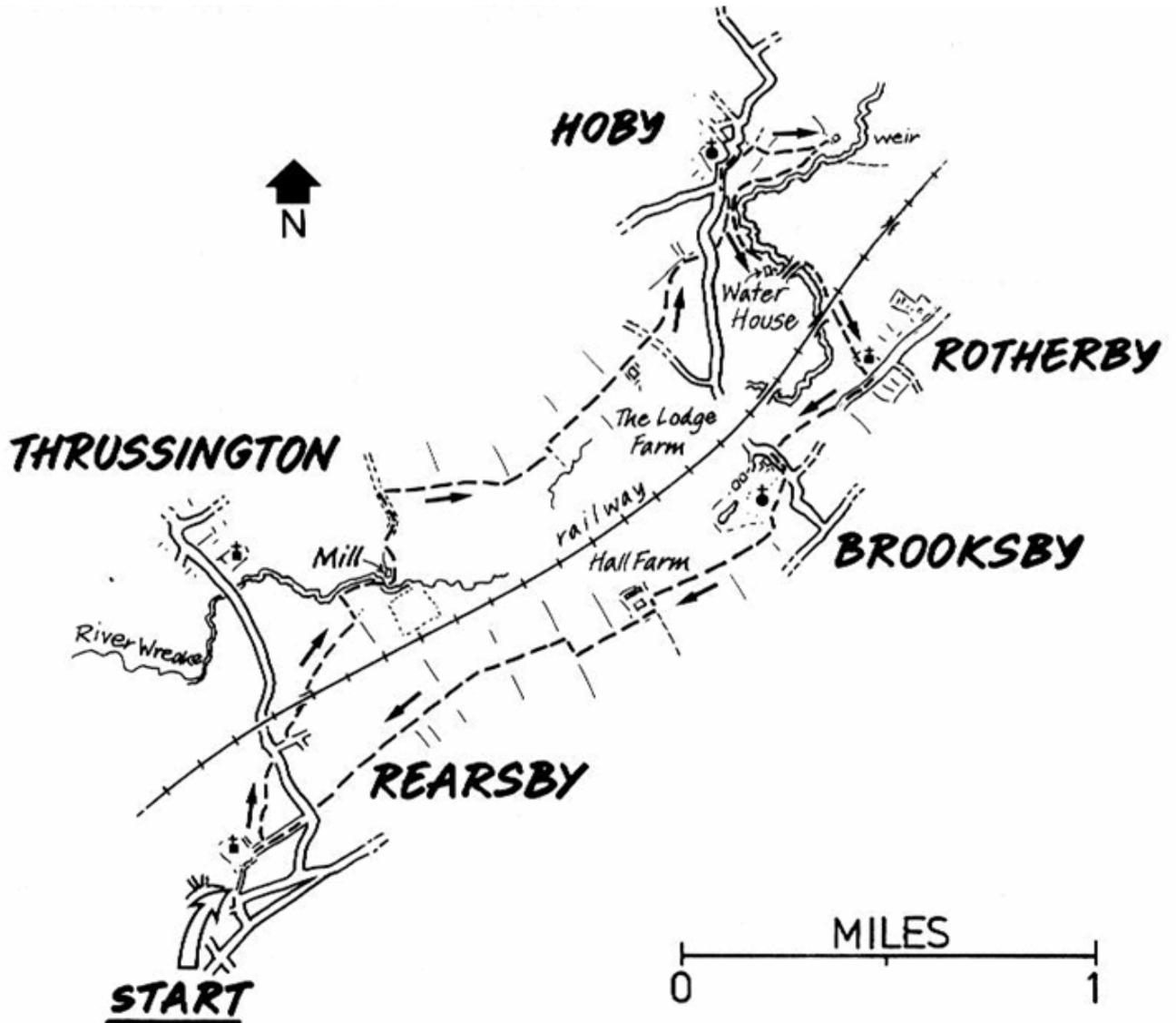
Here we part company with the Leicestershire Round and turn right along the river bank. Cross the footbridge and keeping the river on your left, pass through the gate and go along the river bank beside the Water House on your right.

Turn left to cross over the river bridge. Walk with the river now on your right. Rotherby church stands ahead of us. As the river bends away to the right, keep straight on towards the railway line. Cross it carefully and keep in the same direction heading towards Rotherby church. Pass it on your left and go through the gate onto the village street. Turn right.

Brooksby church is now straight ahead, along the road. Cross the cattle grid and bear right, away from the road and cross the field diagonally to the stile onto the Hoby Road. Turn left and walk along the road for a short distance and then turn right, into Brooksby Agricultural College. Continue along the drive following yellow markers through the college grounds. Swing left before you reach the church and follow the waymarks over the stile. Continue with a hedge on your right and keep in the same direction over the fields. Go through a series of waymarked gates to reach the farm road leading to Hall Farm. When you reach the farm buildings turn left and then right, following the track (signposted to Hives Farm) along the back of the farm buildings.

Keep on this track, which bends right and then left and, when the track turns left to Hives Farm (Equine Centre), keep straight on. Cross the stile at the top of the hill and go through the gate at the end of the field. The village of Rearsby is now in view. Keep close to the hedge on your left to the corner of the field and then move right to join a walkway leading to a metalled road in front of houses.

At the end of this road cross the main road and continue along Church Leys Avenue to reach Rearsby church. Follow the path which goes to the left of the church and at the church gates turn left again to reach the old packhorse bridge and the ford.



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