



Local Walks

AROUND

BARROW UPON SOAR



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These walks include the loop of the River Soar as it curves from Barrow to Quorn, the canal, surrounding wolds countryside and Charnwood Hills.

The parish comprises the village, the River Soar, Grand Union Canal, working railway, Barrow Gravel Pits, one of oldest surviving valley pits in the county and a derelict willow osier bed (grid ref 580158), Barrow Hill, disused lime pits and hedgerows rich in wildlife and flora route linking Leicester with the Trent and Mersey Canal.

START: Public car park at Old Station Close at south end of High Street. Nearest postcode LE12 8QL, Ordnance Survey Grid Reference 457452 317352 - Explorer Map 246.

PARKING: Public Car Park, Old Station Close.

GETTING THERE:

Plan your journey on foot, by bike, public transport or car by visiting www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk or calling Traveline on **0871 200 22 33** (charges apply) for the latest public transport information.

NOTES: Do not attempt walks 3 and 4 when the river is in flood, or for several days afterwards. For details visit www.environment-agency.gov.uk.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: With thanks to the Ramblers, Britain's walking charity, who have helped develop this local walk. For more information and ideas for walks visit www.ramblers.org.uk

For more information and to report problems contact:
Tel **0116 305 0001**
Email footpaths@leics.gov.uk



Local Walks

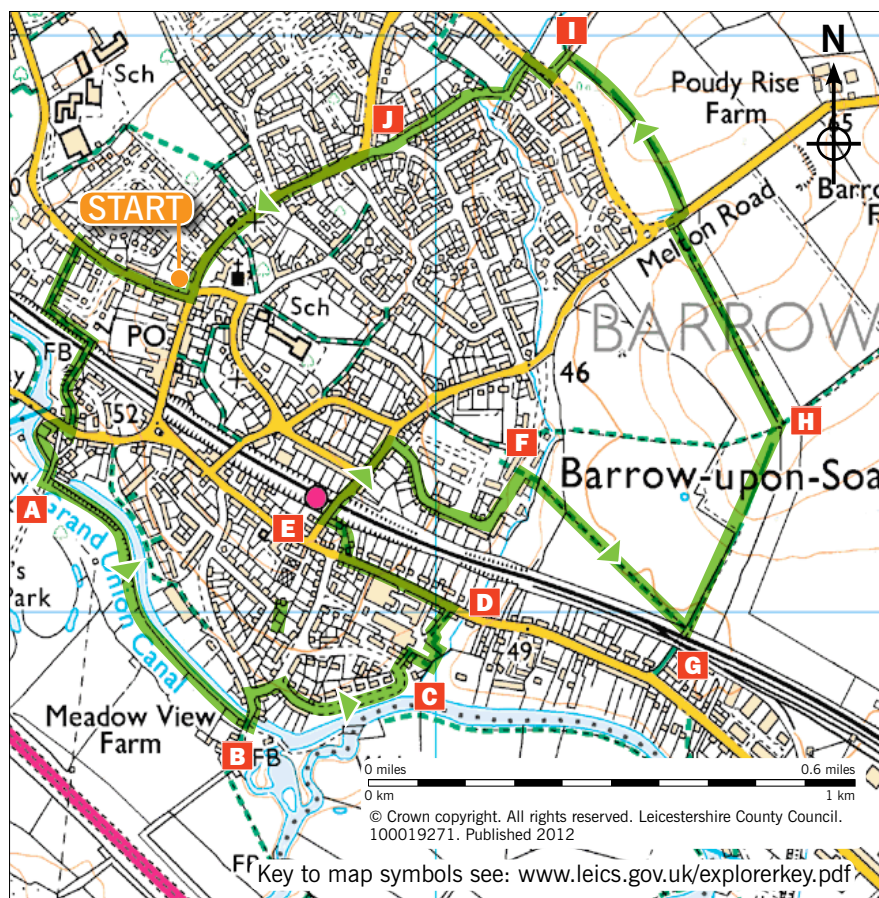
AROUND BARROW UPON SOAR



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Walk 1: A walk to Barrow Deep Lock and Millennium Park with views of the river and countryside.

START: Public car park at Old Station Close at south end of High Street. Nearest postcode LE12 8QL, Ordnance Survey Grid Reference 457452 317352 - Explorer Map 246.



From the car park turn left over railway bridge into High Street, then left along Cotes Road to the footpath on the left, after no. 29 known as Barrowcliffe Jitty. Follow the path to cross the railway footbridge and down the steep descent to Bridge Street.

A. Cross with care, take the path through the green space between Proctor's Park Road and the river. Follow the path to a slope and cycle barrier next to the canal bridge, Turn right over this, and then left on to the towpath by Barrow Deep Lock. Follow the towpath to Mill Lane Bridge.

B. Go up the steps and turn left over the bridge, past the Navigation pub then right into Ribble Drive. Turn almost immediately right into Welland Road, then round into Avon Road.

C. Between nos. 37 and 39 on the right, turn into the jitty which twists and turns up to Sibley Road.

D. Turn left up the hill along Sibley Road, between nos. 9 and 11. Turn right up a couple of steps to a jitty which bends round alongside the railway to Grove Lane.

E. Turn right over the railway bridge and right into Breachfield Road. Follow this around two bends to a signed footpath on the right between nos. 58 and 60.

F. Cross a stile and Fishpool Brook then go slightly right up the bank to another stile into a large field that is usually cropped. Follow the path diagonally right and pass through a gap in the hedge to the railway fence.

G. Turn left uphill with the hedge on the left until a clear footpath crosses. Turn right towards a yellow waymark post and a gap in the hedge.

H. Turn left through the gap down to the Fishpool Way/ Melton Road roundabout. Enter Millennium Park opposite and continue ahead to emerge onto Fishpool Way at a junction with a bridleway.

I. Continue ahead along Fishpool Way to a tarmac path then turn right over Fishpool Brook to reach the end of Brook Lane.

J. Go uphill to join Babington Road, then along North Street and High Street to the car park.



Easy



1 hour
30 minutes



5km
3 miles



Cafés in
Barrow Upon
Soar
Pubs in
Barrow Upon
Soar

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Local Walks

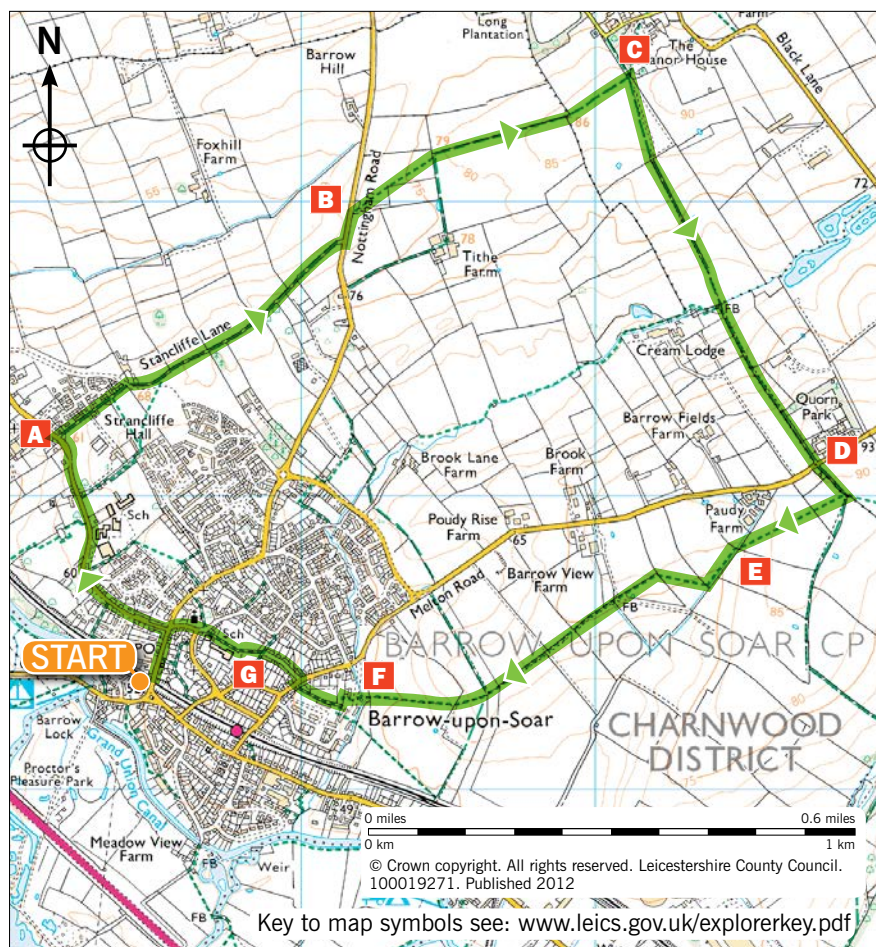
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Walk 2: A route that takes in fine views of open wolds country and Charnwood Hills.

START: Public car park at Old Station Close at south end of High Street. Nearest postcode LE12 8QL, Ordnance Survey Grid Reference 457452 317352 - Explorer Map 246.



From the car park turn left over railway bridge into High Street, then left along Cotes Road past Humphrey Perkins School to the end of a granite wall which fronts the gardens of Strancliffe.

A. Turn right up the surfaced bridleway, known as Strancliffe Lane. Follow the track across Willow Road to reach Nottingham Road (the dips in the lane and surrounding fields are the remains of small limestone quarries used to produce mortar).

B. Cross the road with care and turn left for 100m along the verge to the footpath on the right. Go through the handgate and over the stile then walk diagonally across the field towards a solitary tree on the horizon. Pass through the next handgate to join the bridleway along the edge of two large fields.

C. Turn right at the end of the second field along a farm track (the village of Walton-on-the-Wolds is a few minutes to the left here). Follow the track to Fishpool Brook in the valley below and continue uphill along the bridleway. Pass through the handgate and onto the lane. The buildings on the left once belonged to the Quorn Hunt.

D. Cross Melton Road with care and follow the enclosed lane for 150m to the point where it is crossed by the footpath to Seagrave. Pass through the handgate and leave the bridleway immediately at the waymarker to the right. Follow alongside electric tapes to a waymark post and kissing gate. Continue downhill across a large field to two stiles in the corner.

E. Follow to some steps and a handgate then bear right to the skyline (the view ahead is dominated by the Charnwood Hills). Continue along the ridge to reach a broad ride then go straight through the gap in the hedge and continue downhill to a large cropped field and follow the footbridge onto Breachfield Road.

F. Turn left to a jitty on the right between nos. 59 and 61, which leads to Melton Road. Cross slightly right into New Street.

G. Follow another jitty straight ahead, passing the Hall Orchard Primary School to Church Street. Turn left, passing the church on the right, and the Roundhouse lock-up and Old Men's Hospital on the left, then turn left into High Street to the car park.

Moderate

2 hours
30 minutes

8km
5 miles

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Soar

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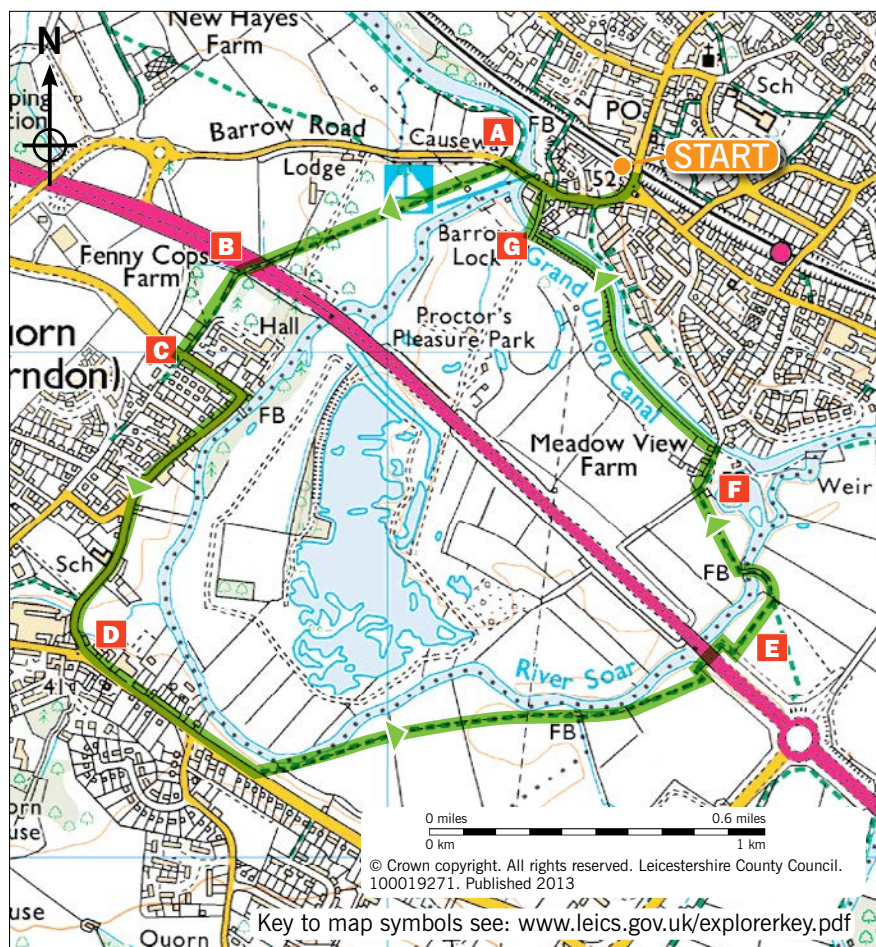
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Walk 3: A walk following the River Soar through water meadows from Barrow to Quorn.

START: Public car park at Old Station Close at south end of High Street. Nearest postcode LE12 8QL, Ordnance Survey Grid Reference 457452 317352 - Explorer Map 246.



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Turn right from car park into Bridge Street which leads to a narrow bridge over the River Soar.

A. Cross the bridge and immediately turn left through the handgate onto the 'Slabs' footpath (originally paved in the 19th century to give a dry path from Quorn Hall to Barrow railway station).

B. Cross the long footbridge over the A6 then pass through the small field onto a lane leading to Meynell Road.

C. Turn left and follow the road to the right, into Soar Road which borders the river. Continue left into School Lane to the T-junction with the old A6, Leicester Road (the main road through the Soar Valley for centuries).

D. Turn left and cross straight over the mini-roundabout (a Roman settlement has been found near here) then continue for 150 m. At the footpath sign, turn left through the handgate and walk down to the river. Keeping the river on the left, follow the path through a succession of stiles and gates (all waymarked) to pass under the new A6 (these are the 'water meadows' which still hold water in times of flood and are excellent for grazing cattle and producing hay).

E. Continue ahead to the handgate which leads to an enclosed surfaced path. Cross the footbridge then follow the enclosed path between paddocks to a lane.

F. Turn right towards the canal then turn left down the steps before the bridge. Follow the towpath to Barrow Deep Lock.

G. Cross the bridge here and immediately turn left through cycle barrier into public open space. Follow path past seats to Bridge Street. Turn right uphill to the roundabout - the car park is on the left.



Easy



1 hour
30 minutes



4.65km
2.75 miles



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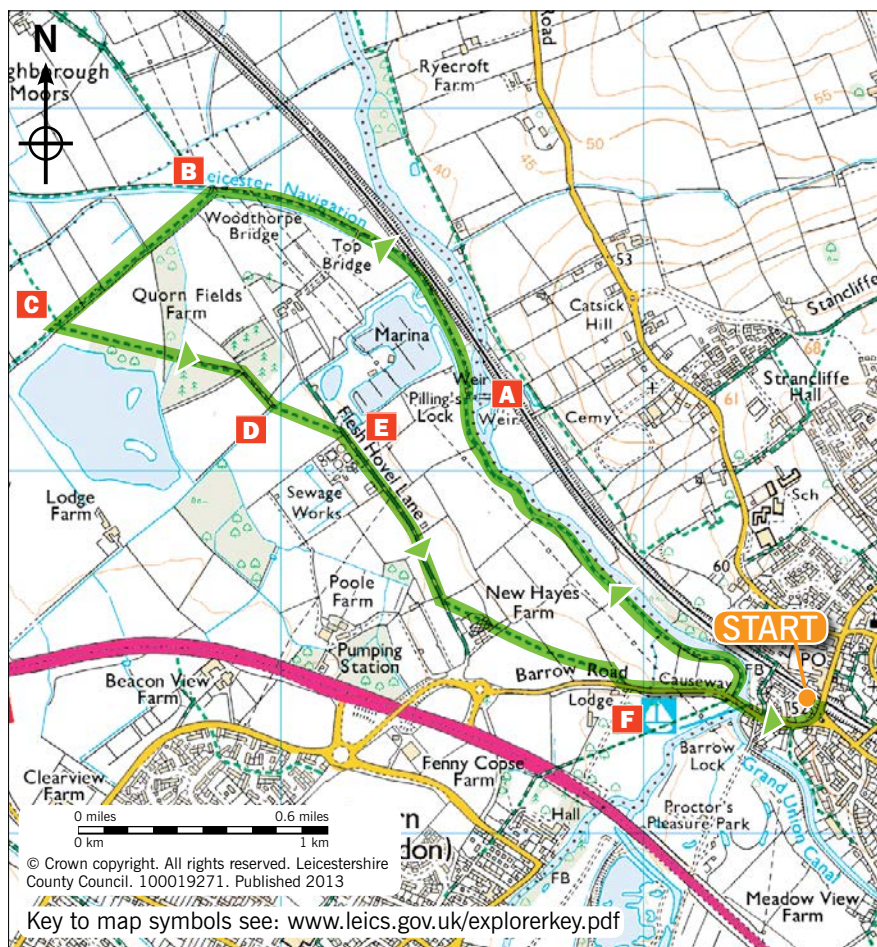
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Walk 4: Pleasant waterside walk with a return largely across fields.

START: Public car park at Old Station Close at south end of High Street. Nearest postcode LE12 8QL, Ordnance Survey Grid Reference 457452 317352 - Explorer Map 246.



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Turn right from the car park into Bridge Street. Cross the narrow bridge over the River Soar and turn immediately right towards Pillings Lock.

A. Cross the footbridge and continue along the canal towpath (with the water on the left) to the second brick bridge (Woodthorpe Bridge).

B. Climb the stile to the right of the bridge and turn left, then follow the farm track. The Charnwood Hills soon form an impressive skyline.

C. Turn left over the footbridge at waymark post (*) to follow the headland path which leads into woodland on an enclosed path.

D. At the end of the path, cross the footbridge and pass through the handgate then go diagonally left to reach Fresh Hovel Lane.

E. Turn right along the metalled narrow road for about 350m, passing sewage works on the right, to waymarked stile (*) on

the left. Go diagonally towards the farm building and follow waymarks through the yard to a stile. Go diagonally left through the grassy field to a handgate about halfway along the hedge. Continue on the same line to a waymarked gap, then to a stile leading to a busy road.

F. Cross the road with care and turn left along the elevated causeway to the river bridge. Retrace outward route from here to the car park.


Note: If you wish to avoid the 4 stiles on this route, continue along Fresh Hovel Lane to reach the main road at the right of a roundabout. Go ahead at the roundabout to return to Barrow-upon-Soar.

This walk could be extended to 9.25 km / 5.75 miles by continuing along the canal as far as Moor Lane Bridge, to the edge of Loughborough.


** Turn right onto Moor Lane for a short distance to a footpath which eventually crosses the canal at Millers Bridge and leads to a waymark post to re-join the shorter route.*

 Moderate

 2 hours

 6.15km
3.5 miles

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