

# Jubilee Way



20 miles (32 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> km) walk

# Introduction

- The Jubilee Way was opened in 1977, to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee.
- This twenty mile walk starts at Burrough Hill Country Park, taking in the rolling hills of High Leicestershire, through Melton Mowbray to Melton Country Park, then across open countryside to the beautiful Vale of Belvoir before ending at Brewer's Grave, just beyond Woolsthorpe by Belvoir in Lincolnshire.
- The route links with the long distance path of the Viking Way
- The route has been clearly waymarked with the Jubilee Way symbol to aid navigation through the countryside.



- The directions have been written in sections, making it possible to do the route as a series of short walks.

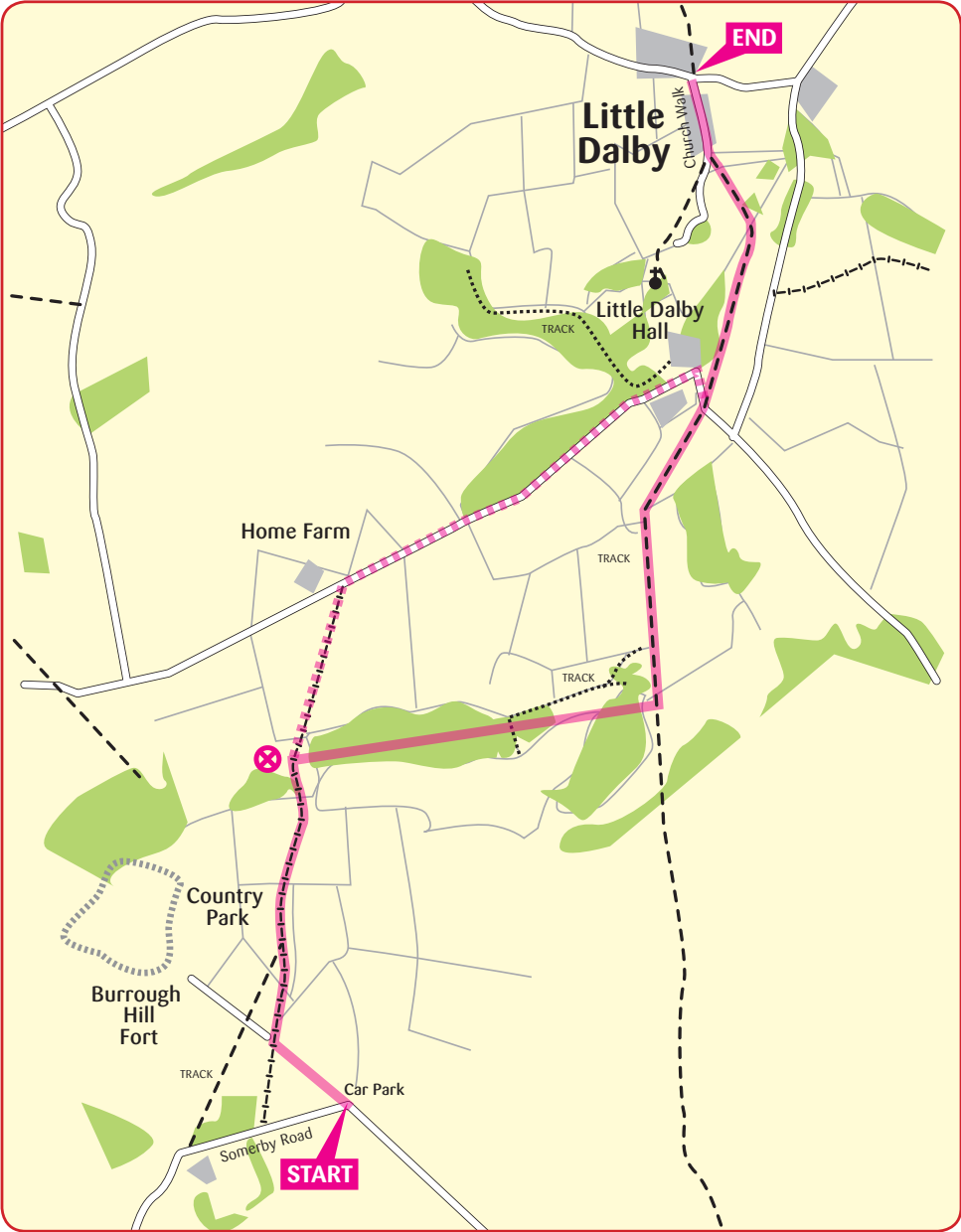
**TOTAL Distance = 20 miles (32 3/4 km)**

## Key

|                    |   |           |  |
|--------------------|---|-----------|--|
| Route              |  | Footpath  |  |
| Alternative Route  |  | Bridleway |  |
| Dismantled Railway |  | Byway     |  |

**Burrough Hill Country Park to Little Dalby (2¼ miles/3½ km)**

Crosses the Little Dalby Estate famed for stilton cheese.



From the car park at Burrough Hill Country Park walk up the farm track towards the farm buildings, then turn right onto the bridleway. After three fields the route goes right, following a path through the woods.

⊗ *From here to the farm track the path is not a public right of way, but is clearly marked with yellow posts. Members of the public are welcome to walk or horse ride along it, except during times that it is closed.*

*During the periods of closure (usually Thursdays between November and February - the shooting season), an alternative route can be taken. Instead of turning right into the woodland, continue straight through a gate and across a large field to the road near Home Farm. Turn right and follow the road around to where the public footpath crosses.*

At the track bend, cross a field to the road, where the alternative route rejoins, and continue in front of Little Dalby Hall towards the village of Little Dalby.

On reaching the lane, continue towards the village centre and wooden village sign.



*At 690 feet Burrough Hill is one of the highest points in Leicestershire, and is crowned by an iron-age hill fort with well preserved ramparts. The toposcope on site indicates landmarks that can be seen from the summit.*

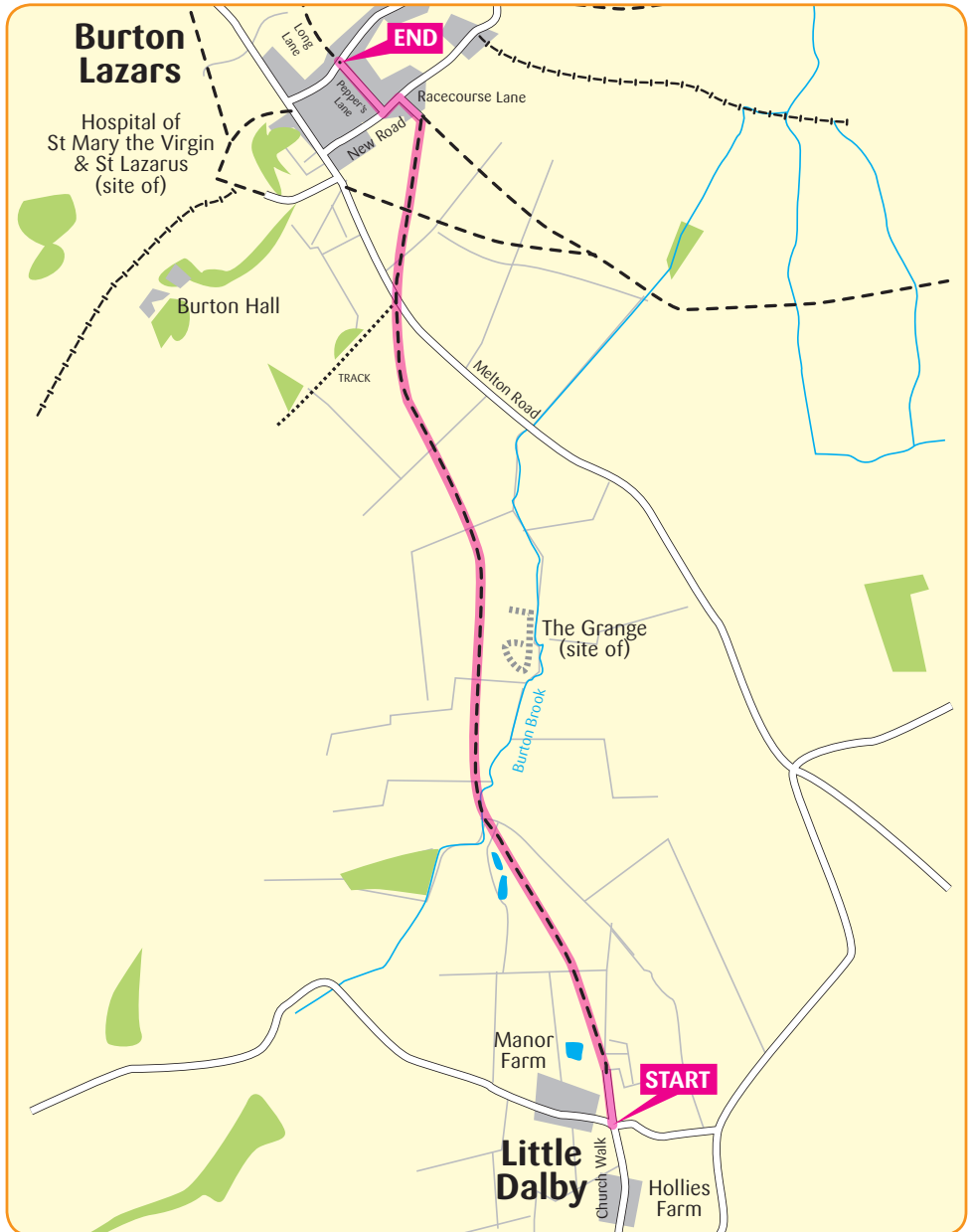
*The site leased to Leicestershire County Council is part of the Little Dalby Estate covering 5,300 acres, owned by the Ernest Cook Trust.*

*The Ernest Cook Trust is a charitable body set up by Ernest, grandson of the famous travel agent, Thomas Cook. The Trust owns some 21,500 acres of land in six counties. Many of the schemes it supports are related to countryside, environmental and architectural conservation.*

# Little Dalby to Burton Lazars

(2 miles/3 km)

Relatively flat ground, though due to the arable land use, can be slow going.



From Little Dalby walk past Manor Farm and join the footpath on the left. Cross the fields with Burton Lazars always in sight ahead.

Cross the road to the footpath opposite. In the second field aim for the houses to the far right corner to reach Racecourse Lane.

At the junction turn left into New Road, then right into Pepper's Lane. Continue straight into Long Lane.

*The hamlet of Burton Lazars gets the second half of its name from an ancient leper hospital founded in the twelfth century and which was the principal English house of the crusading Order of the Knights of St. Lazarus.*

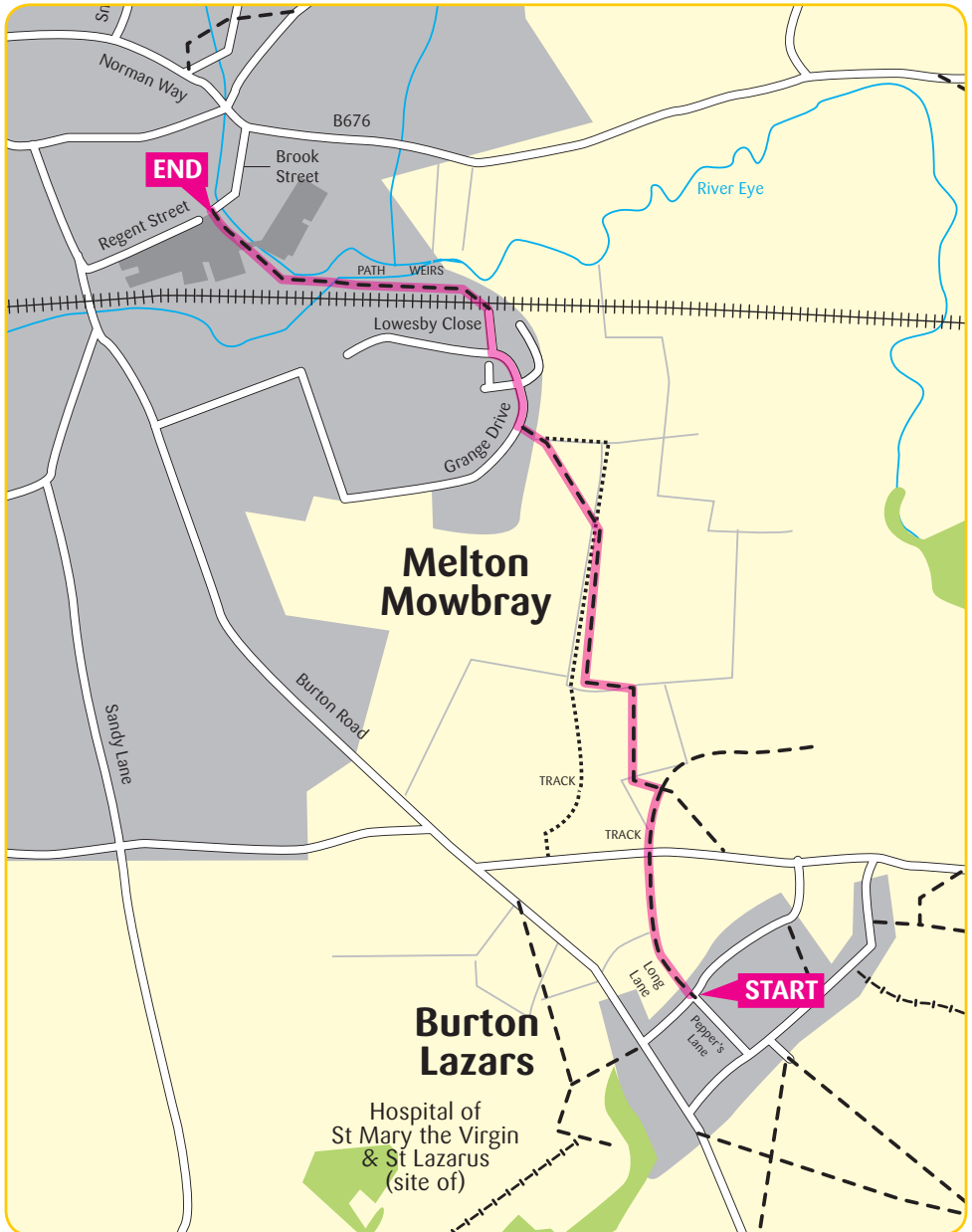
*The hospital, said to have been one of the largest in Britain, was demolished about a century after the Dissolution. Very little stonework remains above ground. A series of mounds and depressions in a field north of Burton Hall gives an idea of the layout.*



## Burton Lazars to Melton Mowbray

(1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles/2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> km)

Gently undulating mainly arable landscape, with surfaced paths nearer Melton Mowbray.



Follow the enclosed path of Long Lane downwards, through a field, then ascend the next field. Cross the field boundary at the top and turn left to walk with the hedge on the left. Turn right and continue downhill for about 400 metres. Cross over the boundary to the left and walk diagonally left to the housing estate.

A path leads to the road, turn right and then right again into Lowesby Close. Continue to the end, over the railway line and follow the path running parallel to the railway line.

Cross the brook at the bridge and continue to the road.

*Most people regard the 19th and early 20th century as the “heyday” of Melton – when the hunting fraternity, including the nobility and royalty of Great Britain and even of Europe, came to Melton for the hunting season – literally and figuratively ‘painting the town red’. John Ferneley, a local painter who gained national repute, captured the hunting scene for posterity.*

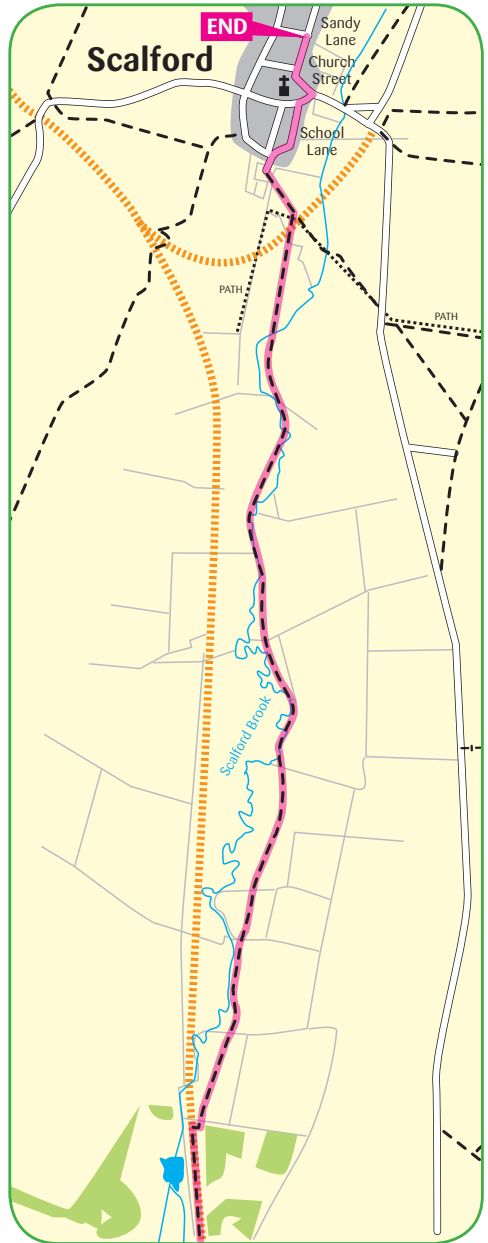
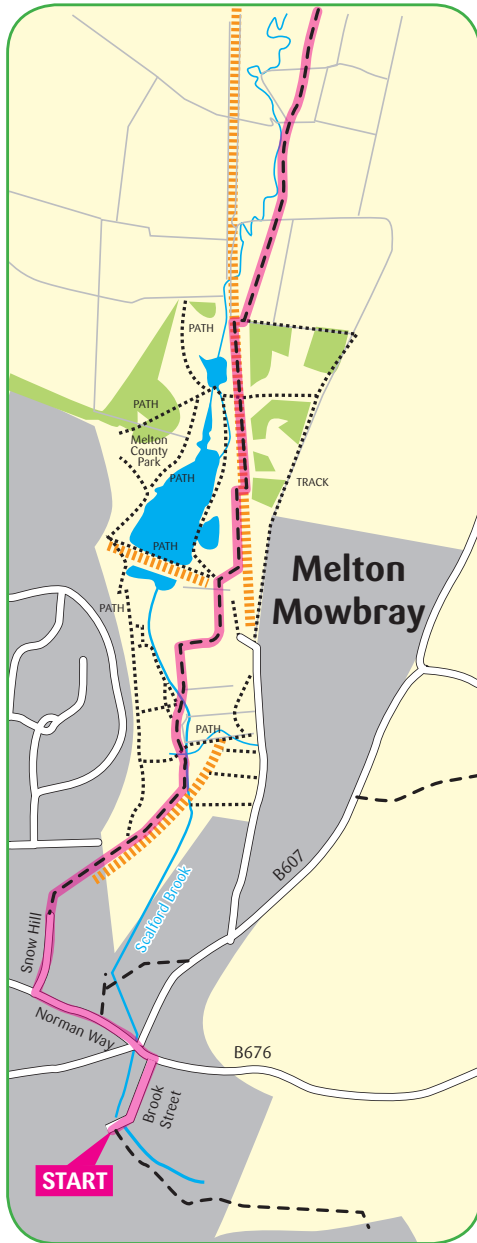




# Melton Mowbray to Scaford

(3¾ miles/6 km)

Easy walking through Melton Country Park then gently rolling pastureland, following the Scaford Brook.



On emerging out onto Brook Street, turn right. At the traffic lights turn left and follow Norman Way (A607). Turn right into Snow Hill.

At the end of Snow Hill take the footpath to the right which runs parallel to the dismantled railway line.

Follow the surfaced path through Melton Country Park and up onto the dismantled railway line.

After passing the Sheep/Dog sculpture drop down to the right and follow the waymarked route beside Scalford Brook.

After crossing the brook for the fourth time follow the line of the ridge and furrow aiming for the Scalford church.

Pass under the dismantled railway line and bear right through a field to eventually emerge onto the lane.

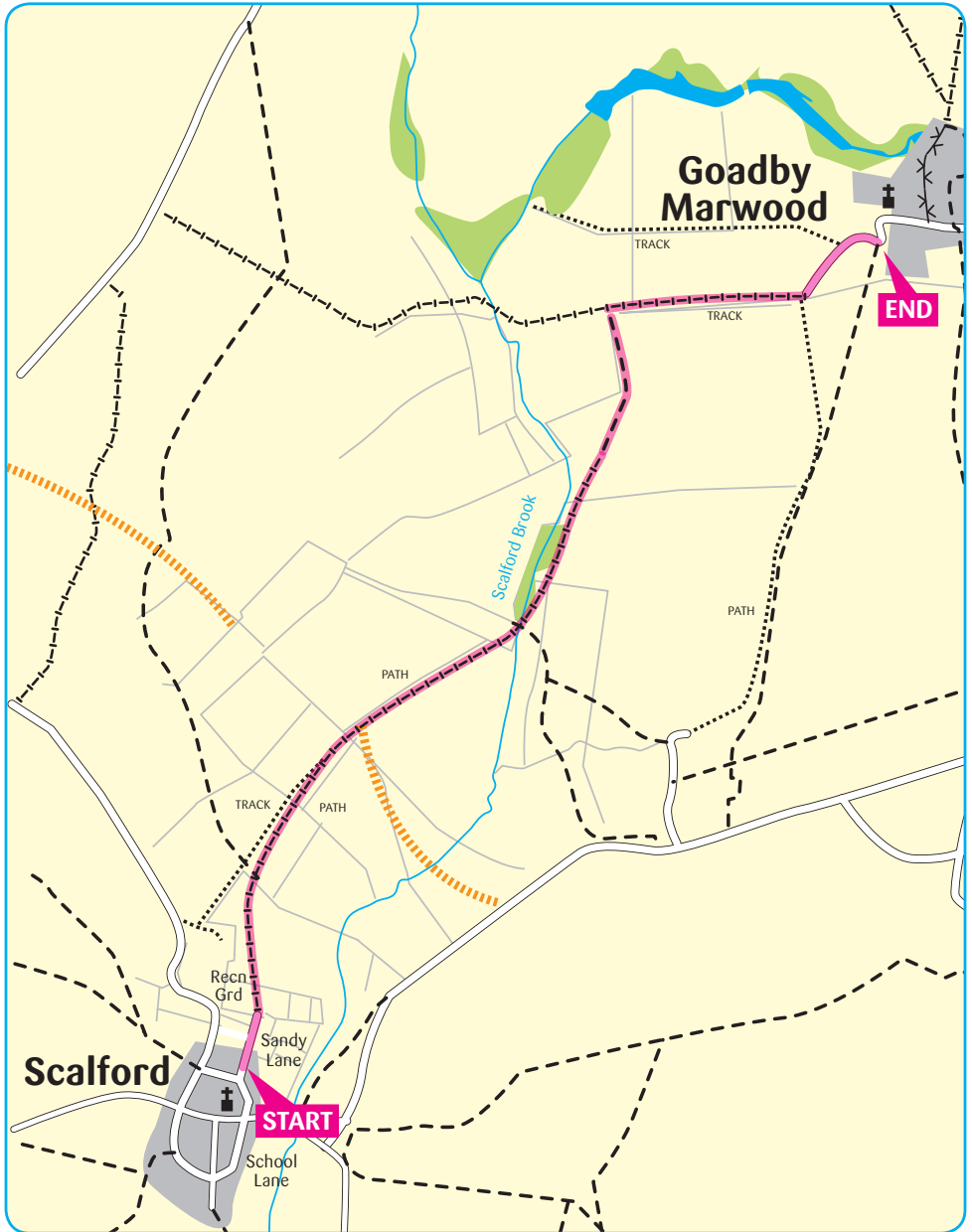
Follow School Lane around to the right, past the Primary School on the left. At the T-junction turn right, then left, keeping the church on your left.

Bear right into Sandy Lane.

*Evidence of man's activity over the centuries can be seen easily along the route; ridge-and-furrow, caused by medieval ploughing in strips with oxen, and a reminder of the steam age in the disused Great Northern Railway line which runs parallel to this part of the route.*



Passing mainly over arable land.



Leave Scalford via Sandy Lane. Cross the village recreation ground to join the bridleway. Make for a point just to the left of a large group of trees on the horizon. Follow the farm track, then in the next field walk with the hedge on the right.

Cross the dismantled railway line and continue with the hedge on the left. About halfway between the two villages there is yet another crossing of the Scalford Brook.

Once through the gate in the corner bear right aiming for the right hand end of the line of trees. Follow the field edge to the farm track, then right to reach the village of Goadby Marwood.

*The railway, now dismantled was built exclusively to remove iron ore from the area.*

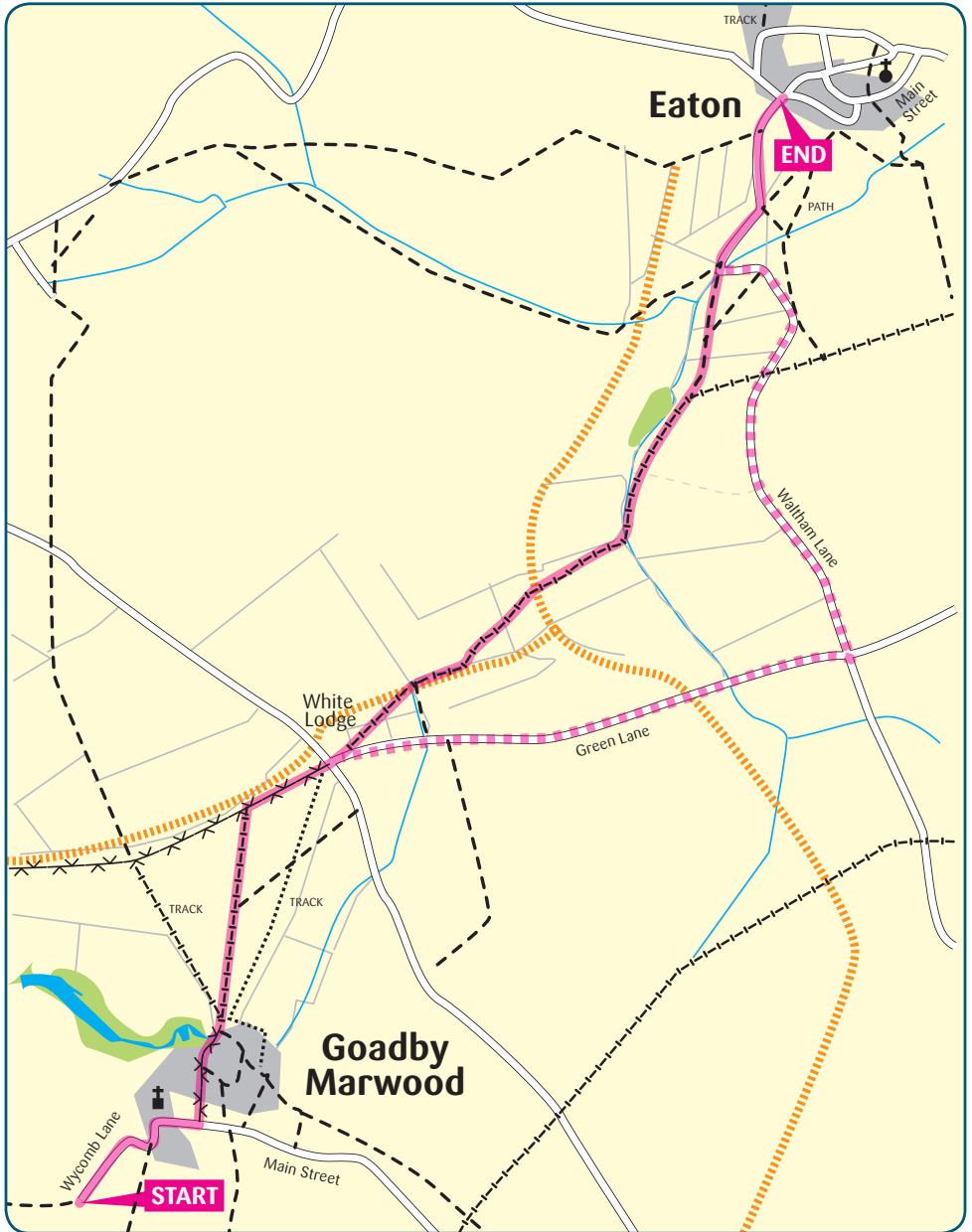
*The higher, drier ground towards Goadby Marwood is on ironstone, which overlies the clay of the southern end of the route. Many of the buildings in the local villages are in this warm brown stone, but it is no longer quarried for this purpose in this area.*



# Goadby Marwood to Eaton

(2 miles/3½ km)

A mixture of arable and pasture land.  
Can be muddy in places - particularly in winter.



There are two possible routes in this section; one following an ancient trackway and partly using minor country roads, and the second follows a footpath across the fields between White Lodge and Eaton, avoiding the roads. The path is signed at each end, and are both shown on the map.

On reaching the surfaced lane, follow it around, past the church and left into Towns Lane.

Continue onto the right hand bridleway to meet a farm track (byway) and then to the road. Cross over and just beyond White Lodge bear left onto the bridleway.

Follow the waymarked bridleway across the fields. Once across the brook keep to the field edge all the way to the road.

Turn left and walk up the road into Eaton.

*Ironstone mining has resulted in changes to the local landscape. The fields that are lower than the adjoining roads have had the ironstone removed and have been restored for farming.*

*During the quarrying of the area just to the north of Goodby Marwood, a Roman settlement was discovered. Corn-grinding stones and many iron-working hearths were found, indicating both agricultural and industrial occupation from the 2nd - 4th centuries (AD). The most spectacular find was a hoard of 2,000 coins dating back to the 3rd century.*

*The stretch of road running east from White Lodge forms part of the ancient Salt Way, which is almost certainly an ancient trackway, surfaced and straightened in Roman times, and used over many years to transport salt across the country.*



Eaton to the parking area, Wood Lane in Barkestone Wood (3¼ miles/5½ km)

Relatively level walking on pasture land, surfaced and unsurfaced tracks



Walk out of the village along Main Street, then right into Vicarage Lane. As the road bends to the right, continue straight onto the footpath. Cross undulating farmland to near Sherriccliffe Farm where the route joins the farm track and leads to the road. Turn left then right into Toft's Lane, an unsurfaced track linking the Belvoir road with Stathern.

The next part is a bridleway through the woodlands of the Belvoir Estate and can get quite muddy in places.

*Successive Dukes of Rutland have managed these woods as a sustainable timber resource, recognisable by their maturity and diversity.*

*The tree species include: Oak, Beech, Spanish Chestnut, Birch and Cherry, Pine, Spruce and Deciduous Larch. There is a great variety of under-storey shrubs such as Portuguese Laurel, Rhododendron, Snowberry, Oregon Grape and Yew, with the ground layer including patches of Dogs Mercury and Bluebell.*

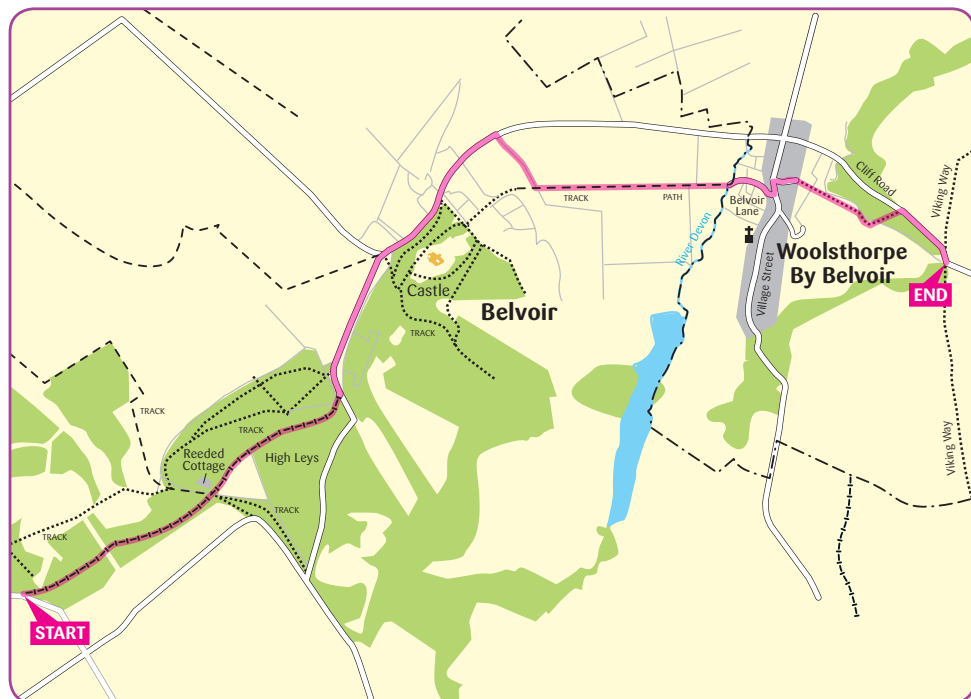
*This whole area is particularly sensitive for its wildlife, and visitors with dogs are requested to keep them on a lead.*





Parking area, Wood Lane, Barkestone Woods  
to Woolsthorpe by Belvoir and the Viking Way (3½ miles/6 km)

Continuing through the Belvoir estate  
with fantastic views of the Vale of Belvoir.



Continue along the bridleway through the woodland, emerging by Reeded Cottage. Once past the cottage the way then runs through a young tree plantation until meeting the road.

*Nearer the Castle the large field to the left is known as the West Wong, a relic of the Norse-settlement. Originating from the Norse word "vangr" meaning "a garden or in field".*

Turn left and follow the road. Half a mile past the castle car park, take a permissible path right to meet a footpath heading left towards Woolsthorpe. Cross the River Devon then into the village of Woolsthorpe.

To continue along the Jubilee Way to meet the Viking Way, cross over and head toward the Chequers pub. There is a permissive path behind the scorers hut on the cricket pitch leading into the field. Walk up the hill to meet the public footpath going through the woodland to the road. Turn right and follow the road to Brewer's Grave and the Viking Way.

*The first Belvoir Castle, built by Robert de Todei (William the Conqueror's Standard Bearer during the Battle of Hastings), was a true fortification erected in the years shortly after the Norman Conquest, made of earth and timber. The name Belvoir (pronounced "beever") originates from the Norman term for "beautiful view", a fitting label for this picturesque estate.*

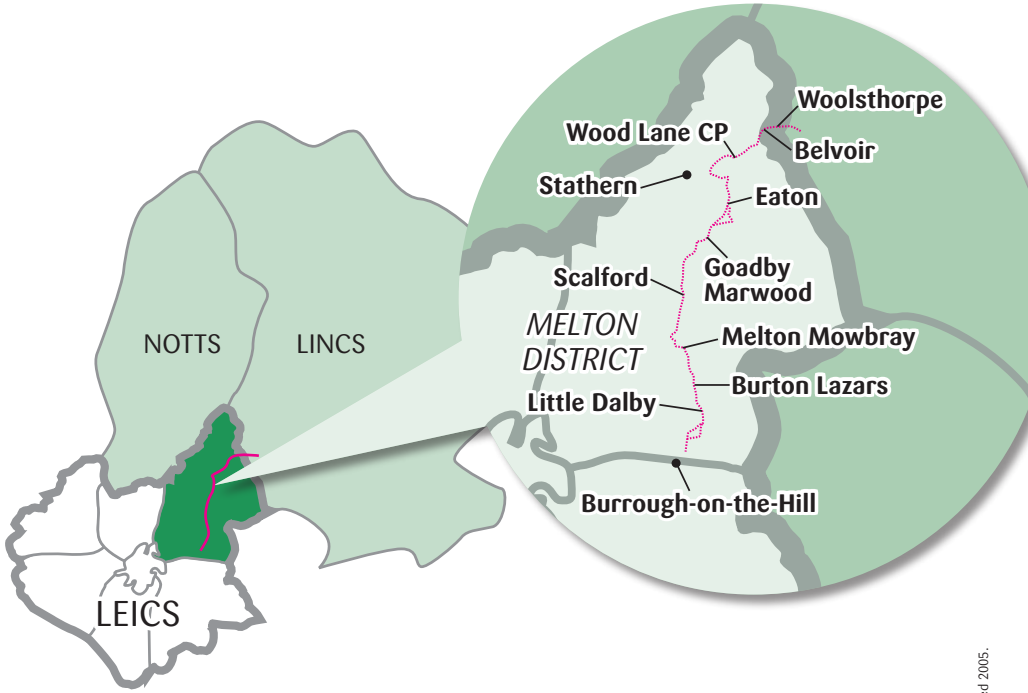
*The present castle is the fourth to have stood on the site and was completed in the early 19th century after previous buildings suffered complete or partial destruction during the Wars of the Roses, the Civil War and a major fire in 1816.*

*The route from Woolsthorpe to Brewer's Grave is through superb parkland, with possibly the best view of the Castle and the Vale.*

*Brewer's Grave takes its name from a brewer at Belvoir Castle who was buried on this site, apparently alongside his donkey.*

IN 1588, A CHAIN OF BEACONS WAS LAID THROUGHOUT THE LAND, READY TO GIVE THE ALERT AT THE FIRST SIGHT OF THE SPANISH ARMADA, BELVOIR, BEING THE HIGHEST POINT IN LEICESTERSHIRE, WAS ONE OF THESE SITES. THIS HILL IS STILL CALLED BEACON HILL.  
THE OCCASION WAS IMMORTALISED  
IN THE POEM BY LORD MACAULAY (1832):








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## Contact details

Access Officer, Rights of Way Team, Community Services Dept. County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire. LE3 8TE

 0116 265 8160

 0116 265 7965

 0116 265 7374

 [footpaths@leics.gov.uk](mailto:footpaths@leics.gov.uk)

 [www.leics.gov.uk/paths](http://www.leics.gov.uk/paths)