



Mowbray Way

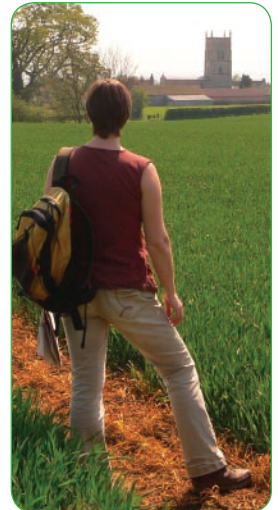


8¼ miles (14km) walk



Introduction

- The Mowbray Way is a peaceful 8¾ mile walk, starting at Scalford and heading due east across open countryside, via small villages to eventually reach Buckminster. This route links the long distance paths of the Jubilee Way (from Burrough on the Hill to Woolsthorpe by Belvoir) and the Viking Way (from the Humber to Oakham, Rutland through Lincolnshire).
- At Buckminster the Viking Way is a further ½ mile to the east.
- The route has been clearly waymarked with the Mowbray Way symbol to aid navigation through the countryside.



TOTAL Distance = 8¾ miles (14km)

Key

Route		Footpath	
Dismantled Railway		Bridleway	
Jubilee Way Path		Byway	
Viking Way Path			
Public Houses		Parking	

Scaford to Chadwell



Scaford, a busy little place found 4 miles north of Melton Mowbray, is an ancient village, well over 1100 years old. Its Saxon name, originally “Shalford”, means shallow ford.

Parking: Recreational Ground, Sandy Lane

Refreshments: Kings Arms (01664 444 208), Plough Inn (01664 444 470)

- 1 From Scaford Church walk downhill, out of the village and over the stream. Pass the two road entrances on the left, then at the end of the remaining railway bridge turn left over a stile. Follow the track uphill, go through a gate and walk with the hedge on the right. When the hedge ends go diagonally up hill to reach the far corner.

When crossing the next field notice, over to the right, the triangulation stone marking 142.36m above sea level. Once over the stile, walk with the hedge on the left, passing an old barn on the way downhill, keeping Waltham church spire in view ahead.

- 2 Continue in the same direction aiming for the house with the red roof. Cross the stile in the field corner, walk downhill to Springfield Lane and turn left.



Chadwell is made up of a couple of farms, a few houses and the quaint old church with its flattish tower and Norman font.

- 3 At the main lane through Chadwell turn right, then right again, following the direction of the fingerpost down to the stream. Cross the footbridge and climb the steep bank beyond to reach a large field.
- 4 Walking parallel to the telegraph poles aim for the waymarker post and stile ahead. Continue in the same direction across the fields, aiming for the church spire of Waltham on the Wolds. The field just before the farm-track still has the pattern of ridge and furrow resulting from past farming methods.



From Chadwell to Stonesby



- 5 Once at the track, turn right and follow it to the road.

Waltham on the Wolds is a thriving village 6 miles NE of Melton Mowbray and has many interesting dwellings built from the local ironstone.

Refreshments: Royal Horse Shoes (01664 464 289), Marquis of Granby (01664 464 212), Waltham Classics Tearooms (01664 464 550), Post Office (01664 464 201)

Cross the busy A607 with care and continue on the footpath opposite. Cross diagonally to a cattle grid then turn left following the path along the backs of gardens to reach a stile.

At this point, if you require refreshments, the footpath heading towards the tall, white-capped, black tower of the old windmill takes you to the centre of the village via Mill Lane and High Street.

- 6 To continue along the route take the right hand path to cross a stile in the fence ahead, and maintain the same direction to reach the far left field corner. With the hedge on the left walk to Stonesby Road.

Turn left, then bear right into Bescaby Lane. *If you took the opportunity to visit the village, you can rejoin the route here.*

- 7 After the first house on the right, turn right into a drive, then left over a stile. Follow the path past several enclosures containing interesting varieties of wildfowl, to eventually reach a stile and path leading through a new woodland plantation.



- 8 Maintain the same direction across the fields and into the site of a disused quarry, now a nature reserve and bunded landfill. With the hedge on the right, keep walking for about ½ mile, then take the footpath right, crossing the hedge into a large field with Stonesby Church tower in view ahead.
- 9 Go straight across this field aiming just to the left of the large tree in the middle. Follow the waymarkers which lead you to the right hand corner of the next field, then pass through the yard of the stables to reach Back Lane, Stonesby.

Stonesby

Parking: The Green has the widest area suitable for parking.

Refreshments: Post Office, (01664 464344)

- 10 Turn left along Main Street for a few yards then at the bend in the road take the footpath on the right. Cross the field to a bridge over the stream. Go through the spinney and walk up the hill with the hedge on the right. When the hedge ends, continue in the same direction to reach a waymarked stile.



Waltham on the Wolds



Stonesby

From Stonesby to Sproxton



- 11** Now go slightly left, walking diagonally over a huge field to cross a ditch and continue in the same direction to the hedgeline ahead.

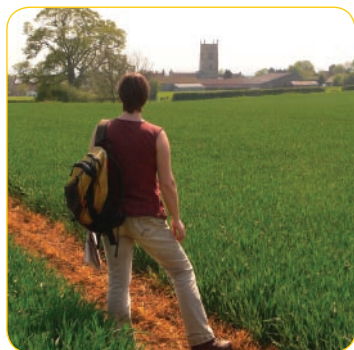
Cross the next few fields diagonally to the far right corners. *The tower of Sproxton church is now visible ahead on the horizon. The village houses are on the hill slope to the right of the church.*
- 12** Keep aiming in the direction of Sproxton, dissecting through the fields following the way marker posts. A stream becomes evident beyond the hedge on the left, walk close to this hedge. On reaching a spinney turn right for 100 yards, then head downhill through the spinney to get to the River Eye.
- 13** Cross the footbridge and head up diagonally right to reach the lane which goes into Sproxton village. Turn left along the lane then at the brow of the hill take the footpath on the right. Go diagonally left to the field corner and continue in the same direction for two more fields. Cross into a paddock and walk downhill beside a wall of old burnt blue bricks to emerge on Main Street opposite the Crown Inn.



Sproxton is $7\frac{1}{4}$ miles NE of Melton Mowbray. From the end of the 19th century until the middle of the 20th century many local men were employed in ironstone mining at Saltby Heath – then, a more profitable undertaking than farming.

Refreshments: Crown Inn (01476 860035), Post Office (01476 860212)

- 14** Turn into Buckminster Road next to the pub and head uphill and onto Stow Hill on the left. Take the footpath on the right just after The Old Vicarage. Buckminster is now directly ahead on the wooded hill.
- 15** Follow the line of the telegraph poles until you see the waymarked stile in the hedge on the right. Continue straight downhill through the middle of the field, keeping parallel with the hedge on your left, to reach a track.



From Sproxton to Buckminster



- 16** Turn right and follow the track alongside the wood and past a series of plantations on the left.

The woods are home to a variety of wildlife, and through the gaps in the trees you can admire the open vista over the lovely Buckminster parkland.

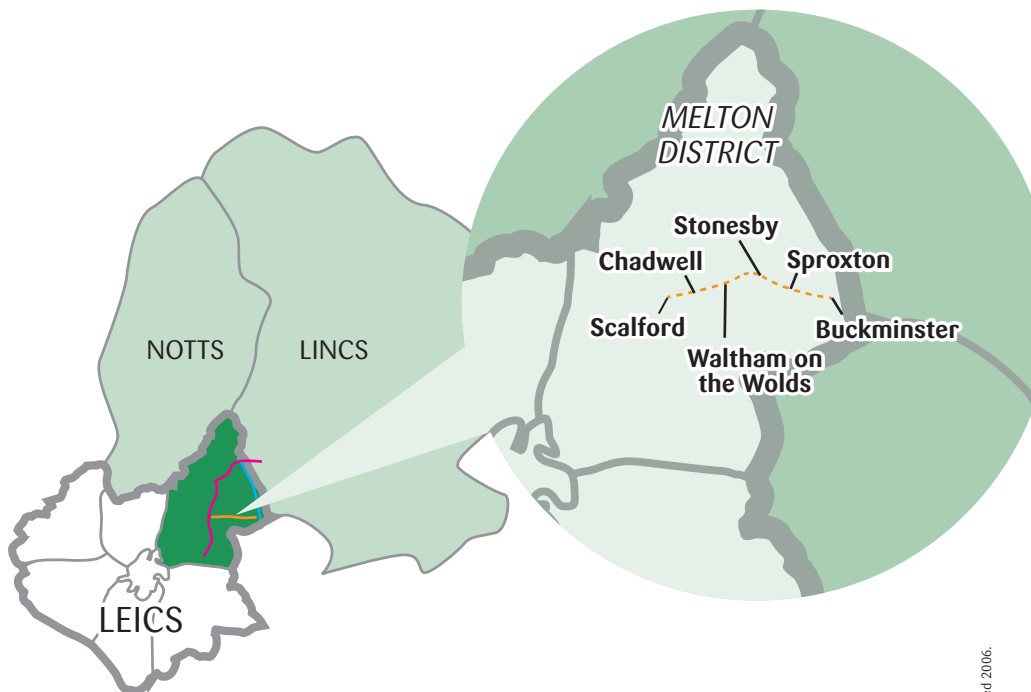
- 17** At the end of the woods swing right to the top right corner of the field and follow the track which emerges on Back Street. Continue straight, then at Main Street, turn right to reach the village pub.

If you wish to join the Viking Way turn immediately left into Stainby Road

Buckminster has a tree-lined Main Street, and lies $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the Lincolnshire border. The Church of St John the Baptist is a landmark which is visible for miles around.

Refreshments: Post Office (01476 861180), Tollemache Arms (01476 860007)







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