



# Local Walks

AROUND WISTOW



[www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk](http://www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk)



Wistow is set in historic parkland and attracts many visitors with a wide choice of walks and good facilities.

The old village has disappeared but Wistow Hall remains. Here Charles I sheltered after his defeat at the Battle of Naseby in 1645.

The gently rolling countryside includes the solitary St. Wistan's Church, the tranquil Grand Union Canal, and pleasant villages such as Kilby and Newton Harcourt.

Famous for the Wistow Maze, the adjacent Rural Centre also provides a welcome break at its tearooms, garden centre and craft shops.

**START:** Car park, Wistow Rural Centre, Wistow, Leicester, LE8 0QF  
Ordnance Survey: Grid Ref: SP639958 - Explorer Map 233

**PARKING:** Next to Rural Centre, free of charge, but check closing time.

**GETTING THERE:**

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

**NOTE:** Walks 2 and 3 can be combined to make a longer walk of up to 12.7km (7.9 miles), allow 3 hours.

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



# Local Walks

## AROUND WISTOW



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### Walk 1: A steady short stroll on grassy fields, quiet roads, and alongside a tranquil canal.

#### START:

Car park, Wistow Rural Centre, Wistow, Leicester, LE8 0QF  
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From the entrance to the car park turn right past Wistow Hall and walk along the road for 450m before taking the footpath left of the church. This attractive small church was dedicated to St Wistan, a Mercian royal prince who was allegedly martyred here in AD 849.

**A.** Go over the bridge beyond the church, and bear left across the fields towards Newton Harcourt in the distance. At the road, turn right to enter the village. You will see St Luke's Church on the right and the attractive manor house, once a dower house, on the left. This was built in the early C17.

Continue over the Grand Union Canal and the railway line, and immediately turn left along the footpath to the School House (built 1866).

**B.** Turn right into Post Office Lane and follow it to reach Glen Road. You will see opposite the Octagon Cottages, which in the past formed the toll-house where drivers paid tolls for watering their cattle.

**C.** Turn left along Glen Road and take the first road on the left, The Square. At the end of the road continue across the field to the Lock Keeper's Cottage at Newton Top Lock, (a good place for a picnic)

**D.** Turn left along the canal towpath, passing under Newton Bridge (No. 80). On the right you will glimpse St Luke's Church as you continue along the canal bank to go under the next bridge (High Bridge No.79). On this stretch you will get good views towards Wistow.

At the next bridge (No. 78) you need to leave the towpath and cross over the canal to follow the footpath across the fields to St Wistan's Church. Turn right at the road to return to car park.



Easy



1 hour  
30 minutes



4.8km  
3 miles



Toilets at  
Wistow  
Rural Centre



Café at Wistow  
Rural Centre

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# Local Walks

## AROUND WISTOW

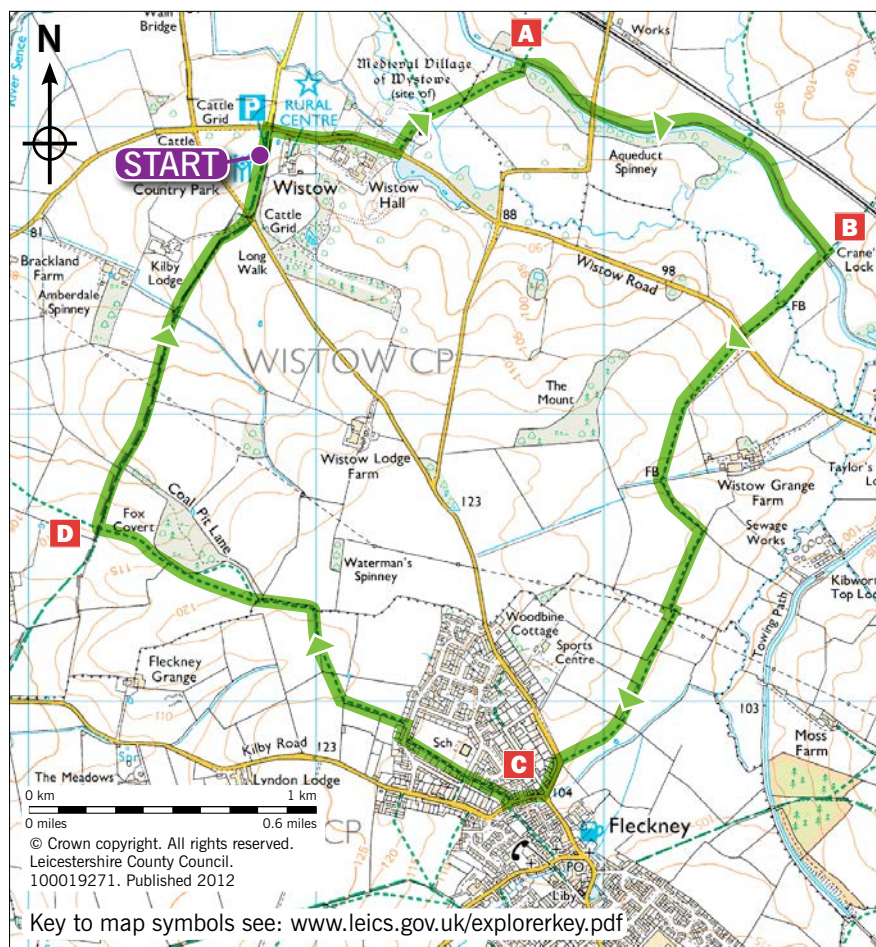


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## Walk 2: A walk to enjoy the understated charm of this gently undulating, unspoilt countryside.

### START:

Car park, Wistow Rural Centre, Wistow, Leicester, LE8 0QF  
Ordnance Survey: Grid Ref: SP639958 - Explorer Map 233



From the entrance of the car park turn right past Wistow Hall and walk along the road for 450m before taking the footpath left at the side of the church. Go over the bridge beyond the church and continue straight ahead towards the Grand Union Canal.


**A.** Cross over the canal bridge, go left down onto the towpath, turn to go under the bridge and continue along the canal bank.


**B.** At Crane's Lock cross over the canal and continue on the footpath to reach the road. Cross straight over and continue along the footpath to reach another road on the edge of Fleckney where you turn left. At the mini roundabout turn right into Kilby Road (for the shops and public houses of Fleckney, at this point bear left along High Street).

**C.** Continue on Kilby Road until, opposite Wolsey Close, turn right into the footpath between fences. At Batchelor Road cross and continue straight ahead, passing a school on the right. Cross the next street Coleman Road and turn right. After 50m take the path left, between house numbers 68 and 70. Now follow the path across the fields.

**D.** When the path reaches a wide farm track, then turn right. The track is a bridleway which leads directly back to the tearooms and car parking.

 Moderate

 2 hours  
30 minutes

 8.2km  
5 miles

 Toilets at  
Wistow  
Rural Centre

 Pub in Fleckney  
Village  
Café at Wistow  
Rural Centre

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# Local Walks

## AROUND WISTOW

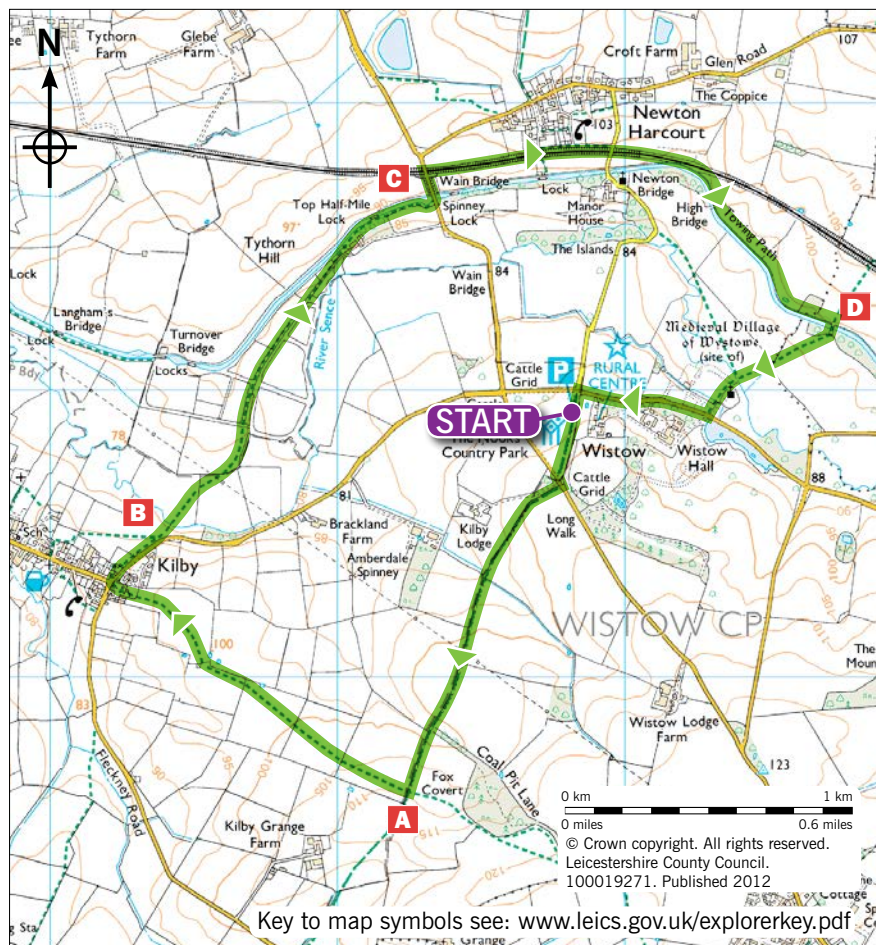


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### Walk 3: A rural wander with wide horizons then following the meandering canal.

#### START:

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At the end of the outer car park furthest from the main road, (and keeping the tearooms, garden centre and craft shops on your left) follow the path along the left edge of the open field. Note the pronounced ridge and furrow on your right.

On reaching the next road cross over, go left to the cattle grid and gate, then turn right onto the bridleway and continue along the well-worn track.

**A.** After 1200m, the track is crossed by a footpath. Turn right here, onto the footpath, and head towards Kilby, a small village with a population of under 300.

Cross the fields to a farmyard, passing through it to reach the road at a T junction. Turn right and go along the road for 250m, then cross the road left to the footpath sign(s).

**B.** Follow the right hand footpath sign heading away from Kilby, and towards Newton Harcourt. The footpath crosses a footbridge over the River Sence and passes through fields,

and along a track. Just before reaching the Harcourt Stud the path leads left to the canal bank and follows this to the road.

**C.** Turn left at the road over the bridge then, 25 metres north, on the left take the linkpath down to the canal. At the towpath turn left and go under the bridge. The locks along this stretch were built in the 1790's and renovated in the 1870's but have been constantly maintained since those times.

Follow the towpath passing the Lock Keeper's Cottage at Newton Top Lock, then under Newton Bridge and High Bridge. On the right are good views back towards Wistow.

**D.** At the next bridge (No. 78) you need to leave the towpath and cross over the canal to follow the footpath across the fields past St Wistan's Church. Then turn right at the road to return to car park.



Easy



2 hours  
30 minutes



7.4km  
4.6 miles



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Village  
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