



The Midshires Way in Leicestershire

The Midshires Way is a long-distance multi-user route across Middle England, particularly suited for horse riding and mountain biking. It was launched in 1994 as a collaboration between numerous local authorities and user groups.

The route is approximately 225 miles long. It links two National Trails, The Ridgeway and The Pennine Bridleway, and connects with the Trans-Pennine Trail, thus opening up the possibility of a long ride or walk along the length of England.

For the most part, The Midshires Way follows public bridleways or quiet country lanes. In other counties, where there are sections on roads, alternative footpath routes have been waymarked for walkers. However, there are no waymarked alternative footpath sections in Leicestershire. The main Leicestershire section is about 30 miles long.



Ordnance Survey maps

The Midshires Way is clearly marked on Ordnance Survey Explorer 1:25,000 scale maps. These are the most up-to-date source of information covering the route.

The following Explorer maps show the complete route in Leicestershire 233 (Leicester & Hinckley), 246 (Loughborough), 245 (The National Forest), 260 (Nottingham).

Walking the Midshires Way: a long-distance walk through Middle England - by Ron Haydock & Bill Allen

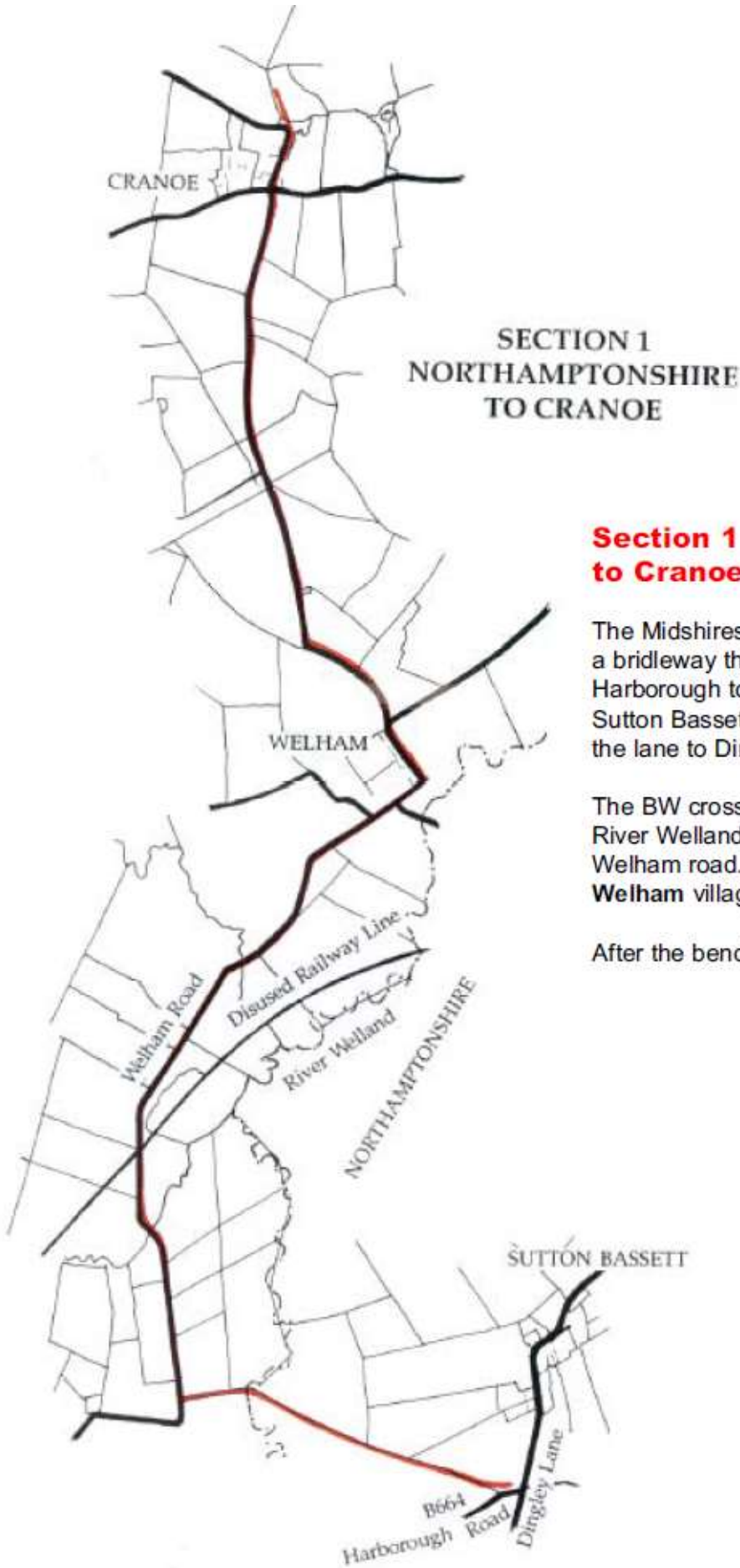
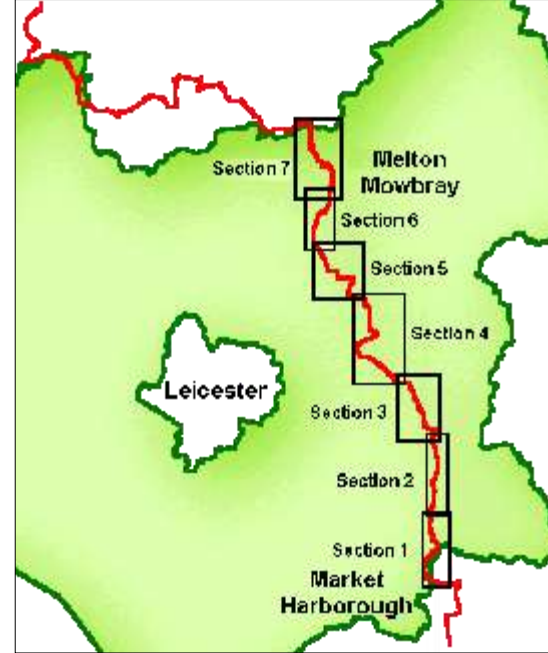
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Reference copy available at The Record Office for Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland (www.leics.gov.uk/recordoffice).
Second hand copies may also be available from online retailers.

The route is signposted throughout with the Midshires Way symbol (pictured above), either on separate panels or waymark arrows, and named on bridleway signs where the route leaves public roads.

The majority of the Leicestershire stretch of The Midshires Way is outlined below, split into seven sections between Sutton Bassett (Northamptonshire) and the Nottinghamshire border north of Old Dalby.

There is a further 4½ mile section in the North West corner of Leicestershire, between Kegworth and Derwent Mouth – please see OS Explorer map 245.



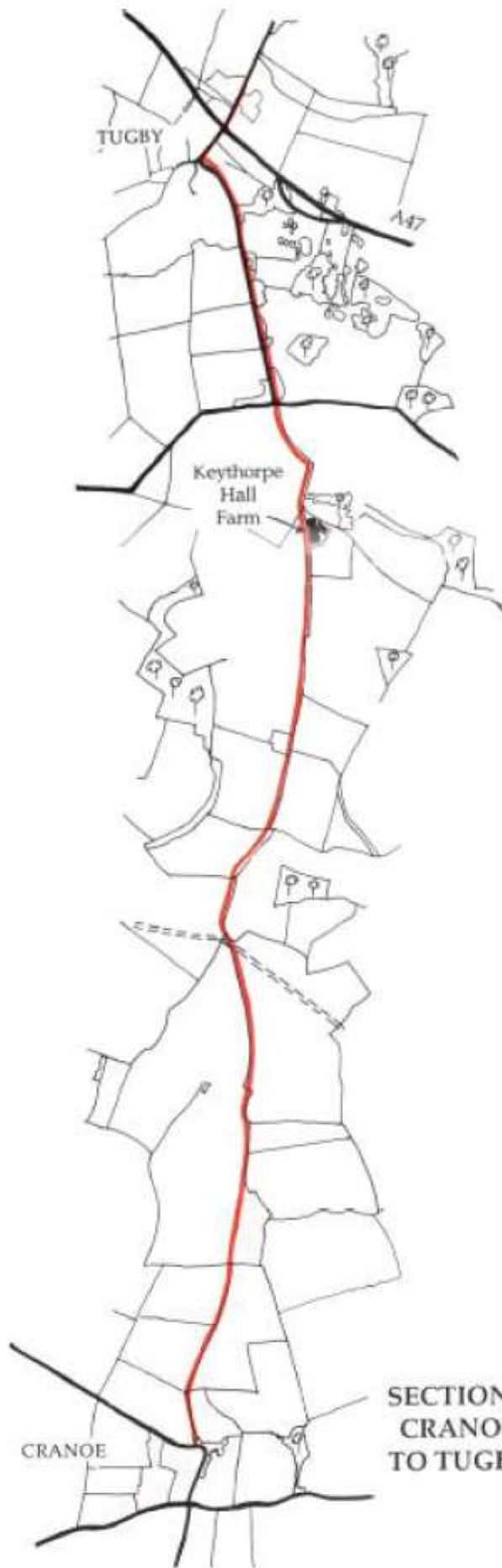
**SECTION 1
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
TO CRANOE**

Section 1 – Northants boundary to Cranoe – 4 miles (6km)

The Midshires Way enters Leicestershire via a brideway that leaves the B664 Market Harborough to Medbourne road just south of Sutton Bassett village, at a bend just west of the lane to Dingley.

The BW crosses the county boundary at River Welland by bridge, then down a track to Welham road. Turn right and go through Welham village (PH).

After the bend, turn left for Cranoe



**Section 2 – Cranoe to Tugby
– 4.5 miles (7km)**

At Cranoe, go straight over the cross roads, just after the church, take BW (B30) on right into a hilly grass field. Go to gate in far left corner, then with hedge on left through arable field.

Continue straight ahead across next grass field, with hedge on right gradually getting closer approaching gate.

(Going south, be careful NOT to head for the gate in the far left corner – it is for a different BW!)

Continue, with hedge on left, through arable field to east-west track (Goadby Road). Go left round pond, then right beyond hedge onto grass track for two fields. This becomes a metalled surface.

Continue straight ahead, and over cross roads into **Tugby** village (PH)

**SECTION 2
CRANOE
TO TUGBY**

Section 3 – Tugby to Tilton-on-the-Hill – 4 miles (6km)

Go through Tugby village. Cross the busy A47 road with care – limited sightlines – into Wood Lane opposite.

Take first BW (B81) on left; the track has a hedge on left for three fields, then is cross field to join another BW beside the A47 road.

Turn right onto this BW (C92), which aims for Tilton Church. Go through gate into an arable field; hedge on left.

At clump of trees on left, hedge turns away left, but BW continues across field, bearing left to gateway to left of houses.

Take track opposite, to Welsh Myers Farm. Water Trough. The route goes along the hedge for one field, then bears left cross field to a small bridge. Go left through the gate in hedge, and bear right uphill (*), cutting off two corners in this arable field. At the top, go through field gate on right.

(southwards, cross hedge to right to get into arable field)

Bear left cross-field to field gate onto road.

Go into vast arable field opposite, keeping roughly parallel to the Eye Brook. Head for the bottom of the trees/hedge coming downhill on left, to cross wide ditch by the cart bridge. BW and brook gradually converge. At far hedge, take bridge over brook into smaller arable field (*).

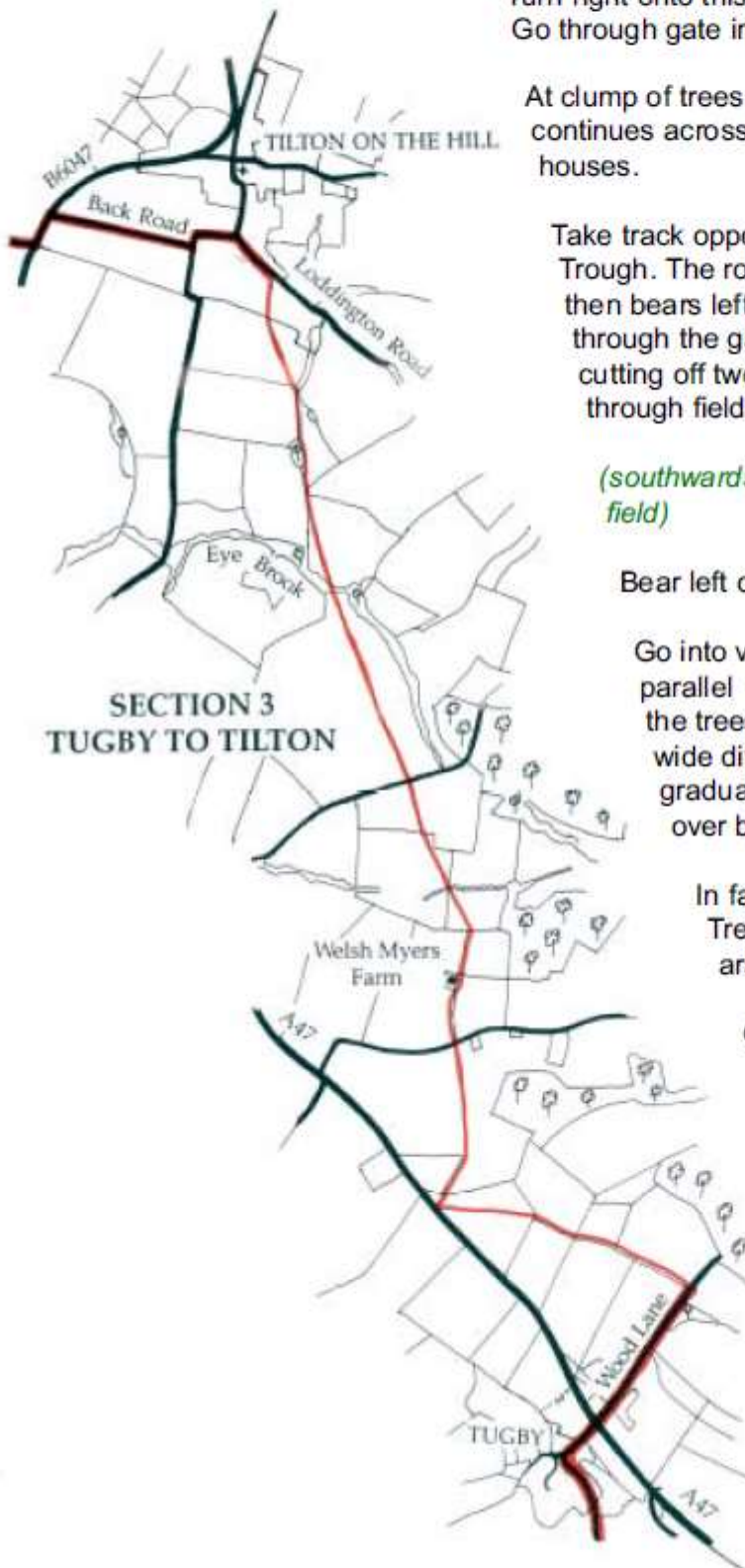
In far left corner bear left through 'Christmas Trees', down to gateway into corner of arable field.

Go through bridle gate into grass field, with plantation on your left. Water Trough.

Go through remains of hedge and join drive from house on right. At last cattle grid, go right along fence to find gate into Loddington Road.

Turn left towards **Tilton-on-the-Hill** village (PH).

Follow road signs for Houghton-on-the-Hill, left and right, onto Back Road, At T-junction, turn left onto B6047, then right.



Section 4 – Tilton-on-the-Hill to Ashby Folville – 7.5 miles (12km)

After houses. Turn right into 'Gated Road'. This is a UCR, marked as a double-dotted line on OS. The first field has new barn, on left. Go through field gate, then straight ahead to field gate on skyline.

Continue straight on – now back on original line – parallel to hedge on left, until a hedge comes uphill towards you. Turn left to find track, with hedge left. On a clear day, you can see the cooling towers at Ratcliffe-on-Soar, which the way passes just before it crosses into Derbyshire. Track goes down Hamner's Lodge Farm, through disused railway, and up to road at Skeg Hill.

Cross to BW (D2) to right. Head left cross field to bridle gate in far corner, and go along hedge down to bridge. Cross brook, and go through gate beside hunt jump. Turn left along hedge over hill, to gate on bridge, then up grass field to gate by water trough. Continue cross field, heading for triangular road sign.

Cross road into spinney, following track to small gate, then ahead through horse paddock. Cross the farm drive, through bridle gate into another paddock. Bear right to bridle gate on far side.

Go across field over 2 fields. At far hedge, turn right onto new BW (D38) without going through the gate.

(southwards, look for waymarks in hedge that mark left turn).

Go hedge side, on left, through 2 bridle gates. Then, in arable (*), cross field to third bridle gate. Drop down to Carr Bridge /ford. Follow sign to Twyford.

(southwards, sign to Hungarton)

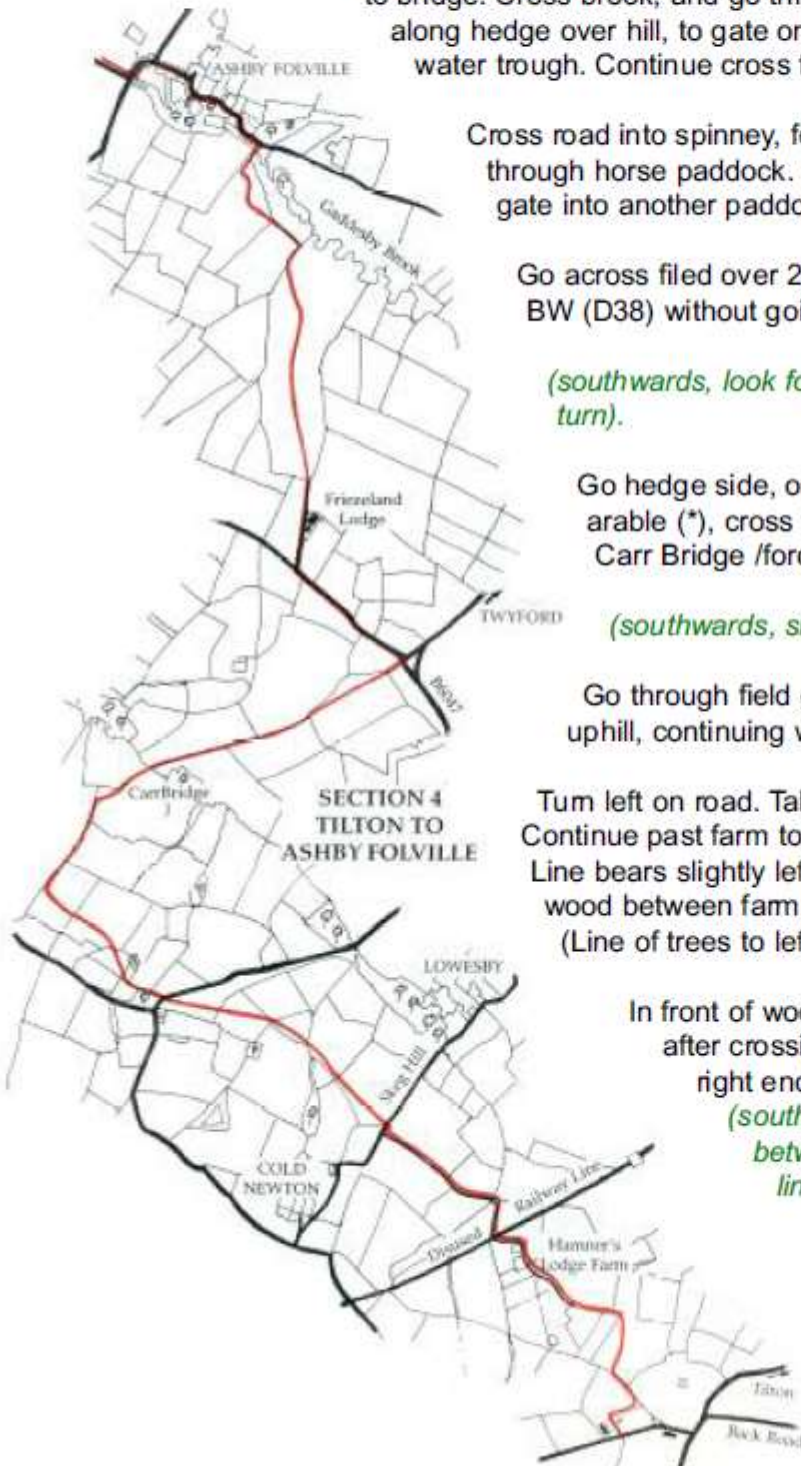
Go through field gate next to hunt jump, and sharply uphill, continuing with hedge on left to road.

Turn left on road. Take first farm track to Freezeland Lodge. Continue past farm to arable field, where BW (194) starts. Line bears slightly left cross field, sighting on centre of far wood between farm to right and Ashby Folville Hall to left. (Line of trees to left, marked on map, has gone).

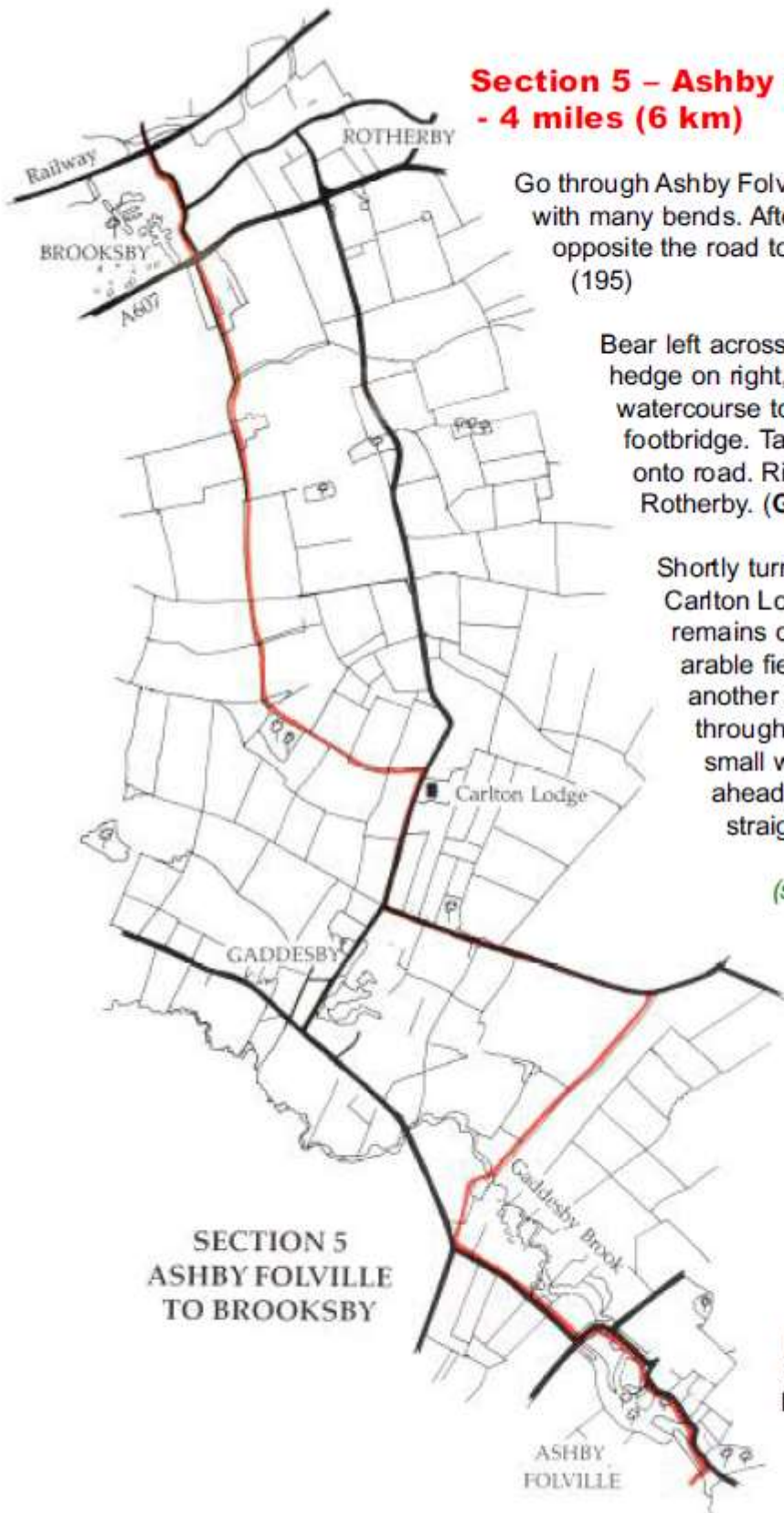
In front of wood is a line of trees on nearer hill. Just after crossing footpath mid field, waymark post at right end of trees should be visible.

(southwards, from this post bear left, sighting between a smaller tree and a stump in the line of trees on south side of field).

From post, bear more sharply left cross field (or go left, then right, on tracks) to bridge. Turn right onto track, to road. Turn left to **Ashby Folville** village (PH)



Section 5 – Ashby Folville to Brooksby - 4 miles (6 km)



Go through Ashby Folville village. The road is narrow, with many bends. After 3/4 mile towards Gaddesby, opposite the road to Barsby, turn right onto BW (195)

Bear left across old field boundary and keep hedge on right, bending right by old watercourse to ford Gaddesby Brook beside footbridge. Take fenced track to road. Turn left onto road. Right at T-junction, signed Rotherby. (**Gaddesby** village, PH to left)

Shortly turn left into BW (H58) opposite Carlton Lodge. The track goes along remains of green lane to bridle gate into arable field; hedge now on left. Then into another stretch of green lane and through gateway into arable field, with small wood to left, and belt of trees ahead to right. In dip, take track straight ahead beside hedge.

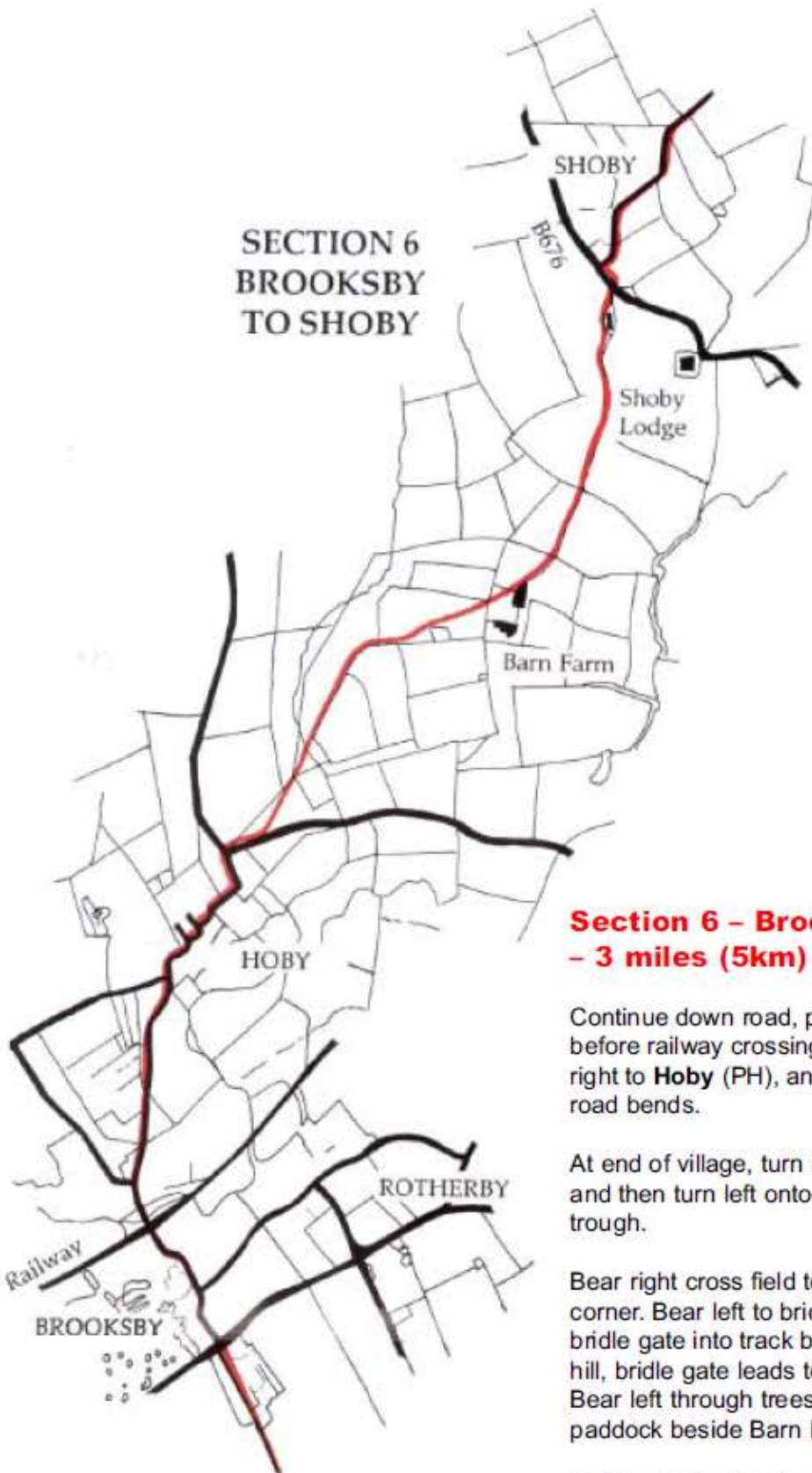
(southwards, in dip DO NOT take obvious track to right. Go straight ahead into field, with small wood on your right).

As track turns right, go ahead through field gate. Cross field to bridle gate into arable field. Route is now hedge side. Follow field gate onto stony track, downhill to farm. NB bull pens beside first gate to yard.

Continue on to main road (A607, Leicester to Melton), and cross into road opposite, past **Brooksby** College.

SECTION 5
ASHBY FOLVILLE
TO BROOKSBY

**SECTION 6
BROOKSBY
TO SHOBY**



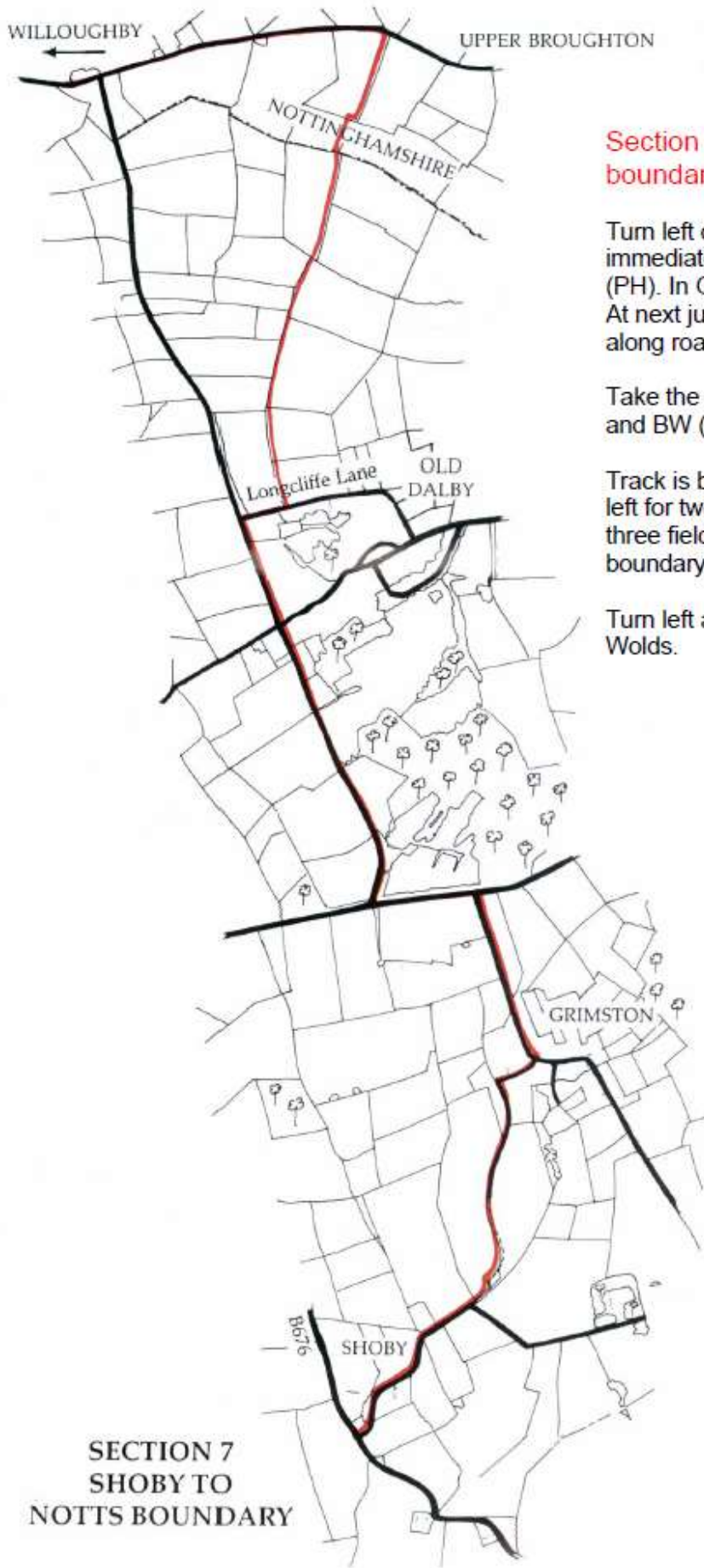
**Section 6 - Brooksby to Shoby
- 3 miles (5km)**

Continue down road, passing pig unit just before railway crossing (use BR phone). Bear right to **Hoby** (PH), another village with many road bends.

At end of village, turn right towards Asfordby, and then turn left onto BW (H29). Water trough.

Bear right cross field to bridle gate in far corner. Bear left to bridge over brook, and to bridle gate into track beside hedge. At top of hill, bridle gate leads to grass field with trees. Bear left through trees, to bridle gate into paddock beside Barn Farm. Water troughs.

Go through field gate to left of farm. Route continues with hedge on right through four fields. In last field, take gate on right into track by building, to reach road.



Section 7 – Shoby to Notts boundary – 4 miles (6km)

Turn left on main road (A6006), then right immediately for **Shoby** and **Grimston** (PH). In Grimston, turn left at T-junction. At next junction, turn left and then right along road towards **Old Dalby** (PH).

Take the second right, Longcliffe Lane, and BW (G96) is 200 yards on left.

Track is between hedges, then hedge on left for two fields. Hedge on right for last three fields to road, crossing county boundary into Notts en route.

Turn left at road towards Willoughby-on-the-Wolds.

**SECTION 7
SHOBY TO
NOTTS BOUNDARY**