Sketchley walk 1:

3 km (2 miles), allow 1 hour, two stiles and two small sets of steps in the Nobbies. Mostly surfaced paths, though Nobbies can be a little muddy.

P Service road just north of the mini-roundabout on Rugby Road

Walk towards Hinckley on the right hand side of Rugby Road, using the service roads and continue across the end of Brookside before crossing Rugby Road at the pedestrian crossing.

S1 Continue on the left-hand side of Rugby Road turning left into Brookfield Road.

S2 After 200 metres turn left into the Nobbies footpath.

After passing over Sketchley Brook, between the fishing lakes and over a stile, keep to the right of the field that has retained the old ridge and furrow. It contains pignut, buttercups, ladies smock and a variety of different grasses.

The extensive nettle beds to the right support amongst others, caterpillars of the Peacock and Red Admiral butterflies.

S3 On reaching Sketchley Lane turn left. Follow this to Herald Way and the mini-roundabout on Rugby Road.

Sketchley Lane is bordered by a mature hedge containing common elm, elder, blackthorn, hawthorn, crab-apple, ash, dogrose, and wych elm.

To extend this walk turn right down the bridleway at Sa

Sketchley walk 2:

2¾ km (1½ miles), allow 45 minutes. Mostly surfaced paths, flat and suitable for push-chairs and wheelchairs.

From Rugby Road mini-roundabout take Herald Way and bear right into Sketchley Lane.

Sa Just past Sketchley Manor Lane turn left into Chappell's Drive bridleway.

Sb Turn left on reaching the A5 trunk road and then left into Welbeck Avenue.

Sc Turn right into Beechwood Avenue and then left at Wolvey Road

Sd At the Post Office keep straight on into Herald Way and follow this to the Rugby Road mini-roundabout.

Lash walk 1:

5½ km (3½ miles) allow 1½ hours, (with optional short cut 3¾ km/2¼ miles). Open countryside, some paths can be muddy, relatively flat.

P Just in Herford Way, it is much quieter

Walk up the recreation ground and turn right along the footpath bordering Hastings School field.

In the far corner of the field is a copse of native trees planted by the pupils of the school. Just north of these is a Scots Pine surviving from its days in a farmyard.

La Follow the footpath to Hinckley Road and turn left towards Hinckley, keeping on the left hand pavement bearing left into Burbage Road.

Lb After 250 metres cross the road to enter Woodgate Road. At the end of the road go ahead on the footpath to Burbage Woods.

(There is a possible short cut along this stretch. Just after a kissing gate, cross a footbridge and stile on the left, and follow the path with the hedge on the left).

Lc Before crossing a small bridge, turn left along the edge of the woods.

The hedge and adjoining banks in the following field have a wide variety of trees, shrubs and woodland flowers. Of special interest are dogwood, holly, aspen, honeysuckle, wood millet, wood melick, wood anemone, sweet woodruff, figwort, yellow archangel and sanicle.

The next field is an old meadow which has bulbous buttercup, red clover, knapweed, birdsfoot trefoil, field woodrush, ribwort plantain and pignut.

Ld Cross a stile and brook, turn left towards the railway line and then left again to follow the track by the railway embankment all the way to Burbage Road.

As you walk this path look and listen out for green woodpecker, greater spotted and lesser spotted woodpeckers as well as long tailed tits and bullfinches.

Le Turn right towards Hinckley across the rail bridge and cross the road at the pedestrian crossing before turning left into Parson's Lane.

Lf At the T-junction turn left back over the railway and keep going in the same direction to cross Brookside and up the hill to reach St. Catherines recreation ground once again.

(To extend the walk – once over the railway bridge take the footpath right and follow directions for Lash Walk 2 from point L1 making a walk of 6½ km/4 miles).

Lash walk 2:

2¼ km (1½ miles), allow 45 minutes. Mostly surfaced paths, no stiles. Suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs.

P Just in Herford Way, it is much quieter

Walk up the recreation ground to meet the footpath, then turn left to go across St. Catherine's Close, Duport Road and Brookside.

L1 Before the railway bridge, turn left along the footpath nearest the railway embankment.

Courting Stile Conservation Area was planted on disused allotment land over the period 1987-1999. A variety of trees with both amenity and conservation value provide interest all year round.

L2 When the path opens out with houses ahead – follow a path left down to Sketchley Brook and footbridge.

Looking down over the flood relief area the green mounds of hard and soft rushes can be seen throughout the year. In early summer there are colourful displays of ragged robin, cuckoo flower, buttercups and yellow iris.

From the bridge carry straight on to cross Brookside into Brookside Park.

Keep to the left of the brook and towards the top of the Park bear left to pass to the left of Higham Way Baptist Church into Higham Way.

Turn right and then left into Sharpless Road which leads back to Far Lash. Then right to return to the starting point.

The routes are clearly marked with bold, yellow topped waymarker posts and waymarker discs with the Parish Walks symbol.

Parish Walks

Walking - Be fit and well

Walking is a form of exercise that is suitable and enjoyable for all ages. It's a free and fun way for families and friends to get fit together. Just 30 minutes of brisk walking on a daily basis can benefit your health and quality of life.

useful information:

Buses: Service 5 Hinckley - Three Pots (Mon-Sat), Service 58 Mkt Harb - Lutterworth - Hinckley (Mon-Sat), Route 71 Burbage - Hinckley (Mon-Sat). Please confirm with Traveline (0870 608 2 608) before you travel.
Refreshments: various shops, public houses and tea rooms in the village and tea rooms on Burbage Common.
Toilets: Behind the library, on the corner of Church Street & Lychgate Lane.

Burbage

This leaflet is one of a series produced to promote circular walking throughout the county. You can obtain others in the series by visiting your local library or Tourist Information Centre. You can also order them by phone or from our website.

Special thanks go to Peter Hall and Simon Ford who compiled the information in this leaflet.

Your Parish or Local Community Group may wish to produce a walking leaflet, please contact the Access Officer at County Hall for more information.

It is advisable to wear suitable footwear when walking. Stout shoes or walking boots are recommended. Some stretches of the route follow minor country roads. Beware of traffic approaching from both directions. If possible stay on the verge, if not walk in single file on the right hand side of the road. Enjoy the walks, whilst observing the Countryside Code.

contact details:

Access Officer, Community Services Department, County Hall.
Telephone: 0116 265 8160 Fax: 0116 265 7965
Minicom: 0116 265 7334
email: footpaths@leics.gov.uk Website: www.leics.gov.uk/paths
For more information on Burbage Parish go to www.burbage-council.co.uk and for the Burbage Heritage Group go to www.burbageheritage.org

The information in this leaflet is available in other formats on request.

Leicestershire County Council

Parish Walks

Burbage

5 circular walks

- 1 6 kms/3¾ miles
- S 3 kms/2 miles 2¼ kms/1½ miles
- L 5½ kms/3½ miles 2¼ kms/1½ miles