

Burbage is located to the south of Hinckley, in SW Leicestershire. It is bordered by Wailing Street, the Leicester to Nuneaton railway line and the M69. Many of the 16,000 residents moved to Burbage because of these convenient transport links. In days past stage coaches pulled off the Wailing Street to cool their wheels in the Horsepool in Church Street. Several old houses are clustered around the Church including Archer Cottage, the Grange, the Constitutional Club (home of Prime Minister George Canning) and Burbage Hall. Many of the terraced houses were built to house knitting frames. The hosiery factories that followed have themselves now been demolished.

## Stretton/St. Catherine's

**walk:** 6km (3¾ miles), allow 1¾ hours, optional short cut: 4km (2½ miles).

Mostly surfaced paths, relatively flat

**P** Millennium Hall, Britannia Road.

- 1 Turn right down Britannia Road, and just before Freeman's Lane on the left, turn right along a narrow footpath.
  - 2 Cross over the stile aiming for the far-left corner of the sports field.
  - 3 Walk through the field to the stile ahead, then aim for the electricity pylon and farmhouse across the next field to reach another stile. Once over this bear right to meet a track.
  - 4 Watch out for a footpath leading left (this is easy to miss). Cross the metal stile and then another on the far side of the field.
  - 5 Keeping in the same direction walk through a small ridge and furrow field and to the left of a small copse before reaching the tarmac path by a housing estate.
  - 6 Turn right at Coventry Road and after 420 metres cross over to enter Victoria Road. At the T-junction turn left into Salem Road and then at the next T-junction turn right into Grove Road.
- Grove Road has many fine trees including Scots Pine, a Giant Sequoia (wellingtonia), and a Dawn Redwood planted in Pughes Paddock in 2000. (There is a short cut at this point. Turn right down New Road into Church Street, past Horsepool, right

into Windsor Street and finally left into Britannia Road to return to the Millennium Hall).

- 7 Walk the length of Grove Road then turn left into Hinckley Road. Enter a jitty on the right just beyond the church, which goes alongside the churchyard and comes out at Cambourne Road. Turn right and follow the road around, bearing right at the bottom into Salisbury Road. Take the second right into Sherborne Road.

The hedge alongside Sherborne Road contains mature wych elms which are more resistant to Dutch Elm disease than the common elm.

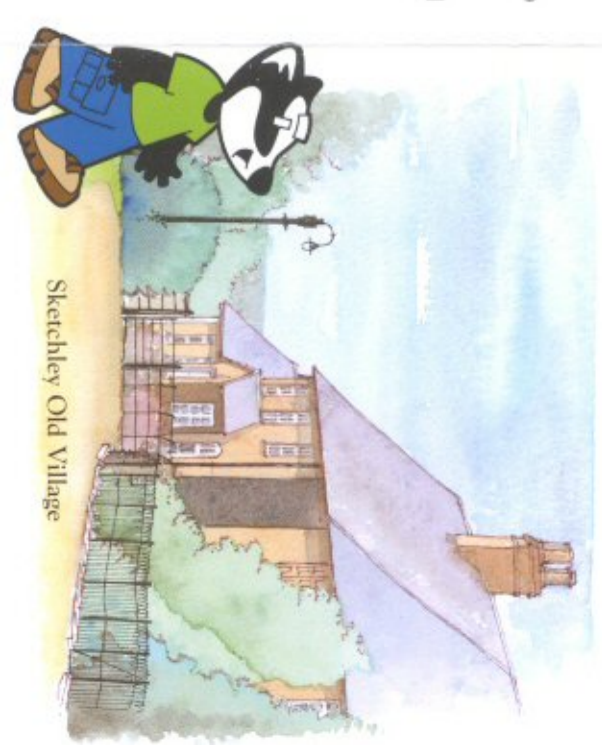
At the end join the footpath on the right to walk across the fields. This route is part of the Leicestershire Round. Pass through two fields then in the third go right over a stile, heading towards Cottage Farm.

Leave the Leicestershire Round in the next field and turn right with the hedge on your left, aiming for the church spire.

8 Cross the stile and continue along the track.

9 When you reach the tarmac surface, bear right into Aston Lane then left into Church Street.

10 Go straight over at the cross-roads. Follow the road around to just past the Chequers Inn and turn right down a jitty to get to Britannia Road. Turn right to return to the Millennium Hall.



Sketchley Old Village