



Getting there

- For public transport call Traveline on 0870 608 2608.
- If you are travelling by bicycle then please remember not to cycle on public footpaths.
- If you travel by car please remember to park sensibly and do not obstruct access to fields or driveways.
- Cars can be parked on Main Street in Scraptoft.
- Scraptoft village is situated to the east of Leicester. To reach Scraptoft, while heading south on the A563 Leicester Ring Road at Humberstone turn left on to Scraptoft Lane, or from the A47 at Thurnby heading away from the city turn left on to Station Road.

Thank you!

Fernvale Primary School, Thurnby, for providing the artwork for this leaflet.

Scraptoft Parish Council, Keyham Parish Council, Thurnby and Bushby Society and Harborough District Council for contributing their excellent local knowledge.

The Stepping Stones Countryside Management Project is a partnership that aims to improve access for all, enhance the environment, improve people's awareness of and encourage community participation in the countryside around Leicester. Call **0116 265 7264/7221** for further information.

The Route - Can be found on OS Explorer Map 233. There are some gentle climbs along the way, a number of stiles and it may be muddy at certain times of year (particularly around Scraptoft Gorse). **This route is unsuitable for wheelchairs and prams.**

Length - 7km or 4 ½ mile (add ½ km or ¼ mile for extended route).

Time - approximately 2 – 2 ½ hrs

Scraptoft-Keyham Circular Walk

A. The walk begins on Scraptoft Rise at Nether Hall, which dates from 1709. Turn left on to Main Street and pass a thatched cottage dating from the late 17th century on your left. Bear slightly left on to Beeby Road and pass a hedge that has been laid, thickening it and increasing its wildlife value. Continue on Beeby Road as it bears left. At the end of the row of houses on the left cross over the road and use the unusual metal stile to access the footpath.

B. Scraptoft Local Nature Reserve can be seen from the footpath to the west. The path runs between an established hedge and the boundary of the former DeMontfort University sports ground.

Turning slightly to the right continue on this path. The wooded area at the top of the path is 'the mount', a man-made feature dating from the mid 18th century.

It was built as a prospect mound from the top of which visitors to Scraptoft Hall could see the large informal gardens spread out before them. The mount holds a grade II listed grotto, which is lined with sea shells.

From the left of the mount the walk continues diagonally across the sports ground (beware of matches!); you will pass the pavilion on the right. The footpath continues across arable farmland in the direction of Keyham. *Hares can be seen in these fields!* Follow the yellow topped waymarked signs and cross four field boundaries. When you have crossed the brook take in the fantastic views to the left over North Leicestershire, you are now on Bleak Hill.

C. With the attractive village of Keyham in front of you continue up the hill, across the pretty bridge and over the stile and onto Snows Lane. Continue up the hill along Snows Lane. At the top of the hill turn right onto Ingarsby Road. Turn first right onto Kings Lane, which takes you back in to the village. *On the left you will pass the old school house, built in 1885 it was closed in 1948 and is now a private dwelling.*

Turning right onto Main Street you will see All Saints Church on the right. *The church was most probably built during the 15th century with many headstones commemorating the Woodcock, Woodford, Clayton and Miles families, all long associated with the village. On your left is a chance for some refreshment at the Dog and Gun Pub. From Main Street walk back onto Snows Lane and use the same stile that you entered the village with.*

The walk continues down the hill, diagonally left across the field. Crossing over the brook via a small bridge the walk crosses over two field boundaries and continues along a track with a field hedge on your left.

D. At the top of the field you will meet Covert Lane. *Covert Lane is an ancient route that leads to the deserted medieval village of Ingarsby.* **SHORT CUT** Turn right down Covert Lane and take the footpath 50 metres on the left just after the farm track. Turn right after the field boundary with Scraptoft Hill Farm on your left to rejoin the main walk at *

To enter the wood, turn right down Covert Lane and then after about 50 metres turn left (almost back on yourself) onto the bridle path just before the farm track. *The wood has been planted on ridge and furrow ground, indicating that the wood is not very old. The path goes through Scraptoft Gorse, you will pass a field*

pond on your right. Cross the meadow diagonally left. *This meadow is a real treat during the summer months and contains interesting flora. When you leave the wood follow the path keeping the wood on your right. The bridleway continues in a loop and rejoins the walk by Scraptoft Hill Farm.*

* Continue along the field boundaries back towards Scraptoft village.

E. Once back on Covert Lane, continue into the village along Church Hill. *The pretty All Saints church rests on the highest point in the village and dates back to the 12th century. The church adjoins Scraptoft Hall, a Queen Ann Mansion built in 1723 by the Wigley family. The mansion stands in its own grounds overlooking a small lake. Effigies of the Wigley family can be found in All Saints Church.*

Continuing along Church Road you will meet Main Street where the walk started.

The Countryside Code

- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people