

The Three Towers Land

Local Walks



The COVID Lockdown of 2020 and 2021 saw many people discover the joys of walking in our local area. As keen walkers, we were amazed at the variety of great walks that are available to us on our own doorstep. And, of course, the great thing about walking locally is that it is accessible without driving for miles and there is no need for any specialist gear. Just remember that the weather can change suddenly so don't forget a jacket and it is always a good idea to carry some refreshments.

“So, how long will this walk take me?”

Naismith's Rule: William Naismith was a Victorian mountaineer who gave his name to an easy and dependable way to calculate the time for any walk. Naismith assessed that the average adult walking speed on flat hard ground is around 5 kph (3 mph) plus 10 minutes for every ascent of 100 m (this equates to an additional one minute for each contour line on an OS walking map).

Naismith did not take into account stopping to enjoy the views and the wildlife, amusing the children with games or simply chatting to other walkers along the way when setting out his rule. So, it may be prudent to add a few extra minutes when calculating your walk timings.

As you will find, most of these walks have points where you can combine or change to another walk to vary the walk for another time.

All the graphics are based on the 1:25,000 OS map.

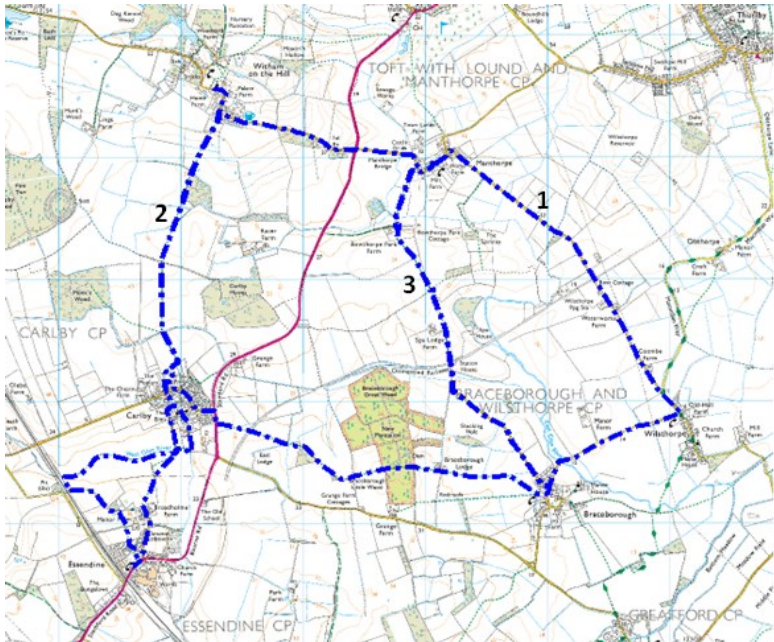
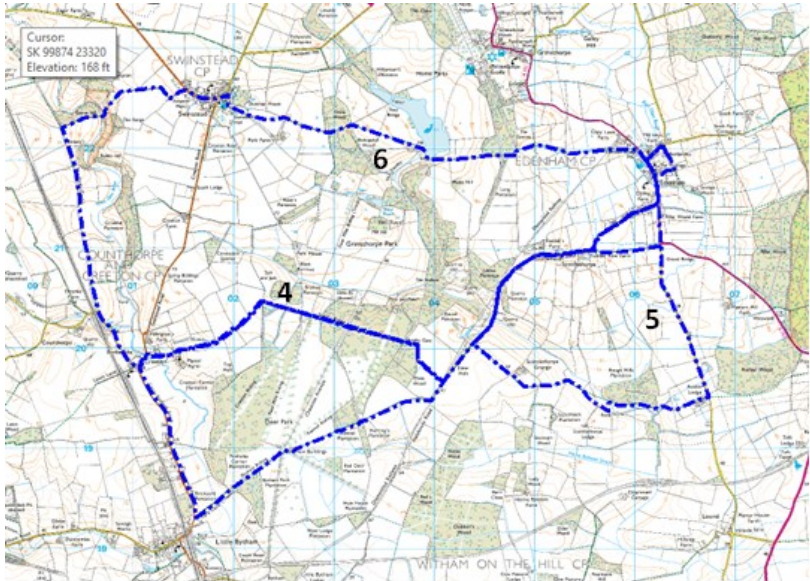
If you find any errors in the descriptions or believe that they could be clearer without going into a great deal more detail, then please do let us know.

Tom McWilliams

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Overview of Routes



Walk 1

Manthorpe – Wilsthorpe - Braceborough - Manthorpe

Distance: 5 miles / 8 km

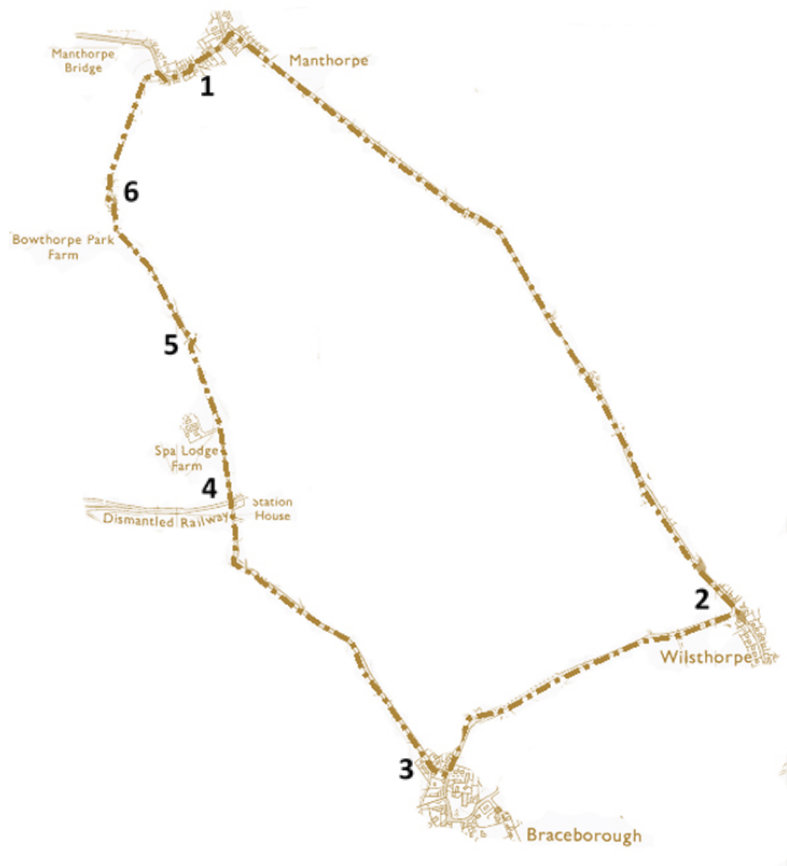
Going: Easy going – and pretty easy to follow either clockwise or anti-clockwise.

Start: Manthorpe by the telephone box.

1. Walk NE along the pavement through the village keeping the main road on your left. As the main road turns sharp left, go straight ahead following the road to the right towards Wilsthorpe.
2. On entering Wilsthorpe, take first right towards Braceborough.
3. Follow the road into Braceborough and take the right first right, signposted Spa Road. Walk along this pleasant and almost vehicle-free road until you reach the “Private” road sign. Do not be confused by this sign. The private road is the continuation of Spa Road to the right. Our route is straight ahead onto the track to the right of the farm ahead.
4. Keep the fence line and the farm on your left. At the end of the fence line, head straight ahead on towards the top of the field. This is the only point in the walk that, when wet, you can find yourself picking up a couple of kilos of mud on your boots.
5. At the top of the field, turn to the right to cross the footbridge then left again to continue on the track keeping the hedge line on your right.
6. At the end of this track, you will see a metal gate leading into an enclosed field at Bowthorpe Farm. Go through the gate and head diagonally left across the field leaving the field at the far-left corner through another metal gate. Descend the track into Bowthorpe farmyard, go past the sheds and take the farm track to the left in front of the sheds.

Look for the gate opposite the middle shed that leads down towards the footbridge over the river. This gate is normally secured with a length of baler band. Untie the gate and pass through. Please remember to fasten it properly again behind you.

Carefully walk down the slope keeping the fence on your right. Cross the footbridge and head up the hill generally heading slightly to the right. At the top of the hill, keep close to the fence on your right and leave the field at the style. You are now back in Manthorpe. Turn right and walk back to the telephone box.



Walk 2

Little Bytham – Creeton – Little Bytham

Distance: 5 miles / 8 km

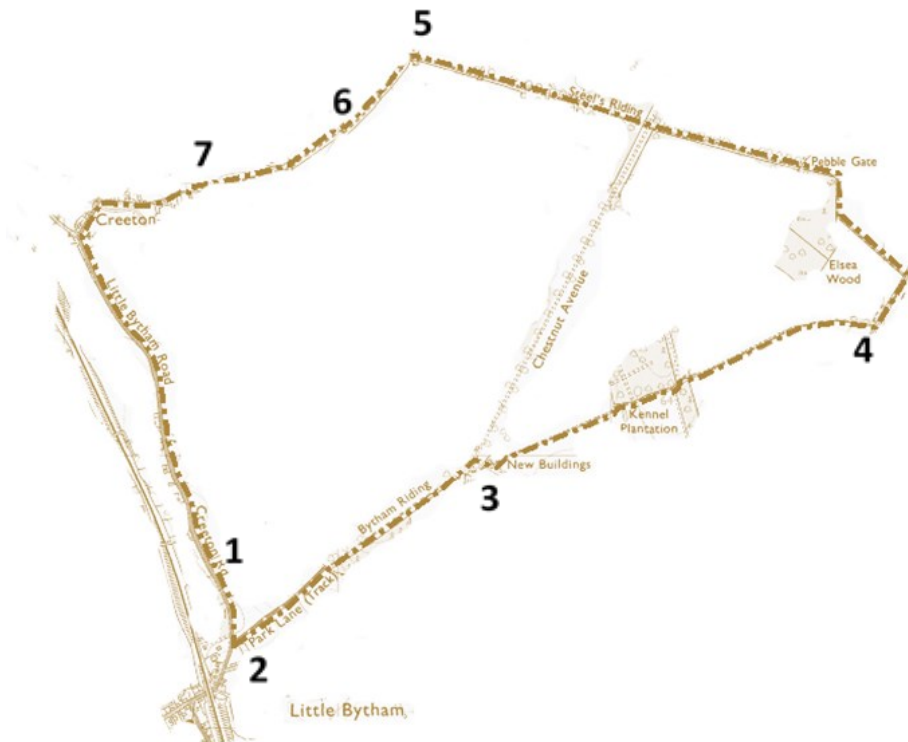
Going: Easy good ground through open and wooded land on generally well-maintained paths.

Start: The Spinney Woodland Playspace, Creeton Road, Little Bytham.

1. Leave The Spinney and turn right towards Little Bytham.
2. Take the first track on the left at the bridleway sign 75m before the 30 mph sign onto Park Lane. Follow this wide track up the hill and onto the cross roads just before the house and barn.
3. **Do not** carry on up Chestnut Avenue. Instead, take the path to the right opposite the house, following the yellow route marker. Walk past the now empty site of the “New Buildings” and turn left after the site at the footpath sign. Half way along this stretch, after leaving Kennel Plantation, you will pass through a metal barrier. **Ignore** the Grimsthorpe route signs pointing to the left, instead, carry straight on all the way to the concrete road.
4. Turn left onto the concrete road and left again at the next track heading for Elsea Wood. Follow the path around the wood, over the stile at Pebble Gate onto Steel’s Riding. Remember to look right at Chestnut Avenue for a view of Grimsthorpe Castle. There is a large felled tree along this path that makes a half-decent table for your flask and sandwich box.

Carry on along this track crossing a couple of stiles until you reach the west end of the small triangular wood.
5. Turn left onto the narrow track following the hedge line on a gentle curve towards Creeton.
6. A quick right/left following the path keeping the hedge line on your left.

7. Climb over the stile before the end of the field and turn right onto the road. Follow the road through Creeton, turning left onto the main road to Little Bytham. The tarmac footpath starts on the left and criss-crosses all the way back to The Spinney.



Walk 3

Manthorpe-Braceborough-Carlby-Witham-Manthorpe

Distance: 7 miles / 11 Km

Difficulty: Easy with stiles & gates - well-signposted

Start: Manthorpe Bridge

This is a round walk that is easy to follow in either direction and from any start point. This description starts from the bridge over the river in Manthorpe. The route is generally well-signposted throughout by the yellow Lincolnshire County Council markers.

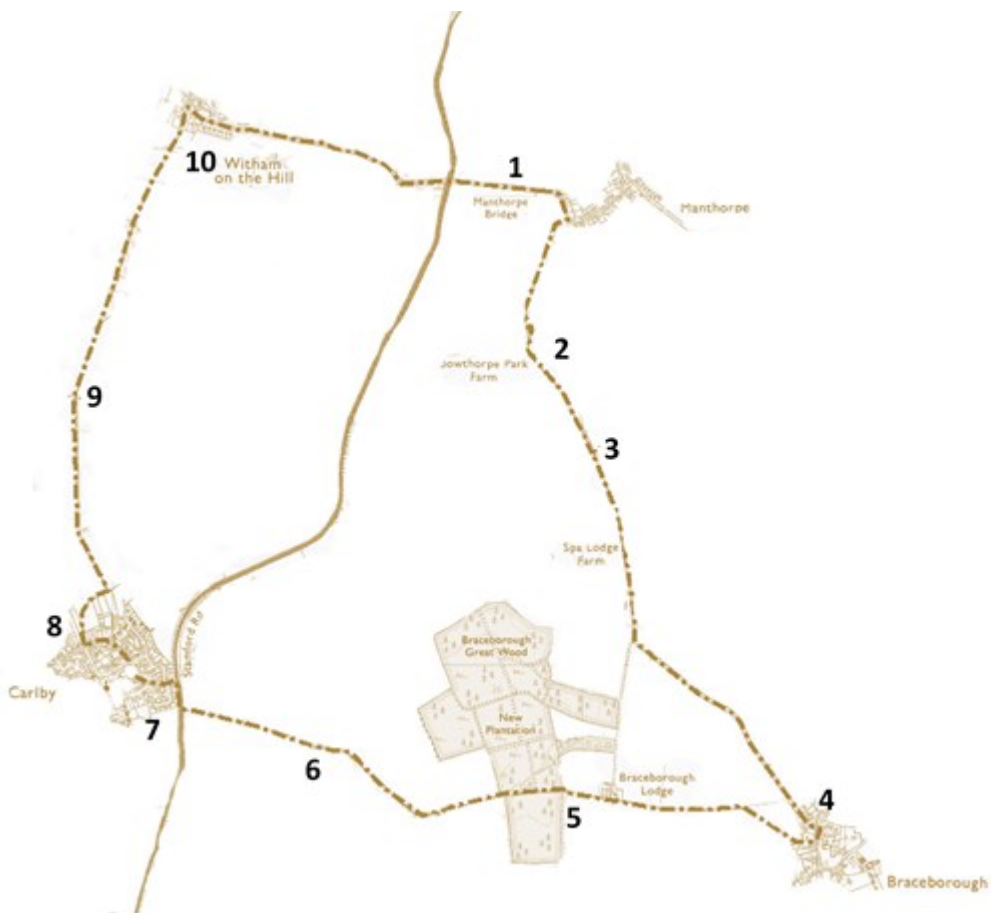
1. Leave the bridge and walk into Manthorpe. At the top of the hill climb over the stile on your right. Keep close to the fence on your left and, at the brow of the hill, head down the middle of the field aiming for the gate at the bottom. If wet, climb over the stile just to the right of the gate.

Continue across the next field to the foot bridge. Cross the bridge and walk up the bank keeping close to the fence line on your left. Go through the gate and turn left onto the track in front of the barns at Bowthorpe Farm. Please remember to tie up the gate after you.

2. Take the first right between 2 barns aiming for the gate at the top of the short steep incline. Go through the gate across the field, exiting at the top left-hand corner by another gate. Continue straight ahead keeping the hedge line on your left.
3. Go to the left of the hedge line crossing your path and cross the foot bridge into the next field. Walk straight ahead on leaving the bridge for about 5 metres then turn left into the field heading downhill for fence line to the left of the Spa Lodge Farm buildings. (When wet, this can be a very muddy section). At the end of the field, carry on straight ahead down the road towards Braceborough. Turn right keeping to the paved footpath on the right.

4. Look for the Public Footpath sign after about 100m, take this narrow path between a fence on your left and a coniferous hedge on your right. Cross the footbridge at the end of the gardens and aim for the gap into the field ahead. As you enter the field there are 2 footpaths. Take the one that angles slightly to the right. The route bends to the left at the dyke. Continue along the dyke to Braceborough Lodge ahead. Walk straight ahead keeping the farmhouse and buildings on your right. Cross the field and enter the plantation ahead over a small footbridge.
5. On entering the plantation turn right then take the track to the left after a few metres. On leaving the wooded area, aim for the gate in the middle of the field ahead. (Note that the gate was impossible to open when I last walked the route. It is safest to climb through the fence rather than over the gate.) Continue straight ahead across the next field. The route bends to the right along the left edge of the next field.
6. A quick left then right at the end of this field, follow the signs, turn right across a small footbridge then back on to the track across the field to stile leading to the disused railway line. Down and back up the steep cutting crossing the next stile into another field. Follow the obvious path straight ahead towards Carlby.
7. Cross the road and turn left into Carlby keeping on the paved footpath to your left. Walk through Carlby and ignore the first footpath sign just before the left-hand bend. Continue around the bend and look for the small footpath sign on the right just before Church Street.
8. Go along this narrow footpath with the wall on your right. At the end of the wall, head for the far end of the hedgerow along the righthand edge of the field. Keep tight to the next hedge on your right and then turn left at the corner of the field again keeping the hedge on your right. Cross the footbridge and go straight ahead across the next field.

9. The route bends slightly to the right heading for the left edge of the wooded area ahead. Take the path to the left of the wood, keeping the hedge line on your right. Cross another couple of footbridges heading straight ahead towards Witham. Go through the gate between the houses and turn right onto the main road.
10. Cross the road onto the paved footpath and follow the road down the hill out of Witham, crossing the A6121 and heading back to the start point bridge at the entrance to Manthorpe.



Walk 4

Witham-on-the-Hill – Carlby – Essendine & Return

Distance: 6 miles / 10 km

Going: Easy going, but may be very muddy in places (particularly the ploughed/crop fields) during wet weather. Well-marked, with yellow arrows and footpath signs.

Start: Witham on the Hill village green beside St Andrew's Church

If you are lucky, in the right season you will see banks of cowslips, deer in the woods, birds of prey, flocks of long-tailed tits in the tall trees near the railway line and lots of other wildlife – if you keep your eyes open! Oh, and some noisy trains.....

1. Leave the village green turning left and head up the main road past the church following the road around the corner to the right. Just as the road bends left, cross over and take the gravel track between the houses (Elm Avenue) following the signed footpath. The track has a high hedge on one side and a wall on the other. At the end of the track go through the metal gate and follow the path straight across the grass field to the stile. Continue on the footpath across a crop field to a small bridge. Cross the next field. Keep to the right-hand edge of the wood. Follow the farm track, keeping the wood on your left and field on the right. At the end of the wood keep right along the hedge, then across the field, following the way marker, to a small bridge made from sandbags. Follow the sign across a field, up a slight rise through the markers, and along the tractor tracks. Follow marker along field edge, keeping hedge on left and field on right, over the bridge, across the farm track and follow the path along the hedge on the left and field on right.
2. At the corner of the field the footpath turns 90 degrees to the right (it can be very muddy here!). Follow the hedge for a short distance then turn left towards the houses. Walk along the end of the back gardens. At the end turn left along a brick wall, through a narrow passageway between houses. Cross the road into Church Street,

Carlby. Where the road bends round to the left, turn right into a narrow gap between houses, bordered by high wooden fences. Turn left at the end and walk downhill, through a narrow green lane, bordered on both sides by hedges.

3. At the bottom, cross the bridge over the river, and follow the left of 2 footpaths, diagonally up the hill towards the farm, heading for the gap in the hedge (you will return to this bridge from the path on your right). Follow the markers between the house and the barn, through the gate, onto the road, and turn left into Manor Farm Lane, Essendine. Walk to the end of the lane and then turn right on to Essendine village green. Turn right onto the tarmac path and right again onto a narrow footpath between the houses just after a yellow sand bin keeping the garden with a particularly large tree on your right. At the end of this path, cross the road and follow the signed path through the houses, which comes out alongside a fenced farm field. Go through the metal gate and across the field towards the wood.
4. Enter the wood and turn left at the farm track and follow the track downhill towards the railway line. Close to the railway turn right and follow the hedge around the field and then along the riverbank, passing 2 owl boxes back to the bridge at Point 3. Turn right after the bridge through a kissing gate and follow the track around and left up towards the church. Go through the graveyard exiting at the pedestrian gate. Turn left back onto the other end of Church Street. Continue around Church Street and retrace your way back along the footpaths to Witham on the Hill.



Walk 5

Edenham – Scottlethorpe – Auster Lodge – Edenham

Distance: 6 miles / 10 km

Going: Easy going – muddy in places when wet

Start: Edenham Village Hall car park

1. Turn left out of the car park and walk past the Vicarage entrance onto the main road. Turn left again and cross over the road. Take the first left towards Scottlethorpe.
2. Keep on the road towards and through Scottlethorpe onto a well-maintained concrete road past a gate/barrier and a house. Downhill over the small bridge, climbing back up towards a wood.
3. Turn left at the footpath sign just before you enter the wood towards Scottlethorpe Grange.
4. At Scottlethorpe Grange, go to the left of the hedge and over a stile following the footpath straight ahead then bending to the left and diagonally across a field (if it is very muddy, you could keep to the right of the field and follow the field line anti-clockwise to the bottom point of the field).
5. Turn right following the footpath signs towards the ford then left to a small wooden bridge. Cross the bridge and turn right keeping close to the Rough Hills Plantation fence line.
6. Turn slightly left at the end of the plantation and head for the bridge crossing the river once more. (Be careful not to head for the other crossing slightly to the right which is, initially, easier to see). Climb the hill following the footpath towards Auster Lodge.
7. As you enter Auster Lodge go past the first shed turning slightly right then left again between the buildings onto the road. Follow the “Toft” road to the A151 then back to Edenham and the car park.

8. Should you not wish to take the grass verge along the A151, you can take the signed footpath just before the junction back towards Scottlethorpe, turning right at the road and retracing your steps to the car park.



Walk 6

Edenham – Swinstead – Creeton – Scottlethorpe – Edenham

Distance: 10 miles /16 km

Going: Easy going with stiles & gates - well-signposted and muddy in places after heavy rain.

Start: St Michael's and All Saints Church in Edenham

1. Leave the church in the direction of Grimsthorpe. Go past the pub then turn left through a kissing gate into a field. Head across this and the next field through 2 more gates. On entering the 3rd field, keep to the hedge line exiting the field at a third gate. Turn left then immediately right through a gate heading for the top right corner of this field.
2. Turn right through the gap, then left again towards a small bridge and a gate. Turning left after the bridge/gate, take the obvious path to the right following the ditch line towards the wood. The path bends left then right again following the wood boundary. Go straight ahead into the wood and follow this well-made path down to the Grimsthorpe lake. In addition to great views of the castle, there are also some benches on the lake-side.
3. Follow the path around the lake over the bridge and past the shepherd's hut. Turn left here, following the yellow signed footpath. Walk up the hill turning left into the wood. Through the wood and on towards Swinstead Hall.
4. Turn left off the main track just after Park Farm through a small wooded area then across the field. At the end of the field, turn right onto the road past the Hall and right again at the bottom into the village. Turn left onto the High Street. Continue through the village and turn left at the end of the High Street following the footpath sign.

5. Turn right just after the telegraph pole following the track as it bends left. Keep the hedge on your left and walk towards the wood ahead. Be careful you do not miss the left turn over a stile 50 m before the wood. Over the stile and head diagonally downhill. Turn left at the bottom of the hill and head for the wooden bridge. Straight ahead over a stile (or through the gate, if open) and up Gorse Hill. Follow the path past the wood until you meet a wide track. Turn left and follow the track all the way into Creeton.
6. Turn left into Creeton, over the bridge then right towards the church. As the road bends right go left following the footpath over a stile then turning right onto the footpath up the hill. Follow the hedge line towards the next wooded area.
7. Keeping the wood on your right, go through a gate heading along the path under the mistletoe laden trees. Go through the next gate and then a stile and across metalled-surfaced Chestnut Avenue where you have a decent view of Grimsthorpe once more on your left. Carry on along this route and over the stile at Pebble gate (an impressive high old wooden gate). Follow the path around the wood to the right. Half way along here the route bears left across a field towards a gap in the hedge.
8. Through the gap turning left onto a well-maintained concrete road. Follow this concrete road past the wood and straight ahead onto the tarmac road leading to Scottlethorpe. Go through Scottlethorpe, eventually reaching the A151 once more. Turn left and back towards the church.

