

Circular Walk from Ryhall

CIRCULAR WALK FROM RYHALL

(8 miles)

Our initial reconnaissance groups could not agree which was the best route into Stamford and the most suitable ending to The Danelaw Way and therefore we agreed to put in both. Then, this separate walk was proposed as taking in the attractive highlights of both endings and it certainly does offer a delightful and interesting short walk that we are sure that all walkers will enjoy.

Distance: 8 miles

Time: A leisurely 4 hours with time to stand and 'stare' and explore or photograph, i.e. Tolethorpe Mill or the Photographic watermill on the Welland at Stamford.

Ordnance Survey Map: Explorer 234 Rutland Water. 1:25,000

Starting Place: Ryhall village hall and parking place.
Map Reference: TF 036 107

Walk Outline

An 8 mile circular walk from Ryhall can be enjoyed as an appetizer before attempting the 60 mile linear walk or as a reminder and celebration at the end of a challenging but not arduous linear walk.

Ryhall

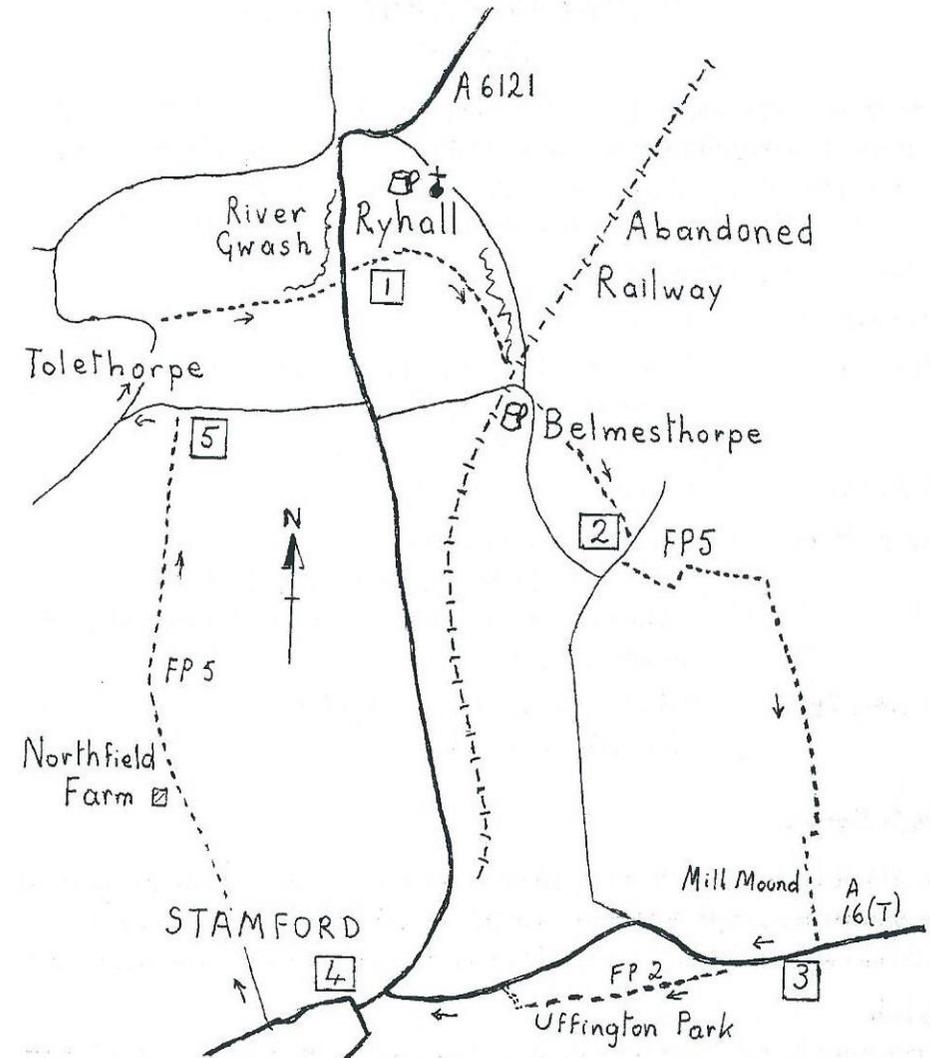
Picturesque Ryhall enjoys the amenities of two pubs which serve food, post office, shop, church and regular bus service.

Route Description

1 To commence your journey, with the library on your right, go FORWARD on Church Street and beside stone wall ahead there is a finger post. This directs you past the Vicarage right and primary school right then FORWARD with gardens left and hedges/trees right.

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Pass children's swings left, through kissing gate, bearing SLIGHTLY RIGHT across the meadows. Arriving at a wire fence on the tree line pass through gate and continue with river Gwash on left.



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2 Cross river at bridge and turn RIGHT on the road to enter Belmesthorpe, passing the inviting Blue Bell Inn on the right. At the T-junction turn RIGHT up Shepherds Walk (noting the mellow stone cottages opposite), then turn LEFT up Castle Rise. Just after left hand bend turn RIGHT up narrow footpath between two houses (The Quoins and Church View). Over bridge and follow grassy track between paddocks stretching ahead, through gate, beside wire fence on left then AHEAD with fence on both sides.

At end cross track beside yellow top post. Straight across grass field to next gate with yellow top post. Then turn RIGHT into grassy lane with hedges both sides. For about 130 yards you will be walking the MacMillan Way until a footpath sign LEFT (shortly before a metalled road) which directs you into a field with hedge right.

Keep AHEAD on headland path and at the corner of the field turn LEFT, still with hedge right. Immediately before end of hedge on right cross bridge over dyke go FORWARD with hedge left and redundant stile which you pass on your right.

Follow grass track between crops then at hedge ahead turn RIGHT as waymarked onto stony track with hedge left. To the south a prominent church spire can be seen. Follow track for about ½ mile then follow track as it turns right then left with crops on both sides. The spire of Uffington church is now on the left as are houses in the village, while on the right Stamford is prominent and half right in the distance Burghley House is visible.

Pass a small plantation of trees right, then hedge right following power lines. Shortly on your left you pass a wildlife conservation area with pond which presumably was a mill pond, although the Mill Mound on O.S. maps is not apparent. Pass overgrown hedge left and follow path ahead to main A16 road. (The village of Uffington is to the left with amenities).

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3 Now turn RIGHT and follow the pavement past 5 houses right, farm access track right then village name board (Uffington) left. Halfway round the bend, just past two five barred field gates on left hand side of road note footpath sign. CROSS busy main road with care and take footpath as indicated. Cross over two stiles, pass interesting information board (well worth reading).

Follow wire fence left and waymarked poles right across Uffington Park to the dry Welland Navigation Canal (1673-1863) which you cross. Continue AHEAD with wire fence left and posts right to stile and bridge which you cross. (This is the river Gwash which you have crossed before).

A well trodden path now continues across meadows (with prominent spire in the far distance ahead) to the banks of the River Welland. Bear RIGHT on a raised grass track. With embankment then fence right, then wire fence right, to kissing gate beside field gate. Follow track with fence left, and new housing development right, pass willow tree with tempting footbridge left, then pass former mill pond left and converted mill property. Follow track to the right up gentle gradient. At junction with main road (A16) turn LEFT shortly passing supermarket on right. At roundabout take SECOND EXIT (signed town centre). The pavement is on opposite side of road – cross with care.

Pass hospital on right then at next roundabout keep RIGHT to pass gateway on right. This was the house of the Whitefriars (1285-1539) visited by Richard II in 1392. Queen Elizabeth was entertained here in 1656 by the Lord treasurer Burghley. Cross A6121 (signed Sleaford/Bourne), head LEFT up St Paul's Street (signed Town Centre) to traffic lights with Brazenose Lane left and East Street right. Cross and continue ahead, pass Stamford school right, Star Lane right, St Georges Street left and enter the shopping precinct and High Street. In 100 yards Stamford public library on right, Maiden Lane left and information finger post indicating the many attractions and amenities of Stamford, including the Tourist Information Offices,

4 From the Stamford public library on the right and Maiden Lane on the left walk FORWARD 50 yards to redundant church on left, now converted to commercial uses. Turn RIGHT into Ironmonger Street and proceed to pedestrian crossing lights at Broad Street, with Brownes Hospital diagonally left. Cross the road, ahead is the Pear Tree and to the right of it Nags Head Passage which leads you to another set of pedestrian lights. Cross this road, turn LEFT then shortly RIGHT into car park. Pass through this to exit between mature trees into public grassy area with footpath that passes to left of tennis courts. This is now Constable Mews. Turn RIGHT again, beyond tennis courts, then immediately LEFT up path with stone wall left. (On right is a delightful public park with bowling green, bandstand, swings and welcoming public seating).

The path beside wall ends at a road. Turn LEFT and in front of first house (called Montaigne) cross to path between gardens. At next road junction cross to a similar path opposite. This is the least attractive part of the walk but it only takes 5 – 10 minutes.

At junction with gravelled track turn LEFT with high wire fencing to right. Follow this fencing (around school playing fields) to the RIGHT and RIGHT again until you reach children's play area. Turn diagonally LEFT then LEFT again onto path between gardens, now maintaining a northerly direction.

At Edinburgh Road cross to a similar path almost opposite. Follow this between gardens to arrive at wide grassy area still between houses and gardens and still heading north. At next road cross to footpath sign and gate to fields.

An obvious grassy track between crops drops to hedge where you turn LEFT then shortly RIGHT through gap to maintain direction up field between crops. At farm follow waymarks left around buildings then right to follow power lines in hedge on left. At hedge gap pass through and continue to follow power lines through next gap and the extensive views of Rutland countryside are to your left with the rooftops of Little Casterton nestling in the valley.

5 FORWARD to stile (uniquely with tap fitted) which you cross onto road. Turn LEFT downhill for 150 yards then RIGHT, signed Tolethorpe Hall, which is on your left. This is where Stamford Shakespeare Company performs at the Rutland Open Air Theatre. The lane bears left past Tolethorpe Lodge then a tall conifer hedge. (To divert to Tolethorpe Mill continue downhill and turn LEFT before the bridge. Then return back up the hill to bend and gate).

At next LEFT bend there is a gate on the RIGHT that you cross into a narrow field. Keeping hedge left, head for stile in hedge opposite, about 10 yards from left corner of field. Turn LEFT for 25 yards then turn RIGHT on wide grassy path between crops.

This arrives at track with river Gwash to the left. Follow track with hedge left and fence right then up slight gradient to field gates and road. Cross with care to Balk Road which is unmade (or sadly in need of attention) and this brings you back to Ryhall Village Hall on left and public library on right.

A varied and interesting 8 mile circular walk with plenty of opportunity to discover the delights of Stamford – Lincolnshire's gem.

Solvitur ambulando

This old latin tag means something like
'You can seek it out by walking.'

Working out, finding out, freeing are all possible interpretations of the word solvitur.

Andrew Young used the words in his poem A Traveller in Time.

Were was I? What was I about to see?

Solvitur ambulando

A path offers its company.