

Walk 2: The Plough at Normanton

About 4.5 miles (7.2 km), 1 hr 40 min walking time.

Varied walk round attractive villages.

From The Square, walk up Selby Lane and then Willow Brook. At the junction with Nicker Hill, cross the road and go straight on through the gate opposite onto the footpath. There are great views towards Hoe Hill and Nottingham from here.

After about 200 yards there's a signpost on the right (in the hedge), R goes across the golf course and straight on goes down the hill to the Melton Road. Turn L and walk straight across the field to the stile opposite. This path may not be obvious in winter, but seems to be well used. After the stile head off diagonally to the R across another field where a clump of willows marks a stile near the little brook. After this stile, head straight across a grass field alongside the stream.

The next stile takes you onto a pleasant footpath under trees behind the BGS, continuing beside the stream where people pick blackberries and sloes. This path brings you out onto Platt Lane, where you should ignore the stile opposite (unless you want a shorter walk) and turn right to walk along the lane. Cross the busy A606 and walk up the road opposite into Normanton to find the Plough on your left.

On leaving the pub, you have 2 options:

1. Turn L and walk through the village on the Old Melton Road for about 300 yards until you reach the paved lane on the L, marked 'The Lawns' on a stone plaque on the wall. Take this for about 50 yards and where it turns L, continue straight on to meet the narrow path between the houses and follow it all the way, over the brook, to reach the field which you cross diagonally to the stile by the A606.

2. Or Turn R and immediately R into Back Lane, which you follow all the way to the end. There, the narrow path will be on the left, (2) on the map. Then, proceed as above.

Cross the A606 to go over the stile opposite and through the next 2 fields, bearing R, as signed by the yellow topped posts (part of the Wolds Way), towards Plumtree church.

The last stile is at a right angle junction. If you bear diagonally right, this will take you to the back of the church and Old Melton road.

Otherwise, turn sharp L here and follow the footpath under the trees running alongside the fence on your left, until you reach the last field, then angle R to the stile in the top far

corner of the field which brings you onto Station Road. Cross the road and turn L.

After 100 yards, take the well-marked footpath on the R all the way back to Crossdale Drive, then Nottingham Road, back to The Square (see Walk 1 for more details).

There is an alternative walk round Normanton.

On exiting the pub, turn sharp left and follow the main street through the village until it bends sharply L. There is a mini grassy triangle with an old red phone box. Go R of the phone box to meet a footpath behind gardens.

Follow this all the way, keeping L at the T junction (and ignoring the metal gate on the R). You come out into a large open circular lawn surrounded by houses. Skirt it on the left and keep going L along the pavements to find a footpath by house No12. Take this; it will bring you back onto the main street very close to the junction with the A 606, which you can see on the R. Re-join the route back to Plumtree and Keyworth from there.

