



COSTOCK WALK NO 6

11.7km/7.3 miles Grading - Moderate
allow 2.5 to 3.5 hours

TERRAIN. Good field paths, tracks, country park paths and a short road section. Paths mostly very well defined and way-marked. Can be muddy in places: walking boots or shoes essential.

START AND PARKING. A60 lay-by near Costock cross-roads.

Grid-ref. SK 577 265

NEAREST TOWN. Loughborough

REFRESHMENTS. Red Lion and Generous Briton pubs in Costock. Both serve food. Kiosk at Rushcliffe Country Park in season.

PUBLIC TOILETS. Near Ranger's Office, Rushcliffe Country Park.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT. Arriva 99 service, Coalville-Loughborough-Nottingham. Buses every hour Mon.-Sat.

MAPS. Landranger 129, Nottingham & Loughborough

Explorer 246, Loughborough; Explorer 260, Nottingham

ROUTE.

This is a linear route from Rushcliffe Country Park to Costock and involves catching the Arriva 99 Nottingham-bound bus from Costock to Rushcliffe Country Park (near Ruddington). (journey time 10 - 15 minutes). Buses pass Costock cross-roads at approximately 45 minutes past the hour every hour during the day (Mon. - Sat.).

1. From the bus stop just past the roundabout near Rushcliffe Business Park, walk back up the A60 (southwards) and turn right into the Rushcliffe Business Park on a paved brick path. The path passes business premises and the goods entrance to Great Central Railway before coming to a pair of wind generators. Enter Rushcliffe Country Park via Mire Gate and walk ahead to the edge of a small lake. Follow the lake round to the right past the park's amenity buildings and continue to walk with the lake left to its end at a signpost. Turn right and then left at a second signpost passing a children's play area on your right. Continue walking west up a small hill with the railway right (initially hidden from view), until the main path swings left. Continue straight ahead to exit the park via a wooden gate (with yellow height restrictors) onto a farm access road near a level crossing. Turn left and walk along the road to a footpath signpost. Continue ahead past some farm buildings and turn right on a bridge over the Great Central Railway. At another footpath sign turn left to follow the edge of the railway southwards. This is a relatively new path and does not yet appear on older Ordnance Survey maps. Follow the path until a brief detour to the right is required round the embankment of a bridge across the railway. Turn left over a concrete bridge at a marker post to join a track. Turn left and follow the track for a further 250 metres as it swings once more adjacent to the railway until just before Fairham Brook. Turn left to cross the railway line (with care) and follow the brook to a line of trees at a marker post. Turn left and follow the path next to the line of trees. The path eventually becomes a broad track. Ignore the track to the left at a marker post but continue ahead to the next marker post. Turn left to reach a signpost.
2. Turn right to follow the track alongside a drainage ditch towards the spire of Bunny Church in the distance. After about 1.3 km (three quarters of a mile), at a signpost, follow the main track as it swings right to reach the end of a road. Cross the road to join an enclosed path between the backs of houses and a paddock. At the next 3 way signpost turn right in the Gotham direction. Walk across an arable field to reach Fairham brook once more. Cross and turn right to follow the brook down-stream. At two small trees cross a footbridge and turn left and follow the path between fields to reach Gotham Lane. Cross over to the stile almost opposite and



follow the field track uphill. At about two thirds of the way up near a ditch marking the end of the field, climb slightly right following a small indentation in the contours, to reach the edge of Bunny New Wood. Enter the wood and follow the path which crosses a track before proceeding on a series of duck-boards to reach a stile at a field at the end of the wood. Bear slightly right to a way-marker in the right hand hedge and bear left across the corner of the next field to the next stile. Aim to the right of a brick building in the next field to cross a stile in the opposite corner. Cut across the corner of the next field, cross a lane and enter another field and aim for the far left hand corner to reach a finger post at a farm access track.

3. Turn right to walk along the track to a sign post for East Leake just before the entrance to Hill Top Farm . Turn left and follow two sides of a field perimeter path to reach a stile. Cross, and walk immediately right for a short distance to reach a signpost. Walk downhill slightly right to reach another signpost. Bear right to the opposite corner of the next field, cross a stile and bear diagonally right to another signpost at a track. Cross the track to enter a grassy field and bear left through this field and the next to reach a signpost and stile on Lantern Lane near the Harry Carlton School. Turn left for a few metres and then right into a by-way. Follow this downhill, cross the King's Brook via a footbridge and proceed ahead to reach Costock Road. Turn left and walk back to Costock. Just before the Generous Briton pub in Costock, turn left into Chapel Lane. At the gates of the Old Vicarage, turn right and follow the lane to reach a public footpath sign. A short section of footpath takes you to the A60. Cross with care to another short section of path which leads to the starting point lay-by.

