

EMGASpers Walk 4/10/07

Hallaton

From Hallaton Church walk up Churchgate. At the top, where the road bends right, go straight ahead through the kissing gate to the right of the little cemetery. Walk close to the hedge on your left and keep straight on, down the slope, to cross the stream. Turn left.

Cross the wooden cartbridge and go up the hill moving slightly to your right. Keep parallel with the hedge on your left, but not too close to it. The crossing point is at the top of the field about 100 yards from this hedge.

Continue downhill, moving further away from the hedge on the left and cross the waymarked fence on the skyline. Continue over the brow of the hill keeping in exactly the same direction. Pass close to a pond on your left and go through the waymarked handgate.

Aim for Othorpe House at the top of the hill beyond the valley. Go downhill to cross the footbridge just to the left of the spinney and continue uphill to the farm.

Cross the track. (Othorpe House, to your left, is all that remains of the deserted medieval village.) Go between the barns. Pass the redbrick barn to your left and turn left and right to pass the metal sheds.

Cross the little paddock, close to the hedge on your right. Continue parallel with the hedge over to your right as you continue along the hillside. When the hedge begins to bend and go downhill, cross through the gap and keep straight on across the next, undulating, field. Aim for the top left corner and keep straight on past the isolated telegraph pole to reach the gate which leads onto the road opposite to Cranoe church. Do not go through the gate but turn sharp right.

Here we leave the Leicestershire Round and follow the Midshires Way. Walk uphill, still in the same field, close to the hedge on your left. Continue to the top of the field. Go through the iron gate. Continue straight ahead keeping the hedge and small ditch to your left. On reaching the next iron gate look to your left and you will see Glooston Wood in the distance. Continue straight ahead (due north) towards the waymark on the far side of this long field.

Pass through the five-barred gate and continue ahead close to the hedge on your left. On reaching the farm track turn left through the gap in the hedge and then turn immediately right. From this point you will have a wonderful vista of the surrounding countryside.

Keeping close to the hedge on your right, walk about 250 paces then go over the stile on your right. Hallaton Wood is over to your left.

Keep in the same direction, bearing slightly right to go through a gap in the hedge and carry on towards Hallaton church, which stands among the trees some distance ahead.

Go down the slope to discover the stile well hidden in the hedgerow. Cross this stile and bear slightly right through a small field to the next stile. Cross over a metalled farm track and continue down the hill, keeping Hallaton church spire dead ahead.

Cross the stile in the far corner of the field and scramble down the grassy bank to the metalled farm road. Turn left along the road and cross the ford (or use the footbridge to right if water is deep). As you continue up the hill you will be passing Castle Hill over to your right.

At the bend in the road go straight ahead on the signposted footpath, through the five-barred gate and continue close to the hedge on your left. Go over the stile in the corner of the field and bear slightly right to reach the church, where the walk began.