

Higham on the Hill and the Ashby Canal

17th January 2008

Start Point

The Fox Inn – Higham on the Hill.

Walk - 5½ miles

Turn left out of the pub turn left at road junction to reach a footpath sign after ¼ mile. Follow the hedge to the left to a gate, and then turn right over a stile to join an obvious field path ahead to a stile in the far corner. Continue ahead over the next field path to reach a stile and the road. Turn left for 75yds to a public footpath sign on the right where an awkward stile and fence gives access to a diagonal field path to the left. Turn right along the road crossing over the dismantled railway line (1900), then the Ashby Canal to a footpath sign on the right.

Go through the gate onto a rough track that climbs slowly towards Millfield Farm then bear left onto an obvious field path with a hedge adjacent to your left. Continue ahead over two more fields to eventually reach the road. Turn left and walk along the road for about a ¼ mile to Stoke Golding.

From the George and Dragon, turn onto High Street passing the Three Horseshoes pub and follow the road round to the left. Pass the Parish Church of St Margaret, then the White Swan pub to a public footpath sign on the left at the end of the village. From the stile a short field path leads to Bridge 27 over the Ashby Canal. Cross over the bridge, join the tow path on your left and walk to the right noting the fine spire of Stoke Golding church away to the left.

Continue along the tow path until just prior to Bridge 20. Leave at a public footpath sign for Higham on the Hill one mile and climb the stile that leads into a field. Cross to a marker post opposite then climb a fence onto the old track bed of the Ashby and Nuneaton Joint Railway. ***The branch from Hinckley to Ashby joined the Nuneaton route just south of Stoke Golding and both lines opened simultaneously in 1873. The Hinckley branch line was dismantled in 1900 having never carried a fare paying passenger.*** From the next stile a field perimeter path is followed to a marker post, and then a vague path cuts diagonally right to a well hidden footbridge in a hedge. Keep a hedge close to your left on the field perimeter path and continue ahead in the same direction crossing a series of stiles to reach the road at Higham on the Hill.

Walk left along the road to village turning left back towards the Fox Inn.

Points of Interest

Stoke Golding – Few miles to the west is centre of England – furthest point from the sea. Church built between 1290 and 1340. Nearby is Crown Hill where Henry Tudor was crowned king after Battle of Bosworth Field in August 1485.

Higham on the Hill – St Peter's church has the only complete Norman tower in South Leicestershire and has one bell (the Armada Bell) cast in 1589