

Willoughby-on-the-Wolds and Wysall circular walk

A gently undulating walk following well marked footpaths through pasture land and fields between the neighbouring villages. There is one short stretch of road on leaving Wysall. The walk for some of the way follows the course of the Kingston Brook. Be aware that there are numerous stiles. Distance: 5.4 miles. OS Explorer Map 246.

1. Head west from the village crossroads along Main Street and after 120m turn right into Church Lane. At the first corner, take the tarmac footpath to the left heading downhill. The path soon re-emerges onto the other end of Church Lane. Take the first turn to the right, following the footpath sign, and in another 25m go through the gate into the churchyard on the left.
2. Follow the path through the churchyard, passing the south door of the church on your right. Cross the stile onto the field path, and continue ahead to a further stile and railed footbridge over the brook.



Head diagonally to the waymark post in the top right-hand corner of the field and cross a double stile into another field. Follow the line of the fence round the corner to the left, cross another stile to the left of the first gate, then go straight ahead across the next small field to the

stile on the right of a second gate. Cross this stile onto Wysall Lane.

3. Cross the lane in front of the village name sign to the left and enter the field opposite by the metal handgate, one of many fields in the area with clear remains of ridge and furrow. Walk diagonally down the field to cross a double stile and footbridge in the corner.

The walk from here to Wysall will be following the route of the Midshires Way. On the left is the Kingston Brook which eventually flows into the River Soar near its junction with the Trent. The route will cross the brook later on. Keep an eye open for heron unexpectedly rising from the banks or possibly the flash of a kingfisher. Grass snakes have also been spotted slithering into the water.

4. Keeping the brook and trees along its



banks on your left, and ignoring a second footpath to the left by the electricity pylon, walk straight ahead through the next three fields, crossing another stile at each field boundary, to come to a track which fords the brook to the left.

5. Cross the track and the footbridge and stile through the hedge into another field. Continue straight ahead to the next waymarked stile and cross into an arable field where the path maintains the same general direction but runs close to the wire fence on the left. Cross another small fenced-off piece of land by two further stiles, keep ahead for a further 50m then turn left over another stile onto a rough track. Descend the track for just a few metres, then cross a footbridge and stile in the hedge on the right.



Cross a further two fields, with woodland on the left, and exit onto a concrete track, which bridges the brook to the left.

Again, there are waymarked stiles at all the field boundaries.

6. Cross the track, taking the stile to the right of the gate and walk across the meadow, bearing gradually left. Cross a waymarked stile on the right of the gate, and bear left to another waymark post in about 100m by a railed footbridge over the brook, ignoring a second footpath leading round the field edge to another waymark post visible on the right.



Cross the bridge, turn immediately right and go through the gap in the hedge into a large arable field. Follow the path diagonally up across the field to the left, aiming for the corner of the woodland. Here the path follows the edge of the wood to the hedge at the field boundary and then descends diagonally to the right across the next field. At the 'elbow' of the hedge, the path takes a course further right to cut across the corner of the field to a stile in a strip of trees along the brook.

7. Cross the stile and footbridge over the brook into further arable fields. The path crosses the first field diagonally to a footbridge in the hedge on the left and goes straight ahead over the next field to a stile and footbridge leading into the corner of another large field, lately used for growing lawn turf. Proceed ahead along the field edge with the hedge on your left and at the corner turn right along the head of the field. After about 150m, cross the waymarked stile on the left. Walk across this ridge and furrow field, bearing very slightly to the right of the church spire in the near distance, to a metal hand gate, footbridge and second gate through a strip of trees. Follow the hedge round to the left where the path leads into the recreation area behind Wysall Village Hall.



Exit by the gate to the left of the hall on to Main Street, Wysall.

Possibly visit the church opposite or pause for refreshment at 'The Plough' 400m to the right up Main Street before starting back to Willoughby.

8. Turn left from the Village Hall and almost immediately left again into Wymeswold Road. Follow the lane out of the village.
9. In about 500m, after the bridge over the brook and just beyond the village sign for Thorpe in the Glebe, follow the footpath sign pointing through a gate on the left onto a track leading to Brooklea Farm. After about 300m, as the track turns left, take the footpath on the right into the field ahead, following the fence on the right. *The animals in the fields round here may surprise you!*



At the end, go left through the hedge and cross the next field diagonally to the right, now alongside a fence on the left. In the corner, go through a metal handgate, across a footbridge and through another gate, and then take the path to the left along the edge of the field, ignoring a second footpath which leads straight ahead. Go through the handgate and cross another footbridge in the corner and take a course diagonally to the right across the next field, and then through the gap, which would once have been gated, into the field beyond. Keeping the hedge on the right, go straight ahead until some 10m before the end of the field

where a metal handgate on the right leads through the hedge. Cross the field diagonally to the far corner and a waymarked stile and footbridge. Bear left across the corner of the field beyond, to a metal handgate, and through the strip of trees. Bear left again, through another metal gate onto open land with farm buildings to the left.

10. The footpath follows the line of the electricity cables straight ahead to a farm gate and stile to the left of the wood, just beyond the point at which the farm track leads away to the left. Cross the stile and follow the edge of the field round the corner to the right, cross another stile and



turn left up a grass track at the side of the field with the hedgerow to your left.

11. At the end of the hedge, and before the wood, cross through the gap into the field on the left, bear right and follow the edge of the field round to a metal handgate. Go through the gate and cross the next two fields through two farm gates with the wood on the right. In the large field after the second gate, bear left downhill with the hedge on the left and through another farm gate. Here the path heads diagonally right and down across the field to another gate in the corner below electricity poles. From the gate, keep ahead with the edge of the field on the left into the corner where another gate leads into a rough patch of land between trees next to an electricity pylon. Cross the concrete culvert over the brook, through another farm gate into the field and turn right, rejoining the 'out' route to cross back over the double stile and footbridge at point (3).
12. Retrace the first mile of the outbound route to return to the village crossroads on the footpaths via the church.



Alternatively, on reaching Wysall Lane, turn right into West Thorpe, and after a further 200m turn left on Main Street which leads directly to the village cross roads in approximately 750m.