

## Willoughby-on-the-Wolds – circular walk south of the village

**A walk over fields and tracks on the south side of Willoughby, with long views back to the village.  
Distance: 2.5 – 2.7 miles (4.1 – 4.4 kms) depending on routes chosen.**

1. From the village crossroads, head along London Lane. After some 70m, take the footpath on your right. This leads into Chapel Lane. Follow the lane round to the left where it becomes a byway taking you away from the village. Cross Back Lane (watch for traffic), and the stile immediately opposite, into open fields.
2. Now take a diagonal course at roughly '1 o'clock' to a stile halfway along the hedge on the right hand side of the field, to the left of a gate. Cross this double stile into the corner of the adjacent field.



Here the path leads diagonally down to a footbridge over the brook. This is the county boundary with Leicestershire! Cross the bridge and continue straight ahead to the waymark post and cross another stile. Walk up the edge of the

field with the hedge on your right, to exit through the farmgate onto Hades Lane.



3. Turn left on the lane, follow it past 'Willoughby Grange' farm and after 1km you will reach a byway on the left: this is the southernmost end of Occupation Lane.
4. *At this point you have a choice of routes to return to Willoughby: either follow Occupation Lane for the whole of its length, or walk across the fields and join Occupation Lane just over halfway.*
  - A. *Occupation Lane* Running away from Hades Lane, the lane is wide and grassy, but often deeply rutted (and muddy when wet). In about 300m it turns to the left, runs downhill, and in

another 700m crosses a low brick bridge over the brook. Here it



bends left and then runs in a straight line uphill for the rest of its length. The surface of the lane is stony and mostly firm under foot from this point.

- B. *Footpath across fields (100m shorter than A)*



The footpath is signposted away from Hades Lane through the gate immediately on your left at the start of Occupation Lane. Cross the first field diagonally and go over the stile in the bottom corner. Walk down the next field with the ditch and hedge on your right. Cross another stile and, keeping in the same general direction, aim for a waymark post at the edge of the field ahead and to your right. The path runs from the waymark along the inside of the field, and at the bottom of the field crosses a wooden bridge over the brook. Immediately after the bridge, cross the stile in the hedge on your right into Occupation Lane – so joining Route A.



*There are waymarked footpaths running parallel to Occupation Lane from the brook to Back Lane, which you might wish to take as an alternative to the lane itself.*

5. *On reaching the end of Occupation Lane, you have another choice of routes: either the direct route along London Lane or a more interesting detour to arrive in Main Street between the new houses built on the former site of the 'Three Horseshoes' pub.*
  - A. *Direct route* Cross Back Lane onto London Lane. Follow London Lane for 280m, passing the Village Hall on your left, to return to the village crossroads.
  - B. *Detour via Horseshoe Close (adds 230m)* Turn right up Back Lane for about 50m to the footpath sign and metal handgate next to a farmgate in the hedge on the left. Cross into the field and take a course bearing diagonally to your right, passing close to the village bowling green further to your right, to a waymark post in the corner. Cross a stile and walk along a

path running between two low fences behind gardens.



Go over another stile and bear to your right across a narrow piece of grassland planted with trees to a wooden handgate. This will lead you between houses into Horseshoe Close. Go straight ahead down the close into Main Street. Turn left to reach the village crossroads in about 140m.

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