



Leicestershire Footpath Association Journal

Summer/Autumn 2025

For Leicestershire Walkers



www.lfa.org.uk

The Leicestershire Footpath Association – Protecting our footpaths since 1887

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In this issue

Editorial	3
Impressions of The AGM	4
Committee News	5
Leicestershire Round News	6 - 7
Slow Ways	8 - 9
Woodland Walks	10 - 11
Woodland Words	12 - 13
National Forest Walking Festival	14
King Charles III Coastal Path Walk	15 - 17
Shanks's Pony	18
Membership Form	19

Front Cover photos:

Top - Taking the Slow Way from Leicester (see pages 8 & 9)

Bottom - On Buck Hill, near Loughborough's Outwoods (see pages 10 - 13)

All photos by the Editor unless otherwise indicated.

To the best of our knowledge, all information is correct at the time of publication.

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Editorial: Where I'm Coming From

Firstly, thanks to Roy Denney for editing several editions of the Leicestershire Footpath Association (LFA) Newsletter/Journal. As the new Editor, I thought I should let readers know where I'm coming from on the subject in hand – our county's superb network of public footpaths.

Footpaths take us out into nature and, through them, we can access mental wellbeing and exercise. Footpaths also tell stories. When you walk a path, you're walking through history! The diversion or closure of a route that's been used for hundreds of years (as so many of them have) amounts to nothing less than the vandalism of a historical artefact. We should still have a right to walk these ways – to feel the history – even though their original purpose may be obsolete.



So, in truth, I didn't join the LFA because of our popular Weekly Walking Groups. (See page 2, opposite, for details.) I joined to help keep our footpaths open.

I'd been away from Leicestershire – the county I grew up in – for 40 years. As a child, I never really got to know it. I began walking the county's footpaths back in 2019 when we moved to Loughborough. I noticed how good the waymarking generally was and how well maintained the gates and stiles were. I've walked all over the UK and, as I'm sure readers will know, this doesn't hold true of all counties. (They don't have the LFA!) But there is still room for improvement: that's where the campaigning side of the LFA comes in. (See Committee News, page 5.)

I was further inspired to join the LFA by walking the Leicestershire Round. A great way to get to know the county! Again, I appreciated how well looked-after it all was. This is due to the hard work of the Voluntary Wardens, each keeping an eye on their stretch; and the Leicestershire Round Task Team Volunteers, who sort out any problems. (See News From The Round page 6.)

Our footpaths are more under threat than ever from development. And yet, with the current obesity and mental health crises, we have never needed our footpath network more. Footpaths are for everyone, not just 'keen' walkers.

I recently visited the poet John Clare's Cottage at Helpston, just over the border in Northamptonshire. Clare lived at a time when the countryside of the Midlands was undergoing radical change, due to the enclosure of the 'open' fields of the old agricultural system. Many of the paths he had previously used were being closed as the new field boundaries were created. These path closures undoubtedly contributed to Clare's well-documented poor mental health.

You may have been given this publication by a friend who is already a member of the LFA, or you may have picked it up in a library, or similar. **If you enjoy walking in our lovely county of Leicestershire, please do consider joining us – there's an application form at the back.**

I hope you enjoy the Journal. Please let us know!

Janina Holubecki, Editor



Detail of sculpture at John Clare Cottage



The Leicestershire Footpath Association AGM

Ken Brockway

The 2025 AGM in February drew a good attendance at an interesting venue (Wygston's House) in a location that encouraged travel by public transport. While not an obvious location for a walk, I know there are possibilities. The formal meeting was rather dry but is an essential part of the Association, with lodged records from 1887.

Questions and comments from the floor soon highlighted who were the movers and shakers to lead LFA forward. There were some interesting topics discussed and a few doors ajar can and should be pushed open while the opportunity is there. Steve Charlish is keen to improve the path network linking up dead end paths while the County Council are happy to sign routes. Both will encourage access on foot, with the benefit of fewer car journeys and healthier people.

In our lifetime, the road network has changed and developed as demand increased and journey patterns changed. While we cherish our footpath network, it has remained generally unchanged along historic routes, captured on the definitive map of 1949, with paths mostly laid out at enclosures of the late eighteenth century. While preserving some of the past, we need to be creating walking routes for the future. Urban footpaths that encourage journeys on foot that are better than taking the car; and country walks that link with public transport, rather than start and end at car parks.

There was the inevitable discussion on group walk distance, a topic which historically also involved speed and keeping the group together. Getting out and walking the paths is an important part of the Association's work, so long may it continue as we welcome new boots on the ground. We all like to have a nice walk, but while walking with LFA we should note and report any issues like broken stiles or crop and other obstructions. This fulfils a part of our constitution "seeking the preservation, restoration and enhancement of the rights of way network". In 1920, the Annual Report included the following: *"the rambles still continued to be very successful and extensively helped to assist our work"*.

We also "may affiliate with other organisations with complementary aims". This idea was highlighted by Ashok Jethwa who suggested we should reach out to other Leicestershire walking groups, be they town or village; but, specifically, the successful U3A. In 1931, the Ramblers Association was inaugurated in Leicester, and LFA chairman, W.H. Rippin, was elected as its first chairman. The Ramblers now campaign at a national level. LFA could again take the lead to form an association of Leicestershire walking groups, providing a stronger voice for footpaths.

I left members tucking into lunch and felt it had been a useful and inspiring meeting.



Leicestershire County Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)

Leicestershire County Council is responsible for over 1915 miles (3084km) of public rights of way, including paths in both the countryside and urban areas. Although Leicestershire's rights of way network has developed over hundreds of years, the Council recognises that it must meet the current and future needs of the public. Every council that is responsible for public rights of way must have a Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP).

In February 2025, the County Council invited stakeholders and the public to submit their views to help prepare the initial draft of the new 2025-2035 Plan. Committee Member Steve Charlish submitted a response to this initial consultation stage on behalf of the LFA. Essentially, enhanced connectivity was the theme running through the LFA's submission.

In May 2025, the County Council published a refined draft of the Improvement Plan, which we hoped would incorporate our initial feedback. The public were again invited to comment, with several in-person, county-wide public engagement sessions and another online survey.

The following statement summarises how the LFA plans to respond to the ROWIP:

There has been much discussion by the LFA, both individually and in committee, on the ROWIP. The consensus view is that the plan has serious shortcomings. The Plan outlines the Council's intentions for the rights of way network over the next ten years: it is therefore very important that the LFA makes clear its views to the Council.

An LFA Committee subgroup met on the 7th of July to discuss the ROWIP and come up with an action plan. This will be put to the September Committee Meeting for its consideration. Essentially, our criticism of the Plan is that it lacks ambition. It is rather self congratulatory, describing its achievements over the last two decades in terms of how it has maintained the network. It does not propose any extension of the network. There is no reference to establishing new paths, restoring old paths or repurposing disused rail lines – to name just a few glaring omissions. Basically, we feel this is a care and maintenance plan and not an improvement plan at all.

Steve Charlish has submitted another compelling submission to the Council on behalf of the LFA and Members have attended engagement sessions with the Planning team to make their views clear. The subgroup is encouraging Members to respond individually to the Council with their own online submissions. We have provided the relevant link to all Walk Organisers, who will then share with their groups.

What we will suggest at the September LFA Committee meeting is that we invite the relevant officers from the Council (those involved with the plan at a high level) to a special LFA meeting, open to all Members, where we can make clear our concerns and hold them to account.

It is crucially important for all of us who enjoy walking Leicestershire footpaths that we engage in this process in order to safeguard, promote and improve the network.

Simon Constantinou

LFA Chairman



News From The Round

The Leicestershire Round was first devised by Leicestershire Footpath Association to celebrate our centenary in 1987. This route of one hundred miles (for one hundred years) encircles the city of Leicester in a big sweep. It goes through places of interest in beautiful countryside. From rugged, rocky Charnwood, through the wide river valleys of the Wreake and the Soar and up to the high and windy ridges of East Leicestershire. Treasured by local walkers, it's the county's main long-distance footpath and a flagship for the local rights of way network.

The Round is maintained by Leicestershire County Council in partnership with the Leicestershire Round Task Team volunteers. The Round also benefits from having a team of volunteer Wardens, who each have responsibility for regularly inspecting a short stretch of the route and reporting any issues to the Volunteer Co-ordinator.

Bridge Over Its Troubles

David Williams, Leicestershire Round Volunteer Co-ordinator, says that although the County Council does have its financial woes, it's not all doom and gloom. Volunteer Round Warden Tom B. reported a problem on his adopted section with a footbridge between Frisby on the Wreake and Gaddesby. The support strut of the bridge had failed and it was listing to one side, making it difficult to negotiate. Fortunately, the Council found the finances to fund a new bridge, which was built on site (see Before and After photos of the bridge).



Photo: Tom Brooks



Photo: Richard Bye

Join Us!

If you would like to help keep the Leicestershire Round the premier walking route in the county, why not volunteer as a Warden or member of the Task Team?

Please contact **David Williams**, details on page 2.



32 Walks Project

In the year 2000, the LFA published a guide entitled '32 Short Circular Walks Based on the Leicestershire Round'. The walks give a flavour of the varied countryside of Leicestershire and were designed for those wanting to sample the long distance walk without the challenge of attempting the full 100 miles. When the book went out of print, the walks became available on the LFA website as downloadable PDFs.

It's now 25 years since the book was originally published and, not surprisingly, some of the walk instructions need amending! A team of LFA volunteers have been revisiting the walks and, where necessary, re-writing the instructions. To date, more than half of the walks have been re-written and the new versions (some with added photos) uploaded to our website. The advantage of web rather than printed versions is the ease with which any future amendments can now be made.



Photos: Walk Number 28, Market Bosworth

To access the 32 Walks page on the website, go to: lfa.org.uk/32walks. Select a walk by clicking on the numbered circle on the map, or scroll through the short walk descriptions below it. The 32 Walks page can also be accessed through a link on the Leicestershire Round page, which appears in the main menu. (See also pages 10 & 11.)

If you walk any of the revised routes and encounter problems, or think the instructions need further revisions, please contact us (details on page 2).



Slow Ways

Ken Brockway

I do like a destination. That might be walking back to the car or a meal and drink at a pub. But does it have to be the same location as the walk start? The Slow Ways project has provided me with some great linear walks taking in paths and places I couldn't reach by walking in circles. I'm not as adventurous as some: look for the name David Sanderson in the Slow Way reviews, you can follow him from Brighton on the south coast to New Brighton on the Wirral.

Last year, while on holiday in Canterbury, I hopped on the bus, flashed the pass and enjoyed the top deck ride to Whitstable. Walking back on the Slow Way took me through pleasant green countryside along a mix of cycle tracks, old rail routes, rights of ways and unrecorded routes – with most named the Crab and Winkle Way.

Closer to home for LFA, I would recommend Leicester to Loughborough. This Slow Way exit from the city is perhaps one of the best, taking in Abbey Park and passing the Space Centre following the green corridor of the Soar. There's a choice of destinations: Mountsorrel, Sileby or Syston, or even an unofficial stop at Belgrave or Birstall. All have good links back to Leicester. It's a popular Slow Way corridor, so there are multiple routes and the reviews will offer you guidance as to which best suits your preferred walking.

Northwards to Loughborough there is a short route linking Sileby and Mountsorrel then different routes which meet up at Barrow, so an opportunity to pick and mix. Ignore the meeting place at Loughborough rail station, head direct to the town centre. If feeling really adventurous, you could even upload a new route to the site.

The more people walk and review the routes, the better it will invite others to follow their tracks. As regular walkers, familiar with the paths in Leicestershire, LFA members are well placed to help build this project and encourage more to get out walking. Looking at maps, it's not always easy to work out where we can walk – with access land, permissive paths, cycle tracks, canal towpaths plus local parks and jitties, Slow Ways is helping to bring together all these paths, creating direct off-road walking routes. Take a look at the website <https://beta.slowways.org/>

I often use the Slow Way into Leicester by getting the bus to Birstall and then walking. This May, I heard cuckoos calling in Watermead Country Park as I left Birstall on the towpath. Very special. – Ed.



Photo: Ken Brockway



National Space Centre

My Round

Editor's Pub Recommendation

On a hot and thirsty walk up the Wreake Valley, I went into The Bell in Frisby (on the Wreake and on the Round!) It's a friendly, welcoming pub and now community owned (the first in Melton Borough). I told the bar person that the pub was on the Leicestershire Round. She knew all about it! She's an 'ultra runner' and would like to set up a competitive run around the route in two 50-mile halves. So watch this space...

The Bell serves a range of fine ales, sourced from local breweries. The selection changes monthly. The menu features seasonal dishes made with locally sourced ingredients.

www.thebellfrisby.com

Do you have a recommendation for a walker-friendly pub on the Leicestershire Round, or anywhere on our footpath network? Please send it to the Editor!

(Contact details on page 2.)



A Walk in the Woods

Janina Holubecki

I took a stroll through the deep dark wood... And, on a hot day, the wood looked good!

With rising temperatures due to climate change, we're seeking shade on the hotter days, particularly when out on walks. Well, I know I am! And we all know how important trees are in helping to combat climate change. But woods are great places to walk all year round.

Below are some ideas for woodland walks going into autumn – and you might want to bear them in mind for next summer too!

Leicestershire and Rutland are particularly poorly wooded. But they have been so for centuries. According to the Domesday Book, in 1086 Leicestershire was one of the least wooded counties in England.

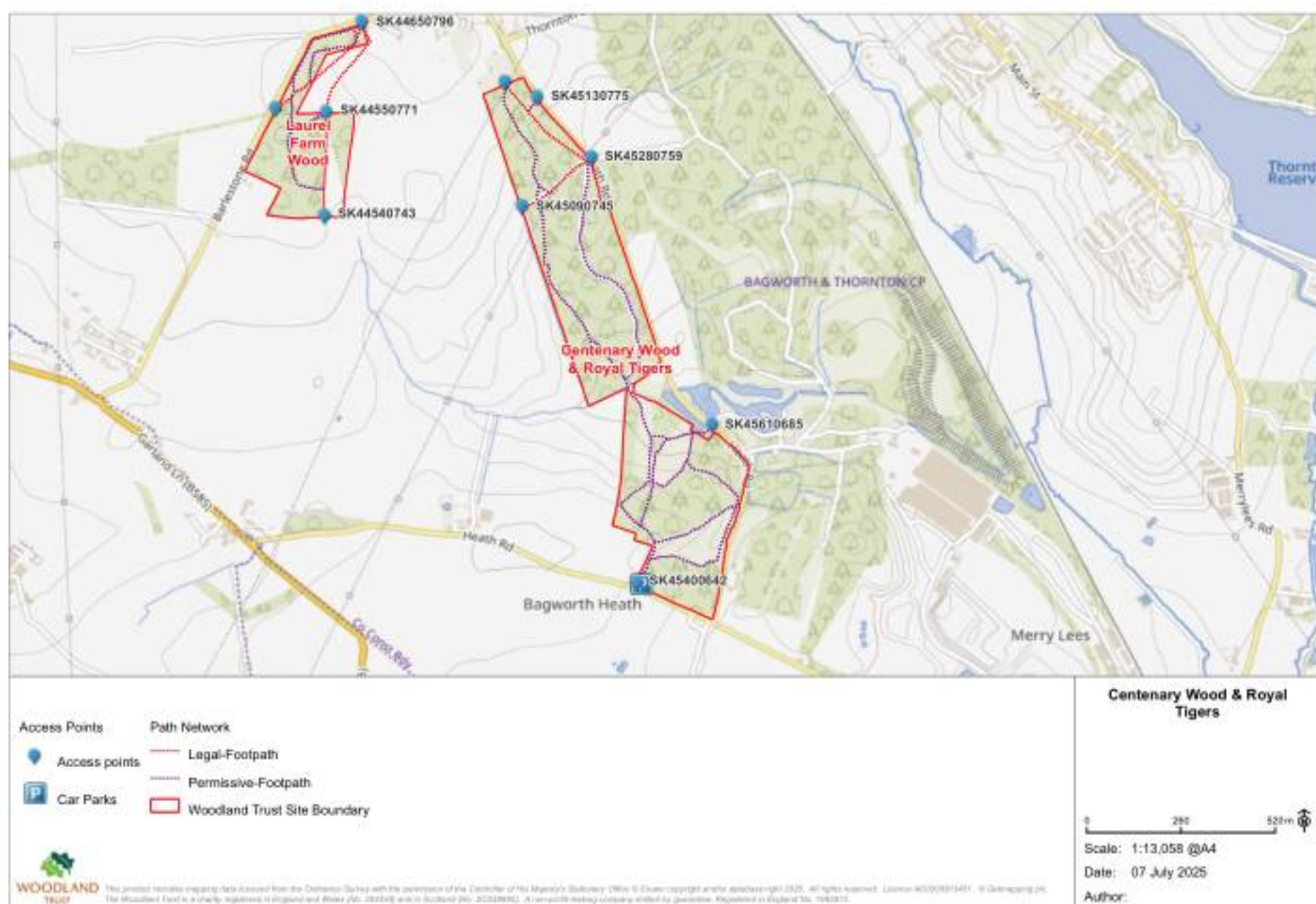
We do have many small copses, coverts and spinneys dotted about the county's farmland (see 'Woodland Words' overleaf on pages 12 and 13). Not many of these are accessible to the public. But some much larger woods are on the public footpath network: for example the Woodland Trust's Ratby Burroughs/ Martinshaw Wood and Bradgate Park Trust's Swithland Wood. You can also explore woodland at Country Parks: Burbage Common and Woods; Beacon Hill and The Outwoods/Jubilee Wood – all linking to the footpath network. These large woodland sites all provide car parks if you want to start your walk there.



Updated Leicestershire Round Circular Walks (see page 6) that incorporate good stretches of woodland:
Woodhouse Eaves/Broombriggs (Walk Number 2)
Woodhouse Eaves/Quorn (Walk Number 3)
Markfield/Newtown Linford (Walk Number 32)

But it gets better! We have a large area of the National Forest here in Northwest Leicestershire. Stretching between the ancient forests of Charnwood (Leicestershire) and Needwood (Staffordshire) the Forest has transformed large swathes of the Midlands landscape that had been scarred by centuries of coal mining and clay extraction. Over the last 30 years, through the planting of millions of trees to create a mosaic of woodland habitats, this landscape has gradually changed from black to green.

Most National Forest sites are open access with established paths, though a large proportion are privately owned. There are several Woodland Trust-owned woods in the Leicestershire part of the Forest: these are always free to all to access and the majority have parking at or near the site and/or can be accessed via the public path network. For example, Willesley Wood near Donisthorpe and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Wood, Normanton Le Heath.



You could incorporate some Woodland Trust/National Forest woods into the updated Bagworth/Thornton Leicestershire Round Circular Walk (Number 31).

Bagworth is a former mining village, whose surroundings have been transformed by National Forest plantations. There are 3 and 6 mile options for this walk. You can add the 2 mile circuit of Thornton Reservoir to either option. But you could instead add a 2 mile detour south of the main route (near the start) to explore Centenary and Royal Tigers Woods (Woodland Trust); returning through Bagworth Heath Wood (Country Park) to rejoin the Leicestershire Round. You'll also pass through Manor Wood before reaching Thornton.



Resources

Leicestershire Footpath Association 32 Short Circular Walks (downloadable route guides) – see page 7.

Woodland Trust: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk Find a wood to visit.

National Forest: www.nationalforest.org Includes downloadable PDFs of walk routes.

What's in a Name?

Janina Holubecki

'Woodland Words' seen on maps

Copse, Covert, Spinney? Sometimes these 'woodland words' linger on, long after the woodland has been cleared... they can even be found on maps of urban areas, for example Gorse Covert and Spinney Hills. But what do they mean?

Copse - Strictly speaking, a wooded area currently or previously managed as a coppice: a small wood grown for coppicing. This ancient form of woodland management involves cutting tree stumps close to the ground, causing the regrowth of a large number of thin stems. These are harvested every 8-10 years, starting the process again. Coppicing was widespread when the greatest demand was for small diameter wood.



Not surprisingly, the word coppice is ancient: originally from Old French *copiez* ('a cut-over forest') which, in turn, is from the Latin verb *colpare* ('to cut with a blow'). Cope is a variant form that appeared in the sixteenth century. However, more loosely, 'copse' is often applied to any small woodland.



Covert - From the French verb *couvrir* ('to cover'). An area of dense vegetation planted to conceal and shelter game and other animals. In Leicestershire, often a place where foxes could hide, raise their cubs – and then be found for certain. Unlike ancient coppice woodlands, these were mainly planted from the 18th century onwards as the 'open' fields were enclosed. Thanks to the popularity of fox hunting among wealthy Leicestershire landowners, there are many small woods named 'covert' on our maps – some even specifying 'Fox Covert'.



Bradgate Park in Charnwood Forest

Forest - The words 'wood' and 'forest' are often used interchangeably. But there is a historic difference between the two. The original medieval meaning of the word 'forest' was an area of land kept specifically for the purposes of royal hunting. Woods often formed part of these forests, which were a mixture of habitats including open grassland, farmland and heaths managed for large game animals such as wolves and deer.

Gorse - Named for the abundance of common gorse which formerly grew there. This provided cover for animals – in Leicestershire, often for foxes! (See Covert.)

Spinney - A spinney is a small group of trees, a little wood or a thorny thicket. (Or a wood which formerly consisted of thorns.) Often planted as shelter for game birds. Originally from the Latin *spina* ('thorn').

Leicestershire Woodland Placenames

Woodthorpe ('The farmstead/settlement in the wood')

Woodhouse ('The house(s) in the wood')

Woodhouse Eaves ('The house(s) on the edge of the wood' – in this case probably Charnwood Forest.)

The Outwood(s) means 'outlying wood'. Outside of a medieval deer park, for example. Or away from the settlement.

The Old English ending 'ley' or 'leah' in a placename normally indicates a meadow or clearing in the woodland. For example:

Hinckley 'The woodland clearing associated with Hincā' (male personal name, possibly a tribal chief).

Witherley 'The woodland glade associated with Wighthryrh' (female personal name).



Copt Oak: This refers to a distinctive 'copped' (coppiced) oak tree, perhaps marking a boundary. As they were meant to be noticed, these marker trees or stubs were not cut down to the ground, but instead left with a trunk 1–2m high. They are often found growing on a raised boundary bank. Left: Is this a 'copt oak' near Burnham Beeches, Bucks.?

Photo: Irene Campden

The National Forest Walking Festival

Dave Pollard

The National Forest Walking Festival takes place annually in May and involves organised walks across the Forest in Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Leicestershire. I thought the LFA should be represented in the programme, so this year I led two walks during the Festival. The aims were to see whether we could attract walkers who might wish to join the LFA once they had sampled what we offer, and to raise the profile of the LFA.

The first walk was with the Wednesday group and involved a 7 mile circular based on Heather. We got three non-members, one of whom enjoyed the walk so much that he planned to use it with a different walking group.

The second walk was with the Thursday group, starting in Newtown Linford and taking in Bradgate Park and Swithland Woods, about 5.5 miles. We got three new people, one of whom is a Tuesday walker. In both cases, the walk took in a section of the National Forest Way and the weather was kind.

I plan to offer more LFA walks in the 2026 programme and have already had one contribution. I would also like to invite people who walk on Tuesdays and Saturdays to contribute to the programme. I am happy to explain what is required based on my experience this year and to act as a point of contact with the Festival Organiser. If you have a walk in mind, please be aware that they start to put the 2026 programme together by Christmas and time is shorter than you think.





King Charles III Coastal Path Walk May 2025

Steve Charlish

Background: The King Charles III (KC3) Coastal Footpath is an ambitious project for a National Trail: it is currently being opened, in sections, around the entire English Coastline. When complete, the KC3 Footpath, at 2,700 miles long, will be the longest managed footpath in the world.

It was decided to support the project by walking some of the newly opened footpaths. We did this by having a weekend away in Norfolk for members of the Leicestershire Footpath Association, from the 16th to 18th May 2025.

All walks start with a plan of action, based on the latest physical maps and using the Ordnance Survey App to make a draft of the walk routes. These draft plans soon fell apart, however, when I tried to pre-walk the targeted trails. Public rights of way that didn't exist, or were shown as ambiguous cartography on the map, made it difficult to navigate effectively around the huge Sandringham Estate. A 10.5-mile walk turned into a 17.5-mile walk. This distance was considered too far for our group, but I did eventually find a permissive path (not on the maps) at Snettisham that enabled me to fulfil the revised plans. I have since written to Norfolk County Council with a query regarding public rights of way in that area and am awaiting a detailed response.

Read on, overleaf, to find out how the weekend went!



I organised three walks. The first walk on the Friday was from the hotel in King's Lynn onto the old Castle South Gate; along the edge of the River Nar and then along the old town quay – taking in some magnificent old buildings along the frontage to the tidal river, the Great Ouse. The river is navigable and our KC3 footpath took us through the port of King's Lynn, where the large local fishing fleet was moored up. A cargo ship in the docks was unloading timber from Latvia. The walk revealed a mixture of heritage, both industrial and natural, through a beautiful, scenic landscape with the bonus of spring blossom.

Saturday's walk of about 10.5 miles began with a bus journey to Hunstanton, where we started our walk. The busy town, full of holiday makers and amusement arcades, was quickly left behind. As we walked further south, we soon found that as we moved along the coastline, only a few people were to be seen.

I had planned to have the 'Short Walkers' join us further along the coastal route at the Holt Café at Heacham. This worked well. The Long and Short walkers had a refreshment break together and moved on to Snettisham, where we were able to observe wildlife from one of the RSPB hides. Our route then took us on to Dersingham, where we all caught the bus back to King's Lynn. We held a Survivor's Supper at the pub next door, The Hungry Horse. It was noted that some alcohol may have been consumed during the proceedings and everybody appeared to have had a good night out!



Sunday's Walk involved another bus ride, to Thornham, where we started our walk by taking in the fabulous Salt Marshes. We then made our way to the RSPB café at Holme-next-the-Sea. After a short refreshment break, we moved along the sand dunes and coastline, eventually meeting the junction with the Peddar's Way (an ancient route used by early Britons, Romans and Pilgrims alike).

Traces of the Second World War are scattered along the coastline. The odd searchlight mount, pill boxes and gun batteries – all decaying through the effects of winter storms, before being allowed to fall into the sea. Stark reminders of troubled times and the country's very high risk of invasion in 1940.

We moved on to the beach near Old Hunstanton. The sea was receding, enabling us to take in the magnificent beaches and the distinctively coloured sandstone cliffs. We eventually arrived at an ice cream kiosk and here we celebrated, having completed the final walk of our trip away. A few of us had fish and chips at Elliot's at Hunstanton to round off the trip.

I think the excellent weather we had over the weekend encouraged everybody to walk even further, sightseeing around the town. By the end of the 3 days, I had done a total 71,000 steps and felt the benefits of the lovely sea air. I have already made some enquiries for next year and have a draft plan for 4 different walks over a 3 night stay in 2026, details to be announced soon.



All photos by Steve Charlish.

Shanks's Pony!

Lynne King, LFA Treasurer and Membership Secretary

I'm not sure that I ever chose to walk for pleasure. In fact, I think walking chose me! In my early life in the 1950s, not walking wasn't an option because we didn't have a car and my dad went to work on his bike. When we visited family, we would all walk together and travel by 'Shanks's Pony' – our own feet!

I grew up in Leicester and when I started secondary school, the only way to get to school was to walk. There were no buses going my way and, in any case, it was taken for granted that I'd walk to school. About a mile and a half. I chose to come home for lunch, so I'd run home when school finished at 12.30, eat my lunch which Mum would have waiting for me, and then run back to school before the bell went for the afternoon lessons. At the end of the day, it was time to... walk home!

As a young Mum, my time was spent arranging my day around walking the children to school, getting the jobs done at home and walking, again, to the shops before walking to pick the children up from school!

When I retired, I knew that I would miss the company of the folk I had worked with for nearly 30 years in a large, bustling, inner city secondary school. My husband had retired before me and had joined the Leicestershire Footpath Association because he was already a prolific walker. He enjoyed walking parts of our lovely county that he didn't know very well. Often, on a Friday evening, the two of us would revisit the pub he'd had lunch in that week with his LFA walking group.

I'm not a person who can just 'wander'. I like a purpose and a destination – whether it's the local shops, a coffee stop or lunch in a pub. As a sociable person, walking as part of a group, exploring the beautiful Leicestershire countryside and eating lunch in a country pub is right up my street! I love looking at the seasons as the trees come into bud and then into leaf; the birds such as buzzards and kites flying over our heads and the inquisitive horses and cattle who come to say 'hello' as we walk through their fields. Mud! I don't like mud and I don't like walking in the rain but, hey ho, sometimes it can't be helped.

In my view, proper walking trousers are essential. They can get very wet and cling to your legs, but once the sun and wind comes out, they quickly dry. These days, I use a walking stick for extra support on uneven ground and find it gives me an extra 'foot' on the ground and saves me falling over!

So, you can see that walking has featured big in my life!



This is me on my first birthday! I walked at 9 months, apparently, so I've been walking a long time!

The Weekly Walk Organisers are listed on page 2.



LFA MEMBERSHIP FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE and POST to the address below:

LFA Membership

c/o 19 Fielding Lane, Ratby,

Leicester LE6 0AS

Email: lfa.members2021@gmail.com

Annual membership: £6.00 per person

Cheques payable to 'LFA'. Please put your name and address on the back.

BACS payments:

Account Name 'Leicestershire Footpath Association';

Sort Code 54 21 50 | Account Number 71525734.

Payment Reference: your full name.

Please contact us if you wish to pay annually by Standing Order. If you would like us to claim Gift Aid on your subscription, please download the membership form from the link on the 'About' page of our website instead.

Member details

I/we* wish to join the Leicestershire Footpath Association (LFA). I enclose a cheque/I have arranged a BACS payment* (delete as appropriate).

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone Number(s) _____

Email address _____

I consent to LFA keeping my personal information, by automated means or on paper, for the purposes of communication, stored lawfully and correctly in accordance with the safeguards contained in the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018.

If you would like to withdraw consent, please contact us at the above address.



Leicestershire Footpath Association

Protecting Leicestershire footpaths since 1887

Leicestershire is rich in history and natural beauty. And it's still surprisingly rural. From the Charnwood Hills in the north west to The Langtons in the south east, there's no better way to experience the county than walking through its rolling countryside and taking in the sights and sounds around you.

The Leicestershire Footpath Association (LFA) is the oldest footpath preservation society in the country that's still in existence today. We are volunteers dedicated to the preservation, restoration and enhancement of Leicestershire's public footpaths.

We work to protect the public's rights to enjoy freedom of movement through Leicestershire's countryside, actively seeking issues that affect our rights of way and working closely with the County Council to remedy them.

We also search for opportunities to develop Leicestershire's network of public footpaths, so that everyone can enjoy more of our beautiful county. And we encourage others to enjoy the benefits of walking in Leicestershire.

Alongside our campaigning role, our volunteer Walk Organisers lead regular walks for Members on several days of the week. LFA groups enjoy walking the Leicestershire countryside together – and a drink in the pub afterwards!

We are an open community and are always happy to welcome new members.

If you enjoy walking in Leicestershire – join us!

(There's a membership form on the back of this page)



www.lfa.org.uk