

Three walks around Repton all starting and finishing in The Square

WALK 1 (1 ¼ hours)

Walk up Well Lane and take the footpath (signed) on the left, soon after the tarmac ends. The path leads via a bridge over a stream (Bamford Brook) into the playing fields at the top of Broomhills Lane. Walk ahead with the trees on your right to exit through the gate in the corner which is at the top of the Lane.

Cross into the farmyard and with a hedge on the right continue on to a good track. The walker can stay on this, but an alternative is to take the grassy sward to the right of a small copse, which rejoins the track after a short while.

The route is very easy allowing the walker to admire the distant views over the Trent Valley towards Ashbourne. Ahead can also be seen the Church Spire and Water Tower at Winhill.

The path is well used and leads the walker down to a bridge over another small stream. Half way across the second field there is a path crossing, at this point the next two walks continue on. **(Point A)**

Here the walker turns right across 2 fields to eventually exit onto the metalled track, to again turn right. **(Point B)**

Where the track bends to the left turn right and follow the broad lane round the fields, and so out onto the unmetalled part of Well Lane. Right here brings the walker down to the Square.

WALK 2 & 3 AT Point A

Continue forward on the same line just taken, through a gap in the hedge by a beautiful oak tree. The path then descends by the hedge on the left. On reaching the corner of the field there is a stile, somewhat hidden but it does have a footpath sign on it. Cross this and continue to descend diagonally down to a gate by the right hand edge of a small copse. Through the gate and again diagonally right up, across a small field to a stile, and thence onto the excellent farm road serving Dales Farm and so down to Newton Lane. Turn right here and walk facing the traffic and after approximately 150 mtrs a stile can be found on the right by a gate. Confusingly at the time of writing the top of the footpath post is not there, and the sign on the post points over the road to the path over to Winhill! **(Point C)**

A highlight of this walk must be the variety and number of field and hedgerow birds to be seen and heard.

NB It can be quite muddy walking over the fields after a wet spell.

WALK 2 Approximately 1 ¾ hours

As above to **Point C**

Leave Newton Lane, cross the stile and walk down by the side of the hedge all

the way to a dip in the landscape by a small copse, here meeting a track. The way is ahead uphill towards the left hand corner of a hedge to a stile. Over this the path continues rising by the side of Cockey Barn Farm, thence on to the metalled track to this property. Onwards to **Point B** as in the short walk.

WALK3 Approximately 2 1/2 hours.

Point B Continue to walk towards Newton Solney, passing the advance sign to the village and taking care on the road, take the gravel vehicle track (signed) on the left 100 mtrs short of the main road, by the side of the white cottage. At the top of the track cross the stile and walk onwards by the hedge side. Two fields are crossed in this manner to a somewhat hidden small gate and so out onto yet another gravel road. Turn right here and walk down to the main road admiring on the way the magnificent line of pine trees on the left. This way is much nicer than going into the village and walking along the busy road.

Turn right and cross the road to take the road to St Mary's Church. A visit into this little gem is well worth while. Three effigies of Knights, one without a head, can be found as well as an indication as to how the village acquired it's unusual name.

Take the path across the Churchyard, and down the steps at the end, turn left down the track to the River Trent.

The way back to Repton is easy, one just has to follow by the side of the River. Several stiles have to be crossed on the way, and there is always something of interest to spy. Not just birds at any time of year, but butterflies and wonderful dragonflies and damsel flies abound in the warmer months. Sadly it can be very wet after prolonged winter rain.

Footpath signs can be found and reassure the walker that the right route is being followed. Eventually the path rises up a track away from the river, to more stiles and fields to be crossed. After the first stile the path follows by the side of a copse, so to more fields. Some signs are missing, however a rule of thumb is to keep to the higher ground following a hedge on the right hand side.

So out into the final field with St Wistan's Spire to guide one towards the hedge on the left where the last stile has to be crossed, and so into Tanners Lane.

At the end of Tanners Lane the route is across Burton Road, turn left and down to Mitre Drive. Up this cul de sac, then down the paths ahead by the side of The Mitre thus out onto The Paddock.

Cross this road on the bend and take the steps up onto the signed footpath which runs along the back of the houses in the High Street. Exit onto Well Lane 100 mtrs up from The Square.

Jenny Thompson

