

Walk Number 1 - via the golf course to Gotham

5.2km; 3¼ miles; allow about 1½ hours

The first walk is the walk over the bridleway by the golf course to Gotham. From the ridge by the golf course there are excellent views over Nottingham and the area to the south of the River Trent so choose a clear day. The walk follows the route of a very ancient track The Portway so you will literally be walking in the footsteps of people who travelled this way hundreds of years ago.

Route:

Walk down Main Street towards the village and turn left to Meadow Park just before the Police Station. Keep left in Meadow Park and go under the railway arch following the Frank Kirk Way and Kingston Brook. Turn right up Fox Hill to join the bridleway from West Leake.

Turn right along the bridleway, pass Fox Hill Farm on your right and continue along the ridge until you come to a high hedge which forms the boundary of Rushcliffe Golf Course. Turn left here along a field edge path with the hedge and golf course on your right. After about 200m the path changes to the other side of the hedge and you will be walking along the edge of the golf course with the hedge on your left. Keep a look out for flying golf balls! The path passes to the left of the fourth green and enters a small wood, Shiddocks Spinney. On emerging from the Spinney you continue walking along the ridge with the hedge on your left and superb views over Gotham and Nottingham to your right. The gate at the left hand corner of this field marks the junction of four paths.

The ancient track of the Portway goes through the gate and past Cuckoo Bush Farm towards the Trent. But for your route to Gotham you turn right before going through the gate taking the bridleway down the hill towards Gotham with the wood on your left. Note the Gotham Heritage Trail information board here telling the story of the Cuckoo Bush.

At the bottom of the hill, after going through a small wood the bridleway emerges onto the new Gotham by-pass road. Cross the road and follow the track opposite which joins Hill Road into Gotham.

Enjoy the hospitality of any of the excellent Gotham pubs and return to East Leake by bus. Alternatively you can walk back to East Leake by following the route of walk number 2(a).

