

Kegworth Long Whatton Kegworth

Distance: 8km (5 miles)

WALK 2



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Kegworth – Long Whatton – Kegworth

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- An undulating walk through fields to Long Whatton and return by road.
- Field crossings require stout footwear and as there is limited shelter take weather protection.

1. Start from the Kegworth Market Place facing the Church.
2. Turn right to head south towards Loughborough on London Road. Keep on the right hand pavement, but on your left you will see The Great House, The Hermitage and The Cedars.

London Road is on the line of a Roman road. Looking to your left, the route of the Roman road continued to the right of the road junction, down Nottingham Road, down the hill and then on to Long Lane, and to your right along London Road and then New Brickyard Lane.

The Great House, London Road

The date over the door arch in Roman Numerals MDCXCVIII gives the date as 1698. A house built in the Queen Anne style and only reaching the provinces during the late 17th Century. It was built by a local rich merchant Robert John Sutton (see the initials on the house). The property later belonged to Dr. Douglas Bedford, General Practitioner in the village from the early 1900's. He died aged 99 in 1969, and was a director of the local engineering firm Slack and Parr. In more recent years while it was still occupied the previous owner reported that a kiln with remains of Roman pots was found in the cellars. Sadly the

house is no longer occupied and has fallen into a state of disrepair in recent years.

- 3.** Continue another 50 metres along London Road, until you reach a junction with Whatton Road off to the right.

Looking across to your left on the opposite side from the junction is a double bay window house behind the bus stop. This house used to be a pub named the Britannia Inn. Behind the pub you will see another building with long rows of high windows. This is now the workshop of Bickerstaffe Bows, who make longbows. This was originally a stockinger's workshop.

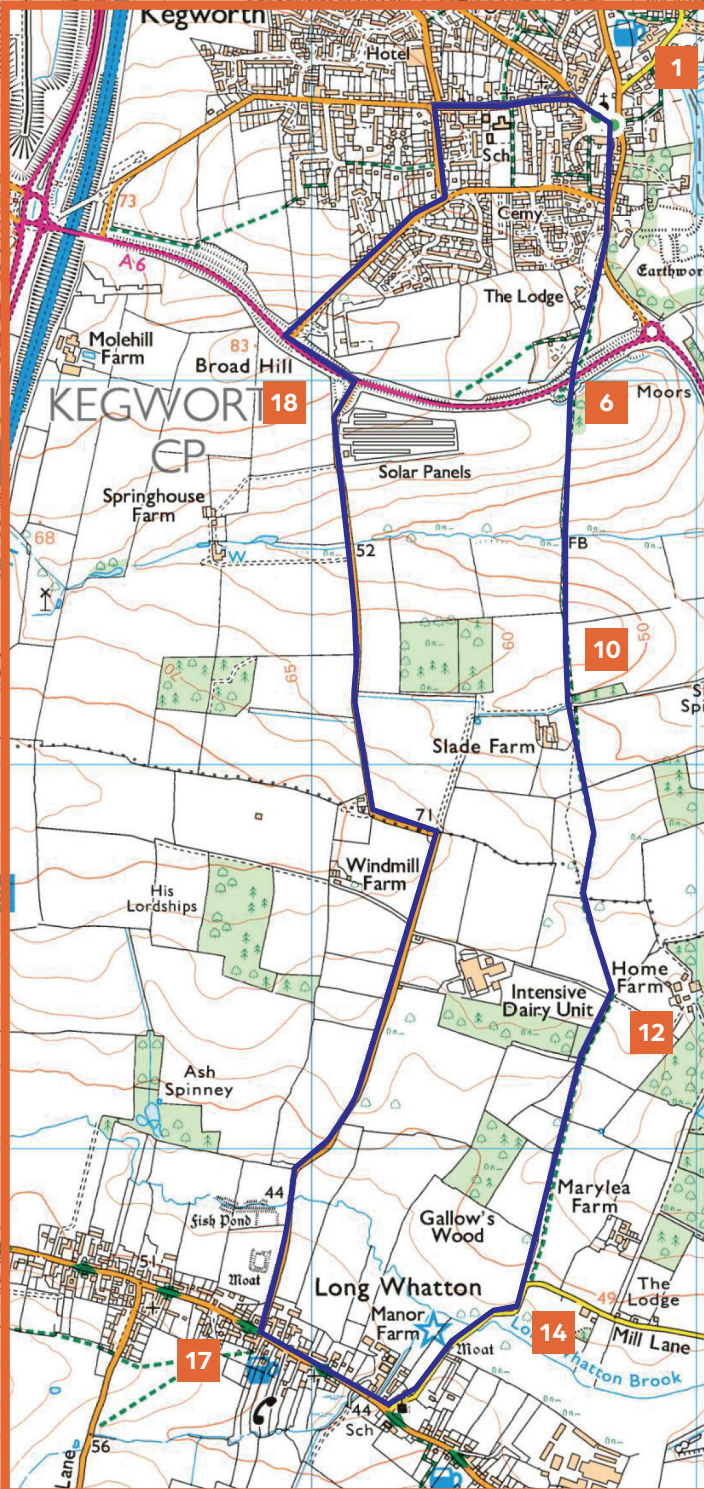
Stockinger's Workshop

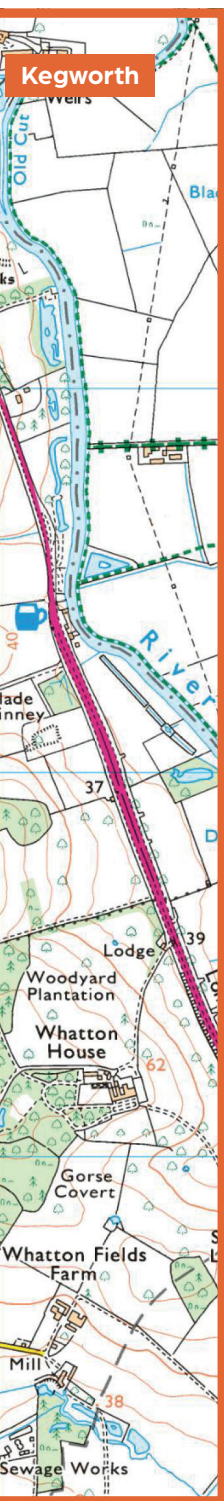
The long line of glass windows on the first floor – used to facilitate a lot of light inside for working the knitting machines, can be seen from the road and this is a fine example of this type of cottage industry which made socks, stockings and gloves from the time of the industrial revolution to well into the 1960s. It is the only surviving obvious example of this type of workshop in Kegworth, but there were large numbers of such workshops in Kegworth and other villages throughout Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire. Records show that the workshops of Kegworth made hosiery for many crowned heads of Europe as well as making stockings for the weddings of both Queen Victoria and Queen Mary.

- 4.** Cross Whatton Road and stay on London Road. After about 250m, turn right up New Brickyard Lane, a small unadopted road. On your right is a small finger signpost Long Whatton 2m.

New Brickyard Lane

Bricks were much sought after for building during the industrial revolution and Kegworth bricks were





made at the clay pit on the right at the top of this lane, where the houses are now located. There were several traditional brick kilns for firing the bricks made of the local clay, and many houses in Kegworth during the 18th and 19th centuries were constructed with these local bricks.

5. Continue up New Brickyard Lane. Look for a gap in the tree line to the left of the yellow marker post and electricity transformer box. You will then see the path crossing diagonally to your right over the field towards another yellow marker post and a kissing gate.
6. Go through the kissing gate, follow the path and cross over the Kegworth Bypass Road. The path loops up the hill on the opposite bank.
7. Through another kissing gate at the top of the bank, look right where you will see a track to follow, keeping a tall wall of trees on the left and row of hedges on the right.
8. When you get to the end of the tree line, from the hilltop you will see a vista ahead with the hills of Charnwood Forest in the distance. A field opens up to your left, over which you can see The Otter Inn. Continue to follow the track

on the right-hand side of the field down the hill, with the hedgerow on your right.

9. At the bottom of the hill you will pass through the wall of trees and cross a brook using a hand-railed footbridge. **It may be well hidden amongst the willows.** Continue up the hill, keeping to the track on the right-hand side of the field and the hedgerow on your right.
10. Continue up and down the track by the hedgerow until you reach a 'cross roads' of a small farm track. Turn left and take the 2nd turning on your right after the driveway to the house into the field. Follow the path/laurel hedge alongside the house upwards and across the field diagonally to the gap in the hedge on the other side of the field.
11. Once through the hedge, follow the path immediately in front of you through the field for about 1km until you reach a gateway.
12. Continue straight on the brick path with the farm on your right.
13. After about 700m, continue straight ahead – **do not follow the track to the right** (adjacent to the pheasant pens) Go past the wooded area, continue on path, over small wooden bridge through a gap in the hedge onwards until you reach the road.
14. Turn right on Mill Lane, in about 200m look into the field on your right and see an old tree. This area was once a heronry and there is a good chance of seeing them in the fields. Proceed over the bridge and past The Old Parsonage on the left hand side, until you reach the main street in Long Whatton.

All Saints Parish Church

One of three churches in the village, this is the oldest, with 12th Century Norman architecture in the lower parts of the tower, and inside has a 12th Century font. The North and South aisles were constructed in the 14th Century, and the belfry stage with its battlemented parapet was added in the 15th Century. At the front of the church is a well preserved roofed lych gate, so named from the Old English or Saxon word 'lych' meaning 'corpse'. Traditionally they were used to provide shelter for the deceased's coffin and vigil watchers while awaiting the funeral.

- 15.** For the Royal Oak, turn left– it is about 250m away, past the school on the right. **To continue on the walk** turn right and pass Manor Organic Farm and Farmshop on the right.
- 16.** Pass the Village Store on your right. Here we have another opportunity for a rest at The Falcon.

This is the halfway point – 4km

- 17.** At The Falcon turn right onto the road – Kegworth Lane and follow this road for 3km until you reach the bypass in Kegworth.
TAKE CARE ON THIS ROAD AND BE AWARE OF TRAFFIC.
- 18.** When you reach the junction with the by pass, turn left and in about 100m cross the bypass when safe to do so onto Whatton Road.
- 19.** Follow this road for about 600m and turn left onto Broadhill.

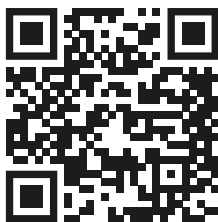
At the end of the road turn right onto High Street. Kegworth Heritage Centre is on your left, Kegworth Community Library on the right, pass the Primary School also on your right. The Red Lion is on your left and The Coach House on your right.

The Kegworth Heritage centre was built in a converted farm building. It houses artefacts representing the village's long and varied history and is well worth a visit.

You will also pass Kegworth's only thatched building; a 16th century cruck cottage – on the left as you near the Market Place. Older village residents will remember it as Shepherd's butchers shop and younger villagers as the Cottage Restaurant. It is now a residential building.

20. At the end of the High Street turn right to return to your start point in the Market Place.

On this corner you will find Ye Olde Flying Horse pub, now occupied by a butcher's and deli – Oaklands. Built in 1930 in the Mock Tudor style, it was one of Kegworth's old coaching inns in the pre-railway days.



Scan this QR CODE for links to refreshment stops and other places of interest.

Kindly hosted by One Kegworth:

www.onekegworth.co.uk

Thanks to David Jones and David Buxton whose original "A Kegworth Walk Guide" inspired and informed this new series of walking guides.

All distances are approximate and information correct at time of going to print. Published 2024.