

Kegworth  
Long Whatton  
Hathern • Zouch Lock  
Kegworth

Distance: 14.5km (9 miles)

WALK 3



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**Kegworth – Long Whatton**

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**Distance: 14.5km (9 miles)**

- A fairly long walk heading south using footpaths across undulating countryside to Long Whatton, then following the road from Long Whatton to Hathern.
- Options of refreshment stops halfway, before returning to Kegworth along the riverside footpaths of the River Soar.

1. Start from the Kegworth Market Place facing the Church.
2. Turn right, taking the main A6 London Road heading south keeping on the right-hand pavement past the Co-Op. You will see the Kegworth Parish Council office on the opposite side of the bend in the road. To the right of the Parish Council, you will see a building that is known as "The Great House".

## ***The Great House, London Road***

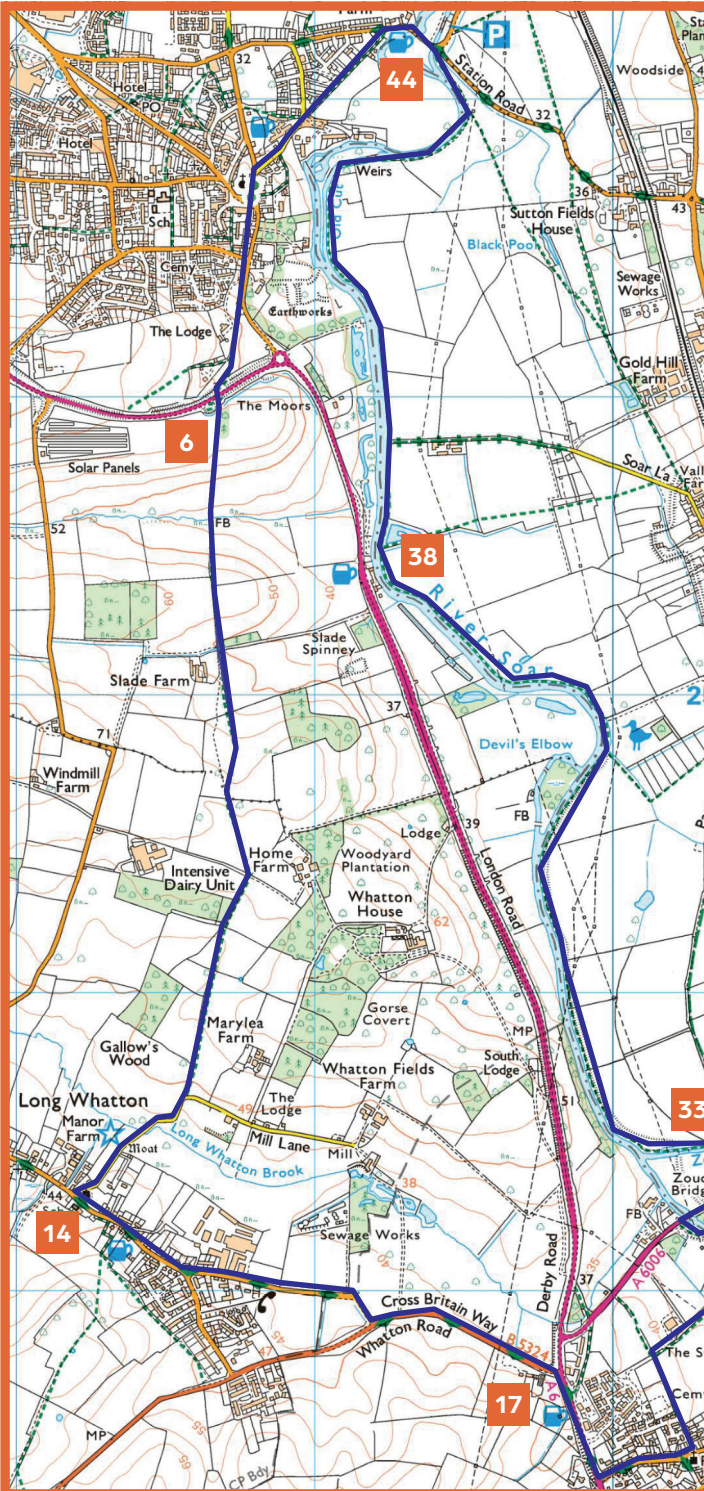
*A house built in 1698 in the Queen Anne style. Reports of a kiln with remains of Roman pots found in the cellars. London Road is on the line of a Roman road.*

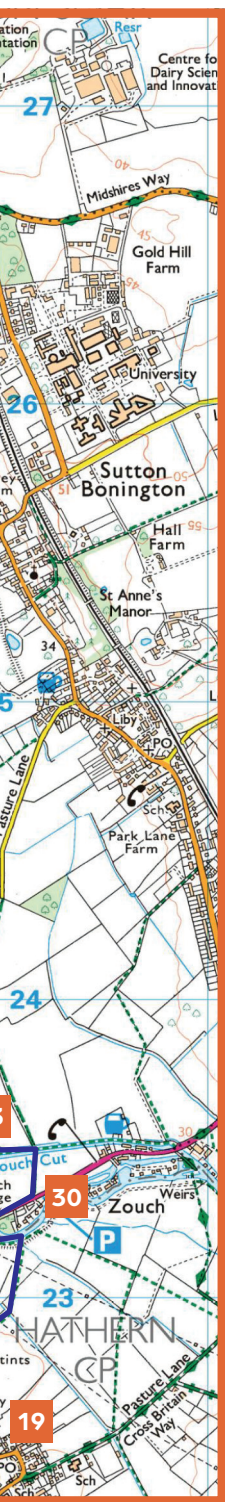
3. Continue for another 50 metres down London Road. You will reach a junction with Whatton Road off to the right.

*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. It is now the workshop of Bickerstaffe Bows, who make longbows. Originally it was a stockinger's workshop. Continuing to walk down London Road, you shortly reach a sharp left-hand*

*bend. At this point walk up the lane straight in front of you that continues on from the pavement, marked "New Brickyard Lane", and also marked by a Public Footpath finger post. This lane is a continuation of the route of the Roman road.*

4. At the top of New Brickyard Lane, follow the path to the left, through the 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.
5. Go through the kissing gate, follow the path down and cross over the Kegworth Bypass Road, then the path loops up the hill on the opposite bank.
6. Through another kissing gate at the top of the bank, look right and take the track with a tall wall of trees on the left and row of hedges on the right.
7. 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, again following the track on the right-hand side of the field with the hedgerow on your right.
8. 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 to the gap in the hedge diagonally at 45degrees on the other side of the field.
9. Once through the hedge, follow the path immediately in front of you through the field for about 1km until you reach a gateway.
10. Continue straight on the brick path with the farm on your right.





11. 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.
12. Turn right on Mill Lane. 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, on to All Saints Church where you reach the main street in Long Whatton.*

13. The church is on a T-junction with the main road running through the village of Long Whatton. The road changes name at this point, with "Main Street" heading to your right and "The Green" to your left. This road is part of a national trail named "The Cross Britain Way". Heading west to your right along Main Street, it heads towards Diseworth, Breedon on the Hill and Melbourne.
14. **Turn left** at the church road junction and proceed along The Green, following the Cross Britain Way, which in this direction heads east towards Hathern, Normanton on Soar, Stanford on Soar and Wymeswold.

15. Continue through the village along the road, passing The Royal Oak pub & restaurant, and you will soon pass a factory on the left side of the road named Harlow Bros Ltd.
16. Continue along Hathern Road out of the village. You will arrive at another T-junction. Turn left, following the road signs in the direction of Hathern on the B5324 Whatton Road.
17. At the next main road junction, just past Hathern Nurseries, turn right, signposted towards Hathern village and to Loughborough on the A6. Use the pedestrian crossings to cross over Whatton Road, and then over to the far side of the A6. Walk up the hill on the left-hand pavement towards The King' Arms pub. **This is roughly halfway through the walk** and is a convenient lunch stop if required. Continue along the A6 up a short incline into the village of Hathern.
18. Turn left down Wide Lane, and you will pass some old timber framed cottages which date to the 16th and 17th Centuries, and then the pub The Three Crowns, which is an alternative pub stop. Further down Wide Lane you will reach the church of St Peter and St Paul.
19. Opposite the church, on the left-hand side, turn left at the Old Chapel building, down Green Hill Rise. At this point you are leaving the Cross Britain Way.
20. Continue down Green Hill Rise, and at the end of the road where it turns left, continue on straight ahead marked by the public footpath fingerboard, down the track towards the wooden gate (passing the bench on the right of the track).
21. Continue through the gate, past the village cemetery and down the track. You will reach a crossroads of footpaths and tracks. To the left is a new gravel path to some newly built houses, straight ahead a grassy public footpath runs down the side of the field.



**You need to take the main track that turns right** underneath the overhead power lines and heads down a slight incline. The main track then turns left into a farmyard entrance.

- 22.** Continue straight on past the farmyard entrance and follow the footpath along the side of the field, keeping the hedgerow to your left and the fence line on your right.
- 23.** The footpath comes to a stile at a wooden fence and line of trees. Cross the stile and the small wooden plank bridge through the trees and over the small brook. Turn left and you will see a metal gate and another stile.
- 24.** Cross the next stile and you will see the footpath crosses diagonally across a field, heading past an old redundant stile and yellow footpath marker post in the middle of the field (whatever fence it used to be part of has now gone).
- 25.** The footpath continues under the main overhead power cables towards a couple of cottages in the distance. Just before you get to the cottages, you will find out that they are on the opposite side of the River Soar. You have arrived at a yellow footpath marker post with a stile and gate to a footpath that continues to the right. Don't get sucked in – that goes to Zouch, but that's not the way we're going. You need to turn left and head up the track under the main overhead power cables again.
- 26.** The concrete Zouch Bridge over the River Soar comes into view, and another gate and stile to cross. Once over the stile, follow the track as it turns to the left. You will see a gate ahead, where the track joins the A6006 road. However, before you reach the gate there is a gap through the trees on the right-hand side of the track, with another stile over a wooden fence. Go through the gap and up onto the A6006 road.

27. Turn right and walk across the Zouch Bridge. As you cross the bridge, you pass from Leicestershire into Nottinghamshire.
28. Cross over to the opposite side of the road when traffic allows and continue walking along the pavement on the left (north) side of the A6006 road (the pavement stops at the end of the bridge on the right-hand side).
29. When you've walked 150m past the end of the bridge, you will see a road junction on the right-hand side called "Main Street". Opposite the "Main Street" junction, you will see a metal field entrance gate on your left. Just a few paces beyond that is the Public Footpath wooden entrance gate also on your left.
30. **Go through the wooden gate** and follow the footpath diagonally slightly to the right across the field, leading towards a raised bank.
31. At the bottom of the bank, there is a wooden gate which leads to a path up the bank and a wooden railing footbridge crossing over the canal.
32. On the opposite side of the bridge, it is worth walking under the bridge to see the rope marks from the old horse drawn barges worn into the sandstone blocks. Unfortunately, the old stone arch has been lost to decay to be replaced by a very ordinary concrete walkway.
33. Turn left from the canal bridge and walk along the canal path to the lock gates of Zouch Lock. Continue past the lock, and 50m further on is a metal pedestrian step-over gate (or you can open it).
34. Beyond the gate, you can either follow the riverside path to the left, or slightly to your right you can see a slightly raised flood defence bank running across the field. You can walk along the top of the bank as an alternative, but both paths end up at the same place.

*Looking to your left, you can see where the canal cut and River Soar split and head in different directions. The canal heads east, while the river*



*heads south towards Zouch Bridge. Beyond the bridge, the river also turns east, and rejoins with the canal on the other side of Zouch village. You walk along the riverside as it heads north.*

- 35.** There are a series of kissing gates along this stretch, and after the 3rd kissing gate, where the opposite bank of the river is flat once more, you will enter an area known as Diamond Jubilee Wood, marked with information signs. As you walk up the riverside path, you can see other paths and walkways into Diamond Jubilee Wood on your right.
- 36.** As you exit the wooded area, through another kissing gate, you are close to an electricity pylon and the power cables cross over the river. At this point you will see on the opposite side of the river that the river splits in two. To the left is the original course of the river, which is now heavily covered in water plants. A large chevron sign points the boats down the right-hand course, which is the new section cut when the river was made navigable. This split forms an island known locally as Tongues Island. You can see where Tongues Island comes to an end on the other side of the river, because that's where all the trees stop, and the original river course from Devil's elbow re-emerges (still covered in plants) and rejoins the navigable river. At this point on your walk you will see the path leave the raised flood bank and divert slightly left back to the river's edge to a kissing gate.
- 37.** Pass through the kissing gate and from this point on, you will follow the riverside path with a low concrete flood wall on your right. The river takes a very large curve round to the left, and then curves back round to the right before heading straight for a while.

*The river then starts another shallow curve to the right, and on the opposite bank you will see a brick wharf, a couple of houses and boat moorings, then The Otter pub.*

- 38.** Continuing along the river past The Otter is another straight section where the river becomes quite wide with a long boat marina on the opposite side, offering not just moorings with facilities and car parking, but also engineering and boat services. You will also note a long sweep of mature weeping willows along the opposite riverside.

*As the river curves again gently to the left, you will notice up ahead a large historic mansion house on the opposite bank, known as The Hermitage.*

- 39.** Proceeding along the river path, some 200m or so from the split in the river, you will hear the roar of the water cascading down the weirs.
- 40.** Just beyond the weirs is Kegworth New Lock (also known as Kegworth Deep Lock), which drops the canal boats down to the level of the river after the weirs.
- 41.** Continuing past the Deep Lock, you can see the river course rejoining with the canal cut at the end of the island. You then reach another kissing gate. Through the gate, continue following the riverside path which eventually leads you to Kegworth Bridge.
- 42.** Just before the bridge the river splits again, with the River Soar taking the left-hand course, followed by a very sharp right bend to the bridge (not very handy for canal boats). The canal cut splits to the right and takes the straighter route, also passing under a bridge extension under a separate arch.

*You will see the end of the path leads to a large metal field access gate. To the left of this is a smaller footpath leading to a wooden pedestrian gate and some steps leading up to the bridge.*

- 43.** Turn left at the top of the steps and walk across Kegworth Bridge. Looking over to the right, on the opposite side of the bridge you will

see the canal cut leads to Kegworth Shallow Flood Lock. This is usually left open since there is usually no water level difference and it is generally only used in times of heavy rain and the river is in flood. When you cross over the bridge, you leave Nottinghamshire and re-enter Leicestershire.

44. Follow the pavement over the bridge to the left, and opposite The Anchor pub, you will see a Public Footpath fingerboard pointing across the small car park to the left. This leads to a footpath called Bridgefields which you will walk along.

*At the end of Bridgefields, stop and look to the left and you will see two side lanes split into a Y shape. The left-hand lane is Hallstone Meadow, which leads to the large field where the Kegworth Carnival was held for many years from 1928 to 1989.*

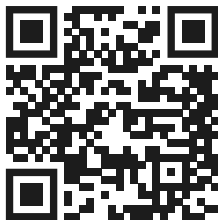
*The right-hand lane leads to what is now a small, gated private housing development named The Osiers. This small patch of land where the lanes split is known as "The Flash" (the word meaning an overflow of water) and is the open piece of land on the bend of Mill Lane registered as common land.*

45. Continue walking from the end of Bridgefields straight ahead up Mill Lane on the left-hand pavement. The trees and houses immediately over the wall to your left are where the Mill Stream looped around to feed the water mill.
46. At the end of the trees you will reach a low stone built wall on your left with an open field behind it. This field is registered as common land and looking across it, the line of houses traces the path of the Mill Stream leading over to the main weir which is behind the tall trees beyond the houses.
47. Continue walking up Mill Lane and at the top of the hill you reach a T-junction with Nottingham Road. You will see a timber framed cottage dated 1575, named Harrison House.

### **Harrison House**

*An Elizabethan house where a free school was founded in 1575. At the turn of the 18th century it was inhabited by John Heathcoat who invented an industrial lace machine.*

- 48.** At this point, you can turn left past Harrison House and take the next right turn onto Market Place where you began.



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

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**[www.onekegworth.co.uk](http://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.