

# Kegworth Kingston Kegworth

WALK 6

Distance 5.5 km (3.5 miles)



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# WALK 6

## Kegworth – Kingston – Kegworth

Distance 5.5 km (3.5 miles)

- A short rural walk
- Some fields to cross – can be muddy
- Some pavement walking on quiet roads

1. Start from Kegworth Market Place
2. Facing the Church, turn left and cross the main road at the pedestrian crossing
3. Walk down the steeply sloping road, Dragwell, keeping the chemists on your right

### **Dragwell and the original Co op Shop**

*Dragwell is thought to be so named because it was a long drag to fetch water up from the well which was situated halfway down the hill in the archway in the stone wall of a building. This building was known as 'Top School' and the next building was known as 'Bottom School'. The 'Bottom School' was built in the 1830s to be used as a local village school under the sponsorship of the Church of England Authority. The church school was for children of both genders aged 4 to 11 years. The 'Top School' was added in the 1860s to be used specifically for boys.*

*Observe the plaque on No 9 Dragwell as you pass by – this marked the site of the original Co-op shop from 1895 – 1903. It was then sited at No 15 Dragwell from 1903 – 1969. It then moved to its current location on Market Place.*

4. Turn left at the bottom of the hill at the junction with Nottingham Road and keep walking past the bowls club on your left and the King George V playing field on your right

5. On reaching the crossroads (Four Turns) turn right onto Station Road
6. Continue along here to Kegworth Bridge

### **Kegworth Bridge**

*There has been a bridge over the River Soar at this point from around 1315. A later bridge was demolished in 1785 and replaced by the current bridge, built using sandstone from Bunny Hall.*

7. At the bridge, cross the river and follow the road round to the left.
8. On the right opposite the lock-side car park, there is a footpath marked with a finger post. Climb the stile to take the path across the wooden footbridge over a stream known locally as Minnow Brook.
9. Continue diagonally over two fields heading for the tunnel in the railway embankment.
10. Upon arrival at the embankment, negotiate two further stiles. Between these stiles the branch line to the local gypsum mines used to run.

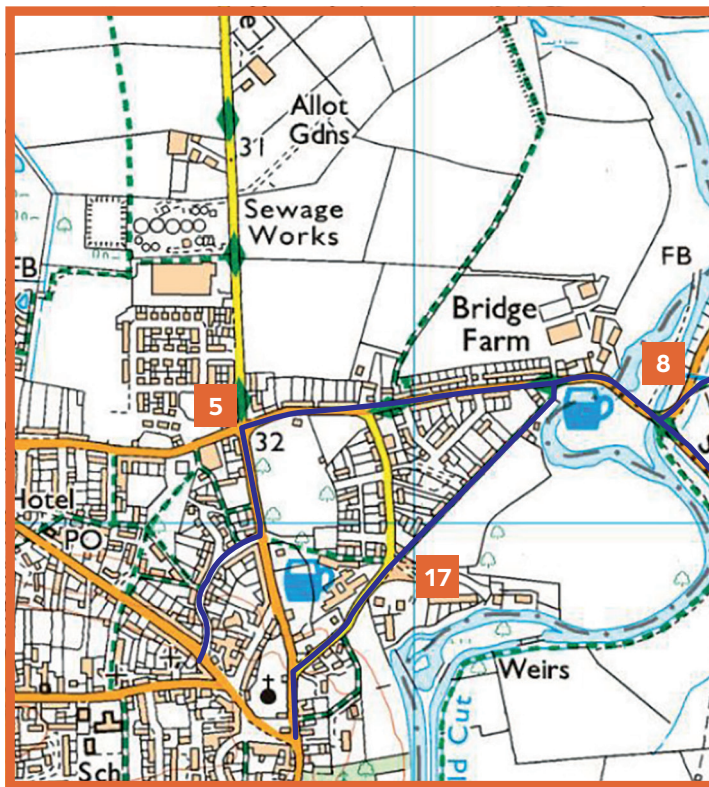
### **The Gypsum Mines**

*Extensive deposits of gypsum lay beneath the hills extending from Barton and Thrumpton through Kingston to Gotham and East Leake. Gypsum is used for the manufacture of building plaster, in the paper trade and in the chemical, drug and food industries. Originally, horse drawn wagons and barges carried the stone to mills in the area for grinding. The ground gypsum was then transported all over the country.*

11. Pass through the tunnel under the railway line and exit over the stile back to the fields

### **The ghost train story – fact or fiction ?**

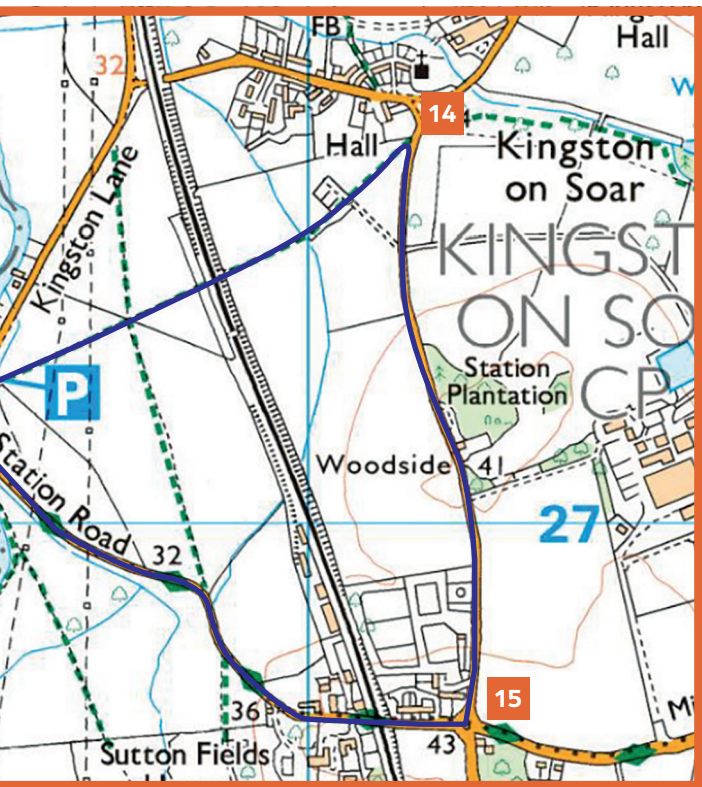
*In the mid 1830s, the building of the Midland Mainline railway was progressing between Loughborough and Kegworth. The Irish Navvies*



who were originally employed to dig out the new canals or "navigations" were now busy working on the new railway, building bridges, tunnels and embankments.

As the work neared Kegworth, many of them were lodging in the village and neighbouring Sutton Bonington. However, their presence on the social scene caused concern particularly amongst the younger Kegworthians as local lasses now only had eyes for the Irish folk !

Relations became so bad that a fight was arranged for one evening on the high banks either side of the main road near the Brickyard Lane in the village. The locals were on one side and the Irish on the other. The "battle" was fairly even except for one very large Irish man who was



*trouncing everyone he encountered. Fatefully, one of the locals ran to a nearby alehouse and returned with a broken off chair leg with which he repeatedly hit the Irishman over the head, rendering him unconscious.*

*After the altercation, his fellow workers carried him back to his lodgings but sadly he died and not wanting to draw attention to themselves – possibly some were working here illegally – they decided to bury him as soon as possible themselves.*

*It just so happened that they were due to start infilling over this tunnel the next morning. So at first light, they laid the body on top of the arch and completed their grisly task.*

*Since that time, ghostly footsteps have occasionally been heard and a ghostly giant figure has also been seen gliding through the tunnel. So give a thought to what might be above your head as you walk through this dark passage !*

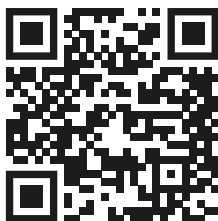
- 12.** Walk across the field towards the right of the concrete silage bunker, reached by a stile and stream footbridge. Keeping the bunker on your left, continue straight ahead, crossing a farm drive and pass through another metal gate.
- 13.** Now head for the 30mph sign and village name sign in the distance at the field corner where there is a stile to climb.
- 14.** At the road after the stile, turn right towards Sutton Bonington.
- 15.** On reaching the crossroads after about 1 km (0.6 miles), turn right towards Kegworth. Follow the pavement all the way and you will then reach Kegworth Bridge again – go over the bridge and turn left opposite the Anchor Pub, through the car park and take the footpath – Bridgefields – back towards the Market Place
- 16.** At the end of Bridgefields turn right and you will reach Mill Lane. Turn left onto Mill Lane and go up the hill to join Nottingham Road.
- 17.** At the junction with Nottingham Road turn left noting Harrison House directly in front of you

### ***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 Heathcote who invented an industrial lace machine and whose work, among others, spelled the end of the cottage framework industry and eventually led to the Luddite Riots.*

- 18.** Cross the road to pass by the Church wall and continue along until the pedestrian crossing is reached to cross back to your starting point in the Market Place.





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

Kindly hosted by One Kegworth:

**[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 2025.