

Kegworth
Kingston
West Leake
Sutton Bonington
Kegworth

Distance 14 km (8.5 miles)



Funded by
UK Government



WALK 7

Kegworth – Kingston – West Leake – Sutton Bonington – Kegworth Distance 14 km (8.5 miles)

A longer rural walk through Kingston and Sutton Bonington and back along the river.

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.

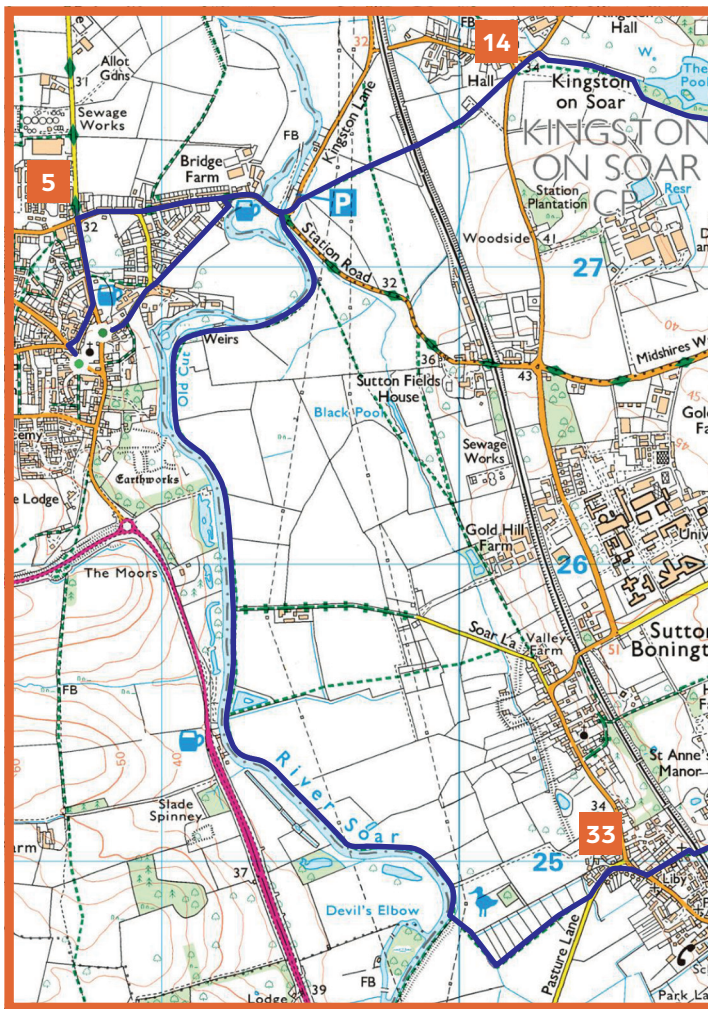
The Gypsum Mines

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.

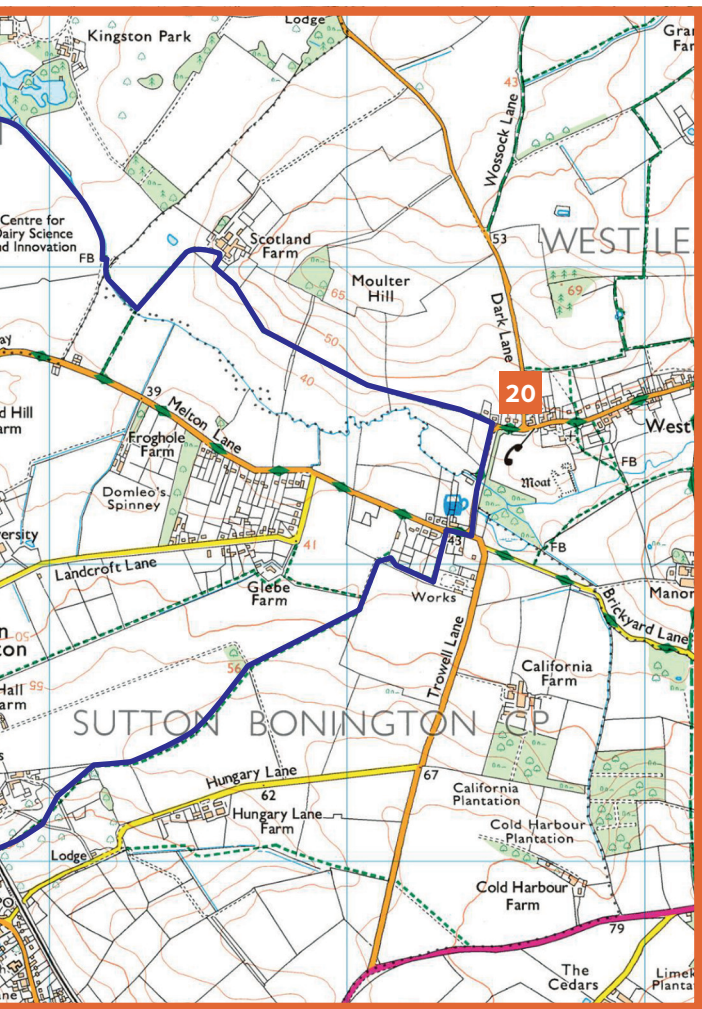
The ghost train story – fact or fiction ?

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.** The footpath will come to a footbridge where the brook is crossed.
- 17.** Continue along the north bank of the brook until the footpath reaches a stile onto a track. Turn left and follow the track up to the farm buildings.

- 18.** At the fork, take the track to the right and just before the gate turn right onto the bridle path. There is a small sign but easy to miss.
- 19.** Follow the bridle path until it eventually emerges onto a track into West Leake.
- 20.** The track emerges onto a 90 degree bend of the road, turn right here and follow the road to the T junction.
- 21.** Turn right and you will see the The Star pub (once the Pit House) on your right.
- 22.** Cross the road WITH CARE opposite the pub and pick up the footpath sign heading to Sutton Bonington.
- 23.** Follow the footpath straight ahead – well trodden – it turns at a right angle to the right and crosses a small field where you will see a stile in the hedge.
- 24.** Take a diagonal route across the next field to another stile slightly hidden in the hedgerow
- 25.** Go straight ahead after climbing this stile and keep to the edge of the field.
- 26.** After a short way you will see a small bridge to the right – IGNORE THIS ONE – but look out further along for a second small bridge to the right and cross this one – yellow footpath way marked
- 27.** Again take a diagonal route across the field. Stay on this path running alongside the fields going straight ahead and you will arrive at a stile on the left – climb this and turn right.
- 28.** Go straight ahead to the metal gate, through this, across a small track and through another metal gate.
- 29.** You should notice St Anne's Manor on your right – an impressive building.
- 30.** Go through another metal gate, cross a small road and through another metal gate.

NOTE: *there are sometimes cows or a bull in this field – take care. If you are not happy to cross this field, turn left on the small road and follow it down to the road. Turn right and make your way into Sutton Bonington that way, rejoining this walk at point 34.*

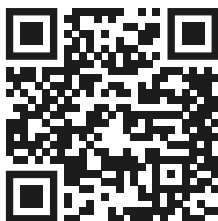
- 31.** At the end of this field pass through a very narrow kissing gate (you may need to take off your back pack to squeeze through !), then take the bridge over the railway line.
- 32.** You will emerge in the church yard and then exit onto St Anne's Lane. Turn right – the village hall will be on your left. At the end of this lane turn right again.
- 33.** Go a short way along the main road then turn left onto Pasture Lane – Pasture Lane stores is on the corner. There are some benches under a tree for a shady rest here if you need one.
- 34.** Continue down Pasture Lane for a short way and it turns into a track. After about 100 metres take the signed footpath on your right passing through a metal gate.
- 35.** Again follow the path across the field, cross a small wooden bridge then turn right.
- 36.** This is waymarked – follow it to the corner of the field, make a left at the corner then look out for a kissing gate to your right (and slightly back on yourself) just beyond the tree line. This takes you to the river. If you reach the electricity pylon you have gone too far !
- 37.** Go through the gate and turn right. You now follow the river all the way back to Kegworth always keeping the river on your left.
- 38.** At the end of the path by the river you will reach Kegworth Bridge by climbing a few steps. At the top turn left and proceed over the bridge until you are opposite the Anchor Pub where you will see a path out of the car park – Bridgefields – on your left. This path emerges onto Mill Lane.

39. 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.
40. 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.

41. 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

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.