

Great Running^{and} Walking Routes

in Leicestershire



By
Dave Palmer

Volume 2

Includes links to online Interactive Maps
for downloading to your GPS, Smartphone or Tablet

Contents

Introduction	5
1 Ratby Burroughs, Thornton Reservoir	6
2 Mount St. Bernard's Abbey & Whitwick	10
3 Barrow, Woodthorpe and Quorn.....	15
4 Hungarton, Cold Newton, Old Ingarsby, Keyham	19
5 Birstall, Watermead & Abbey Park - A flat route by rivers and canals	26
6 Ratby, Groby Pool & Martinshaw Woods	32
7 Newtown Linford, Ulverscroft and Copt Oak	36
8 Saxelbye, Grimston, Old Dalby & Wartnaby	40
9 Gaddesby, Ashby Folville, Thorpe Satchville & Barsby	45
10 Twyford, Burrough on the Hill, Somerby & John O'Gaunt.....	51
Interactive Maps	56
Amendments to Volume 1	56

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Introduction

Firstly, may I say a big thankyou to all of those people who purchased Volume 1. It was mainly as a result of having so much positive feedback of how you enjoyed doing the routes etc. that I decided to definitely go ahead with Volume 2.

The format seems to have been well received, especially the photos which you said gave the occasional reassurance of being in the right place, and therefore I have included more of them this time. I also know that the routes have been used by people walking them too, so, having a shorter option seemed a good choice.

I did get some comments about most of the routes being in the north of Leicestershire, so I have tried to go east and west a little more this time, but the south is still lacking I'm afraid, mainly due to not knowing that area so well.

Once again I have included some bits of history on the routes (bold & italics), even though I do get some stick from fellow Wreake Runners when we repeatedly pass these places !! (Comments like – 'On no, here we go again', or, 'Tell us again what it was like here in the 18th century Dave' !)

The analytics on the Plot-a-Route website show me that the interactive maps have been useful to you, so these are available again for these new routes to view or download to your GPS, Smartphone or Tablet.

I know I mentioned before about being prepared for diversions being made after going to print, but I didn't expect Highways Department to remove a Spot Island, as happened in Route 3 in Volume 1; and Old Rise Rocks Cottage (Route 2) to be completely demolished, changing the path down off Bardon Hill. So, after all, it was a valid point and I dare say will apply at sometime to Volume 2. (Always a good idea to have an OS map with you as well). These amendments are also included near the back of this book.

And finally, just a couple of acknowledgments. My thanks go to Richard Linnett at Anchor Print (Syston) for all his help with the maps and publishing expertise. Also to those who have accompanied me when checking out some of the routes (especially through all the mud we've had this year !) and my wife Lyn for keeping an eye on my grammar and for putting up with me either on the computer, or nipping off to take more photos of the routes.

Run or Walk, but more importantly, ENJOY !

Dave Palmer

Route 1 – Ratby Burroughs & Thornton Reservoir.

Start: Ratby Burroughs, small car park on the right along a tarmaced lane. (Burroughs Road) (LE6 0XV + 0.5 mile)

Distance: 7.75 miles (shorter option 4.75 miles)

Refreshments: The Plough Inn or Bulls Head in Ratby

1 Leave the car park by taking the gate on the right hand side of the car park. (A) After only a short distance, ignore the path that goes right and instead go left across an open field.



There is a right fork to the next yellow post and then follow the yellow posts through the trees. The metal gate ahead leads to a track going straight across you, between fences; turn right. When there is a hedge in front of you, turn right and then immediately left. (B) Eventually you reach a gate (houses on your right) which leads through to a gravel track.

Carry on straight ahead, down the gravel path, (C) looking out for the yellow post in the hedge on your left, turn here **2**. Go down the field, heading for the yellow post in the opposite diagonal corner. Continue along with the hedge on your right until you can turn right at the yellow post in the hedge **3**.



Shorter route: almost immediately take the grassy path on your left with hedges now on your left. This is now well signed with yellow posts and you eventually reach a road. Turn left, cross over and take the path through the hedge on your right (D). Go over one field and then diagonally left to a stile in the hedge to come out onto the road. Turn right and continue at **8**.

Longer route: Take the path straight ahead up towards the house. Where the path bends round to the right, take the footpath through the gate. Turn left and go diagonally across the field towards the trees. Bear right and go down the slope, noting the lake on your right. Go through the trees at the bottom, bearing left to reach a gate on your right which you go through. **4**

