

Great Running^{and} Walking Routes

in Leicestershire



By
Dave Palmer

Volume 1

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

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Volume 1

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Introduction

When sitting one evening in a classroom at Wreake Valley College in September 1981, talking about the possibility of setting up a running club, little did I think that over 30 years later I would still be involved with Wreake Runners and be thinking about putting a book of routes together. Being a lover of maps and discovering new footpaths, for many years I have been the unofficial 'Routemaster' for the club and many times it has been pointed out that I should produce collections of these routes for posterity.

During the winter months routes were limited mostly to road running (apart from the Sunday morning 'Early Birds' Group). However, during the summer with the lighter evenings, we are lucky enough to be able to run along local footpaths, sometimes starting at a variety of local hostelleries which could provide refreshments after the run.

The club attracts members of mixed abilities, from seasoned marathon runners to those just embarking on their running adventures. With this in mind, and to accommodate partners who may want to walk a route whilst others run, there is a shorter and longer route from each starting point. This also allows for those recovering from injury to have a shorter option and therefore still be able to join in with the groups. I occasionally join local walking groups and therefore know that these routes would also be ideal for such parties.

For each of the routes photos of points of interest and some that reassure you that you are on the right track have been included. Sometimes notes on local history are interspersed with the route description – As I realise by running with so many people over many years that these notes are only of interest to some, these are in italics so they can easily be identified and ignored if you wish.

Although at the time of publication all routes followed public rights of way, but diversion orders can be made and I cannot be responsible for such changes. Therefore, you may wish to consult the relevant Ordnance Survey Map. Any constructive feedback is always appreciated and can be emailed to info@runwalk.co.uk

Given the rapid development of GPS technology, Smartphones and Tablets, some people may like to download the interactive route to their device and, to this end, you will find on each map and at the back of the book the links for each route.

Run or Walk, but more importantly, ENJOY!

Dave Palmer

Route 1 – Woodhouse Eaves, the Outwoods, Buck Hill and Beacon Hill

Start: Woodhouse Eaves, LE12 8RZ. Car Park at the side of the Village Hall (free).

Distance: 7.7 miles (6 mile option)

Refreshments: Bulls Head, Pear Tree - Woodhouse Eaves

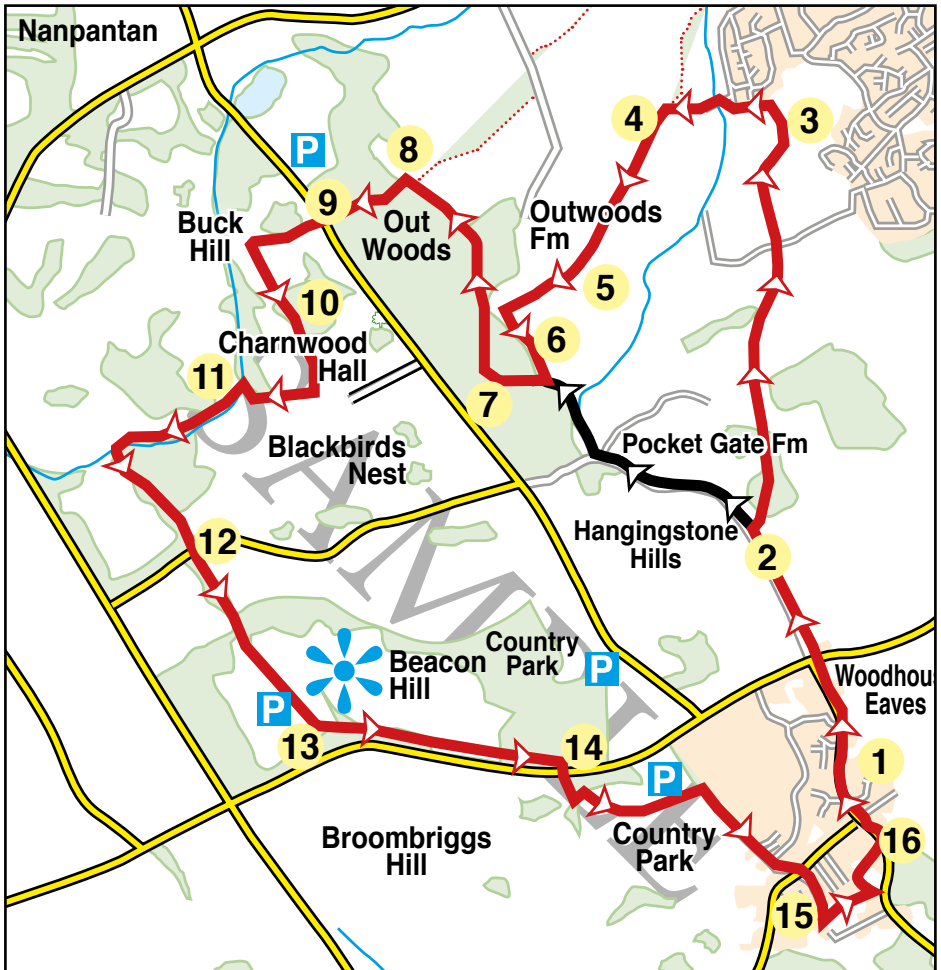
① Turn right out of the car park along Main St. At the end of the road is the The Old Bulls Head pub (*see pic A*). Go straight across Forest Road and then along Brook Road. Look out for a 'yellow posted' footpath on the right ②.



Shorter route: Continue straight ahead. This tarmac road changes into a stoney track, sweeps left and then you turn right when possible. Pass a modernised cottage on your left and then, as the bushes on your left finish, turn left up the field to a small stile and cross it into the Outwoods. Your route now continues from ⑥ below.

Longer route: Take this footpath on the right and crosses several fields eventually reaching bushes ③. Here turn left and shortly cross the brook using the plank footbridge. Stay on this path and emerge onto a track by going through the gap at the side of a large gate ④.

Turn left along the track, keeping the hedge on your right. At an open field the yellow post guides you left ⑤ but ignore this and continue straight ahead with the Outwoods on your right. Take a narrow stile on your right into the Outwoods proper.



⑥ The path now rises, leading to a place where several paths meet and you need to go right here ⑦.

Along here there are several paths to the left but your aim is to keep sight of the wall on your right which marks the perimeter of the woods. For those walking, a couple of welcome seats enable you to take in the views over Loughborough. At the highest point ⑧ ignore the gate/ path on your right and instead go left. After a while, look out for the path to the right off the main track through a gap in the wire fence by an information board showing a map of the area. This eventually leads to Woodhouse Lane ⑨. Go right along the road, cross over and take the permissive path on the left. Go through the gate (by sign to Nanpantan Hall Farm) and steadily climb towards a wooden ladder, a gate and a dry stone wall. Cross the wall and into trees (Buck Hill Knoll). Follow the path, which sweeps to the right, by the dry stone wall until you can turn left through a wooden swing gate. Continue straight ahead over open land to the