

OSMASTON. Walk No 187. 8 Miles. (1/2).

Maps: O.S. Sheets, Landranger 128. Explorer 259.

START: at 199439, Village Hall car park. Osmaston.

Set off from the Village Hall car park, into the field behind it and down the left-hand side of the field. At the end of the field continue in the same direction to reach the left-hand edge of a wood. Follow the path through the wood and out into a field. Continue in the same direction down to a bridge which you cross, then over a stile. Now veer slightly right, uphill across the field heading towards a post to the right of an oak tree. When reaching the post, continue across the field to go over a stile to the right of a tree. Now make your way up to the right-hand side of "Osmaston Pastures Farm" and exit out onto "Wyaston Road".

Here turn right, to walk along the road. Opposite the second hedge on the right after leaving the farm, go into a field on the left and double back keeping to the hedge on the left as it goes away from the road. After several boundaries, by a cottage on the left, exit out onto the road and go right and ahead.

Continue along the road until you come to the crossroads by "The Shire Horse" public house. Continue ahead across the crossroads and onto reach the Village Hall on your left, a good place to have a coffee stop.

From the Village Hall, exit once more onto the road, turning left. On reaching a road junction, take the turning left and follow this lane as it descends. Now look for a footpath sign on your right. Cross the stile into a field and go round to the left, then cross three fields and stiles, always keeping to the left-hand hedgerow. In the fourth field cross to a gate in the opposite left-hand corner and exit via a stile in the hedge on the left. Here go ahead to follow "Rodsley Lane" for about a mile, passing "Shirley Oldpark Farm" on your left, then "Rodsleywood" on your right. Shortly you reach a crossroads.

Just before reaching these crossroads on the left is a green lane with a public footpath sign. Turn left onto this lane and descend to cross a ford (cross on the right-hand side). Then continue with the hedge on the right, through an iron-gate that you have to lift up to open, through another iron-gate near "Shirley Lodge Farm" away to your left, up to the brow of the hill.

Cross over a footbridge, guarded by two stiles, to a field where there is another path coming across with stiles to the right and left. Ignore these however but continue ahead towards "Shirley Church". Go down through a boggy area, moving over to the left, to then cross over a large baulk of timber that is the bridge.

Continue in the same direction towards what looks like a stile by a tree, then on to cross another stile. Now keep to the right-hand hedgerow to then cross a stile. Continue across a short field, to then cross a stile into the next field. Here keep to the left-hand hedgerow to soon exit out onto a road.

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This is "Shirley". To your right is "The Saracens Head" public house. A good place to stop for refreshments, with picnic tables in the yard on its left.

From the public house, turn left and walk up to "St, Michael's Church" on the right. Where the road turns right and there is a "No through road" straight on, turn left up a public footpath. Go through the garden of a house, then over two stiles diagonally into a field. Turn left and keeping to the left-hand hedge go round two sides of the field, then cross a stile.

Now turn right, keeping the fence on your right. Continue along a well-worn track to a stile where you turn left, with the hedgerow on the left. Cross over a stile into a boggy field, and down to the stream. Go to the left to pass round the boggy bit, then over the bridge. Turn right, still boggy. Continue round the edge of the wood until reaching a bridge that takes you into it.

Follow the path, ignoring the track coming in from the left, but go straight on. Eventually you exit the wood by a gate. Go half-right, with a lake on the left. Now follow the "Centenary Trail" through an iron-gate (Do not go along the edge of the lake as you have to come back). Follow the track over a ford via a bridge. Keep ahead until reaching a "T" junction at the next lake.

Turn right, then cross another bridge by a ford, over a cross track that says "Private" both left and right. Then past a track coming in from the left, still going uphill.

On reaching the "T" junction at the top, on the edge of the wood, turn left. You are now on the "Bonnie Prince Charlie Walk".

Descend on the track to pass the Water Mill on your left. Climb the path up to and across a crossroads. You now exit the park by the duck pond, surrounded by thatched cottages.

Now walk past "The Shoulder of Mutton" public house, on your right.

Go round to the left and back to the Village Hall and you start point.

Directions to Osmaston.

Follow A52 road from Leek into Ashbourne, Continue following A52 at three roundabouts, heading for Derby. After negotiating the third roundabout, turn right at the first lane on the right and follow this into Osmaston.

The Village Hall and car park (free parking) are on your right-hand side, just beyond the church.

See also Walk 30, 37, 63, 70, 71, 103, 105, 196, and 199.

8 MILES.

NOT TO SCALE.

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