

Walks in and around Loxley

Walk 3: To Wellesbourne, via Charlecote Park

Distance: 6 miles (approx.)

Minimum time: 2.5 hours (excluding breakfast!)

Gradient – flat

Level of difficulty – easy (requires ability to climb stiles), can be muddy in winter

Parking – In Loxley village

Toilets – Airfield Café and Kings Head and Stag pubs, Wellesbourne

Dog friendliness – across private land, country lanes and roads so keep dogs under control at all times; dogs welcome at the Stag, Chestnut Square

There are several route options, but the most straightforward starts on the Village Green and ends in Wellesbourne (via the Touchdown Café and Charlecote Park); returning along the main Wellesbourne to Loxley road. The walk is flat and easy to do, and there are plenty of places of interest including Loxley Church and Hall, the air museum at Wellesbourne Mountford Airfield, Charlecote Park and the river Dene walk (keep your eyes peeled for deer, kingfishers and herons). In Wellesbourne, you can walk through historic Chestnut Square - a local conservation area - and visit Chedhams Yard (historic wheelright and blacksmith). And there are plenty of places to eat - notably the Touchdown Café (breakfast is a must), the Kings Head or the Stag (which dates back to 1640).

Anyone for a shortcut?

However, if all this seems a bit tiring after a full English, there is the option of returning to Loxley on a very pleasant but much shorter walk via Huncote Lane. This Lane is directly opposite the Touchdown Café; reaching the end of the narrow lane turn left (at the footpath crossroads just after the last Victorian cottage on your left), and straight across the fields. It is well signposted and will take you to the rear of Loxley Park before emerging again opposite the Village Green.

Directions to Wellesbourne, via Charlecote Park

1. **START – Loxley Village Green.**

Walk down to the Stratford/Wellesbourne Rd from the green and climb over the stile on the opposite side of the road (affording a lovely view of the Hall and Church). Follow the field footpath signs, initially through a small coppice in the grounds of Loxley Hall and on to the field footpaths towards Wellesbourne Airfield.

Note: the fields are part of Woodlands Farm and may have cattle and horses in them. You may also see deer, including white harts, on this portion of the walk.

2. The field footpath joins Loxley Lane just before Newlands Caravan park. Climb the stile onto the lane and turn left, continuing towards Charlecote.

- Note: you may want to stop for a drink/food at the infamous Touchdown Café (01789 470575) – 4.5 stars on Tripadvisor.

And/or visit the Wellesbourne Wartime Museum:

The museum is located in an underground emergency wartime command and control bunker, and houses a collection of aviation artefacts. Displays cover the history of Wellesbourne Mountford airfield, together with various aircraft components and memorabilia. There is a small aircraft park, including the nose of Vulcan XA903. This aircraft was used to test the Olympus engines of Concorde in the 1960s, and a small dedicated group of enthusiasts is trying to restore some of the additional test equipment used in this aircraft. The museum was officially opened on 14 April 1991. Elsewhere on the airfield, Vulcan XM655 undertakes taxi runs on occasions. Open Sundays & Bank Holidays 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

3. Continue along Loxley Lane, past the Vulcan Bomber to the crossroads with the B4086. Cross the road – taking care as this is a hazardous junction – and continue on towards but not into Charlecote.
4. Before you reach the bridge over the river, look out for the footpath on the right hand side of the road, by a small layby. Take this and follow the footpath along the river Dene in to Wellesbourne (very muddy and can flood in winter).
5. You will arrive in a park in Wellesbourne with paths in three directions – the left hand exit comes out at Wellesbourne Church and The Kings Head pub (01789 840206), the right hand exit path takes you on to the Stratford Rd out of Wellesbourne, the central path which continues parallel to the River Dene will take you in to historical Chestnut Square, with The Stag’s Head pub (01789 840266) and Chedham’s Yard (01789 842770), which is worth a visit:



6. Directions – some alternative routes back to Loxley (from Chestnut Square):

- a. Walk the same route in reverse
- b. Turn right out of Chestnut Square on to Bridge St. Turn right on to Stratford Rd and from there left on to Westfield Crescent which leads down to the playing fields. Cross these to join Loxley Close at the other side and turn right. There is a passageway at the end of this road which brings you out opposite Wellesbourne Fire Station. Cross the A429 carefully and continue back to Loxley on the Loxley Rd.
- c. As b but when you get to Loxley Close turn left towards the Co-Op. There is an underpass just before the Co-Op which takes you under the A429 and in to the Dovehouse estate (Valetta Way). Cut across the Dovehouse estate in the same general direction (there are footpaths between the houses) and come out on the Loxley Rd further along near the bus stop.
- d. For a longer walk, continue down the A429 until you get to Loxley Bushes Lane (signposted Loxley) on your right-hand side, and follow this lane back in to the village.

MAP: Loxley to Wellesbourne

