

On the corner of Moores Lane, you will see the old stables of the Hall where the horses were kept.

- The village of Enderby has numerous other old and fascinating buildings and features such as the stone walls and figure in the wall of a house in the Cross at the junction of Brook Street and Enderby Hall.

If you have time, walk down Cross Street until you get to King Street on the right. There is an information board outside a shop. On the board is a street map of Enderby with lots of features and places of interest. There are some nice shops and lovely old pubs (one dating back to 1549).

- If you decide to continue on the walk route, continue until you get to John Street on your right. At the end of John Street turn left into Shortridge Lane and continue. Follow the road round to the right and it becomes West Street. Continue on this road as it then becomes Stewart Avenue. As the road bears left it becomes Forest Road. As you walk down this road, the large business area on the left is called Carlton Park.

The area was once the site of Carlton Hayes Hospital which was opened in 1907. Carlton Hayes was originally called the Leicestershire and Rutland Lunatic Asylum. And could hold up to 900 patients. The name was changed to the Leicestershire and Rutland Mental Hospital before finally being changed to Carlton Hayes Hospital. The Hospital closed in the 1990's and eventually the building was demolished. (Eddie worked there as a Police Cadet in the early 1970's and remembers well being locked in the wards with some of the violent patients!)

- Continue until the road bears right. Take the path on your left and after a short walk, turn right onto another path toward a busy dual carriageway road. Cross the road and continue past the Blaby District Council offices towards All Saints Churchyard. Where the path exits onto the road, turn left onto Church Lane and at the end of it, turn left onto Leicester Road. Continue along until it reaches the dual carriageway. Turn right and pass under the M1 Motorway. Continue until you reach a road on your right called Leicester Road. After a short distance turn right into Abbey Road. Continue on Abbey Road as it bears left and when it bears left again, turn right into a cul-de-sac then take the path at the end. Follow this path until it reaches Clarence Road and turn left.

As you walk along this path at the edge of a grassed area, you will see some houses on your left, on a street called Sparsis Gardens. Also built there is a care home which is built on the site of the site of 'The Union Workhouse' which was built in 1837. According to records it apparently cost about £4400 and had room for up to 300 inmates. In 1841 there were 100 inmates, but this sometimes increased to 200. Continue on Clarence Road until it joins the dual carriageway and turn right towards a traffic roundabout.

Worth a detour.

- Instead of turning left and onto Clarence Road, if you take the path to the right, it goes across a tributary of the River Soar created to supply water for the Enderby Watermill that stood on the site where you are standing. The path crosses a field and over an ancient stone 'Packhorse' Bridge (The field can sometimes get flooded) Continue across the way marked path until it exits onto the B582. Turn left and walk towards the dual carriageway Traffic Island with a pub on the corner.

- A short distance after the road crosses over the river on the right hand side is the entrance to Jubilee Park. There is a large stone set into a raised area in the car park with a plaque attached to it, describing that the ancient village of Aldeby stood on or nearby. It is thought that the village was deserted in the 12th Century and its Church, St Johns, was the mother church of Enderby.
- Cross the dual carriageway into Blaby Road and walk towards Enderby. After passing two turnings on your left called Queens Drive take a footpath on the right. You are now going to walk back towards the starting point along the route of the Roman Road, the Fosse Way. As you do so there is an interpretation board about the road building methods.
- Continue straight on along this well marked path until you get to a yellow topped post in the hedgerow. Go through the gap and keep the hedge on your left until you walk alongside of the Enderby Park & Ride Complex. The path exits onto Leicester Lane where if you turn right, you can make your way back to the parking area.

With thanks to www.enderbyheritage.org.uk for help with images.

With Thanks to...

Our thanks to Eddie Smallwood and Michael Dix for creating the walking routes and uncovering the heritage stories. And to Graham Luker for the illustrations.

This series of heritage walks have been designed to inspire walking across the District – we hope that you enjoy them. We welcome feedback and you can get in touch with us by emailing leisure@blaby.gov.uk. The walk uses footpaths, bridleways, permissive paths and some roads. Please respect the landowner's property and stay on the indicated paths. Please follow the countryside code. Take care when walking on roads and follow the Highway Code for pedestrians. You are advised to use the route in conjunction with the OS map for the area. This guide has been created with funds from the European Regional Development Fund and HM Government.



Find this walk, all 12 heritage trails and more on the **GoJauntly app**. Simple photo guides help you navigate while nifty tips point out things of interest and places to eat.



For more information on this walk and for other walks in the series visit our website:
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Let's go!
Blaby
District

8

Heritage Walks

Route Eight

7.3 miles
11.7 km

This walk is one of a series of 12 heritage trails plus a long distance perimeter route around the whole District, see the website visitblaby.org.uk for more information.

- Enderby
- Narborough
- Lubbethorpe



Supported by Welcome Back Funding



P 1 Fosse Park and Palmers Garden Centre

For ease of parking, the free car parks at Fosse Park are ideal. For a post or pre walk meal there are numerous options here from Nando's to local Leicester brand Boo Burgers to Urban Lebanese specialist – Fattoush and many more.

- A short walk from the complex using the traffic light-controlled crossings takes you towards the Enderby Park & Ride complex on Leicester Lane.

Alternatively start your walk at Palmers Garden Centre, now in the hands of the fourth generation of the Palmer family, the business started life in 1911 when George Palmer and his wife Julia grew fruit, vegetables, and flowers on a small allotment to sell to the community. Five years later George and a friend bought a six-acre field in Narborough at auction. They planned to have half each and tossed a coin to see who had which

half, then planted a hedge down the middle to divide it up. George's three acres became first a flourishing nursery which then grew. In the 1960s son Harold Palmer and grandson Brian Palmer created a retail nursery and the transition to garden centre was made.

2 Lubbesthorpe

- Walk along Leicester Lane towards Enderby Village until you pass under the M1 motorway. A short distance after the motorway, take a footpath on the right at a set of traffic lights at Leicester Commercial Park.
- After a short distance take the path on the left and turn right then continue across the field towards a mast on a slight hill. As you get towards the hedge at the end of the field, bear right and pass through a gate onto a path leading towards some farm buildings. Follow the signed footpath past the farm on a clear path and head towards the motorway in the distance. Continue until you cross over the M69

motorway via a footbridge and continue ahead until you get to a junction of a bridle path and footpath. The farm building on the right belongs to Abbey Farm.

Abbey Farm and the surrounding field system have been identified as the medieval settlement of Lubbesthorpe. Archaeological research completed in 1975 and 1982 have revealed post holes, foundations of buildings and pottery dating back as far as the 13th century.

The footpath that goes through a gate in front of you and across a field originally went to Hat Cottages and Hat Farm. The farm was certainly in existence as it is shown on the 1849 Tithe map of Lubbesthorpe. According to an ancient story, Hat farm comprised of about 25 acres of land. The land had been given to a knight of King Edward in order that the knight could purchase a new hat to replace the one he had lost when he was out hunting with his majesty in this neighbourhood. Hat farm was sited at grid reference SK545 018 which today is part of the Meridian Business Park. The area of Hat Farm had an archaeological evaluation completed as it had been identified as a possible site of Hat Lodge, a medieval keeper's lodge and part of the medieval Leicester Forest, but nothing older than 19th century evidence was found.

3 Enderby

- Standing with the farm buildings on your right, turn left onto a well surfaced track. Continue along this track until you get to a drive leading to New House Farm. Turn left and walk past the farm with the buildings on your left and through a gate. Follow the footpath markers straight on across fields, cross a footbridge over a stream and continue straight on until after you pass under some power lines, you reach the edge of a field that reaches the M69 boundary. Turn right and continue along the path adjacent to the motorway until you reach the road leading to Enderby. Exit the path and turn left walking over the M69 and up into the village along the B582 (caution, very busy road).
- When you get to the top of the hill, continue past 'The Plough' Inn on your left and take the signposted footpath towards Moores Lane. The footpath has a cobbled surface and has locally quarried stone walls either side initially. When you reach Moores Lane continue until it reaches High Street. At the end turn left then right into The Cross.

Worth a detour.

- If you wish, rather than turning down the signposted footpath towards Moores Lane, continue down the B582 for a very short distance until it meets Moores Lane. Here, hidden behind a brick wall, is Enderby Hall.

Enderby Hall's core dates back to the 15th Century and once was the seat of a rather famous Lord of Enderby, Charles Lorraine Smith. Smith was a one-time MP, the High Sheriff of Leicestershire and a quite famous artist and fox-hunter. He created sarcastic paintings about the hunts, such as an 1822 artwork called 'The Rendezvous of the Smoking Hunt at Braunstone', illustrating that hunting had become such a social event that the gentlemen smoked, even though this stopped the hounds from finding the fox's scent. In his poems he poked fun at himself, describing his below-par skills as a horseman: "And at the same place, jumps Smith of Loraine: He's off! - No! He's not! - he hangs by the mane!"

