

SHORTER LAKESIDE WALK

Time: Approximately 15 minutes at a leisurely pace

1 Start your walk from the Cow and Plough Pub. Facing the pub, walk down the path to the right and you will see some black gates straight ahead. Exit through the wooden gate on the left-hand side and follow the path, keeping the fence on your right. You will pass some stables on your left and an outbuilding on your right, and in the distance you will be able to see rolling green fields and a row of houses. Pass through the bridle gate and continue along the path as it bends slightly to the right. After around 100 metres, the path splits and you will be able to see the entrance to the start of the lake on your right hand side - enter here.

2 Walk along the path with the lake on your right and the woodland to the left. You will reach the top of the lake after approximately 800 metres, where the path splits.

The woodland to the left is known as Dam's Spinney, which you can explore using the other walk within this leaflet. A reservoir covered this area over 600 years ago, before being drained in the 18th Century in order to develop the surrounding woodland to provide timber supplies for the farm.

3 The path that continues straight ahead is known as 'Lady Walk', and in previous years would have been a direct link to the Church of St Mary's and All Saints in Stoughton village. The church is over 700 years old and many of the previous owners of Stoughton Grange are buried in the chapel here.

Just to your right, there is a small wooden bridge. Cross over the bridge to continue your route around the lake. This area is a haven for wildlife - an abundance of butterflies, dragonflies, rabbits, herons, geese and ducks to name a few can often be spotted here. Continue straight keeping the trees that line the edge of the lake on your right.

4 Pass through two wooden posts and you will come to a clearing where you will turn right to continue along a grassy, tree-lined path until you reach the starting point at the bottom of the lake. Turn left out of the gates and re-trace your steps back to the rural centre.

A LITTLE HISTORY

Set just 3 miles outside the bustling city centre of Leicester and nestling in beautiful open countryside, this attractive area is rich in natural wildlife and local history and offers visitors a place to relax and enjoy leisurely walks with all the family.

The first records of the village of Stoughton, or 'Stoctone', date back as far as William the Conqueror and the Domesday Book in 1086. The house at Stoughton Grange was built in the 15th Century and was once one of Leicester Abbey's principal farmlands and was a primary source of income for the Abbey. Over the centuries, the land and property have changed ownership numerous times, and it was purchased by The Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd in 1919.



This pleasant lakeside walk will take you on a short tour of the grounds at Stoughton Grange and give you a glimpse into the history of the estate.

The offices and shops you see here today at Stoughton Grange Rural Centre originally formed part of Grange Farm's main farm and dairy buildings.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN SOON.

Enjoyed this walk? Please take a look at our other suggested routes, all starting and ending right here at Stoughton Grange Rural Centre. Leaflets can be found at on-site or downloaded from our website.

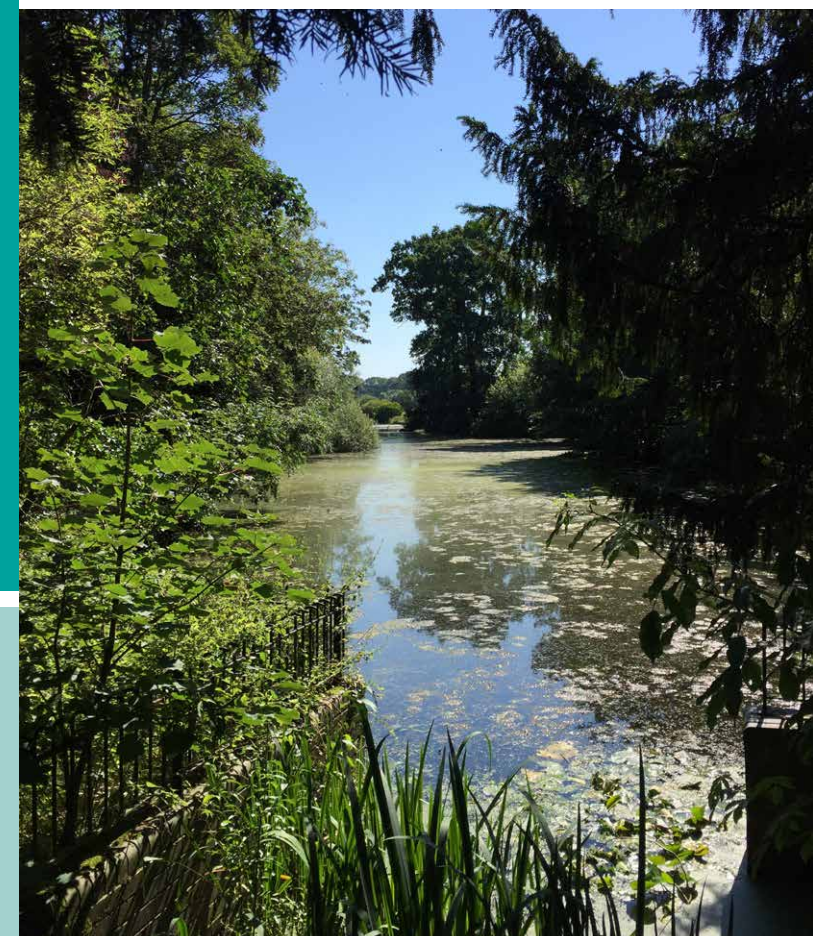
www.stoughtongrange.co.uk



STOUGHTON GRANGE

GARTREE ROAD | OADBY | LEICESTER | LE2 2FB

**DAM'S SPINNEY AND
SHORTER LAKESIDE WALK**



DAM'S SPINNEY AND SHORTER LAKESIDE WALK

Starting point: The Cow and Plough Pub

DAM'S SPINNEY WOODLAND WALK

Time: Approximately 15 - 25 minutes at a leisurely pace

1 This woodland walk will take you on a short tour of the Dam's Spinney area at Stoughton Grange. Start your walk from the Cow and Plough Pub. Facing the pub, walk down the path to the right and you will see some black gates straight ahead. Exit through the wooden gate on the left-hand side and follow the path, keeping the fence on your right. You will pass some stables on your left and an outbuilding on your right, and in the distance you will be able to see rolling green fields and a row of houses. Pass through the bridge gate and continue along the path as it bends slightly to the right. After around 100 metres, the path splits and you will be able to see the entrance to the start of the lake on your right hand side - enter here.

2 When you reach the bottom end of the lake, turn left between the trees next to the Dam's Spinney sign and follow the path as it bends slightly to the left. You will cross a small wooden bridge over a stream and the path will start to curve round to the right. This woodland area contains many different species of trees and flowers – can you identify the different layers and heights? Look out for wildlife on your journey as there is always an abundance of different animals and wildlife hiding not far from the path.

3 After approximately 5 minutes, you will cross over another stream and the path starts to veer slightly to the left. You will see about 10 steps ahead. Walk up these and you will exit the woodland area at the side of the lake. Turn left to take a stroll around the lake (by following one of our lakeside walks from Point 3), or turn right to re-trace your steps back to the rural centre.



KEY

- Dam's Spinney Woodland Walk
- Shorter Lakeside Walk

