

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

Just to your right, there is a small bridge. Cross the bridge to continue along the route on the opposite side of the lake and pass through the wooden gate. Walk across the field until you reach some wooden posts to the left of the lake. Pass through the posts and follow the path round to the left.

4 This will bring you to an area which is on two different levels - the 'Ha-Ha'. A Ha-Ha is a landscape design originating from the 17th/18th century and is often found in the grounds of grand country homes and estates. It acts as a hidden wall to prevent livestock from grazing on the formal gardens without obstructing the wider view of the parkland. The name is thought to be connected to the exclamation of surprise when an unsuspecting visitor stumbled across this unexpected feature!

The upper level is where the main house and formal gardens would have once stood. For reasons unknown, the main house at Stoughton Grange was demolished in 1926 but if you look closely, you can still see the original steps to the entrance of the house.

Three of the original Gothic style lodges still remain at the entrance to Stoughton Grange Rural Centre – they bear the coat of arms and are Grade II listed buildings.

5 Keeping the 'Ha-Ha' on your right, continue straight ahead through some wooden posts and follow the path round to the right. You will now be walking down a pathway surrounded by trees on both sides – keep your eyes and ears open for animals that may be hiding!

You are now heading back towards Stoughton Grange Rural Centre. Continue straight along the path until you reach the black and white building. Now you can take a well earned break - browse the shops or enjoy a spot of lunch!

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

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

LAKESIDE WALK



LAKESIDE WALK

Starting point: The Cow and Plough Pub | Time: Approximately 25 minutes at a leisurely pace

THE WALK

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 bridled 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 The woodland area to your left is known as Dam's Spinney. A reservoir covered this area over 600 years ago and during the 18th Century, the water was drained and the surrounding woodland was developed in order to provide timber supplies for the farm.

Look out for the local wildlife – there are over 2500 different species inhabiting this area: spiders, robins, owls, rabbits and weasels to name a few! You'll also notice a variety of trees and flowers – can you identify the different layers and heights?

Walk along the path, with the lake on your right and Dam's Spinney woodland to the left. You will reach the top of the lake after approximately 800m, where the path splits.

