

Doorstep Walks

A Closer Look Guide

The Spire Walk – Anti-clockwise walk – A Closer Look guide

By Richard Pett

During the early days of Doorstep Walks we toyed with the idea of providing descriptions in both directions along a walk, however, owing to constraints of size and how busy the leaflets were we abandoned this idea. However, strange as it may seem a walk can be strikingly different when taken in its opposite direction – have a try with this one and let us have your comments, perhaps you'd like to help us by writing opposite direction descriptions or alternative variations of our walks.

Its worth occasionally looking out for Doorstep Walk waymarks on the back of waymark posts and signs to check you're in the right place – you should find signs at most junctions.

Start at the Crossroads in the centre of Laughton and face Hooton Lane (with the Hadfield Arms on your left). Turn right and head along Firbeck Lane until, after a short while you will see the St Leger Arms, cross the road and head straight through the beer garden and downhill across a field. After about 100 metres or so you will see a stile in the hedge on your right (check for waymarks on the other side), cross this and follow the path along field edges, heading basically straight until you enter a grassy track. Follow the track until you come to a stone surfaced track.

Bear slightly left, the path enters a hedgeline track and soon emerges in a field, keep roughly straight ahead keeping the field boundary on your right, after a short distance the path crosses the boundary – keep going straight.

Keep an eye out on your left, the views are superb, and the path below is the one you will be returning on in a sort while.

The path follows the crest of the hill, stay on the walked line and eventually you will reach woods (Kings Wood), head straight and then left downhill. At the bottom of the hill the path forks.

If you want a trip to Roche Abbey turn right and follow the path through woodland, eventually reaching the abbey ruins via the footpath, which skirts the site.

To carry on head downhill and slightly left, eventually reaching a boardwalk. Cross this and the bridge, then head left along the stream side (this can get muddy at times so wear decent waterproof boots), cross a ditch via a small bridge and stay on the stream side as you follow the path along the bottom of a large field.

After a while the path heads right uphill, crossing the field, at the top of the hill you will reach the side of the railway lines, head left until you come to Slade Hooton. When you reach the road head straight across (take care of traffic) behind the houses, and keep on this path as it enters a field boundary, keep going straight ahead (do not cut across the field) and then head left down the side of the houses. At the road turn right until you reach the Travellers Rest, on the far right of the pub a path heads uphill through a field.

Follow this path, crossing a stream via a bridge and eventually you will reach Brookhouse Lane, turn left uphill, taking care on the lane, eventually the lane reaches another road, turn left downhill along the road and very shortly you will see a stile on your left which leads into a field.

Cross this stile and head along the path. Keeping the field boundary on your left, soon you will see the church on your left, keep going straight ahead, crossing field boundaries, (if it gets confusing here remember to check for doorstep waymarks on the reverse of the stiles). The path bears slightly left following the field boundaries and eventually reaches the playing fields of Laughton Infant and Primary School, follow the path around the school and onto School Road, turn left and follow the road back to the start of the walk