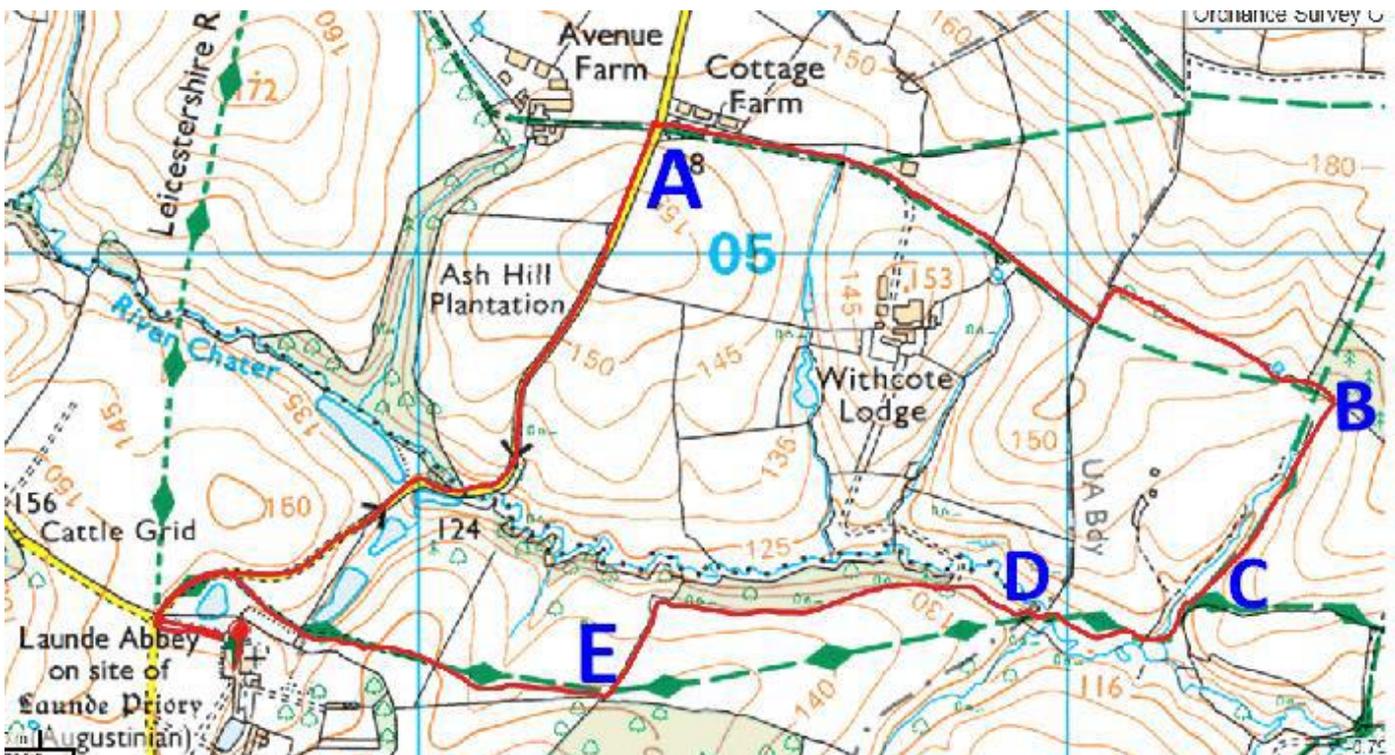


## Walk 2 Launde — Cottage Farm — Launde

(Circular Miles – 3.15 miles - 1 hour 30 minutes)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 233

Start SK797043



Leave from the front of the house walking away from the car park. Pass through the little gate and walk towards the crossroads in front of the building. **Turn right** over the cattle grid and walk on the road towards Withcote and Braunston. The road leads past Launde lakes on your right hand side. Descend the hill and climb up the other side. Do look behind at the views, you will see launde Abbey among the trees. When you reach a crossroads 50 meters after the 'Withcote' sign **turn right** onto the bridle path by Cottage Farm. (Point A on map). Pass between the cottage and its garages and continue on the hard-surfaced track until it turns sharp right, by a large barn, towards Withcote Lodge Farm. Do not turn right but **continue straight ahead**, through two fields, following the yellow-topped footpath marker posts. At the end of the second field pass through the gate and **turn sharp left** then, after 50 meters, **turn sharp right** as you follow the field hedgerow. Follow the path down the hill and **turn right** by the broken footpath sign. (Point B on the map). Keep the gully and the trees to your right hand and follow the path down-hill and **turn right** onto the Leicestershire Round at Point C.

Pass **through the gate** and follow the path as it winds its way through the trees to **Point D**, ignoring a gate on your left with a yellow 'Leicestershire Round' sign on it but no arrow. At Point D pass **through the gate** with the 'Leics Round' sign and arrow, into the field. The Leicestershire round passes **diagonally across the field** to the right hand side of the trees on your horizon. If the field has been ploughed, or if crops are growing, and the footpath has not been restored you can walk around this field either to the left or the right. Either way you will reach the little gate at **Point E**, with 'Leics Round' sign and arrow.

As you **cross the next field** note the wall of Launde Abbey's walled garden on your far left and the mound in front. Pass **through the gate** and pass the mound on your left hand and, as you pass, you might ponder the purpose of this mound. It is clearly man made but why? Is it a burial mound or simply an ash heap from the kitchen fires? Continue over the brow of the rise and descend **through the last field** on your walk. As you approach the top lake you might like to divert to your right and inspect the old Ice House that has been partly restored. If you step inside, ponder again. Who were the people who built the Ice House, who filled it with ice and who fetched it? Who were the people in whose footsteps you now tread?

Though you can see into the gardens of Launde Abbey you must pass through the gate, turn left as you re-join the road, re-cross the cattle grid and return to Launde Abbey for a well-earned cup of tea!

This walk can be combined with walk1 to make a longer circular walk.

Last revision 9 November 2017.