

# Rural Rambler

By Steve

A series of walks around Marsworth and the local countryside.

All the walks in this series can be downloaded from the Marsworth website where a higher resolution map and in some cases photographs are available

<https://www.marsworth.org.uk/the-marsworth-news/rural-rambler/>

## No. 7 Hidden Tring and Tring Park

This walk takes us into Tring and explores Tring Park. The walk starts in the car park off Frogmore Street but there is an alternative start off Hastoe Lane – from the crossroads in the centre of Tring take Akeman Street towards the Natural History Museum, at the T junction turn right and first left and the car park is on the left after approx. 100yds. Note that the open pastureland of the park is often used to graze cattle, if they are present please keep dogs on leads.

The total walk is about 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> miles and takes around 2 hours. If starting from Hastoe Lane it is about ½ mile shorter. There are some hilly sections and steps on the A41 bridge.

Starting in the Frogmore Street car park walk through to the High Street, cross the road via the pedestrian crossing and enter the small passageway between the old bank buildings, one of which is currently occupied by the Barracuda restaurant. After about 120 yds turn left and then right (broken signpost to Tring Park, Point A). Continue on the path which takes you between the Natural History Museum and the grounds of Tring Park School, bringing you out in Park Street. Cross the road onto the signposted footpath. After a few yards notice the natural history paintings on the wall on your left.

If starting at the Hastoe Lane car park you join the walk at this point, taking the pedestrian exit furthest from Hastoe Lane and turning right onto the footpath. Follow the footpath to the footbridge over the A41 (combination of ramps and steps). Cross the bridge and when at the apex (B) pause to appreciate the avenue of mature lime trees ahead. Looking back, you can see the remains of this avenue leading to the Rothschild mansion. Descending from the bridge take the route along the avenue towards the wooded hills in the distance. At the end of the avenue, on the brow of the hill, look backwards for a good view along the avenue to the mansion – the bridge is a slight eyesore but the original layout of the park can be appreciated. Occasional signposts mark “Walter’s Wander”, a reference to Walter Rothschild who lived in the mansion and opened his zoological museum in Tring in 1892.

Follow the track down a dip and then up the incline to the wooden gate in the corner of the open pasture (C), pass through and enter the woods. The path heads gently uphill and bears left with some signs highlighting items of interest. Stay on the main path, keeping right at the next “Walter’s Wander” signpost and up a steeper section of hill, eventually meeting a major track, part of The Ridgeway long distance path (D). Turn right. Follow The Ridgeway and at the first gate leave the woods and take

the path along the side of the field with the hedge (and the road) on your right. At the end of the field turn left onto a gravel road (E). Follow this road, past a metal gate, and past the small development around Wick Farm until reaching the houses on the outskirts of Wigginton. A footpath on the left (F, footpath 80, with a broken signpost) starts the return journey but ahead takes you into Wigginton where refreshments can be obtained at The Greyhound pub or in the Wigginton Village Community Shop.

To return to Tring Park take footpath 80 which runs behind gardens, turns right and then left and eventually meets a tarmac road. Go straight ahead past the 'Welcome to Tring Park' sign with gardens on your right and woodland to the left. At the last house you once again meet The Ridgeway, turn left and after approx. 50yds turn right (G) through a wooden gate onto a path heading downhill to a white, classical looking building. This is Rothschilds 'Summer House' and used to be a lot bigger, the rear part was demolished when the new road (Fox Road) to Wigginton was built. At the Summer House turn left along the major track to an obelisk marking a meeting of paths (H). Turn right, diagonally downhill until you can exit the woods on your left (I). Walk through the open park parallel to the A41 and return to the bridge. Retrace your steps back to the Hastoe Lane car park or to Park Street. If returning to the Frogmore Street car park one can either walk back along the footpath, or alternatively turn left and walk down Akeman Street.

Another alternative route passes through a historical part of Tring. Turn left at Park Street, cross the end of Akeman Street and walk past the beautiful Louisa Cottages on Park Road. Built as Almshouses by Emma Rothschild (Louisa was her second name) between 1893 and 1901 they were provided for Rothschild estate workers and local people. Next to the almshouses is a small terrace of houses with unusual Dutch style gables, shortly beyond them turn right into Langdon Street. This is the heart of the Tring Triangle, characterised by Victorian terraced houses but also containing many other interesting buildings and well worth an exploratory stroll. To finish our walk follow Langdon Street to Tring High Street, turn right and make your way back to the car park.

