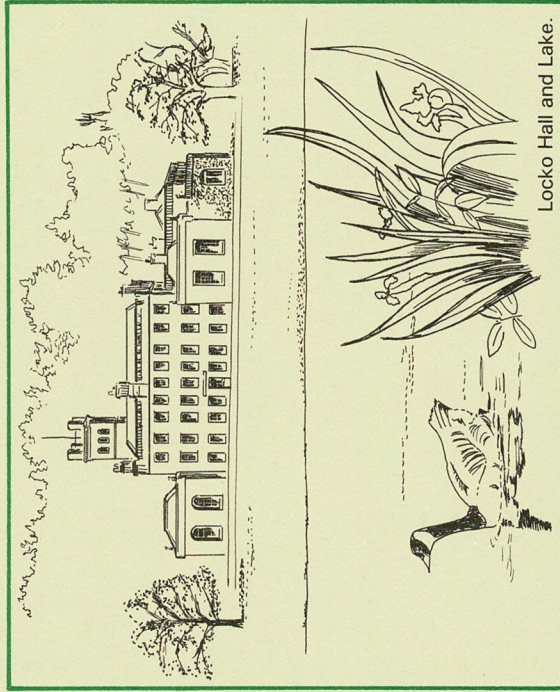


The Squire's Walk

6½ miles

DALES • VALLEYS • MOORS



Locko Hall and Lake.

Enjoy some of the best countryside in Erewash on this walk from Ockbrook through Locko Park to Dale Abbey.



Supported by the

COUNTRYSIDE
COMMISSION

The Squire's Walk

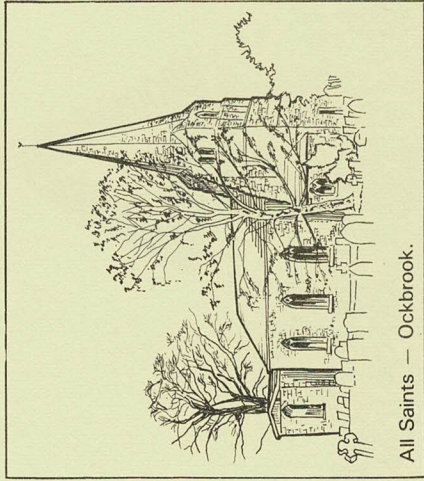
6 1/2 miles 3 1/2 - 4 hours

- Start:** All Saints Church, Church Street, Ockbrook.
- Buses:** Services 13, 14 (Trent).
- Time:** Allow 3 1/2 to 4 hours.
- OS Map:** Pathfinder Series — Nottingham (South West) SK 43/53.

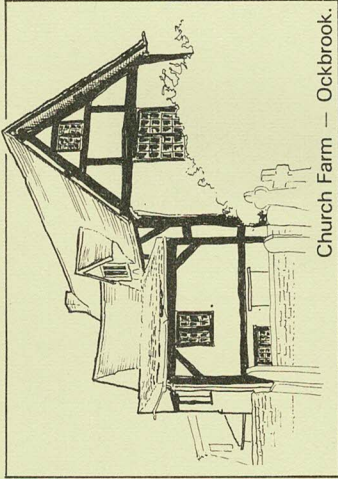
Type of Walk: Through undulating countryside with one short climb.

Enter churchyard to view All Saints Church and Church Farm.

All Saints became the parish church in 1600 standing as a chapelry before this time, of which, only the Norman font remains. The spire was subsequently added to the 12th century tower. A splendid oak chancel screen dated 1520 was donated by Thomas Pares of Hopwell Hall in 1810.



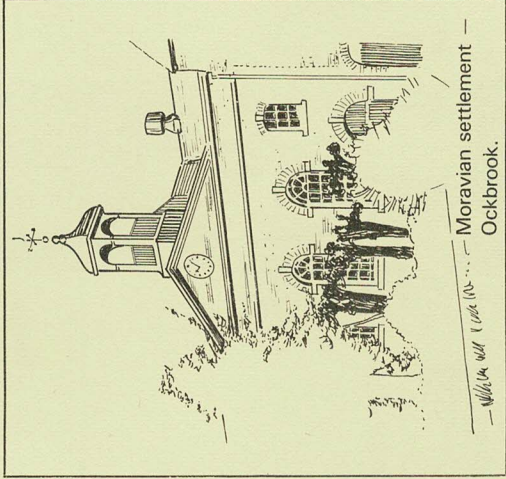
All Saints — Ockbrook.



Church Farm — Ockbrook.

Ockbrook Village boasts many magnificent old buildings, not least the ancient timber-framed house of Church Farm, viewed from behind the church.

From church gate turn right, then first left into New Street. At main road cross over by The Queens Head into Bakehouse Lane, climb hill to reach track and fingerpost on left. (Turn right along private road to view the fascinating buildings of the Settlement est. 1750). Follow track, bearing left at fork across fields to Spondon.



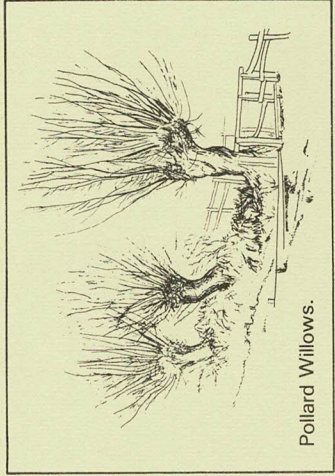
— Moravian settlement — Ockbrook.



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At Dale Road turn left, cross over and turn right beyond shops into Sancroft Road. Follow road round to take path on right beside No. 100. Carry straight ahead keeping hedges on left to meet farm track. Cross over and with hedge on right descend to footbridge over Lees Brook.

Just upstream of the bridge is a line of traditional pollard willows. Cutting every few years



Pollard Willows.

produces a close fist-like head of straight young shoots which can be split to provide fencing rails. These old willows support many kinds of wildlife, but are disappearing from our landscape as farming methods change.

Bear right up to main road, turn right and right again into main gate of Locko Park. Follow surfaced road to lake and view of privately owned Locko Hall.

The present house was built by Francis Smith of Warwick in the late 1720's and has been the ancestral home of the Drury-Lowe family since 1747. The chapel was built in 1669 and in medieval times a leper hospital stood on the site.

Beyond the lake, take right fork of path towards Lodge Farm. At gamekeeper's cottage bear left up track to Dunshill. Cross main road (beware fast traffic!), and follow farm access track towards Columbine Farm. Follow path round to the right of farm into Ockbrook Wood.

Halfway into wood another path merges from right (carry straight on to visit Dale Abbey Village). Take path on right climbing through trees to stay with walk. Climb stile at top and with

hedge on right cross three more stiles.

This stretch affords splendid views towards Hopwell and Risley. The ruined ivy-clad red brick buildings of The Malthouses are clearly visible below the path.

On reaching field before Spots Plantation veer left, crossing field diagonally to cross footbridge into wood. From wood keep hedge on left to cross field round corner by passing three oak trees into next field. Cross field bearing diagonally left to next stile.

This field by Piggin Wood shows marked ridge and furrow, a lasting testimony to the medieval open field system. The damper furrows support a different flora to that preferring the drier ridges.

Climb stile and aim diagonally right to cross footbridge over small stream (dry in summer). Aim for stile in middle of hedge before you. Over this pass through two hedge openings ahead, slightly to right. Join farm track at end of right-hand fence. Turn left on reaching road and walk along The Ridings back to All Saints church.

PLEASE FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE

GUARD AGAINST FIRE Every year, carelessness costs thousands of pounds.
FASTEN GATES - even if you find them open. Animals will wander if they can.
KEEP DOGS UNDER CONTROL - on a lead wherever there is livestock.
KEEP TO PATHS - if they exist.
AVOID DAMAGING FENCES, HEDGES AND WALLS

LEAVE NO LITTER
SAFEGUARD WATER SUPPLIES Do not pollute streams or cattle troughs.
PROTECT WILDLIFE, PLANTS, TREES
GO CAREFULLY ON COUNTRY ROADS
Keep in single file, facing on-coming traffic, on the right.
RESPECT THE LIFE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

For Further Details

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