

So unusual was this that Charles was commended by the Governor of the territory, Governor King. Charles remained in Australia and was promoted several times until he became Commandant in charge of a detachment of troops in charge of the convicts. Due to ill health, Charles retired and was given two farms west of Sydney. On one parcel of 950 acres of land, Charles built a large house which he called 'Glenfield'. On other parcels of land, he built farms or named the lands after villages in Leicestershire such as 'Smeeton', 'Anstey', 'Bradgate' and 'Walton'

Charles was also interested in exploration and on one of them he found an area near to the Murrumbidgee river, which was later chosen to be the site of Canberra.

Sadly, Charles had problems in later life and eventually committed suicide and is buried in St Luke's Cemetery, Liverpool, Australia.

To get an idea what the penal system was like back in 1802, one of those on board the convict ship Charles was surgeon on was an 18 year old man called John Carter. He had been sentenced to 7 years transportation. His heinous crime? He stole a linen handkerchief valued at one shilling and six pence.

- ▶ When you get into Glenfield, continue towards a traffic roundabout. At the roundabout take the right turn called Church Road and walk towards St Peter's church which was built in 1877. As you approach the church, go to the right of it and you will see the ivy-covered remains of the original Church which is now derelict but can still be clearly made out through the undergrowth.
- ▶ Taking a path that passes the front of the new church; continue along a footpath that will exit onto Stamford Street. Turn right then left into The Avenue. At the end go through the gap and turn left onto a lane called The Balk before turning right onto Station Road. Continue along Station Road until you get to the Railway Inn.
- ▶ Opposite the Inn is a narrow path. If you take this path it opens out into an area of grass with a path around and some benches. It is a nice quiet place to sit and have a rest.
- ▶ Continue along the path from this area until it exits onto Newquay Drive. Turn right and at the end of the road turn left onto Loxley Road. Continue to where the road bears right and take the footpath on the left. Continue on this path until it passes the Glenfield Tunnel.

When constructed in 1832, it was the longest railway tunnel in the world, built by Robert Stephenson, with help from his father, the world-renowned George Stephenson. The tunnel was part of the old Leicester and Swannington Railway, which itself was one of the first steam railways to be built in the world. This line brought coal from North-West Leicestershire into the city. Public access to the tunnel is only allowed when part of a walking tour of the tunnel organised by the Leicestershire Industrial History Society.

- ▶ Take a set of steps to the left of the tunnel entrance and continue on footpath until you exit onto the A50 Leicester Road. Turn left and continue to the traffic roundabout then turn left onto Station Road and continue towards the village centre.
- ▶ When you get to where the Fosse Fox is, turn right into a path that passes through an opening and onto the disused railway track bed. There is an interpretation board explaining the story of Glenfield Tunnel.

As you walk down this path, on your left once you reach the first of the large warehouses, there is the site of the old Glenfield Mill, a steam-powered cotton-weaving mill built in 1907-8.

Next to this there is also a 'moated site' which is a scheduled monument. Not much is known about this site but it was once protected by a moat and was perhaps a place of importance in medieval times.

- ▶ Continue on this path until you pass under the M1 Motorway then continue until it exits onto Taverner Drive. Turn left then left again onto a footpath that crosses a field. Where the path forks, take the right-hand fork and continue following the path and out onto Ratby Lane. Turn left and continue along Ratby Lane for a short distance then take the path on the right across a field until you reach Desford Road, then turn right and continue until reaching Woodlands Lane then turn left into it. At the end turn right onto Main Street then continue before turning left onto Oakcroft Avenue.

With Thanks to...

Our thanks to Eddie Smallwood and Michael Dix for creating the walking routes and uncovering the heritage stories. And to Graham Luker for the illustrations.

This series of heritage walks have been designed to inspire walking across the District - we hope that you enjoy them. We welcome feedback and you can get in touch with us by emailing leisure@blaby.gov.uk. The walk uses footpaths, bridleways, permissive paths and some roads. Please respect the landowner's property and stay on the indicated paths. Please follow the countryside code. Take care when walking on roads and follow the Highway Code for pedestrians. You are advised to use the route in conjunction with the OS map for the area. This guide has been created with funds from the European Regional Development Fund and HM Government.



Find this walk, all 12 heritage trails and more on the **GoJauntly app**. Simple photo guides help you navigate while nifty tips point out things of interest and places to eat.



For more information on this walk and for other walks in the series visit our website:
www.visitblaby.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter:



Let's go!
Blaby
District

6

Heritage Walks

Route Six

7.5 miles
12 km

This walk is one of a series of 12 heritage trails plus a long distance perimeter route around the whole District, see the website visitblaby.org.uk for more information.

- ◆ Glenfield
- ◆ Kirby Fields
- ◆ Leicester Forest East
- ◆ Kirby Muxloe



Supported by Welcome Back Funding



Travel by bus
Routes 26, 27, 29, 29A
arriva.co.uk



Glenfield Tunnel



Kirby Muxloe Castle



Optimus Point Nature Area



The Forge Inn, Glenfield

- After visiting the castle, continue along Oakcroft Ave before taking the path on your left which crosses fields towards Hinckley Road. The path crosses the railway line before passing between two houses and out onto Beechwood Ave. Bear to the right and follow the 'No Cycling' path that comes out onto Kirby Lane next to Kirby House Care home. Turn left and left again onto Hinckley Road and walk towards Leicester. Continue along Hinckley Road until you reach Charnwood drive on your left. Walk down until you reach Priory Walk on the left. Turn left then right into Beechwood Ave. Walk along until the road bends to the left. On the right hand side is a path that goes between two houses. Turn right and take the path alongside a railway line until you reach a footbridge that crosses the railway lines.
- After crossing the railway continue straight on until the path passes under the M1 Motorway then turn right and follow the path passing by an industrial estate on your left. Continue on this path until you reach a bridge that crosses a brook. After crossing the bridge continue on the path within an industrial estate perimeter until you exit the estate onto the B5380 Ratby Lane at a set of crossroads.
- Continue along the road until you reach a traffic roundabout with Kirby Lane. Go around the roundabout and cross Kirby Lane and take the footpath that leads down from the road. Take this path which goes along a raised embankment with the M1 on your left and Kirby Lane on your right.

2 Glenfield

- Continue until you reach a footpath on the right which goes down the embankment towards Kirby Lane. Now walk back along Kirby Lane towards the traffic roundabout until you reach a clearly marked path on your left. Take this path and go through the gate. In front of you is the 'Optimus Point' Nature area.
- There is an information board explaining the types of wildlife that might be seen. Take some time to enjoy the Nature area, then turn right and exit using a well-walked way that crosses New Plantation open space towards the direction of Glenfield.
- Continue on the well walked path heading towards a housing estate at Glenfield. When reaching the houses take the path that passes between houses onto Blackthorn Road, opposite Fishley Close. Turn left and follow Blackthorn Road until it reaches Elm Tree Avenue. Turn left and continue until you reach Kirby Road then turn right towards Glenfield.

Glenfield has quite a famous resident. His name was Charles Throsby. He was the son of a John Throsby who was an Historian who wrote the History of Leicester. Charles is believed to have been born in 1777. He decided that he wanted to study medicine. He joined the Royal Navy and became an assistant surgeon before being promoted to surgeon.

He was appointed as surgeon on the convict ship 'Coromandel' which was a 522 ton vessel. Charles and his wife Jane joined the ship in 1802 and set sail from Spithead to what we now call Australia, docking in Port Jackson on 13th June 1802. After a non-stop voyage of 121 days. On board were 138 convicts, 20 guards and some free settlers. This was a special journey as during the voyage, only one convict died which was most unusual as on most ships up to one third of prisoners died.

1 Kirby Muxloe

➤ Commence the walk at the ruined remains of Kirby Muxloe Castle.

The building of Kirby Muxloe Castle began in the 15th Century for its owner, Lord Hastings, was the Grand Chamberlain of Edward IV. Hastings was a very powerful noble but when Edward IV died on 9th April 1483, things were about to change for the worse for him.

Following the death of the King, his younger brother, Richard Duke of Gloucester was made protector of the realm and he took charge of two of his male children who became better known as 'The Princes in the Tower'. It is assumed that Lord Hastings was comfortable with Richard being in control of the country instead of the older boy Edward, who was only 12 and who would be under the control of Edward IV's widow, Elizabeth Woodville and her wider family.

On 13th June 1483 Lord Hastings attended a council meeting at the Tower of London. At first, everything seemed normal until the King left the room, returning a short time later with some guards and declaring Hastings a traitor by conspiring with the Woodville's. He was seized, dragged outside and beheaded without any form of trial. It is thought that the charge of treason may have been made up because it is possible that Hastings would not agree to what Richard was planning.

By the end of June 1483, the two boys had been declared illegitimate so the older boy Edward could not become King Edward V. This meant that Richard Duke of Gloucester became King Richard III.

Following the execution of Lord Hastings, the family did not have any other punishments but building work stopped. The Castle would never be completed. After being given to the nation it is now under the management of English Heritage.