



## St Morrell's Round (from Hallaton Museum)

- Start point: The Tin Tab, Churchgate, Hallaton, Market Harborough LE16 8TY
- Distance: about 28km with 500m of ascent.
- Route: Circular

*Always follow current UK government guidelines for COVID-19 ([www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)) when enjoying these walks and check the most up to date advice before setting off. Please plan ahead as sites, public transport links and facilities (public houses, car parks, ect.) may be closed or have restrictions.*

St Morrell's Round begins in Hallaton at the Museum on Churchgate. As the walk is circular it is also possible to start in any of the villages on the Round. The walk is achievable in one day or it can be split into two days with accommodation being available around the route. There are bus stops for the 747 route from Leicester in Tugby and Belton in Rutland (just across the A47 from Allextion) for walkers preferring public transport.

The St Morrell's Round has been created as way of sharing the beautiful countryside of high Leicestershire and was inspired by the rediscovery of the Chapel of St Morrel near Hallaton in 2014 and the revival of the British tradition of Pilgrimage. The route passes through points of historic significance to the period of the original pilgrimages to Hallaton (~AD1250 to ~AD1550) where walkers can see things that the original pilgrims could have seen. The circular walk can be walked in one (long) day or in sections and can be started in any of the settlements along the route. There are bus stops for the 747 route from Leicester in Tugby and Belton in Rutland for walkers preferring public transport.

Information regarding St Morrell, his Pilgrimage and all the sites on the round is available in the museum and on [www.stmorrellsround.com](http://www.stmorrellsround.com).

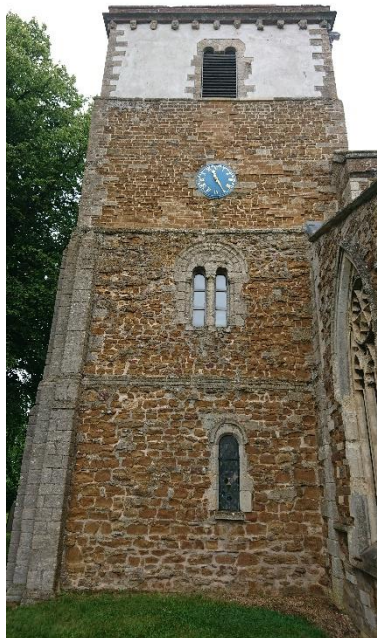


St Morrell's Round begins in Hallaton which retains much of its medieval layout and buildings. The whole village was shaped by the long period of pilgrimage. There are fishponds beside the Hallaton brook and St Michaels Church has a staircase leading to an external pulpit for addressing the overflow congregation as well as seats for eight priests.

1. You can check in to start your pilgrimage at the museum. From the museum go back along Churchgate to the front of St Michaels and All Angels church and turn left up Hunts Lane and left again at the top on to Goadby Road.
2. Goadby Road is the old medieval road to Leicester and after ~700m as you begin to descend you can see the motte and bailey earthworks of Hallaton's Norman castle. Drop down to the ford and then begin the ascent when the slope levels out continue to ~3km and turn right on to the Midshires way. The next kilometre can be muddy in winter but continue to re-join the roadway. The road continues to climb and just before the summit you will pass Keythorpe Trig Point concealed in the hedge to your left.



3. Follow the road down and then back up to Tugby ~6.5km. Pass the Fox and Hounds pub on your right to arrive at St Thomas à Beckett Church where you can see a Norman window in the tower. There is a "Pilgrim's Station" in the church. After the church cross the A47. There is a bus stop where you could catch the bus back to Belton/Allextion. As you leave Tugby the Café Ventoux which is popular with cyclists is on your right.



4. Follow Wood Road and ~400m after the café turn right on to a well-maintained farm track. Continue past the farm and just as you enter a small wood called Hardy's Gungel fork left leaving the wood and crossing a field to cross the Eye Brook before going into another wood and then crossing open fields to a big green gate. Continue into the next wood find a footpath on your left just after the abandoned railway embankment at ~9.7km. Cross the field to St Michaels and All Angels Church. The Church is outside the settlement because the village was abandoned during the plague, and when it was eventually re-occupied, the villagers built a new village.



5. From the Church stay high and bear right to follow the edge of the wood and then the footpath to join a small road just outside Loddington Village. Turn left along the road, then left at the T-junction and continue along a quiet lane until you reach a footpath on your right ~11.5km. go into the field and follow the path around the edge to climb to Launde Big Wood. This is a remnant of the ancient Leighfield Forest that used to cover High Leicestershire. You can detour through the wood and see the landscape experienced by Pilgrims or stay on the path around the outside.



6. After the wood, descend then climb to reach a road at where you turn left to descent steeply across parkland to Launde Abbey ~13.5km where there is a very welcome café at Launde Abbey. Launde Abbey is on the site of an Augustine Priory that was taken as a personal possession by Thomas Cromwell who worked for King Henry VIII. Henry and Cromwell outlawed pilgrimages in Britain bringing to an end 300 years of pilgrimage to Hallaton.



7. As you leave the Abbey return to the road and continue across a cattle grid, following the road to a finger post sign on the right, where you re-join the Leicester Round. Follow the well-marked route for 2km along the Charter Valley. This stretch can be muddy because it is often used by horses from the nearby racing stables. After crossing two streams the Leicester round turns right ~15.5km. You should continue straight on more-or-less horizontally following the river, initially on a path and then a roadway to Leigh Lodge at ~17.3km. Here you join the Rutland Round and the MacMillan Way and follow the road right round the Lodge to begin the ascent of an impressive driveway. As you achieve the ridge ~19km dogleg right and left and drop down a footpath and then road towards Belton.



8. Climb steeply on tired legs to St Peters church at ~20.5km. Continue past the church and down to a tee junction where you turn left to find the Sun Inn. There is also a bus stop in Belton. Here you leave the Rutland Round and re-join the Leicester round to drop down to the A47. There is a café called Hungry Hogs a short distance up the A47 from the crossing point. Otherwise cross the main road and continue to St Peters in Allexton ~22km.



9. After leaving St Peters turn left up the hill and follow the road. After ~0.4km take a footpath left to join the well-marked Leicester Round. Continue upwards to ~24.3km and cross the ridge before passing the White Farm and beginning a long straight gentle descent towards Hallaton.

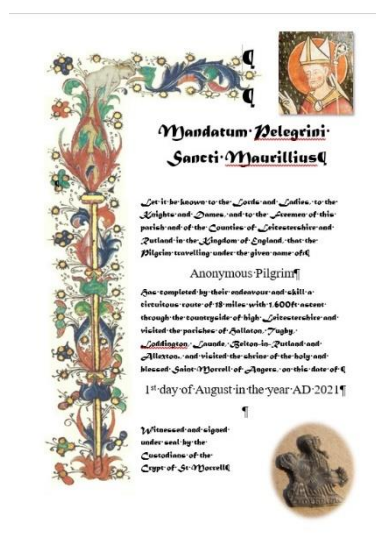
10. Enter Hallaton on the road passing Hacluit's Pond. 50m after passing (or stopping in) the Fox Inn ~27km, turn right onto High Street and carry on down to the Butter Cross where dairy products were traded. The Bewicke Arms is on your left.



11. To visit the site of St Morrell's Chapel (1km round trip), find a small narrow alleyway between houses on the far corner of the green – Chapel Way – and descend to the brook before climbing Hare Pie bank to reach a stand of three Chestnut trees on the left of the path at the top of the ridge. Here you can make out the rectangular base of the chapel built in 1250, destination of Pilgrims throughout the Middle Ages, and rediscovered in 2014. Re-trace your steps back to the village green and turn left to return to the Museum.



12. If you want a certificate of completion of your walk "Mandatum Pelegrini" you can request one from the pilgrimage website <http://www.stmorrellsround.com>.



## Route Map:

For a detailed route map, go to: <https://www.plotaroute.com/route/1574751>

