

The undulations of the ground are not some fiendish golf trap, but the remnants of a medieval open field system that was enclosed when Maxstoke Park was created in the mid-14th century.

Continue along the path between two lakes. Your route is straight ahead, ignoring a stile in the fence on your right. The lake on your right is backed by a small wooded plantation. Look across the left hand lake and you will be rewarded with a superb view of the castle.



Maxstoke Castle from Maxstoke Park

Beyond the lakes the path becomes a little less clear, but continue in approximately the same direction, veering a little to the right. You will pass through a new conifer plantation. Be careful at this point and look to your left and right, because the golf course is on both sides of the path.

In front of you, at the side of the Park, you will see a small Spinney. Immediately on the right of the Spinney there is a ditch with a hedge remnant on both sides of it. Look for stepping stones across the ditch; cross over the ditch and the stile beyond then walk along the path, keeping the hedge on the left and the open field on your right. Follow the hedge for

about 100 metres and you will find a stile in the hedge on your left. Cross the stile back into Maxstoke Park and the corner of the golf course. The path is not too clear here but at 45° to your right you should see a five-bar gate with a white notice board on it and a stile on the left. Walk towards the stile, passing through a new plantation of conifers.

Cross the stile and turn left into Castle Lane. Walk to the concrete drive of Dumble Farm where you may turn right on to a "permitted" pathway. You will see two field ponds - one on the right of the drive and the other about 50 metres off to the right. You will also see a neat, urban looking gas terminal.

Up to this point you have been walking on flat countryside and the small hill ahead of you with trees on the top is a delightful relief. At a bend in the drive you will see an attractive field pond, and beyond this, just before you reach the farm buildings there is a waymarked stile on the left of the drive.

Cross over the stile (At times there may be an electric fence as well, but it will have an insulated section for you to cross over safely). You are now in old pasture which slopes uphill to your right. Your path crosses the field at 45° and leads to the corner of Dumble wood, one of the few remaining tracts of medieval woodland in the area. From here you have a good view of the lovely late-medieval timber framed farm house with its great sandstone chimney stack.