

Scafold, four miles north of Melton Mowbray, is an ancient village, well over 1100 years old. It's Saxon name, originally 'Shalford', means 'Shallow Ford'.

**P** Car parking in the narrow village lanes can be difficult therefore the Recreation Ground at the end of Sandy Lane could be used.

## Walk 1: 6¼ km (4 miles) allow 2 hours, undulating open countryside.

From the recreation ground walk back into the village, turn right towards the King's Arms, then at King's Street turn left. Cross into South Street by the Plough and continue to reach a footpath on the right, running alongside No.14 "Meadow View".

After about 100 metres, the route crosses a small field, then bears left along a hedge boundary. After the brook walk up the hill to go over the bridges of two dismantled railway lines.

The first is the former Waltham Branch that served as a mineral line and the second is a former passenger and freight line. Trains along this section ran

between Market Harborough and Nottingham low-level stations and the old Great Northern Leicester Station (Belgrave Road) to Grantham.

**A** Aim for a gate and follow the yellow waymarkers as the route continues across the fields until you reach a field of pronounced ridge and furrow, and some farm buildings.

**B** Go between the buildings and turn right along the track to meet Melton Road. Cross and continue along Howell Lane, bearing right at the fork.

**C** Turn left following the footpath sign along the track. Once across the cattle grid turn right with the hedge on the right. Follow the waymarkers to the road.

This area was once quarried for ironstone. Notice the sign warning of subsidence. There are some bomb-like craters where the galleries have caved in causing subsidence in the overlying soft clay.

Further up the lane on the left is a nature reserve acquired by the Leics and Rutland Trust for Nature Conservation in 1973. There is a 200 metre

