

Grandborough Walk 2

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Heather McBreen
OS Explorer 222

A circular walk of approx 9 km (5.5 miles) R = Right, L = Left.
Allow between 2 and 2.5 hours



Standing with the Shoulder of Mutton Inn behind you, turn R onto Sawbridge Road. Follow the road to the junction with Hill Road as it bears R onto Main Street. Follow the road past the phone box L and St Peter's Church R. After a bend in the road R, join the causeway by the Old Vicarage. Continue after the pathway ends, crossing two bridges to meet Castle Lane junction by Mill House L.

Cross the corner of Castle Lane and enter the field by the metal gate (*point A*). Cross the field, heading slightly L of the telegraph pole. Pass through the broken hedgerow line and continue diagonally to the double wooden stile by a sheepfold. Continue forward keeping the hedgerow L. After approx 75m, go over the wooden stile and then bear R to the edge of the field. Cross the stile, go up the bank and meet the road.

Follow the road L, passing Woolscott House R. Continue until just after Harrow House L, then take the wooden kissing gate into the field. Harrow House was formerly a pub called Old Harrow Inn. Follow the hedgerow and fence L, passing two timber framed houses, including Harrow House. Go through the 2nd wooden kissing gate and continue to the 3rd in a row, exiting onto Castle Lane. Looking R, there is a row of tall poplar trees shielding Castle Lea (Long Lea on the map).

At this point it is possible to shorten the walk by turning L to follow Castle Lane back to the road junction by point A.

Turn left and then opposite Birchen Fold L, turn R to cross over the wooden stile by the field gate. Follow the track keeping the hedgerow R. Looking ahead, elevated in the distance is Toft and Toft Manor, in the parish of Dunchurch. Along the track, look out for named bricks in the ground; "Farnley Iron Co, Leeds, England". Enjoy the open expanse all round and the view of Reapers Cottage at the highest point L.

Continue to the fence that encloses the Nature Reserve R. Bear L at the metal field gate that has the Reserve signpost on it. Follow the track with open fields L and stream and hedgerow R. Cross the stream over the wooden sleeper bridge and continue to follow the track up the hill, ignoring the pathway signpost R. Just after the copse L, St Peters' spire comes into view L and further in the distance R of the spire is the transmitter tower at Hellidon.

R of the track are Toft fishing lakes.

Gaining height on the track, ahead is a dip in the ridge horizon between Shuckburgh L and Napton on the Hill R. Follow the track round a L bend with the hedgerow R and then as the track descends bear R through a gap in the hedgerow. Continue to follow the track, now with the hedgerow L. Through a gap in the hedgerow, elevated Reapers Cottage can be seen again (L).

Follow the track until you get to a green metal field gate. *It is possible at this point to shorten the walk by continuing straight on at the gate; following a track back to point B and bear L to follow the road into Grandborough.*

If continuing, immediately before the green metal gate turn R and cross the field with the hedgerow L. Go into the next field, crossing over a wooden sleeper bridge by a large Willow tree. Go straight across this field and into the next, crossing over another wooden sleeper bridge.

Head diagonally toward the hill crest (towards the trees) and as you gain height, Manor Farm at Kites Hardwick comes into view. Heading down the hill; looking back, the spire of St Peter's disappears. Exit the field over two wooden stiles at the field corner and turn L. Follow the hedgerow L and cross over double and single wooden stiles into the next field. Continue ahead, crossing a long sleeper wooden stile into another field within sight of the main road between Southam and Dunchurch. In this field, special breed sheep can often be found.

After approx 60m go L through a white metal gate. Keeping the hedgerow R follow the field boundary. Exit R into the next field by a metal gate. Follow the track with the hedgerow L, bearing L to go through a gap where a hedgerow joins R. Continue to follow the track with the hedgerow L, passing a concrete water trough and brick "chimney stack".



At the corner with a pathway signpost, bear diagonally **R**, across the field and go through the metal field gate into the next field. In the distance the spire of St Peters starts to appear, framed by two Wellingtonia trees. After the gate, follow a broken tree-line to join a hedgerow **R**. Go into the next field by the metal gate and continue straight on; keeping the hedgerow **L**. Looking to the hill horizon, Beacon Hill on Shuckburgh Hills pops into view like an island. Stay on this track, exiting onto Hill Road opposite Valley Fields Farm.

Turn **L** and follow the road back to Grandborough passing the wooden footpath bridge on Hill Road. *At the **R** bend before reaching the bridge is point **B** on the **L**.*

Continue past Lawrence Cottage to rejoin Hill Road at the junction with Grandborough Fields Road. Go straight on at the junction, joining Sawbridge Road and back to the Shoulder of Mutton **L**.



Hill Road Bridge



Lawrence Cottage