

# Grandborough Walk 4

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OS Explorer 222

A circular walk of approx 13.6 km (8.5 miles) R = Right, L = Left.  
Allow approx 3.5 hours.



Village Hall

With the Shoulder of Mutton on your L and facing the Parish Council notice board, walk ahead on Sawbridge Road past Hockley Close and Grange Farm R to go past the Benn Memorial Village Hall L. The Village Hall was erected in 1897 and extended in 1997. At the front is a First World War Naval Shell. 15ins (38cm) in size, weighing approx. 1916lbs (871kg). It was offered to the village as a memento in recognition of local heroes.

Continue past Gilbert House, re-named from The Cottage after re-furbishment and due to it's links to the creation of the first "dry" Gilbert Rugby Ball by Harry Timms. Stay on the main road until you have passed the Leys L and the road bears R.

Enter the field R through a metal kissing gate. Bear L across the field, between the garden boundary L and cluster of trees R, heading toward the houses and Poplar trees in the distance (on the main road). At the hedgerow go through two metal kissing gates into the next field. Go straight across and exit through a metal kissing gate in the hedgerow onto the main road. Turn R and follow the main road to the RH bend.

*As an alternative to the field crossing above you could follow the main road past Sawbridge Grounds R to Nethercote Road entrance point.*

At the road corner, cross over the road to join the unclassified county road R through a metal field gate. This is Nethercote Road (ref No. E2989). Follow the road past the house L and continue through the next field gate, edged with white fencing and posts. At the footpath bridge L, you can see Bush Hill R at 2 o'clock direction and Shuckburgh Hills wooded hilltop at 3 o'clock direction. Continue on road towards railway bridge arch.

As you progress along the road, All Saints Church Spire at Braunston comes into view L and the dismantled railway line bridge that you are heading for comes into view in front. Go over the white, fence edged stream crossing and continue onto and through the tunnel, marked very faintly with white paint No. 33. After the bridge, the terrain starts to rise as you cross the canal bridge over the Oxford and Grand Union canal section.



Canal View

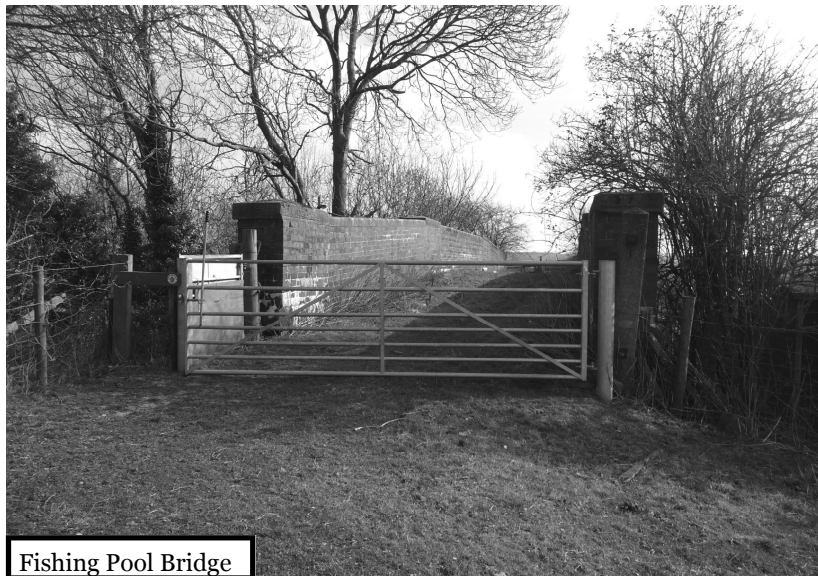


Continue to follow the road uphill past Nethercote Barn R after which the terrain flattens out as you enter Nethercote (a hamlet of Flecknoe).

Turn R going past the VR (Victoria Regina) letterbox L set into the wall. Looking R, back to the Barn you can see a ruin outcrop which is reputed to have been an outpost of Catesby Nunnery. Continue to the road junction. On the corner R is a derelict building reputed to have been a World War II observation tower used for bombing raid practice. Continue to the T junction and turn L.

Go past the houses to the Old Olive Bush Inn L. Opposite the Inn is a lane with a white house R. The house is called Old Oak House and it was re-built after a fire on Nov. 5th 1970. There is a plaque to this effect embedded into the end wall high up toward the apex. It reads :-

**Old Oak House**  
**1590**  
**Rebuilt after fire Nov. 5th 1970**  
**by**  
**R. G. Cave & M. C. Cave**  
**Arch P. Taphouse Esq**  
**Build L. Hampson Esq**



Continue past the bench and stocks R which were put in place in 1987 until you reach the Manor House R. Continue straight on (signposted to Wolfhamcote) and go through the metal field gate. Continue to the next metal field gate, enjoying the open views on both sides. In the elevated distance ahead, the village of Braunston can be seen.

At the next junction of 3 metal gates, go R through the gate into the field. Follow the hedgerow L. Continue through the next metal field gate and go over the bridge over the dismantled railway line that also spans the fishing pools. At the other end of the bridge go through the metal gate and follow the track between two hedgerows.

Where the R hedgerow ends, bear R across the field to the group of three gates in the direction of the aerial mast in the distance (1 o'clock direction). Go through the metal brideway gate in the middle of the group and continue on keeping the hedgerow L. Go through the next two metal brideway gates and then follow the track down the hill.

At the footpath signpost; before you get to the field boundary and footbridge (Miry Bridge on maps), turn L to follow the river R (River Leam).

Continue following the track through the hedgerow gap and then cut across the field past the metal sheep folds R. Go through the metal brideway gates, cross the wooden bridge and continue across the next field. To the R through the larch trees you can see All Saints Church, Braunston. As you cross the field, the windmill tower at Braunston also comes into view behind the white house. Continue across footbridge, up the rise, with old canal bank R.

Go through the hedgerow gap, over the rise in the field and after the next gap bear R along the track keeping the hedgerow R towards the disused railway bridge. Another bridge comes into view R at the track junction but keep heading to the bridge L. This is numbered very faintly in white paint No. 28.



Walk under the bridge and go through a metal brideway gate, the church of St Peter, Wolfhamcote comes into view R. Follow the churchyard wall R to join the track and turn L. Go past the cottage L and Hall R. Continue on the track through the gap in the fence and at the track fork keep straight on heading toward the dismantled railway line bridge. Look out for barges on the canal R.

Follow the track bearing R and cross over Canal bridge No. 98. At this point the canal goes L to Napton Junction and R to Braunston. Stay on the track following the line of telegraph poles that switch L to R at the pond L and gateway. Looking straight ahead on the track you can see the spire of St. Peters, Grandborough, framed by two Wellingtonia trees.



GR Letterbox, Sawbridge

Keep following the track through a series of metal field gates until you reach Gate Farm. Continue on the track passing a phone box L and letterbox on a post R to join the main Sawbridge Road. Turn R. At the junction signposted Grandborough straight on turn R toward Willoughby. *It is possible at this point to shorten the walk by following the main road back to Grandborough.*

Turn L through the gap by the wooden field gate and cross the V stile with concrete block under to enter the field. Keep the hedgerow R and go into the next field through a fenced gap and over a wooden stile.

Continue past the small brick building R and across the next field. Cross the double wooden stile and bear R across the field (heading toward the high point). Cross the wooden bridge and stiles with metal handrail across and continue straight across parallel to the broken hedgerow L. Cross the two wooden stiles through the hedgerow and continue bearing slightly R to cross a double wooden stile into the next field.

Head straight on towards the power pole ahead and spire of St. Peters beyond. Follow the hedgerow L to go through a metal kissing gate onto a track. Turn L, go through the wooden gate and follow the track to exit onto Church Road via a metal gate. Turn R and then L along The Lane (opposite Gerona). Arrive at the Shoulder of Mutton, back in Grandborough with the Parish Council notice board L.

