

# Grandborough Walk 3

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OS Explorer 222

A circular walk of approx 13 km (8.1 miles) R = Right, L = Left.  
Allow between 3.5 – 4 hours. This walk can get very muddy.



Standing with the Shoulder of Mutton Inn behind you and the Parish Council notice board L, turn L (onto Sawbridge Road). Opposite the Village hall, take the private road to Grange Farm. R. After approx. 25m turn R through the wooden kissing gate to follow the track through the wooded area behind the houses in Hockley Close. At the metal kissing gate go diagonally L across the field; past the fence enclosed pond to the metal field gate R (toward the speed limit signs).

Exit the field onto Grandborough Fields road via the metal kissing gate and enter the field opposite using the wooden stile. Follow the fence R and cross into the next field over the stream using the wooden sleeper bridge and metal kissing gate.

Head across the field toward the 2nd gap from L in the hedgerow. It is possible to see the top of the stile that you are heading for over the rise in the field or it will come into view as you cross the field. Go diagonally R across the next field heading toward the open field shelter.

Cross the wooden stiles and sleeper bridge onto the farm track belonging to Watergall Farm. Cross the yard area to the metal field gate and gap R in the fence ahead. Continue through a metal gate in a wooden fence and then continue across the field to the two wooden stiles in the hedgerow.

Cross the next field heading slightly R toward the metal rails, crossing into the next field using the V stile, and wooden bridge combination. Go straight across the field and cross over the wooden stile. Follow the fence L. Looking straight ahead is the pleasant looking 3 tier stable building belonging to Woodbine Farm. Cross the wooden stile R by the metal field gate, bear slightly R to the metal gate in the wooden fence ahead. Staying R of the farm buildings, head towards the metal gate. Exit onto the road using the wooden decking bridge across the ditch.

Bear L along the road and just before the entrance to Woodbine Farm L, take the metal gate on the R. *It is possible at this point to shorten the walk by staying on the road, going past the Grandborough Fields road junction and picking up the walk again at point A.* If continuing, go straight across the field toward the L edge of the cluster of trees in the field corner R. Depending on the time of year you may have to also pass through a metal gate on the way i.e. if a temporary enclosure has been constructed across the route.



Cross the stile and wooden sleeper bridge with wooden rail and then head straight toward the farm buildings ahead. Continue straight across into the next field; crossing another pair of wooden stiles with wooden sleeper bridge in-between.



Bear R between the broken hedgerow and telegraph poles, heading toward Calcutt Elms Farm. Go through the metal field gate framed by two upright wooden sleeper posts. Follow the track between the house R and outbuilding L, continuing to the wooden field gate.

Stay on the track, passing through another field gate and past Ellis Farm L. Further on, the track bears R and then L past Sheep Wash pools and beehives L. Continue on the track until you reach a double wooden stile R; signpost indicating

No public right of way in front of it. Using the telegraph pole in the field as a bearing (Pole number 7820705), head across the field with pond R and farm buildings L. Continue past the fenced paddock area to the field corner heading toward the red brick barn building in the distance. As you cross, on the L is the elevated disused railway embankment and underfoot is the site of the medieval village of Caldecote (Caldcote on map).

Cross the two wooden stiles onto the road and bear L going past Barn Meadow Farm and Ventnor Farm Marina R. At the gated entrance to Calcutt Farm and Calcutt Elms Farm follow the road R over the disused railway bridge (No. 38).

Follow the track past the house R to go through the metal gate onto the bridleway at the end of the track. Follow the fence and hedgerow R. Continue to the 3rd metal gate.





*It is possible at this point to shorten the walk by continuing on the bridleway to join the farm track . Keep L to the track end. Here there are two options. 1. Go straight ahead over the wooden stile to drop down onto the canal towpath at point B or 2. Turn L onto the track toward the house and where the path bears R, continue over the wooden stile, follow the hedgerow L, over the footbridge to join the main walk at point C.*

If continuing, turn R at the 3rd metal gate, go through the metal kissing gate and over the wooden sleeper bridge to join the footpath. Follow the hedgerow R. Straight ahead in the distance is the village of Napton on the Hill. At the broken hedgerow line bear R through the metal kissing gate and go up the steps to join the canal towpath at Calcutt Top Lock.

Canal View

Turn L along the Grand Union Canal towards Napton Junction. On the R, across the other side of the canal are Napton Reservoirs. Continue under bridge No. 17. Ahead is Wigram Turn Marina and the canal directional signpost. Turn L heading towards Braunston, joining the Oxford Canal Walk.

Go under the A425 at Bridge 108 (Nimrod Bridge). Go back under the A425 at Bridge 107 and continue, bearing R along the towpath. As the towpath straightens out, Lower Shuckburgh church comes into view R (St. John Baptist).

The official exit is L (*Shortened walk point B*), soon after the brick canal bridge (107) slightly up a stepped rise to join a track but it is possible to continue to the white metal footbridge over the canal (Number 105, built in 1934) and get a closer view of the church. Turn L at the bridge to join the footpath coming from Lower Shuckburgh at the base of the footbridge steps.

Follow the fence R and cross the wooden stile. Cut across the corner of the next field; ignore the metal gate R and continue to the corner of the field. Cross over the V stile and wooden slatted bridge with metal pole handrail (*Shortened walk point C*).

Cross the field heading toward the lone tree in the hedgerow straight ahead. As you cross the field, in the distance R you can see the trig. point at the top of Bush Hill. Straight ahead in the distance is the elevated ridge line at Barby.



St. John Baptist Church

Cross the wooden stile, follow the hedgerow **L** past the pond **R** and join the bridleway at the metal field gate. Note that the gate is just out of sight when you start to cross the field. Go through the wooden gate and go diagonally across the field to the corner, heading toward the tree line. Go through the wooden gate and continue on to the metal gate with wooden bridge across the stream.

Bear **L** following the hedgerow **R**. At a break in the hedgerow after approx. 260m at the signpost turn **R** to pick up the track. Go through the wooden gate and along the elevated track over disused railway. Continue on the track past Honey Glen (The Cottage on map) and High House Farm **L**.

Immediately after the track **L** to The Bungalow, turn **L** through the metal kissing gate. Looking **R** of the track is an ageing wooden bridge across the stream. Follow the hedgerow **L** and continue into the next field using a metal gate and wooden sleeper bridge. Go past the pole barn and through a metal gate into the next field. Continue straight on with hedgerow **L** to the field corner then turn **R** and follow the stream **L**. Go through the metal field gate, past the small wooded copse **R** and into the next field using the wooden bridge and metal gate. Continue, keeping stream and hedgerow **L**. Straight ahead, St. Peters Church, Grandborough comes into view; framed by two Wellingtonia trees.

Exit onto the main road by two metal gates and go straight across into the field opposite by the wooden stile (*shortened route point A*). Keeping the hedgerow and fence **L** go past a wire fenced pond **R**. The route is now running parallel to Grandborough Fields Road **L**. The wooden bridge and stiles into the next field are **L** of the field gate opening but less used than the opening itself.

Continue across the field. Go through two metal gates and over the slanting wooden bridge to cross the stream. Continue on, keeping fence and hedgerow **R**. Go through the metal kissing gate **R**, over the ditch and turn **L**. Follow the hedgerow **L**. Before reaching the corner of the field turn **L** over a wooden bridge into the wooded area. Turn **R** and go through the wood until you can exit into field over a bridge and through a metal kissing gate. Go diagonally **L** across the field to the stile situated by the 8th equi-spaced tree from the **L** corner of the field. Follow the track ahead past Grange Farm **R** back into Grandborough. Turn **L** at the end of the track to return to the Shoulder of Mutton.

