

How to get there: (SatNav - LE16 7RD) 14 miles south of Leicester, off the A6.

Car parking: There is a playing field car park adjacent to the village hall and there is limited parking facing the church. Park considerately in side roads or use the Pay and Display car park at the picnic site on the Gumley Road.

Public transport: Service 44 Market Harborough to Fleckney to Foxton every hour. See <http://traveline.info/> or phone 0871 200 22 33

Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer 223 Northampton and Market Harborough

Route: A lovely mix of canal towpath then hilly pasture land. 1 mile canal towpath then gradually uphill to Gumley over pastureland, returning over similar terrain to the canal, then half mile back to Foxton along metalled track. The walk is pleasantly varied offering good views over the Leicestershire countryside. The route does a figure of eight so you can miss out Smeeton Hill and make it 3 miles

Refreshments: Pubs at Foxton and Gumley and a café at Foxton Locks.



Items of interest Foxton Locks, a unique staircase of ten locks. You can pause to see the boats going through the locks and visit the museum if you wish when you reach the canal wharf.



Cross bridge number 62 to reach the staircase of locks on the far side of the wharf. If you have children with you do please pay attention to the warning sign about deep water and strong currents.



You will find toilet facilities at the Locks Car Park and refreshments are available at the shop, open 364 days a year, next to the pub “Bridge 61”

To visit the museum, follow the signs. The museum is housed in the former boiler house of the Inclined Plane Boat Lift sited between the two flights of five locks.

The walk:



If you have parked at the village Hall turn left and follow the road round to join Main Street, cross the road just below the hump back bridge and continue straight. If parking near Foxton church (very limited number of spaces) walk about 100yds down the road to cross the bridge over the canal, then turn left.

Join the Leicestershire Round footpath (marked) and walk for three quarters of a mile along the towpath, with the canal on your left, to the wharf at Foxton Locks and the junction with the Grand Union Canal.



Keep the canal on your left until you reach Bridge 63, a high and narrow footbridge. Turn left to cross the bridge then through the gate, and continue in the same direction, away from the canal and west, towards Gumley.

The church spire is in the wooded hill ahead, slightly to your right and the houses on the hill slightly to your left. Go through two fields, across a field track and another field, using the gates.

Pass a small sewage treatment works on your right and through the gate straight ahead. Go diagonally across the field and through a further gate. Turn left to follow the ash trees uphill and join a passageway which leads onto the Gumley village street.



The Bell Inn lies to your left and the church to your right.
Turn right towards the church.



At the first bend in the road go straight ahead towards Gumley church, along the track, then take the footpath, keeping the church on your right.

Go through the kissing gate and make for the right hand corner of the field.



Cross the road to the footpath sign opposite and continue down the fields keeping close to the hedge on your right. There are splendid views from here with Saddington Reservoir visible ahead on your left and the gorse scrub of Smeeton Hill ahead.

At the foot of Smeeton Hill you leave the Leicestershire Round.....

Go through the gate but do not go up Smeeton Hill. Turn right and follow the hedge for about 25-30 paces. Go through two further gates. (This will take you back towards Gumley but via a different route.)

Follow the hedge on the right as it zig zags round the field and cross the stile into the next field. Here there is a dip in the land. Keep close to the hedge and continue along to another gate.

Turn left into a grassy tree lined track to reach the Gumley Road. Cross the road and continue on the marked footpath until you reach another road. Cross this and a stile into the field and then walk diagonally across to the left-hand corner of Gumley Wood.

Follow the edge of the wood closely until you come to a gate. Cross a further two fields (two gates) and finally the field with the line of ash trees that led you into Gumley village.

Cross the field and once again follow the line of ash trees up to the village's main street. The route from Gumley continues straight ahead on the bridleway on the opposite side of the road. (The Bell Inn lies to your left. You might like to stop here before continuing!)

From Gumley the signposted bridleway leads you between houses. Go through the bridlegate into the high open field. Keep close to the hedge on your right.

Go through bridle gates into a field which slopes steeply downhill. Go down the sunken Holloway to your right which takes you to the left-hand corner of a small lake hidden in trees (The Mot), also on your right. Go through another gate and bear slightly left over the next field keeping to the hedge on the right. Cross a farm track and head towards Gumley Lodge.

Go straight through the bridle gate (a sign states "Pass straight ahead") to an avenue of trees. Follow the drive as it bends right until you meet the road.

Turn left along the road for about 550 yards. At the bridleway sign turn right to cut off the corner to the next road. Cross this road. The Top Lock Cottage, a white building, stands on raised ground ahead and to the right.

Follow the hedge on your left at first and then continue, bearing slightly right, through the long field and along a short track to the foot of the locks.

Cross over the canal by the bridge and continue straight ahead, past the pub "Foxton Locks Inn", the car park on your right and a tarmac road, turning right onto the bridleway back to the main road through Foxton. Turn left to return to the church.

