

How to get there ([SatNav – Gumley LE16 7RU](#)) The walk could be started from either village. They lie south-east of Leicester, between the A50 and the A6. They can be reached via Fleckney or Kibworth and Smeeton Westerby.

Car parking On main village street only. Use care and consideration for others.

Public transport [Service 44 Market Harborough to Fleckney serves Saddington every 2 hours. See <http://traveline.info/> or phone 0871 200 22 33](#)

Map [Ordnance Survey Explorer 233 Leicester and Hinckley](#)

Route Quite steepish hills across lovely pasture land with beautiful views then a quiet reservoir lane.

Refreshment The Queens Head pub in Saddington has excellent views from its garden over the reservoir valley. The church serves teas on Sunday afternoons in the summer. The Bell at Gumley serves good food.

Items of interest Saddington reservoir, popular with anglers and water birds.

Gumley is built on a lovely site. There was a settlement here in Mercian times. The Mercian kings met at Gumley in 749 and 775 AD The Church was rebuilt 1759. Gumley Hall, built by Joseph Cradock in 1764, has now gone. Cradock was a friend of Dr Johnson and the actor Garrick. He spared no expense on the house and built a private theatre in it but ran into debt and was forced to sell it. He died modestly aged 84. Only the stable block remains, now converted into housing. The woods are one of Hanbury's plantations. The Rev. William Hanbury (1725-1778), who became vicar of Church Langton in 1753 when he was 28, had already done gardens and plantations at Gumley and Tur Langton. He believed there could be large profits from scientific tree planting. At Gumley the plantation was for several years the local tourist attraction. The gales of 1756 "blasted the tops of my elms and ashes."

The walk *From Gumley, pass close to the church on your right and go through the spinney. Cross the open field near two magnificent beeches to the far corner. Cross the road and walk close to the hedge on your right, downhill for three fields towards Smeeton Gorse hill and then uphill close to the fencing on your left.*

From the top of the hill you have fine views all round. Smeeton Hill farm lies over to your right. The path crosses the open corner of the field, near the gorse. Move slightly right to continue along the hill side, close to a hedge on your right.

When the hedge ends, keep in the same direction and cross into the corner of a huge ploughed field with a little brick barn in the middle of it. Follow the hedge on your left to the next waymarked stile, slightly to your right, and walk downhill close to the hedge on your right. Continue downhill to cross the footbridges over the streams (from Saddington reservoir on your left). Go straight uphill to Saddington village.

Cross the concrete cartbridge and move slightly left up the steep hill to reach the crossing by a big ash tree halfway along the little field ahead. Go up the middle of this small field and join the hedged path up the left side. This leads to Saddington village street opposite the old Baptist chapel.

At the Baptist chapel turn left through Saddington village, passing the Queens Head pub on your left. At the church turn left down a short lane, close to the church on your right. Go through Manor farm and continue on the farm track to meet the Mowsley Road.

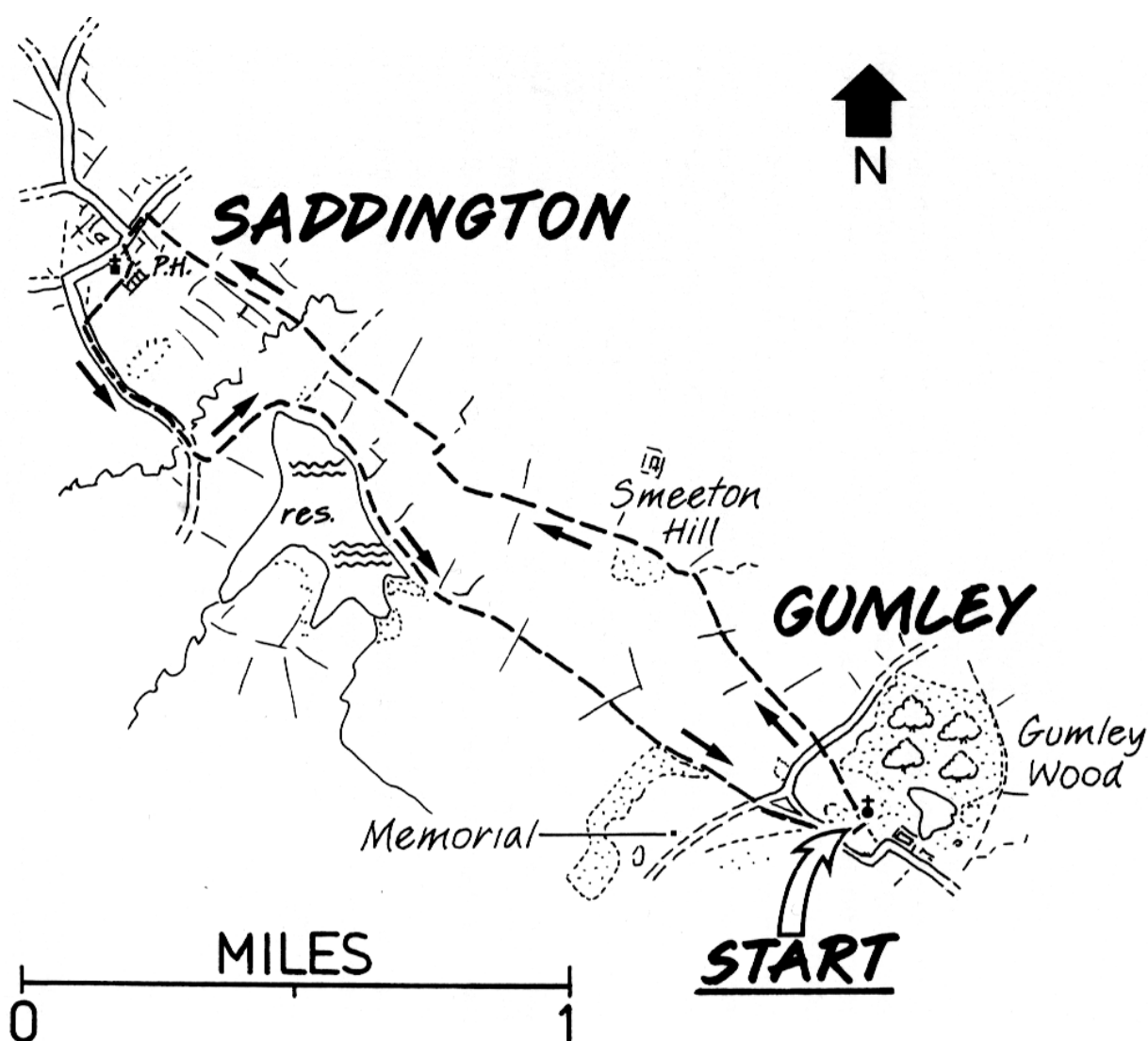
Turn left and walk downhill on the road.....

Turn left and walk downhill on the road. Cross the stream and turn left onto the lane signposted to Gumley. This lane leads you past the reservoir on your right and eventually rises steeply uphill past Holloway spinney.

At the top of the hill pass a trig point on your right. Gumley war memorial lies to your right, overlooking the village cricket field.

Continue straight ahead on the road into Gumley. (Lovely views to your right over hilly parkland.) The church lies in woods to your left. You can follow the little waymarked path which goes close to the church or continue on the road, to pass the old weighbridge on your right.

Geoff Martin. "The outward route is hilly, with lots of stiles. The Saddington reservoir return lane is very easy. Both are very pleasant."



A walk from **32 Short Circular Walks** based on The Leicestershire Round
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