

How to get there Saddington ([SatNav – LE8 0QH](#)) is south east of Leicester. Turn off the A6 south at Kibworth and follow signs through Smeeton Westerby to Saddington.

Car parking There is no public car park. Use the roadside in a tidy and considerate way.

Public transport [Service 49B Leicester to Fleckney hourly, join walk from Arnesby Road.](#)
See <http://traveline.info/> or phone 0871 200 22 33

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

Route The Leicestershire Round from Saddington to Shearsby then through undulating pastoral countryside, skirting Fleckney.

Refreshment The Queens Head Pub at Saddington, The Chandlers Arms at Shearsby, The Cock Inn at Arnesby all provide food and drink for thirsty walkers. The Dog and Gun at Fleckney is just off our route, at the end of Arnesby Road. Tea and cakes are served in Saddington church on Sunday afternoons in summer. Jacqui's tea shop is one mile from Saddington on the road to Mowsley.

Items of interest Saddington, views over the reservoir from the pub car park.
Shearsby thatched house a 17th century half timbered yeoman's house.
Arnesby Mill now a private dwelling.
Churches and interesting graveyards in the various villages.

The walk *From Saddington church walk along Main Street, passing the Queens Head pub on your right. At the road junction go straight ahead but turn left by the old Baptist chapel and follow the narrow walled lane. Continue through the farm yard, joining the farm track which swings left to meet the Saddington-Fleckney road. Cross into the field on the opposite side of the road. Walk with the hedge on your right. When you are about halfway along, turn right, over the three-stiled crossing and make for a large pond with bushes round it, in the middle of the big field.*

Pass the pond on your right and go through the gate ahead. (The village beyond is Fleckney.) Continue as if towards Fleckney Lodge for a few yards only, then turn sharp left, in the middle of the field, before the telegraph wires. Join the bridleway and keep close to the hedge on your right. Continue in this direction in the next field, with the hedge now on your left all the way to the road.

When you reach the road go straight ahead, towards Arnesby and Leicester, for about 200 yards. Turn left at the Leics Round sign before you reach Rose Farm. Follow the hedge on your left. Cross two stiles and then move diagonally right downhill over ridge and furrow. Cross the stile by a big stone horse trough.

Pass a hidden pond on your left and move slightly right, down the sloping field. Keep in the same direction in the next two fields, cutting across the field corners. Cross the cartbridge over the stream and turn right. Go gradually uphill to the top left corner of the field aiming for the big farm sheds.

Continue close to the hedge on your left, and go through New Inn Farm yard (usually mucky underfoot) to meet the A50 Welford Road. (The house opposite was formerly the New Inn!) Turn left along the road and then turn right into Shearsby.

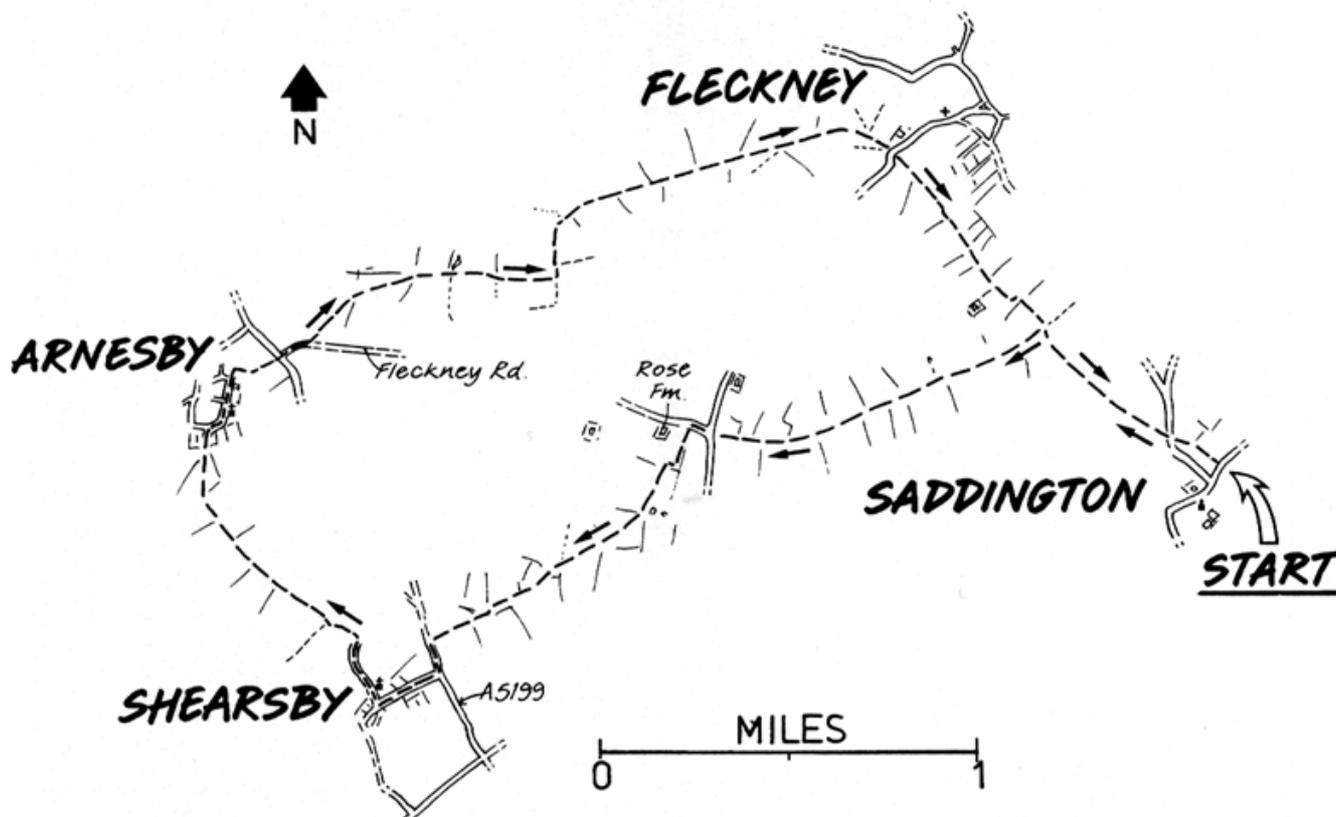
From Shearsby go to the end of Church Lane (passing the church on your right) and join the signposted footpath. Walk with the hedge on your left, cross the footbridge and turn right to follow the bank of the stream for a short distance. Cross a stile and turn left to head up over the brow of the hill. The stile is hidden in the far right corner of the field. The footpath is then well defined into Arnesby. It follows the hedge on the right and then goes through a short green lane and continues close to the hedge on the right.

Follow the road through Arnesby, passing the church on your right. When you reach an open green, turn right to follow the footpath which goes between the thatched house and a house named, rather curiously, 'Sea View'. Join the farm track to meet the A50 Welford Road. Cross with care and continue in the same direction along the road to Fleckney immediately opposite. After about 200 paces along this road turn left onto the footpath. Cross the first field diagonally. (The rounded cleft hill ahead on the distant horizon is Billesdon Coplow.)

At the end of the field turn right, keeping the hedge on your left. Pass to the right of an area of bushes surrounding a pit and go downhill to cross a small footbridge. The next stile is a short distance uphill. Cross it and go straight ahead. The next hedge is out of sight until you cross over the brow of the hill. Turn left when you reach the end of the field and walk with the hedge on your right until you meet a handgate. (Ignore the stile in the hedge.) Keep close to the hedge on your right as you go through the next field. The bridle route to Fleckney is now well defined. Follow it until you meet the Arnesby Road.

Cross Arnesby Road, Fleckney, and join the footpath a few yards to your right on the opposite side. This passes the rear of various properties. Pass a small recreation ground (suitable for a short break). Continue past Fleckney Lodge on your right. After a short distance meet a gate with a notice saying 'Private Road'. Cross the awkward fence just to the right of the gate. Continue in the same general direction but move very slightly left to rejoin the Leicestershire Round, keeping the hedge on your left for half a mile in a straight line back to Saddington, where the walk began.

Colin Hames. Our foolproofer says: "I was surprised how pleasant this walk is. Leave time to explore the villages!"



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