

**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](#)

**Refreshment** Pubs at Foxton and Gumley and cafe 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 here and refreshments are available at the shop, open 364 days a year, and the pub which is aptly named "Bridge 61". To visit the museum take the track to the right just beyond the pub. 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** *From Foxton church walk the few yards down the road to cross the bridge over the canal. Turn left to join the Leicestershire Round footpath 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 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.*

*Pass to the left of a small sewage treatment works and cross the stile on your right. Go diagonally across the field to cross another stile. 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, through the kissing gate, then take the footpath at the left hand side of the church. 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, the village of Smeeton Westerby on your right, and the gorse scrub of Smeeton Hill ahead.*

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

At the foot of Smeeton Hill you leave the Leicestershire Round. Cross the stile but do not go up Smeeton Hill. Turn right and follow the hedge for about 30 paces. Cross the stile on your right. (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 go over the double stile on your right. Keep in this direction to the end of the field. Cross the stiled footbridge. Turn left into a grassy tree lined track to reach the Gumley Road. Turn right and walk along the road to cross the road junction into the field and over to the left hand corner of Gumley Wood. Follow the edge of the wood closely until you come to a stile, which takes you into 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 pub lies to your left. You might like to stop here before continuing!)

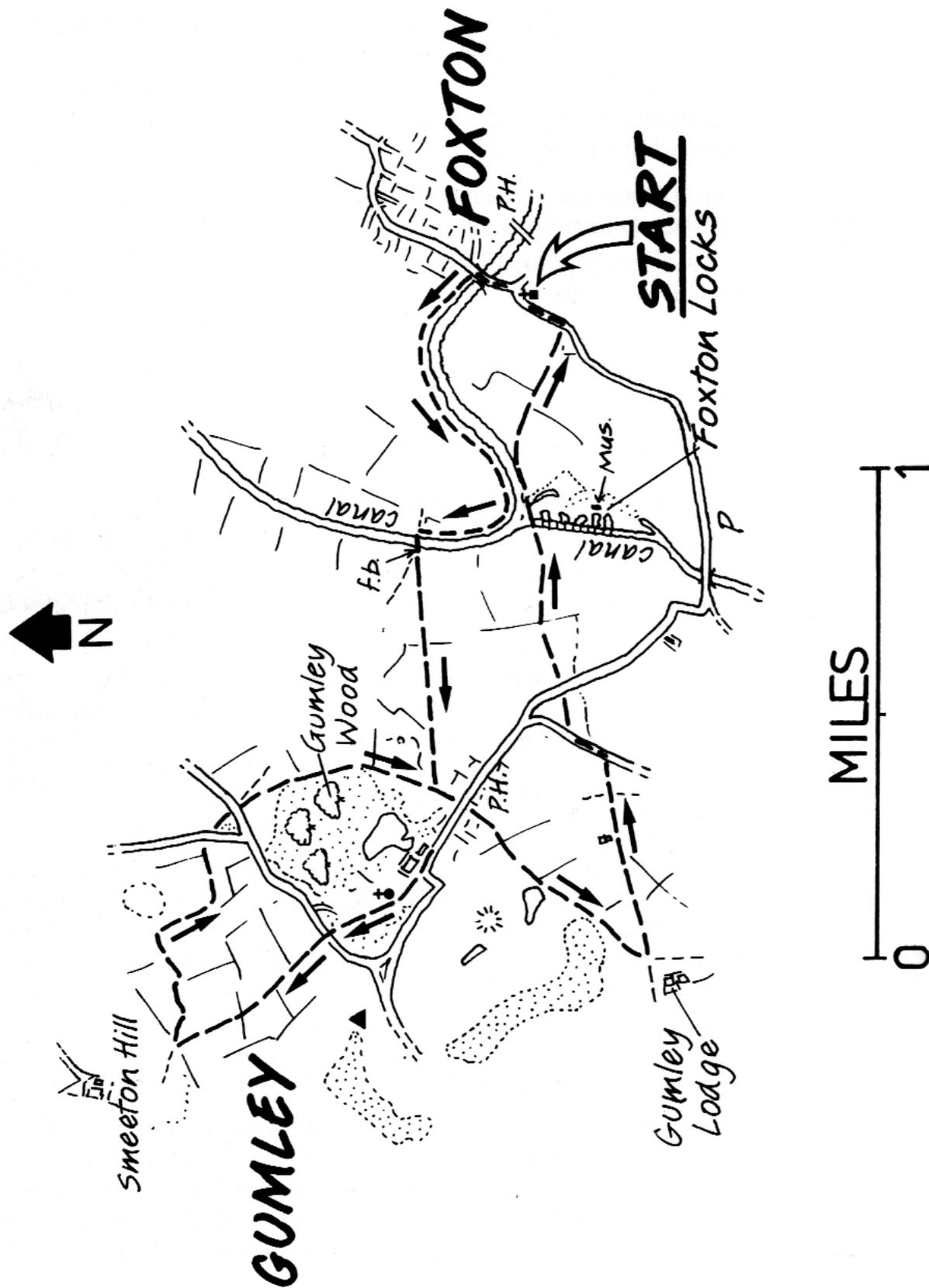
From Gumley the signposted bridleway leads you between houses. Go through the bridlegate into the high open field. Keep close to the hedge on your right, following the blue waymarks. Go through bridle gates into a field which slopes steeply downhill. Go down the sunken holloway which takes you to the left hand corner of a small lake hidden in trees (The Mot). Bear slightly left over the next field keeping to the hedge on the right. Cross a farm track and head towards Gumley Lodge.

Turn left at the bridle gate, leaving Gumley Lodge on your right. Follow the hedge to meet the drive to Gumley Lodge. Do not follow the drive as it bends right but take the grassy path ahead. Cross the stream and keep close to the hedge on your left until you meet the road.

Turn left along the road for about 50 yards. At the bridleway sign turn right to cut off the corner to the next road. Cross this road. The Foxton Locks Museum 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 shop and the pub following the metalled track, back to the main road through Foxton. Turn left to return to the church.

*Gillian Smith. "Stop at the Foxton Locks wharf on your way back, to reflect on this very pleasant walk before you follow the metalled track and road back to Foxton church."*



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