

1 The Lakes and Grand Union Canal

An easy walk of about 2 miles [3.3k] which will take about 1 hour. Out of the village the route is on footpaths across fields to the River Nene and along the towpath of the Grand Union canal. The footpaths and the towpath might be muddy and slippery in wet conditions as will be the few stiles that have to be crossed.

There are two possible variations to the route, which are described, and only one adds anything to the distance, but they both provide more interest by river and canal.

Directions.

Starting from the entrance to the **Brodie Lodge Playing Field** walk along the tarmac footpath [signed Spring Lane] to Bricketts Lane and the **Flore Church of England School**. Then turn L and walk the short distance to go through the churchyard of **All Saints' Parish church**.

Follow the well trodden footpath [part of the Nene Way and the Macmillan Way] across the field to the **River Nene** and cross the footbridge. Locally this part of the river valley is known as the Lakes. Walk across the corner of the next field to a smaller wooden footbridge across a ditch, and then turn R and continue alongside the ditch as far as the field gate by Clarke Bros' Garage on the A5.

Here there are 2 possible variations to the route, see descriptions at end.

At the garage do not go through the field gates; turn sharp L and go diagonally across the field on a footpath to the opposite hedge, where there is a stile. Climb over and continue in the same direction across this next field to a stile in the top far corner by the **Grand Union Canal**. Then on

the canal towpath, turn L and walk to the next bridge [no. 26] where you leave the canal and walk down the lane to **Flore Mill** [look out for the llamas and donkeys] and across the **River Nene** again to finish in the village.

There are two possible variations to route the last of which adds about 1km or ½ mile to the total distance .

*[1] By Clarke Bros' Garage walk to the main road and then turn L. Go across the front of the garage and continue up the road to the canal bridge by the **Narrow Boat PH**. At the bridge go down the steps to the canal towpath, turn L and walk along the canal, passing by Stowe Hill boat yard and the overflow weir [where the route above joins the canal] and continue as far as the next bridge, [no.26] where you leave the canal and go back to Flore as described.*

*[2] By Clarke Bros' Garage cross the A5 road with care to the road opposite and then go left along a farm track to the canal bridge [it's adjacent to a railway bridge over the West Coast Main Line]. Go down the steps to the canal towpath and turn L; walk under the bridge and then continue along the towpath [part of the Grand Union Canal Walk] passing beneath the A5 by the **Narrow Boat PH** and walking to the next bridge, no.26, where you leave the canal and return to Flore as described.*