

## 2 Glassthorpe Hill

A circular walk of about 4½ miles [7.5k] which will take about 2 hours.

The walk is mostly on footpaths and tracks across fields which may be muddy and slippery in wet conditions and there are a number of stiles.

In some fields there are likely to be cattle and/or sheep, so take care and please keep any dogs on leads.

### Directions.

On the **High Street** on the Northampton side of the **King's Lane/ Brington Road** crossroads, opposite no 72 High Street, look for the footpath sign and a flight of steps up to a stile. Go up the steps and over the stile into a paddock; then walk ahead to the corner and turn R through a gap in the hedge into the next field. Walk diagonally across it and go through another gap in the hedge, turning R and walking along the edge of the field to the corner and the next stile. [This one is awkward!] From here the M1 is now visible. Then continue in the next field and walk beneath the overhead power lines to reach the corner by the M1 embankment, where there is a hand gate leading to a tunnel beneath the motorway.

Go through the tunnel and a short distance to another hand gate. Then almost immediately veering to the right, go into a plantation and follow the footpath along the side of a brook, continuing as far as the end of the plantation, where there is a footbridge over the brook. Go across this and walk through a small thicket; then turn L, go over a ditch and through a hand gate into the corner of another field. Immediately turn R and walk alongside the hedge of the field towards a group of farm buildings. Go through a field gate into the farmyard and walk towards the left hand [outer] side of the barns onto a farm track. Go along this, passing all the buildings and then keep going straight ahead through another gate into a field and walk to the corner where, in the hedge, there is footbridge crossing

a ditch and then a stile. You emerge onto a good track and directly in front of you is **Glassthorpe Hill** which at 141m is the highest point in Flore Parish.

*From here there is an alternative route, which is a little longer and goes over the top Glassthorpe Hill. It is a fairly steep climb but worth the effort. See the post script.*

To continue turn L on the track [which is part of the Midshires Way] and walk along this gated road passing through four fields and by a wood, **New Covert**, to reach a bridge over a brook and the field, which was known as Frog Meadow. Go over the bridge and continue walking along the track for approximately another 100m where, in the field hedge to the left of the track, there is a stile and a footbridge over a ditch. Cross these and walk [the path is now part of the Macmillan Way] across the field to another hedgerow stile and footbridge; then turn L and go along the edge of the next field to a farm gate. Then turn R [towards the nearby Vicarage Farm] and walk a short distance to where, on the left, there is yet another stile and footbridge. Go over these and through a small copse and over a stile into the adjoining field. Continue in the same direction and cross the field to another stile where in front of you there are two fishing ponds. Go across the causeway between the ponds and cross a stile; then continue walking in the same direction across one field to another hedgerow stile. Then change direction slightly veering to the right, to reach a field gate and walk across the next field. In this the footpath dips down and passes between two small ponds before rising up to a stile in the corner of the field. Continue across this field [heading just to the left of a pylon] and pass beneath the power lines to go through a gap in the hedge and then diagonally to the corner of this field and exit onto **Brington Road**.

Turn L and walk over the M1 bridge along the road towards the village. About half way along the road you will see on the right a footpath sign and stile in the roadside hedge. Climb over this and walk across two fields to reach a stile in the corner by **Greens' Garage /petrol station** on the High

Street opposite the **White Hart** Public house.

*Postscript*      *A variation to the route described which adds ½ k to the distance and requires a short but fairly steep climb over Glassthorpe Hill. It's worth it for the views.*

*Cross the track [Midshires Way] below **Glassthorpe Hill** and [see footpath sign] walk straight ahead alongside the hedge, up to the corner of the field near the top of the hill. Go through a field gate. Continue over the top and then with **Glassthorpe Hill Farm** in view skirt L around the edge of the field above the farmhouse to reach a stile onto the lane, by the entrance to the farm. On the lane turn L and walk a short distance to a field gate, which is on the left and just off the lane and go into the field on a signed bridleway. Continue straight ahead along the hedge into a second field [from this ridge there are great views] Walk on about 100m until, on the left, you should see the hollow depression of an old cart track running downhill. Turn L and follow this down to a field gate; go through this then down the side of the next field to rejoin the track [Midshires Way] at the bottom of the hill and continue on the original route as described.*