

3 Flore Hill and Grand Union canal

This circular walk is about 4 miles [6.6k] and will take about two hours. It starts with a short distance along the busy main road out of the village, but then it is mostly on footpaths across fields and the canal towpath, which may be muddy and slippery in wet conditions. There are some stiles and steps.

Directions.

Walk out of Flore along the High Street towards Weedon Bec, passing the village **Millennium Sign** on the green at the top end of Spring Lane; continue past Bricketts Lane, The Avenue and then Hillside Road, going as far as no. 69 Flore Hill where [opposite] there is a footpath signpost. To access the footpath, go over a stile by the gates to No. 69 and then walk alongside the fence to a point by the side of the house, where the path turns sharp R to go through a small paddock [look out for the geese] to a corner where there is an awkward stile. Climb this into the adjacent field, and head slightly right for a short distance across the field to a gate on the track to **Flore Hill Farm**. [The buildings are close by on the right]. Go across the track and the adjacent field, straight down to a hedge and stile. Climb over this, turn R and walk to a makeshift gate in the corner of the field, then continue straight across the middle of the next field to a gap in the far hedge. Go through this and walk along the headland of this field, towards a derelict red brick barn. From the barn the footpath goes [to the left] diagonally across the field down to the opposite corner, where there is a footbridge over the **Whilton Brook**. Go over this and across the narrow field to a stile, which is in the hedge on the side of the A5 road. [note. After crossing the brook there is, a short distance away to the left, off the pathway, opposite a water

recording station, another stile in the hedge alongside the A5, and although there is no public right of way this position on the verge of the A5 is a safer place with better visibility to cross the road]

The A5 is busy with fast moving traffic so cross over this road with great care to go onto Dodford Lane opposite, and then walk the short distance to the canal bridge. Going down the steps to the towpath turn L. Pass under the bridge and walk along the canal to **Weedon Bec**, (where there are shops, hotels, pubs and restaurant/takeaways which can be accessed at several points from the canal). To continue, stay on the towpath and walk through Weedon passing a boatyard and then **Weedon Wharfe** and go as far as the next canal bridge [No 25].

At this point there are two variations to the route which are described at the end.

To continue with the route above climb the steps to the track, turn L and walk down the track to its junction with the A5 road. Cross again, with care, to a footpath on the opposite side by Clarke Bros' garage. Walk down by the side of the garage to a field gate, and then follow the footpath [now part of the Nene Way] alongside a stream to a wooden footbridge. Cross this and go across to the corner of the field and another footbridge spanning the **River Nene**. Then walk straight up the field on a well trodden path to **All Saints' Parish Church** and go through the Churchyard onto The Avenue by **Flore Church of England School**.

Variations to route above.

*[1] The surface crossing of the A5 can be avoided as follows.
At bridge No. 25 continue along the towpath passing beneath the A5*

by the **Narrow Boat PH** and go as far as an overflow weir where there is a stile and a footpath which goes across two fields to Clarke Bros' Garage, from where the route is as described.

[2] From the overflow weir continue along the canal to the next bridge, No. 27. From here walk up to the road and proceed down the lane and cross the River Nene by **Flore Mill** to reach the Brodie Lodge playing Field and the village .

Both these variations will add about 1k or 1/2 mile to the distance.