

4 Flore Fields

This circular walk is about 4 1/2 miles [7.5k] long and will take about 2 1/2 hours. It begins and ends with some road walking but in between the route is on footpaths across fields and tracks, all of which may be muddy in wet conditions. There are a few stiles and steps.

Directions.

From the **High Street**, opposite the **Shop/Post office**, walk up Brockhall Road passing over the M1 and going as far as a sharp L hand bend. Here is Flore Fields' Lodge and a drive which leads to Flore Fields' House. A signpost and a stile mark the beginning of the path. Go over the stile and walk across the field alongside the fence/hedge and then a wall by the side of **Flore Fields' House**. **Butlin's Farm** is now to the left. Cross a stile and walk straight on through the farm past the barns and out to another stile.

Continue along the footpath by the field hedge and then alongside a plantation; continue across the next field and go L around a corner still walking alongside the field hedge to reach a track. Here, before turning L to continue the walk, pause and cross onto a bridge over the Whilton Brook, where in a coping stone on one of the parapet walls there is an interesting inscription. On the wall of the bridge, [facing upstream] the following inscription can be seen.

'In commemoration of the wedding of HRH The Prince of Wales to Lady Diana Spencer on July 29th 1981'.

This area is part of the Althorp [Spencer] Estate.

Return to the track [a bridleway] and walk along it, passing by Whilton Spinney until you reach its junction with Brockhall Road. Cross over and walk straight on along the road signed 'A5 and Dodford'.

After about 1/4 mile the road crosses over the M1 and a short distance beyond this a signpost indicates a footpath on the left. Leave the road and go through a belt of trees and down a flight of steps.

At the bottom, go into a field and follow the footpath [keeping parallel to the M1] before crossing a ditch and continuing in the same direction up to the edge of the field and **Broamenthill Spinney**, where there is a stile. Climb over this and follow the path through the wood, veering diagonally L to emerge in a field adjacent to the motorway. Turn R away from the M1 and walk along the edge of the wood a short distance to its corner.

Here there is a variation to the route which is described at the end.

Turn R and go through the field hedge onto the end of a farm track.

Here turn L and walk away from the wood to the end of the track, where it becomes a surfaced road. Here it passes between buildings on both sides, Hobhill Barn and Collins' Hill Farm, and becomes Hillside Road. Continue to its junction with the A45 on Flore Hill and walk back into the village.

A variation to the above route .

At the corner of Broamenthill Spinney turn L and walk straight across to the corner of the field, to reach the hedge bordering the M1. Then go along the path by the hedge to reach Brockhall Road by the M1 bridge. From here walk turn R and go back into the village.