

FLORE WALK 6 – TEXT DESCRIPTION AND DIRECTIONS

The text below is in 11 numbered paragraphs. On the accompanying map there are 11 points marked.

The 11 points on the map show in each case the starting point in relation to the 11 text paragraphs, below.

- 1) From Flore Post Office and Convenience Store walk down Sutton Street to the T-junction at the bottom. Turn right here, and then follow the road to the right and then left into the Brodie Lodge Playing field. Walk down the field towards the container at the bottom, and to the left of the container you will find a chicane in the hedgerow. Pass through the chicane, turn right and then left over the stone and brick bridge in front of Flore Mill and then follow the road (which is called Nether Lane). At the end of the lane there is a bridge over the Grand Union canal. Cross the bridge and you will then encounter a T-junction.
- 2) Go straight ahead. Take care in crossing the road. Traffic is light but some drivers travel too fast. Go through the kissing gate in the field boundary, turn slightly right and follow the ancient raised cart track which runs across the field and slightly uphill. Follow the path shown on the map until you arrive at the field boundary where there is a tree and a stile. Cross the next field until you are adjacent to the farm which you will see on your left. There is also a brick-built tower here, which is a vent for the railway tunnel beneath. Follow the path as it weaves around fences and hedges and descends to the footpath beside the A5 road. Walk south on the footpath until you see the lane to Stowe on the other side of the A5.
- 3) Cross the A5 road with care. It is a busy road and traffic tends to travel fast. Walk up the single-track lane until you reach a skewed T-junction with houses on your right. One of these has a notable garden filled with all sorts of statuary, signs, features and displays. At the T-junction turn slightly right and continue into the village of Church Stowe, passing the Old School House and reaching the war memorial on your left.
- 4) At this point you have a choice. See point 4 on the map. For a shorter walk you can turn right onto the Main Street towards the

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church which you will be able to see ahead of you and you can then resume the walk at point 7. Alternatively you may turn left at point 4 and follow the track to the Old Dairy Farm at Upper Stowe. Here you will find a fine village tea-shop, a model railway exhibition and various small shops and businesses, most of them associated with arts and crafts of various sorts.

- 5) Assuming you have visited the Old Dairy Farm you should now make your way to the Upper Stowe village High Street and turn right onto the country lane. Follow this until you find a footpath on your right-hand side crossing a field.
- 6) Turn onto the footpath and cross the field, and then turn right onto Church Stowe Main Street. Follow the road back into the village of Church Stowe and just before you reach the church with its handsome Lych Gate you will find a path going downhill parallel to the churchyard. You are now at Point 7.
- 7) Follow the track downhill to two gates which are set amongst hedges and trees. On your left side you will see a large artificial pond, almost a lake really. Follow the usually well-defined path across the field ahead of you. The path initially goes slightly uphill and then downhill towards a stream at the bottom of the field and a small wooden footbridge. This is Point 8 on the map.
- 8) Cross the footbridge (although you can pass the footbridge on the right-hand side), walk uphill to the field boundary and then turn right alongside the hedgerow. You will arrive at a small wooded area on your right and then a gate and bridges crossing the West Coast main railway line and the Grand Union Canal. Continue to follow the path keeping the field on your left and the sewage treatment works on your right.
- 9) When you get to the A5 road cross it directly (again taking great care in doing so), pass through the field gate to the left of Clark's Garage and then follow the hedgerow on your left until you reach a small wooden footbridge. Cross the footbridge and then walk to your right towards a second steel footbridge over the River Nene. Cross that bridge and walk on the well-defined track across the field towards Flore Church which you will be able to see clearly from the second footbridge. Walk through the steel railing kissing gate, through the churchyard and out via a second kissing gate onto the roadway in front of Flore C of E Primary School.

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- 10) Go to the right of the school buildings and walk up Brickett's Lane until you encounter Flore High Street.
- 11) Turn right onto Flore High Street and pass the entrance to Spring Lane, the Flore Village sign on its pole and other houses and cottages until you arrive back at your starting point.