

## Walks around Glenfield - walk 11 - Glenfield's Boundary

Possibly the longest truly local walk available without doubling back or repeating, this walk keeps as close as is possible to the boundary of Glenfield. This follows an old tradition of Walking or Beating the Bounds. Exactly where, why or when this was first done is lost in the mists or myths of time but in the days before maps it was a way of marking out the extent of a community or tribes land and looking for intruders.

In more recent centuries still prior to proper records, people were walked round these routes often led by the parish priest, spreading the knowledge of where they lived. If you want to follow this old ritual this walk is as near as we can get to it.

As it is a circular you can start from wherever you wish. We are starting from our Sports Ground giving us a parking facility if we organise such a communal walk.

There are numerous spurs which can be taken to get even nearer to the boundary but not able to be used as a continuous route. Inevitably in trying to keep close to the border some elements of the walk are not in the most attractive areas.

### *The Route*

Start along the path alongside Rothley Brook (accessed through the sports ground or from the A50 facing the petrol station). Follow this until it forks beside the underpass of the A46 then take the right fork up to Gynsill Lane. At this point you have strayed just into Anstey and if you crossed the road and continued along the path it is a dead end by a feature called Woodcock Well where there is evidence of an ancient Park Pale.

It also gets you to the boundary with the City.

Turn right if you do not want this side excursion, returning towards Glenfield where Stelle Way is another dead end getting close to the Anstey and Leicester borders. Next take Championship Way (the service road for County Hall) taking in the mature trees along the road. Walk past County Hall and back onto the A50 and with great care cross this road. Just past the border with the city there is a pedestrian refuge in the central reservation but alternatively you could go up to the hospital roundabout to cross with lights assistance.



Head back into Glenfield and turn left up Glenfield Frith Drive until you come to Clovelly Road. Take this to the left and where it bends back on itself there is another possible spur. Going up Torcross Close there is a path which crosses into the City but as there is no quick way back into Glenfield it cannot form part of our walk.

Continue round Clovelly till you can turn left up Victor Road and left again along Sports Road. This road dead-ends at the border but before reaching that, a right turn up Liberty Road keeps us circling Glenfield.

*(History note - The Balk and Sports Road are part of the original drovers trail along which produce was taken from the hamlet of Glenfield to the markets of Leicester. Less than 150 years ago this was the only 'road' to Leicester.)*

If you follow Liberty Road to the city boundary you can take Treaty Road to the right which is within Glenfield. At Tournament Road go left to just cross the border before turning right along Cranstone Crescent. The last few houses in this road are in Glenfield and a path goes through to Normandy Close but you are then forced away from the border.

To avoid this as you go along Cranstone Crescent turn left down Ibbetson Avenue and then right along Tatlow Road.

At the end of that road a path goes into the old golf course and going right, it follows exactly along the border passing through a copse of mature trees before meeting a bridleway from Somerset Drive.

The old golf course  
near Somerset Drive



Ignore this if still going round the border and carry straight on ignoring paths off including an entrance into the new housing estate. Do not take this, instead turn left up the path within the trees ignoring another exit into the housing. This last bit wanders in and out of the trees (*Fishley Belt*) and can be hard to find if overgrown.

There is an exit, not much more than a gap, taking you into the commercial area. As you exit there is a path to your left over a bridge which takes you through a nature area to link up with a way-marked footpath rising up the embankment onto Ratby Lane.

Climb this embankment and cross the road with care and there is a footpath facing you winding to your right through a hilly area (*Clanfelde Hills, named after the original name for Glenfield*). This goes towards the roundabout where the slip road to the A46 starts.

Cross that approach road where there is the pedestrian refuge then walk back towards Glenfield looking for a field gate on your left and a rough drive going behind Boden's large warehouse. Ahead of you there is an elevated bridge over Rothley Brook which you cross and then go left along the track to turn right up a footpath the near side of the A46.

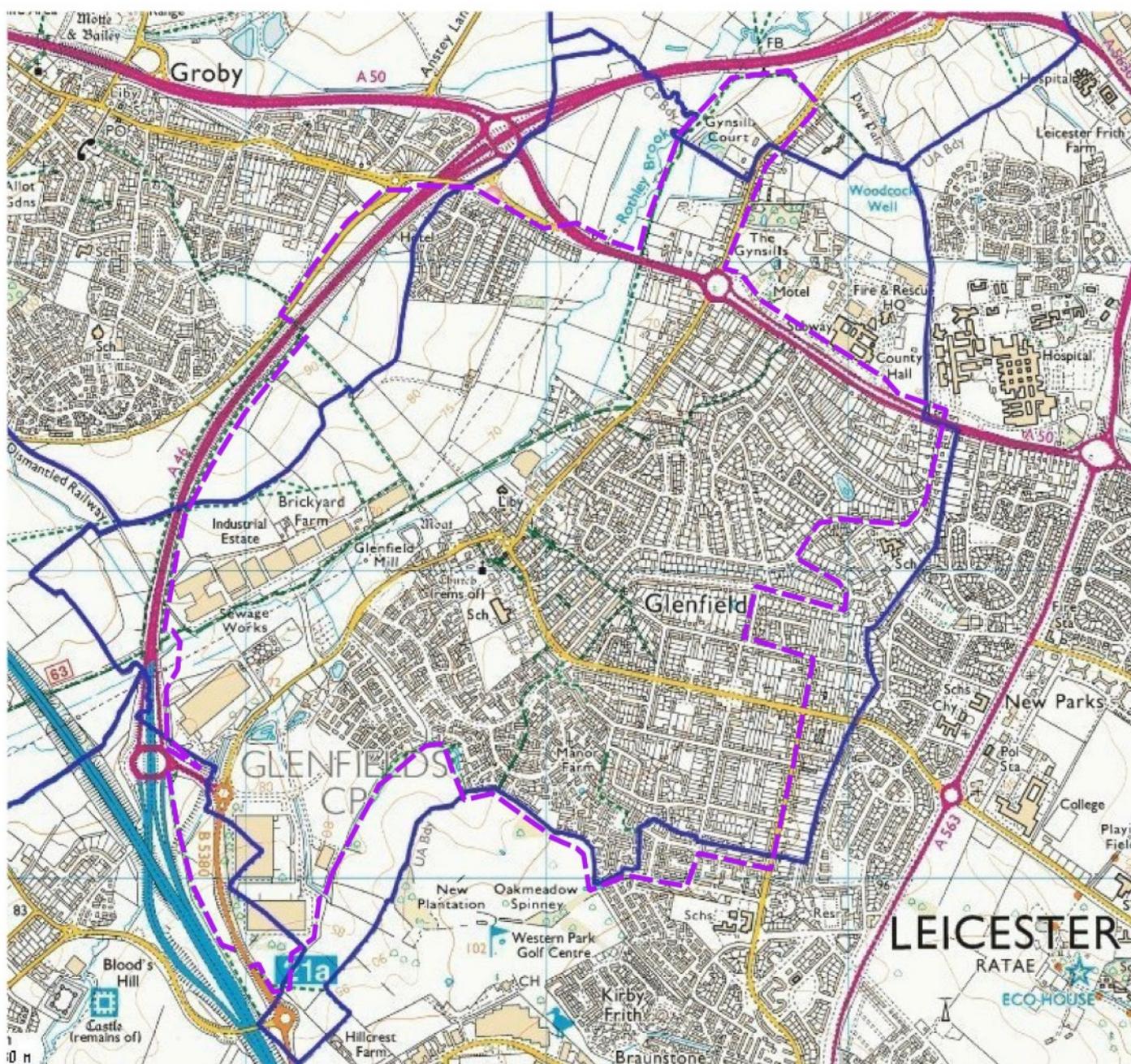
Follow this for a considerable distance until you see a bridge on your left over this road. Take that and then walk to your right along Sacheverell Way going right at a small roundabout and right again first opportunity.

Walk alongside the play area in the park on your left until you come to the A50 which you can cross at traffic lights. Then walk along the A50 towards Leicester. An excursion here into the wildlife area on your left gets you nearer the boundary but there is no way onwards.

A few hundred yards down the A50 and where you are opposite the petrol station, a path on your left following the stream will lead you back to our sports ground.

Walks Around Glenfield - Walk 11 Glenfield's Boundary Route

(Strong blue lines are parish boundaries)



Background from Parish Online

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