

Walk 14 – Groby Castle (bus out, walk back)

To do this walk catch a 29 bus along the A50, getting off the stop after the Stamford Arms. Groby has a long history with associations with Queen Elizabeth Woodville (wife of Edward IV), Lady Jane Grey (the nine-day Queen) and Lord Thomas Grey of Groby (a signatory to the death warrant of King Charles I).

for our purposes the walk described is taking you back to the A50 taking in some historic features along the way but depending on where in Glenfield you wish to return to you can cut out some of the later sections. Doing the full walk it is about 4 miles

The Route

Walk back down the hill to St Philip and St James Church.

Turn left into the church entrance and follow the path round the church to the graveyard for a view of the old Groby Castle motte. The church was built in 1840 by the 7th Earl of Stamford. The castle was erected in around 1086 and was partially destroyed a century by followers of King Henry II so that it could not be used by rebels.



Carry on down the hill towards the Old Hall and turn right, just before the Stamford Arms, onto Ratby Road and follow it up the hill. Time Team did a 'dig' in 2010 and found evidence of a second great hall and chapel suggesting that this had been a very large and imposing building.

The Old Hall is a Grade II listed building and contains remnants of the earlier hall. The current brick built building dates from the 15th century.

At the top of the hill at Oaktree Close, continue using the tree-lined path on your left, the line of the old Groby Granite Railway. Built in 1832 it was surveyed by George Stephenson and his son Robert and carried granite from the local quarries to sidings here in Glenfield. Much of it was sent to London using the Grand Union Canal. This granite was used in the building of St Pancras Station, the Albert Memorial and many other important buildings. Charnwood is the nearest outcrop of hard rock to London.

Loaded wagons were hauled to the top of Ratby Road and released to travel to Glenfield relying on gravity under the watchful eye of a courageous brakeman.

The line was closed in the mid-1960s.

Continue your walk, keeping on across Spinney Close to eventually come out onto Sacheverall Way. Turn left and then left again onto Laundon Way.

Continue, passing a supermarket on your left and then take Stamford Drive, the third road on the left. Follow this to the end and enter Stamford Memorial Park taking the path round the right hand edge of the park to the first exit onto Sacheverall Way.

There is a sad historic footnote here which older residents will remember as the memorial park remembers five young footballers playing for the Stamford Arms who were killed in a crash in 1998. There is a memorial in the corner of the park.

Cross Sacheverall Road and take the footpath facing you using the footbridge over the A46. The path through the fields eventually becomes Barrow Lane.

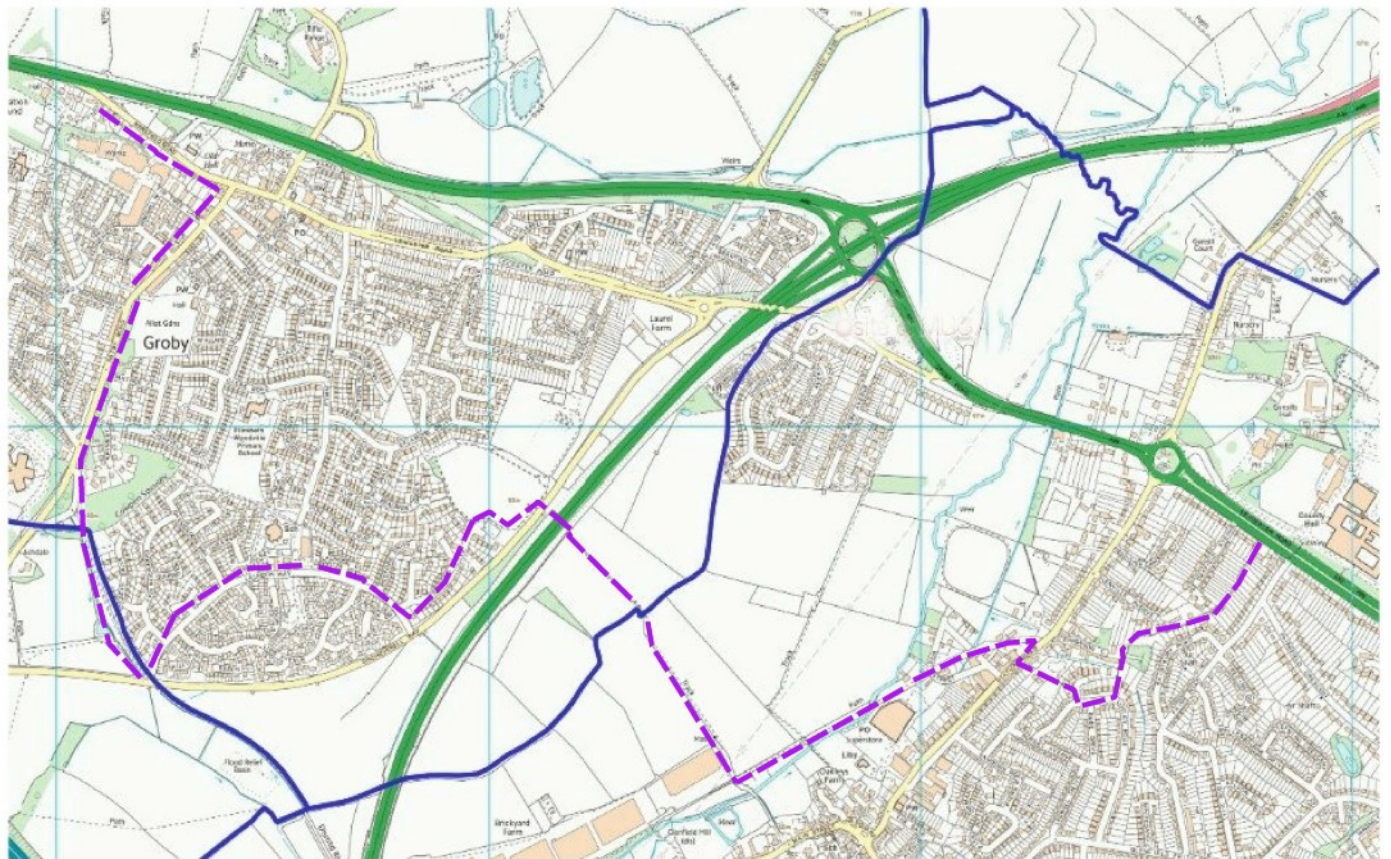
Turn left to join the bridleway which is part of the dismantled Leicester to Swannington Railway line and continue to its end at Station Road.

Cross the road and walk to the left for a few metres and just past Stephenson Court, where our old railway station used to stand, there is a commemorative plaque on some old railway buffers.

You can make your way home from here but for those fit and not pushing buggies, we suggest you return to face the Railway Inn and turn left onto a small drive to enter Station Park.

Follow the path to emerge onto Newquay Drive. Turn right then left onto Loxley Road and where that road bends right turn left onto a footpath which leads to the entrance to Glenfield Tunnel. Take the **52 steps up** and continue along the footpath to the A50, Groby Road

Walks Around Glenfield - Walk 14 Groby Castle Route  (Strong blue lines are parish boundaries)



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