



Trails

Heritage walks in and around Milton Keynes



Great Linford

Start point

Car park at tennis courts and pavilion, Great Linford Park.

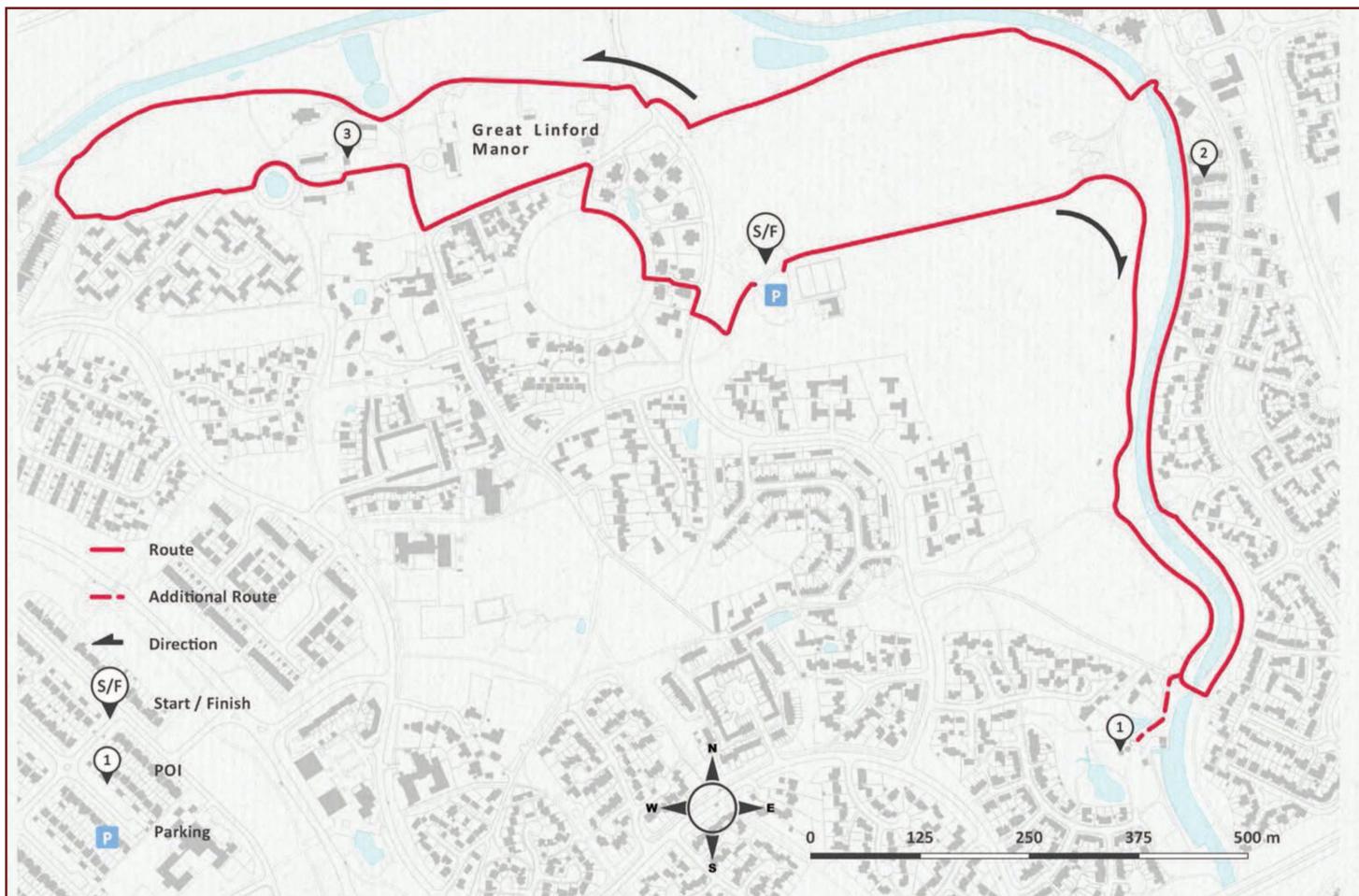
Access from Wolverton Road; take Marsh Drive, Great Linford. Pass High Street on your right. Access to car park is then a short distance on your left.

Access from Monks Way (H3); turn north at Great Linford roundabout into St Leger Drive, then right into Marsh Drive. Just after Woad Lane on your left, car park is on your right.

Walk overview

This is a figure of eight walk, including a linear section either side of the Grand Union Canal. It starts and finishes at the same car park.

The walking is easy, along good quality footpaths and redways. Unfortunately it is not suitable for wheelchair users as there is one set of steps.



The figure of eight walk

Facing the tennis courts, take the redway at the furthest left hand corner of the car park. This takes you through an avenue of trees dissecting Great Linford Park, with well-maintained cricket and rugby pitches on your right.

Ahead of you at the end of the avenue is a footbridge over the Grand Union Canal. Before you reach this, turn right onto another redway opposite a children's play area, which is on your left. The canal is now on your left as you head south, and you soon pass paddocks to your right.

At a path junction, continue straight on past another footbridge over the canal. Just after a picnic bench on your left you come to another junction of paths. Head straight across for a short diversion to the Linford Brick Kilns. The brick kilns were built in the late 1800s by George Osborn Price of Newport Pagnell, a coal and lime merchant and agricultural chandler selling everything from seeds to manure. The canal was used to take the bricks by horse-drawn barge to surrounding areas for use in building work. A pond near the kilns is actually a water-filled clay pit, now supporting many aquatic plants and animals.

Now retrace your steps to the last footpath junction and turn right onto a redway over a brick-built canal footbridge, signposted "Canal Broadwalk". On the other side of the canal, turn left onto a footpath taking you north, signposted "Canal Broadwalk" and "Linford

District Park". You pass through another avenue of trees and will see the houses of Giffard Park to your right.

Cross a short section of wooden boardwalk over an area of low-lying boggy ground and under the first footbridge you passed on the other side of the canal, here diverting off the footpath onto the canal towpath. There are usually brightly-coloured canal boats moored on the stretch of canal.

Just before Grand Union Canal pedestrian bridge number 78, climb a short flight of steps and proceed across the bridge. You will see the Giffard Park pub to your right as you cross. Take the first path on the right, signed "Linford Manor Park".

With the canal now to your right, the path takes you through an area of woodland before emerging alongside pasture land between path and canal. You are now on the northern edge of Great Linford Park, but it is still not possible to see through trees and scrub into the northern part of the park itself.

At a T-junction of paths, turn right for a short distance alongside Marsh Drive before

crossing over into an access road signed "The Memorial Hall". Cross a redway, pass a small car park to your left then between two brick pillars into Manor Park.

This is the most appealing and interesting section of the walk, the park being beautifully landscaped with trees and lawned areas, and replete with benches. An ideal area to stop for a picnic.

On your left is the boundary wall of Linford Manor. This 17th century manor house is now owned by businessman Pete Winkelman, chairman of MK Dons football club.

Ignore the option to turn left here towards the Nags Head pub (signed "Linford Village") which you can see in the near distance and instead continue straight across (signed "Railway Walk" and "St Andrews Church") past some 17th century almshouses on your left, and ponds on the right complete with ducks, swans and moorhens.

Just after a useful information board about the history of Great Linford, take the footpath to the right of St Andrews Church and its churchyard. This parish church was constructed in the 13th and 14th centuries and contains stained glass windows of note. Its ecumenical status means the church is an interesting partnership between Methodists, Baptists, the Church of England and the United Reformed Church.

This footpath is signed as cycle way number 6 on the National Cycle Network. The Grand Union Canal is now on your right. There are plenty of picnic benches on the grassy area between path and canal.

You pass a collection of large stones on your left. There is no explanatory signage, but these appear to be a modern art installation

rather than a site of historic interest.

Take another path to the left before a footbridge over the canal, which you will see ahead of you. This takes you through further woodland and past another Great Linford information board. Turn left onto a redway for a short stretch, then left again onto a footpath through woods and into a grassy area.

The path comes to Parklands, a tarmac road. Walk around the left side of a circular road with a pond at its centre. You pass the rear of St Andrews Church. Enter the courtyard of historic buildings that make up Milton Keynes Arts Centre. These were formerly stables and associated gate houses for Linford Manor. The almshouses previously passed from part of the complex and are now used as artists' studios.

A fine thatched building houses the café and hosts various exhibitions and events, as well as further artists' workshops.

Walk through the Arts Centre and down a slope towards the frontage of Linford Manor, turning right before you reach it. The path emerges onto High Street where the Nags Head is located. Turn left onto residential High Street, which is a high street in name only nowadays, having no shops or businesses other than the village pub.

Just past a wooden five bar gate on your right, take a path leading to Great Linford cricket green, a separate ground to that seen earlier on the walk, idyllically situated with its own substantial pavilion.

Walk left around the green before taking the first right of way footpath to the left. At a redway turn left again, cross Marsh Drive and proceed 100 metres back to the car park.



These panels can be downloaded from the Discover Milton Keynes website: www.discovermiltonkeynes.co.uk or scan the QR code.



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