



Grantchester Circuit

A riverside and country walk around this historic village just outside Cambridge

Essential Facts

- Route distance: 7.4 km (4.6 miles)
- Approximate time: 1 hour 50 mins
- Optional extension to Byron's Pool: 1.8 km (1.1 miles)
- Approx. total ascent: 15 metres
- Start point Grid Ref: TL 432 557
- GPS Ref: TL 43227 55722
- Recommended O.S. Map: Explorer 209
- Toughness Rating: Cambridgeshire 1

Please see the notes on Toughness Ratings at the end of this report

**Up For A
CHALLENGE ?**

**Take a Great Walk and HELP
your favourite charity with**

**A Donation
An Individual Walk
A Team Effort**

Full Info from the Great Walks web site

THE ROUTE

Today's start point is the Rupert Brooke public house in Grantchester High Street. There is usually plenty of car parking in the High Street or Coton Road.

From the start, **S**, cross the street to Coton Road almost opposite the pub. Proceed up the paved footpath on the left-side of the road for about 300 metres before turning left into "Bridle Way" at **A**, with a sign marked "Public Bridleway to Barton".

Follow this track straight ahead for 850 metres until the motorway bridge has been crossed at **B**. Now turn left and follow this new track keeping the motorway on the left.

After about 900 metres turn left and reach a footbridge which can now be crossed. Continue on the grassy path which meanders towards Grantchester church tower in the distance. Soon a footpath crossroads signpost appears, **C**. Take a right turn and follow the path, initially concrete then grassy, in a straight line to a sharp corner of Grantchester High Street.

Cross the road to the paved footpath and turn right, going round the sharp bend, passing the Orchard Tea Room to the left. Follow the paved footpath all the way to the edge of Mill Pool **D**. Our main walk route now turns left to the footpath with the Mill Pool and River Cam to its right.

For the optional extension to Byron's Pool, continue on the road to **E**, before taking the signed footpath to the right.

On our main route, follow the riverside footpath until it turns left, passing the garden wall of the Old Vicarage – home of Lord and Lady Archer.

Upon reaching the road go straight ahead, pausing to admire the statuary in the Archers' garden. Then turn into the entrance to the Orchard Tea Room. If not stopping for tea, turn sharp right down the path immediately opposite the wooden tea room building.

Soon the stile leading to Grantchester Meadows will be reached. Cross the stile and walk straight on until reaching the banks of the River Cam, **F**.

Our route now turns left and follows close by the river for about 1.5 km, passing through a number of gates and stiles. Eventually you can walk no further by the river so turn left up to the paved footpath at **G**, turning left again back towards Grantchester.

Carrying on along the paved pathway point, **H**, will be reached. Here we turn right, completing our circuit by passing the two excellent pub-restaurants, the Red Lion and the Green Man then turning right upon reaching the High Street again, soon arriving back at the start point, **S**, the Rupert Brooke.

Alternatively, from **H** continue on the footpath and when reaching the High Street, turn left back to the Orchard Tea Room for tea!



Jeffrey Archer's
Statuary



The Rupert Brooke

Refreshment

The Rupert Brooke
Public House-Restaurant
Grantchester
Tel: 01223 340295
Meals and bar snacks
available.
Gardens

The Red Lion
Public House
Grantchester
Tel: 01223 840121
Real ale, meals and snacks
Gardens to the rear

The Green Man
Public House
Grantchester
Tel: 01223 841178
Real ales and food

The Orchard Tea Room
Grantchester
Tel: 01223 845788
Famous for teas, coffee,
snacks and
cream teas indoors and in
the extensive orchard
gardens



**The Orchard
Tea Room Gardens**

LOCAL INFO

... and is there honey still for tea?

The poet Rupert Brooke lodged at the Old Vicarage in Grantchester for a couple of years in the 1910's, whilst an undergraduate at nearby Cambridge.

Although his tenure was brief, it became immortalised in his poem 'The Old Vicarage, Grantchester' which ends "... yet stands the Church clock at ten to three, and is there honey still for tea?" Brooke, like so many of his generation, died tragically young in 1915 at the age of just 27. In his case his death was from blood poisoning aboard a troop ship bound for Gallipoli.

The famous Orchard Tea Room, which Brooke and his intellectual friends knew so well, lives on and still provides delicious cream teas which can be taken on canvas deck-chairs under the old apple trees.

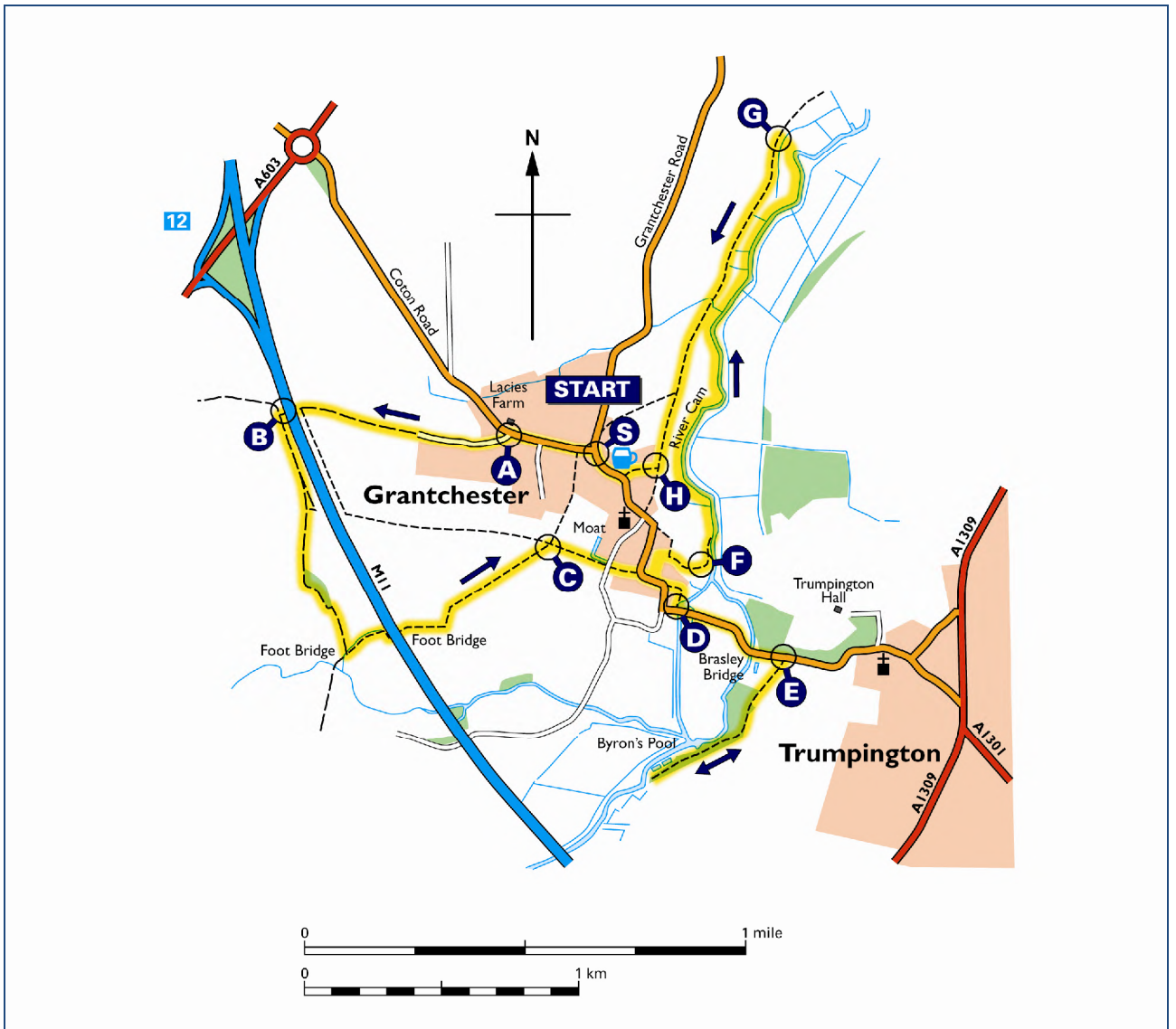
Next door, the Old Vicarage is now home to Jeffrey and Mary Archer. Part of the novelist's collection of sculptures can be seen from the footpath by his garden.




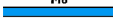


























Grantchester Church

GRANTCHESTER CIRCUIT G.P.S. WAYPOINTS

WAYPOINT NAME	MAP REF		CO-ORDINATES		ELEVATION: Metres
GRA S	S	TL	43227	55722	5
GRA A	A	TL	42917	55766	16
GRA B	B	TL	42068	55835	20
GRA C	C	TL	43063	55364	13
GRA D	D	TL	43525	55121	8
GRA E	E	TL	43810	54910	5
GRA F	F	TL	43645	55368	0
GRA G	G	TL	43896	56858	5
GRA H	H	TL	43453	55643	9



MAP LEGEND					
	Great Walks route		Church with tower		Spot height - metres
	Motorway		Church with spire		Information centre
	Main road		Other place of worship		Parking
	Secondary road		Cathedral / Abbey		Public convenience
	Minor road		Building		Public house
	Other road or track		Built up area		Picnic site
	Footpath		Woodland		Camp site
	Bridleway		Sand		Major tourist feature
	National trail		Water feature		Other tourist feature
	Railway				

Safety First

Safety should always be your first priority in planning and undertaking a walk, whether on your own or leading a group. Please read these Safety First and Walking Our Routes notes.

Lead a group of other walkers only if you have leadership and navigational experience adequate for the 'worst case' conditions which may be encountered on the particular walk, bearing in mind the terrain, possible weather and navigational demands.

Weigh up the capabilities of your party, in terms of fitness and walking speed. Adjust your time expectations accordingly.

Ensure all your party are adequately clothed for the weather and conditions. Footwear is particularly important. Clothing must protect against cold, wet or strong sun according to the time of year.

Emergencies are quite rare, but it is essential to think ahead about what to do if someone in your party sustains an injury. Will you have a First Aid kit? Is there a qualified First Aider in the party? How could help be summoned in a serious eventuality?

Refreshment, particularly water, can be vital. Dehydration in hot summer conditions can be rapid, and frequent intake of fluids is essential.

On tougher walks it is a good idea to tell someone where you are planning to go – and when you expect to be back. Remember - mobile phones often lose reception in mountainous or isolated areas.

All our walks use legitimate routes: Public Rights of Way, Public Footpaths, Bridleways, Permissive Paths, Access Land, Byways and Roads.

Road walking calls for particular care. When there is no defined footpath or verge wide enough for safe walking it is usually best to walk on the right – facing oncoming traffic. An exception may be a tight bend, where walkers would be more visible on the left.

Occasionally you may find a public footpath blocked or unuseable. It is perfectly in order to take the shortest available diversion without damaging crops, perhaps around a field margin.

It is courteous to close gates after passing through, sometimes even if the gate was open when you arrived – particularly if it is obvious livestock may escape.

Mutual respect for farm animals is to be encouraged! Don't frighten or annoy them, but equally don't put your party members in danger or discomfort. You certainly wouldn't be the first walkers to go round the outside of a field of frisky bullocks.

Dogs should always be kept on a lead anywhere near farm animals, and under close supervision elsewhere in the countryside.

Walking Our Routes

Our walks are designed to be negotiated using the route directions in conjunction with the map section provided. We suggest walkers also take the Ordnance Survey Explorer or Outdoor Leisure map recommended for each walk.

On mountain, moorland and open heathland walks it is **ESSENTIAL** to have navigational expertise and tools, including the recommended Ordnance Survey map(s).

Take care to observe any cautions in the route description; exposed paths, areas liable to flooding etc.

Consider conditions before setting off. Will heavy rain have made a water meadow impassable? Will frost or snow make a path slippery?

When navigating the route look for clues to confirm you are in the right place. Are map features where you would expect on the ground? Are features mentioned in the text where expected? If you suspect you may have taken a wrong turn, take action sooner rather than later. It is better to re-trace to a known point rather than carry on regardless with the possibility of becoming increasingly confused.

All our routes are carefully checked before publication, but features can change on the ground – sometimes surprisingly quickly. Footpaths may be re-routed, buildings can appear or change significantly and these days pub names seem to change frequently.

The approximate time given for each walk is based on an average walking speed of 2.5 miles per hour (4 km/hour), plus an allowance for ascent, descent and any difficult terrain.

Total ascent is the approximate total ascent over the whole walk.

GPS users can enter in the waypoints provided in each of our walk reports. It is important to read our guide **Introducing GPS for Walkers**, available as a PDF file from the Great Walks in Britain web site.

Remember that GPS is a great navigational tool, but only one of those available to the navigator. Never dispense with conventional map and compass – and the training and skills to use them, especially on mountain, moorland or open heathland walks.

TOUGHNESS RATINGS

All our **Cambridgeshire & North Essex** routes can be undertaken by reasonably fit walkers able to utilise our map segments, together with the route guidance notes. Always consider recent and forecast weather.

Each walk has been allocated a **Toughness Rating**:

1. Easier walks with modest ascent and generally on well defined paths. There may be stiles or narrow gateways to negotiate.
2. Routes which are more demanding. They may include more ascent and possibly paths which are looser or more difficult underfoot.
3. More strenuous walks with some steep sections, higher paths or places which may be wet and boggy.
4. The most demanding walks in this edition. There may be prolonged steep ascents. Conditions may be challenging underfoot.

Toughness Ratings are allocated in the context of the terrain in the edition area. For example a walk rated as demanding in Cambridgeshire may be equivalent to an easier or moderate route in the Brecon Beacons.