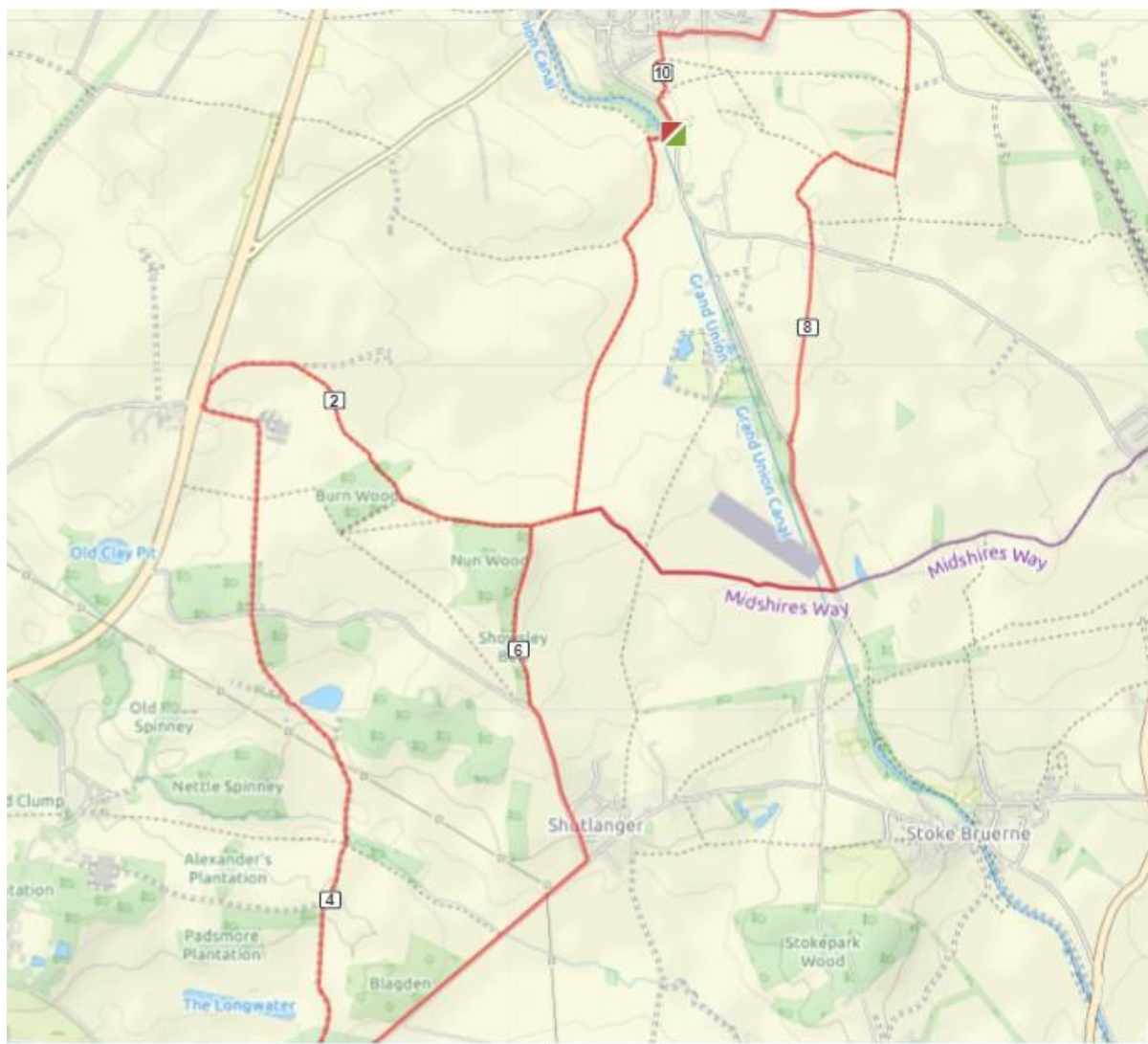


BR4 – BLISWORTH FIGURE OF EIGHT



DIRECTIONS – 11 mile circular route anti-clockwise around Blisworth Tunnels

PARKING

The 'Plough Inn' at Shutlanger (Grid Ref SP727498) are happy to accommodate horse trailers at the bottom of their car park by prior arrangement when they're not too busy. I would imagine small horse boxes or car+trailer but you could seek clarification. Evenings not good but ok from Wed to Sat 10 am to 2pm, on the proviso that you purchase some lunch- coffee or cake etc after or before your ride. You may be able to park up a bit earlier to give you more time -please clarify, but coffee shop is open 10-12 then lunch after that time until 2pm.

If you're passing you're welcome to drop in too but you would need to hold onto your horse as there's currently nowhere to tie them.

Please speak to SALLY the Restaurant Manager, for more info or to book a space in car park –on 01604 864644. Alternatively contact her via the website contact page www.theploughshutlanger.co.uk. please remove horse droppings and leave as you found it so that we can keep a good relationship going etc.

NB If you start from the Plough Inn – use the directions from the relevant point highlighted further down directions below.

Further PARKING

The original book entitled 'Northamptonshire on Horseback 1995', specifies parking in the public car park along the Blisworth to Stoke Bruerne Road (if you blink you'll miss it), at top of Grand Union Canal North Tunnel Entrance – GR. SP729529.

This is a small L shaped car park better suited to cars, but a small horse box could pull in on left – please check first. Wouldn't recommend for cars with trailers attached.

Other options: Some grass verge opportunities along diff parts of route e.g., on Showsley Road GR.SP714507, poss Knock Lane, and also main road out of Blisworth towards A43 at GR.SP717528 where you can ride along a bridleway to meet up with the route at SP727524- or alternatively get someone to drop you off and pick up later.

If you start from Stoke Bruerne Road, follow the bridleway from back of car park over the canal and turn left down what is part of Midshires way.

You will meet a bridleway coming from your right – relates to parking at SP717528, but carry on straight to follow Midshires way. This goes behind Tunnel Hill Farm to your left.

Eventually you will meet a T junction of bridleways turn right to the corner of Nuns Wood GR SP723511.

Carry -on along the back of the wood, you will eventually meet Burn Wood to the Right. Carry-on with woodland to left and right and follow bridleway round to 'Top Farm' passing close to the A43.

At the point the road meets an exit onto A43, turn left away from A43, then right a little way down. Carry on until you meet 'Catchgate plantation' GR.SP711509. You will then meet the Showsley Road.

If you want to shorten the route at this point, you could turn left down the Showsley Road coming down towards Shutlanger. To meet back up with the route you would have come via Shutlanger and the Plough Inn.

The bridleway goes back towards Blisworth at GR. SP723503

Cross over the Showsley road to continue down the bridleway. You will eventually meet the road between Heathencote and Shutlanger.

Pic Entrance onto road to Shutlanger - Bend in road here be careful



Turn left up this road past a sewage works to right, then it's straight with good view all the way to Shutlanger where the Plough Inn meets the other end of the Showsley Road.

You may like to have a drink at the Plough INN (SP727498) just along the main road to the left just after the Showsley Road turn.



DIRECTIONS FROM PLOUGH INN

Turn left at the Showsley Road. Eventually you will meet a bridleway on Right hand side SP724503.

Follow the bridleway to the left of the Wood 'Showsley Belt' -you will eventually meet the bridleway you came along before, at the corner of Nun Wood SP723503 (middle of figure of eight route). Turn right straight down grass track past junction of two bridleways



You're now following midshires way again. With the hedge to your left, follow the boundary until there is a point where four field boundaries cross GR. SP729509, turn left here. Ride along following left hand hedge past a small pond and towards Buttermilk Hall Farm.

Just before the Blisworth to Stoke Bruerne Road you ride over the top of the tunnel. At the road turn left, passing the front of Buttermilk Hall Farm



As the road bends to the right look for the signed
bridleway on your right between two pillars GR.
SP735516.

Follow hedge a little way to your left then the
bridleway continues across the field following the
electricity lines. Pic right.



cc-by-sa/2.0 - Bridleway off Stoke Road by Jonathan Billinger - geograph.org.uk/p/422693

At the next hedge line follow in the same direction
until you come to the corner of the field meeting a
gate. Ride straight ahead again to meet the road
(this is Knock lane) GR SP725525

*At knock lane you could turn left if you wished
to cut the route short again. You will meet the
Roade between Stoke Bruerne and Blisworth
going past Tunnel Hill Farm to your left, to
meet up with the car park on the left, assuming
that's where you parked*

Go straight across to carry on up the bridleway
Keeping hedge to your left. At the corner of the
field go through a handgate and keep following
the hedge line. When you come to corner of next
field, go right, through a gap in the hedge and
keep the hedge to your right.



cc-by-sa/2.0 - Electricity wires by the... by Philip Jeffrey - geograph.org.uk/p/3127413

At the turn in the hedgerow, turn right and go
through a gap in the hedge, riding straight keeping
the hedge to your left. At the next field entrance
on the left, turn left and follow the hedgerow on
the right to the end where you continue in a
straight line across the next field towards some
large trees. You will meet a wooded track that will
lead you the road between Courteenhall and
Blisworth GR. SP740535



Turn left towards Blisworth. This can be a busy road so ride along it with care.
Take the first turn left 'Connegar Leys' and follow the road round to right through the housing
estate. Shortly after passing 'Windmill Road (which is on your right), turn left down a metalled
bridleway (looks like a footpath entrance between fencing no sign at this point, as effectively half-

way down from main road, where bridleway sign is located. Ride down the path across the allotments to meet the Blisworth to Stoke Bruerne road. Just along to the right is the Car Park where perhaps you started, but if not ride through the Car Park to get to the bridleway and continue the route.

Many of the directions for this ride have been taken from 'Northamptonshire on Horseback', 1995 published by British Horse Society. ISBN 1-899016-07-4.