

Alternative route

(6) 30 yards after the converted stables, just past a large tree on left go over a stile in the fence. Bear right (aiming for just visible conical church tower) across field towards middle of hedge opposite to kissing gate. Bear slightly right across next field still heading for church tower to emerge onto and cross disused railway. Enter field opposite and bear slightly left (but right of big tree) to stile behind bend in hedge on opposite side. Head straight across next field to opposite corner where a kissing gate is reached and go through it onto Great Alne / Henley road. Cross road and walk 40 yards to the right to a sign "To the Church". Follow path to church (*Detour - go in to see the unusual paintings*) and through churchyard to kissing gate at far end.

(7) Turn left along field edge to reach road junction and Mother Huff Cap pub for refreshments (*open lunchtimes & evenings*).

(8) Retrace steps to kissing gate at end of churchyard. Do not go back into church yard but go straight on for about 100 yards to stile in fence on right. Cross field to an easily seen kissing gate. Follow path bordered by hedges to road. Turn right for 10 yards and cross road to path between houses leading into a wood. Follow path through wood (do not turn down any of the tracks on right) On emerging from wood with cricket pitch on right cross field to where the drive to Meritor factory units joins the Great Alne / Henley road. Follow the main road away from village at point (9) on the map. (It is a narrow road, so take care of oncoming traffic).

Continue overleaf at point (9).

If you wish to start this walk from Island Meadow Caravan site, start the instructions from point (10), and go on to point (1) from there.

Refreshments are available from:

The Kings Head (Aston Cantlow)
The Mother Huff Cap (Great Alne)
Aston Cantlow Club
Island Meadow Caravan site shop

Ordnance Survey "Pathfinder" maps of the area are available from the Island Meadow Caravan Site shop

Please help us to keep the countryside beautiful for everyone by following these simple rules :

Don't leave gates open. Keep pets under control
Take your litter home with you. Keep to the paths

Additional points of interest:

Aston Cantlow Church - 13th century tower and Victorian stained glass windows. 15th century font. Where William Shakespeare's parents were married.

Walcote Church - Norman font, beamed roof, sundial in churchyard, market cross base by path to Church
Great Alne Church - Unusual rebuilt tower and modern paintings inside.

Mother Huff Cap - The name is believed to refer to a previous landlady who served beer with a good head on it - and they still serve a good pint today !

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WALK 1

25p

Walks from Aston Cantlow



Walk 1

A circular walk of 4.5 miles taking two to three hours, starting from Island Meadow Caravan Park. It passes through Withycombe Woods, Walcote and Great Alne, with an optional detour (an extra mile) to Great Alne Church and the Mother Huff Cap Public House.

This is a level walk with no steep hills which, however, has some splendid views and many points of interest.

Boots, or trainers are suggested.

START

(0) Starting at Island Meadow Caravan Park Take the road exit from the Park and turn left. Immediately on your left and opposite the thatched cottage go through a small gate onto a footpath which will lead you past the old school to the church. *The oak trees on each side of the path were planted in 2000 as our Millennium Avenue.*

(1) When you reach the church you may take this opportunity to visit it and see where Shakespeare's parents were married. Carry on just past the church (with it on your left side), and just before you reach the churchyard lychgate take the signposted footpath to the right. Go over a stile and then cross a stream at a wooden bridge, head straight across the field, aiming for a stile in the middle of the far hedge.

Cross the road and almost opposite go down a wide track keeping the hedge on your right. *Enjoy the view to the left of the Rough Hills, with Wilmcote on the hill.* Just after the double telegraph pole, when the track bears right keep straight on, follow the arrow marker (with hedge on your right) heading for a wooded hill. *Look back to admire a lovely view of Aston Cantlow.* Continue until you go over a stile down to the road.

(2) Turn left along the road for 100 yards to a gate on the right. Go through it and take the path marked across the field to the edge of the wood. Go right along the edge of the field 200 yards to a gate leading into a track in the wood. Follow bridleway (*lovely in April and May with bluebells*) through wood for about 200 yards until you see a short path (yellow arrow) to a stile on the right. Cross the stile to emerge from the wood. *Stop to admire the view.*

(3) Keep straight on to the bottom of the field with the hedge on the right (don't go through gap). At end go right into

next field and then bear left over a stile. Keeping the hedge on the left cross three more fields and stiles to come out on a track. *You may see some of the rabbits which live here.* Turn right and follow the track into Walcote to join the main road through the village. (*This is your last chance to go back to Aston Cantlow along road!*)

(4) Turn left along the road and proceed past farm to a sharp left hand bend. *Look right to admire the ancient cider press in front garden of half timbered house.* Follow road to end of houses on right. Ahead, on left side of road is a path leading up to Haselor Church - *worth a short detour for a visit as well as magnificent panoramic views.*

(5) Retrace path back from church to the road. Cross it and over a stile to a footpath alongside the garden of the "Old Vicarage". Keeping the hedge on your right cross three fields and stiles. Try to spot the old cricket pavilion on the right just before path drops down to the road again by the river.

BEWARE OF CARS ON ROAD AS YOU REACH IT

Go 15 yards left on road then over a narrow footbridge over the River Alne. Cross the meadow and head for the left hand corner of the Great Alne mill (now converted into residences). Follow signs around the left side of the mill garden turning right at the river and over a wooden bridge exiting finally into an area with converted stables on your left. Go past the stables onto Mill Lane.

You now have a choice of routes. *For the shorter walk carry on from point 6 below. - For a longer walk including a visit to Great Alne church and the Mother Huff Cap Pub for refreshments follow the alternative route on the flap.*

(6) Turn left down Mill Lane, straight on across disused railway to a T junction and turn right. After 200 yards you pass a junction on the left leading to the old Meritor factory units (point (9) on the map).

(9) Carry on 200 yards along the main road and take a track on the right (on a sharp bend marked with chevrons). 20 yards past the electricity sub-station go through a gap in the hedge on the left down some steps along a stream (often dry). Pass an old railway bridge on your right and cross a stile. Go under wires keeping the poles on your right and head to the left side of the caravans to cross stiles over a stream. Follow the path across the next field with the caravan site and River Alne on your right.

(0) Cross the river by an iron footbridge to arrive back at Island Meadow Caravan Park.

