

Walks from Aston Cantlow



Walk 1

A circular walk of 4.5 miles taking two and a half 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 with trousers as the last part has some nettles.

If you wish to start this walk from Aston Cantlow church, start the instructions from point (1), and at the end, follow the route from point (0) to get back

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 !

©Aston Cantlow Parish Path Volunteers - October 2018. This leaflet was the first of a series produced by the Aston Cantlow Parish Path Volunteers who helped to open up, maintain and promote the use of the footpaths in the parish of Aston Cantlow. (leaflet w1v14)

Alternative route

(6) Turn left down Mill Lane. 30 yards after Waterside Cottage, just after a large oak tree on left go left through a kissing gate 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 small almost hidden 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 left of main door) down a step to field entrance at far end.

(7) Turn left along field edge then across next field with hedge on right to reach road junction and Mother Huff Cap pub for refreshments (*open lunchtimes & evenings*).

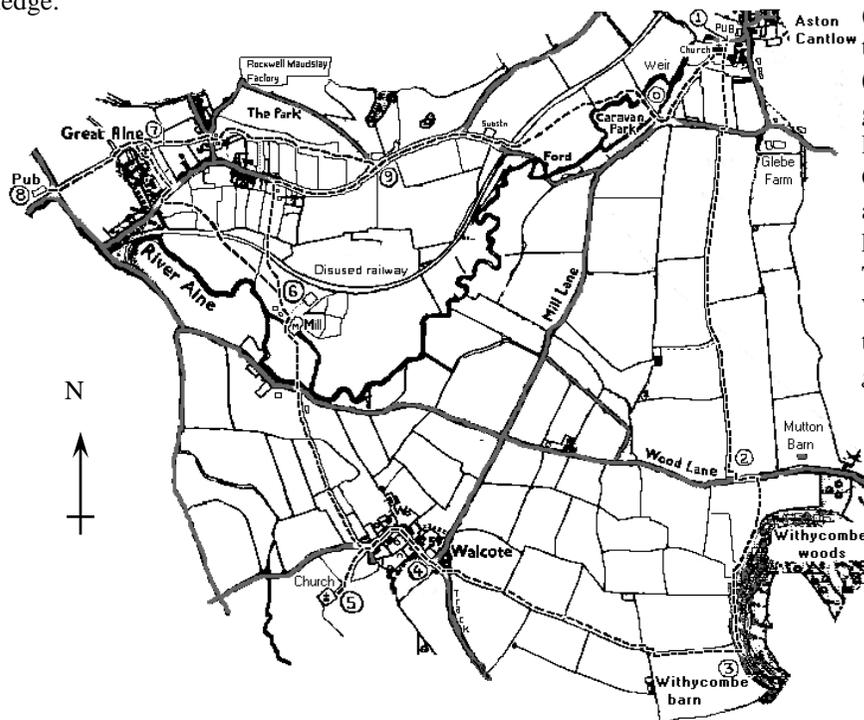
(8) Retrace steps to opening at end of churchyard. Do not go back into churchyard but go straight on for about 100 yards to 2nd gate in fence on right just after a telegraph pole. Cross field to a kissing gate on other side. Follow path bordered by hedges to road. Turn right for 10 yards and cross road 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 follow path ahead to where a drive to joins the Great Alne / Henley road. Follow the main road left, 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).

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 with hedge on your right heading for a wooded hill. *Look back to admire a lovely view of Aston Cantlow.* Continue along narrow path on field edge until you go over a steep 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. Veer right along the edge of the wood for 200 yards to a gate leading into a track in the wood. Follow the bridleway (*lovely in April and May with bluebells*) through wood for about 200 yards until you see a short path (yellow arrow) to a kissing gate on the right. Go through gate to emerge from the wood. *Stop to admire the view.*

(3) Go straight ahead to the bottom of the field with the hedge on the right (don't go through gap on right). At end go right into the next field and then bear left over a small bridge over a stream. Go ahead keeping the hedge on the left and cross 3 more fields and through 3 kissing gates to come out on a track. 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 through a kissing gate to a footpath alongside the garden of the "Old Vicarage". Keeping the hedge on your right cross 3 fields and 2 stiles, the 2nd one is a double one over a stream.. The path drops down through a kissing gate to the road 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. Go ahead to cross the meadow and then veer left to head for the left hand corner of the Great Alne mill (now converted into residences). Follow posts around the left edge of the mill garden, turning right at the river and over a wooden bridge, exiting to the right 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 reach a drive and then East Lodge on the left (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 then alongside a stream (often dry). Pass an old railway bridge on your right and cross a stile. Head across field 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 through nettles, keeping caravan site and river on your right.

(10) Cross the River Alne by an iron footbridge to arrive back at Island Meadow Caravan Park.