

# Walks from Aston Cantlow



## Walk 2

A circular walk of 4.5 miles taking two to three hours, starting from Island Meadow Caravan Park in Aston Cantlow. It passes through the hamlet of Newnham and along a stretch of the Stratford Upon Avon canal before returning through pleasant countryside to the village.

This walk includes a few small hills, has some splendid views and includes many points of interest.

*Boots, or trainers are suggested especially if the ground is wet.*

Walkers heading back to the Kings Head should cross the road at the Aston Cantlow boundary sign and take the footpath over a stile in the hedge. Head across the field toward the church to a bridge over a stream on the opposite side. Cross the stream and follow the path over a final stile up through the churchyard to the gate. Go through the gate to arrive back at the side of the Kings Head pub where you can emulate Shakespeare's parents after they were married, in enjoying a well deserved pint.

### Refreshments are available from:

*The Kings Head Public House*  
*Island Meadow Caravan Site shop*  
*Aston Cantlow Club*

**OS Maps available from the 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:

*The Kings Head inn* - Where it is believed that Shakespeare's parents had their wedding reception.

*The Guild Hall* - Probably the oldest building in the village, mentioned in 1442 as the home of the Guild of St Mary - a religious guild which provided priests for the local church services.

*The Stratford upon Avon canal* - built in the late 18th century to link the River Avon at Stratford with the manufacturing centers in Birmingham.

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

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## Continuation

(5) **Contd.** Follow the edge of the field past a small copse and a gate to a stream and a stile at the bottom corner of the field. After crossing the stream and stile, continue straight on, keeping the stream and hedge on your right. Follow this to the end of the field where you cross two stiles to meet the Wilmcote to Aston Cantlow road.

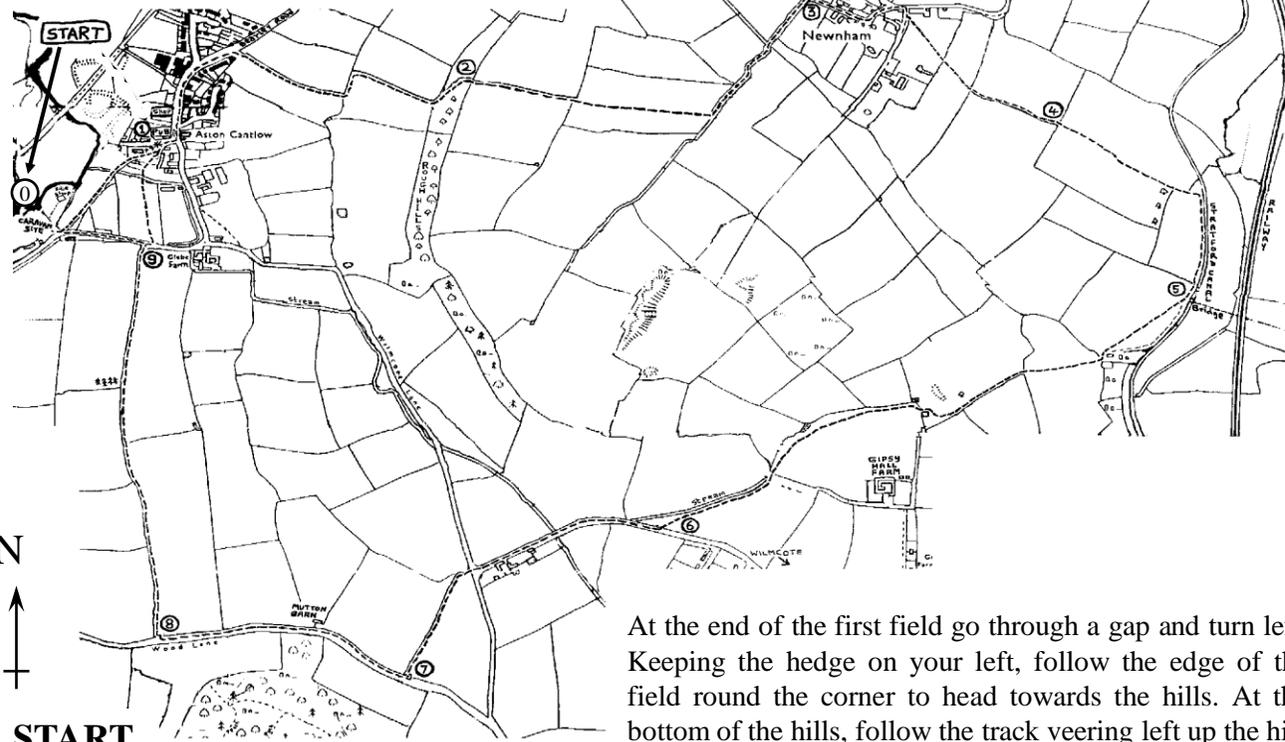
(6) Turn right and walk along the road till you get to a T junction. Head straight on at the T junction through a gate onto a footpath. After 20 yards the path swings to the left with a hedge on its right heading for some woods. The path crosses a stile at the end of the field to meet the road at Wood lane.

(7) Turn right and walk along the road past the Mutton Barn. Shortly after some gates on the left you will see a waymark post indicating the way through the hedge to the right..

(8) Go over the rather high stile and follow the footpath along the edge of the field with the hedge on your left. Continue along what is locally known as the bunny track, noting the rabbit warrens under the hedges as you pass by. Aston Cantlow church - *which is where William Shakespeare's parents were married* - should become visible shortly as a pointer to your direction. Continue straight on, joining a track by a small conifer plantation. Carry straight on down the track heading for Aston Cantlow till you meet the road.

(9) Walkers going back to Island Meadow Caravan Park should turn left here and walk down the road past the thatched Mill Cottage to the entrance of the site.

# MAP



**(0)** Starting from the Island Meadow Caravan Park, go to the entrance of the site and turn left on the road towards Aston Cantlow. After 10 yards go through a small gate on the left and follow the path through the churchyard and past the church. Go through the lychgate onto the road and carry straight on until you reach the Kings Head pub on your left.

**(1)** At the Kings Head pub in the centre of the village facing the Guild Hall opposite, turn left to follow the road past Cantella Farm to the end of the village. Just after the last bungalow on the right (9 Pear Tree Gardens) go through a gate on the right onto a track heading towards the Rough Hills.

At the end of the first field go through a gap and turn left. Keeping the hedge on your left, follow the edge of the field round the corner to head towards the hills. At the bottom of the hills, follow the track veering left up the hill **(2)** Just before the top of the hill there is a good view back to the village and the surrounding area. As you come out from the track to the field at the top of the hill carry straight on keeping to the left side of the field. Follow the track across the middle of the next field to the far side - with the village of Newnham now visible - where it splits. Turns left down the bridleway into the village.

**(3)** Follow the road right through the village, and 30 yards after a road joins from the left, turn right down a track signposted to Meadow Barn. About 20 yards down this track take the left path over the stile into a field in the direction of the waymark post. You will pass to the left of a hand water pump in the field which shows that many of the modern facilities that we come to expect have taken quite a while to get to Newnham!

**(3) Contd.** Go towards the crown of the hill which is ahead of you to a stile at the end of the field, then across a paddock to a stile in a rail fence and across the middle of the next field to a stile to the right of a water trough. Cross this stile and continue straight on up the hill with the hedge on your immediate right.

**(4)** At the crown of the hill cross another stile. Spend a few moments enjoying the splendid panoramic views. Head downhill across the next field aiming just to the right of the transmitter mast on the horizon and about 20 yards left of the leftmost of the three large trees at the end of the field. Go through the hedge and follow the waymark pointer to the edge of the field where it meets the Stratford-upon-Avon canal. Turn right and walk along the raised canal bank. At the end of the field cross over a stile and follow the edge of the field alongside the canal to a bridge. The bridge is a good spot for a short rest to stop and watch the colourful narrow boats passing by.

**(5)** Continue on the path along the same side of the canal, aiming for a derelict house and barn. Pass to the right of the barn and then swing slightly left to go through a gate. Head out straight across the next field aiming for a stile which is visible in the opposite hedge. Cross this stile and follow the edge of the field with the hedge on your left. After passing an isolated tree on your right (a remnant from a previous hedge) head for a stile which is between the barn and the small hut to its right. After crossing the stile follow the path along the right side of the field. As it swings round you will see Gipsy Hall Farm on your left which breeds the large white Charolais cattle which may be out in some of the fields nearby.