

(6) Turn right and follow the road past the Old Green to a sharp bend to the right. Roughly 50 meters after the bend and just after a driveway to a garage there is a gap in the hedge on the right which leads over a stile into a field. Once in the field, head directly towards the church tower to a stile in the far corner which will bring you back onto the road. Follow the road back to the centre of the village to the Kings Head to complete section 2 of the walk.

Section 3

(7) Section 3 of the walk is an alternative route back to Island Meadow. Turn left down the side of the Kings Head to the churchyard gate. Go through the gate and take the leftmost of the two paths. Follow this path over a stile to a bridge over a stream. Cross the stream and head straight out across the field to a stile in the opposite hedge which brings you to the road. Turn right and follow the road past Riverside House (previously known as Pussys Galore cattery).

(8) Just after passing Mill Cottage on the left, the only remaining thatched cottage in the village, you will arrive back at Island Meadow Caravan Park.

Spotters quiz

See if you can spot any of the following in the first section of the walk:

A Victorian post box 10 points
Brown trout in the river 40 points

Cottages with names to do with:

Needlework 10 points
A month 10 points
A hunting dog 10 points

If you want to quit at the end of section 1 or 2, just follow the path back from the Kings Head through the churchyard, taking the right hand path back to Island Meadow Caravan Park

Refreshments are available from:

The Kings Head
Aston Cantlow Club
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:

The Guild Hall - The original home of the Guild of St Mary which provided priests for the local church .

Mill Cottage - a 14th century thatched cottage mentioned in the diaries of a civil war soldier.

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

The disused railway - This ran from Alcester to Leamington Spa via Aston Cantlow until it was closed in the nineteen thirties.

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Walk 3

25p

Walks from Aston Cantlow



Walk 3

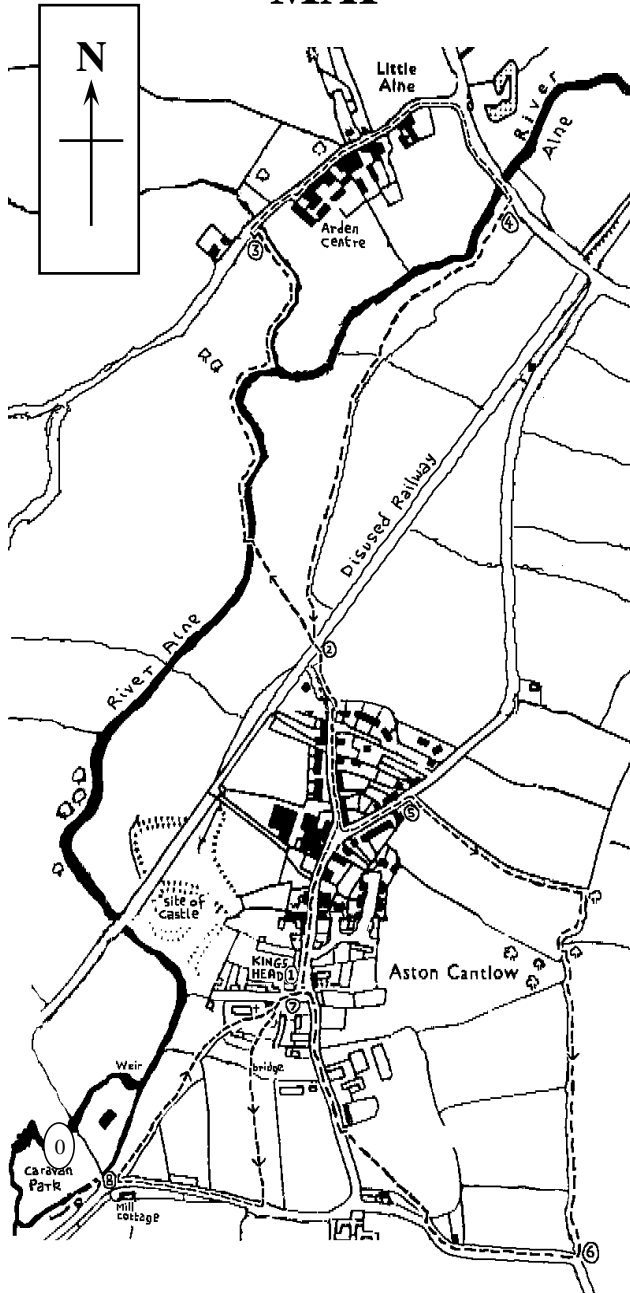
Three short linked level walks starting at Island Meadow Caravan Park. These take you along the River Alne to Little Alne and around the outskirts of the village of Aston Cantlow. The first section includes a visit to the church.

Each section can be walked independently or linked to the others to make a total walk of approximately 3 miles.

Approximate timings - Section 1 is 50 minutes, section 2 is 20 minutes and section 3 is 15 minutes.

Boots, or trainers are suggested if wet

MAP



START Section 1

(0) Starting at Island Meadow Caravan Park, take the main exit from the park and turn left. Almost immediately on the left go through a small gate and follow the footpath past the Old School House to the church. After a visit to the church to see the 15th Century font and stained glass, continue up through the churchyard and through the lychgate up to the road with the Kings Head pub on your left.

(1) Facing the timbered Guild Hall opposite, turn left along Bearley Road past Cantella Farm to a turning on your left into Chapel Lane. Follow Chapel Lane to the bottom where as the road swings to the right the unmade road continues ahead. Continue ahead for about 50 meters to a gate on the right. Go through the gate and follow the left hand fence in the same direction to the end of the field where you will go through another gate to bring you onto a disused railway track.

(2) Cross the railway track to a gate on the other side and then follow the left hand of the two paths almost straight ahead to a bridge over the river, which should be just visible. Having crossed the bridge over the River Alne, turn immediately right and follow the path along the side of the river until the river veers away to the right where it is joined by a small stream. Carry on along the path which now follows the edge of the stream to meet the road. Cross the gate onto the road and turn right.

(3) Follow the road to the Arden Centre - *an interesting collection of beauty and antique shops which are worth a visit if open (normally from Monday to Saturday between 9 and 5)*. Continue along the road past the old and timbered Holyoak Farm to a bend with a turning on the right signposted Aston Cantlow and Bearley. Follow this turning over a narrow bridge back over the river, being careful of traffic as you cross.

(4) Go over the stile by the first gate on the right after the bridge and go straight ahead to the other end of the field. The river is now on your right. At the end of the field go through two gates and follow the left hand side of the field until it brings you back to the gate at the disused railway. Cross back over the railway, through the gates and then follow the path back to Chapel Lane.

At the top of Chapel Lane, you can either turn right back to the centre of the village and the path through the churchyard to Island Meadow, or stop for a pint in the Kings Head, or cross the road and turn left to link into the second section of the walk.

Section 2

(5) Follow Bearley Road to the last bungalow on the right (9 Pear Tree Gardens). Turn right immediately after this house onto a track heading towards the Rough Hills. At the end of the first field, where the main path continues through a gateway and turns left, leave the main path and turn right just before the hedge. Follow the edge of the field with the hedge and a stream on your left to a bridge over this stream. Cross the bridge and a stile and continue to the right along the edge of the field with the stream and the hedge now on your right. *Listen out for larks, cuckoos and pheasants in the hills on your left*. Continue along the path to the third gate where there is a stile which you cross to join the road.