

Walks from Aston Cantlow



Walk 4

A circular walk of about 6 miles starting and finishing at the Kings Head in Aston Cantlow, going through Newnham then along the canal to Wootton Wawen and back along the river to Aston Cantlow.

(Note: If starting from Island Meadow turn left out of the site and then left through a small gate up a track through the churchyard to the Kings Head)

Start

1) Starting from the Kings Head Public House 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, go through the gate and follow the track veering left up the hill. As you come out into the field at the top of the hill carry straight on keeping to the track on the left side of the field

2) Follow this track along the hedge and then across the next field and then swing to the left towards the village of Newnham (Note: Ignore the footpath that goes straight on at the end of the field). After about 100 yards bear right, staying on the track as you enter the village. Follow the track as it joins the tarmac road and goes past barns on the right, through the village centre. As you leave the village on the road, note that a small road joins from the left at an angle. Keep straight ahead on the main road at this point. Continue on the road out of the village past "The Thatched Cottage" on the right that has a horse on a weather vane on their garage.

3) About 100 yards past "The Thatched Cottage" the road swings sharply to the left. You go straight on, heading through the second field entrance on the right. Do not follow the footpath signs to the right at the first field entrance, Head for the stile about half way down the wooden rail fence on the left side of the field (Note that this fence is not shown on the OS map). Cross the stile and continue in the same direction into the corner where a further stile can be seen.

4) Cross the stile and pass through the trees and over a stream into a field. Turn left and follow along the hedge. At the end of the field follow the path around to the right and about 30 yards later go through the hedge to join the canal at Draper's bridge (Note that it is a split bridge which was designed to allow the rope from the horses pulling the barges to go through the slot). Cross

over the bridge and turn left to follow the path along the side of the canal. After about 5 minutes walk you reach the Edstone aqueduct where the canal crosses the road and the railway. *This is reputedly the longest aqueduct in England.*

5) Follow the footpath across the Edstone aqueduct, alongside the iron trough that carries the water. After another 5 or so minutes walk along the canal you will come to lock 39 on this section of the canal. *This is a good place for a short rest and maybe a chance to watch the narrow boats going through the lock.*

6) Follow the footpath under bridge 56 and up to another split bridge (no 55) where you cross the bridge to the footpath on the other side of the canal. Follow the footpath until it swings to the right and at the next bridge (no 54) turn left to leave the canal on a track heading down towards Wootton Wawen. After passing 2 bungalows turn right onto a small metalled road, and then after coming level with the 2nd group of houses on the right take the marked footpath on the left (opposite Poppy Cottage).

7) The path goes over a small stream, down through some trees and over a stile into a field. Head slightly left across the field aiming for a large horse chestnut tree that is just to the right of the direction of the church tower, which should be just visible through the trees. When you reach the track that crosses the field, turn right onto it and follow it up to the main road. (*Timing to this point is about 1hr 45*) For sustenance at this point either turn right to the Navigation Inn or left toward the centre of Wootton Wawen to continue the walk. If turning left, cross over the river and see the weir and the impressive Wootton Hall on your right.

Continue overleaf at section 8.



8) After about 100yds there is a post box and telephone boxes. If carrying on immediately with the walk, turn left down a small road just after the post box. *Otherwise continue to either the Post Office, which stocks a good selection of food and drinks or further on to the Bulls Head for a more upmarket meal and drinks.*

You could also visit the craft centre if you wished at Yew Tree Farm

After refreshments go back to the small road by the post box and turn down it.

9) Go through the gate that is across the end of the road, straight ahead past some houses on the right. Then go through another small gate and follow the track straight ahead on the raised section of the field, which will lead you down towards the River Alne at a point where there is a small footbridge across the river. Do not cross the river, but follow along it keeping it on your left. After passing the remains of a demolished bridge you will see a line of conifers following a large wire fence on your right which marks the boundary of the sewage works. After crossing a stile take the path that veers away from the river and go over the stile at the end of the row of conifers. The path now passes along between the fence and the river.

10) Follow the fence as it follows the bends in the river. As you leave the fenced area and the river swings off to the left, head straight on towards a small gate on the far right side of the field. Aim just to the right of the two telegraph poles with a transformer between them. Go through the small gate to bring you onto a track beside the railway embankment. Turn left onto the track, and when you reach the road turn right and go under the first railway arch. The river will now be back on your left hand side.

11) After about 100 yards along the road the river swings left and shortly afterwards there is a stile on the left that you cross over into a field. Follow the left hand fence, then passing just to the right of the small converted brick barns go over a stile. Head across the next field aiming for a gate and stile in the corner of the field to the right of the main house. (You may wish to follow the edge of the field rather than going straight across it.) *Note the picturesque thatched cottage to your right as you cross the field*

12) Climb over the stile at the waymarked point onto a road, turn left and after about 10 yards cross over a small stream into a field on your right. Once in the field, aim for the opposite side of the field, about one third of the way along the skyline from the left, and head up the hill. The route is usually visible in the grass. As you reach the top, look back to see the old mill buildings behind you.

13) Cross over the stile in the hedge on the brow of Round hill and admire the views before continuing down to a gate directly in front of you. Go through the gate, or over the stile next to it, and continue down the hill keeping the post and wire fence on your right. Follow the fence around the edge of the grounds of the house on your right and down to a gate and stile that takes you onto the main road. Turn left and follow the road, going straight on at the junction (signposted Aston Cantlow & Bearley), as the main road swings to the right.

14) About 50 yards after crossing the bridge over the River Alne go over a stile on the right. Head straight on with the hut and the river on your right. As the river swings away to the right, carry straight on. The track is usually visible in the

grass. Go along beside a plantation of small trees to pass through a gate & stile. Follow along between the fence and the hedge and when the fence stops, carry on with the hedge on your left side. Continue along this hedge to a gate and a stile where the footpath crosses the route of the old railway. Cross the disused railway by the stile at each side of it (*note that there is no right of way along the railway track*) and then follow the fence veering slightly right to a gate and stile that takes you back onto an unmade road.

15) Continue along the road into the metalled Chapel Lane and head straight on to join Bearley Road. At Bearley Road turn right and go past Cantella Farm to get back to the Kings Head for a well deserved drink, and then back through the churchyard (on the right hand footpath) to the caravan site if required

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

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

©Aston Cantlow Parish Path Volunteers - May 2010. This leaflet is the fourth of a series produced by the Aston Cantlow Parish Path Volunteers who help to open up, maintain and promote the use of the footpaths in the parish of Aston Cantlow. (Leaflet w4v3)