

Walk 6: Willingham Green, Balsham, Linton, and Abington

Type: Linear.
Distance: $10\frac{3}{4}$ miles.
Extra Care: Crossing A1307.
Start: Willingham Green (622537).

Take the public bridleway signposted “Ickniel Way Riders Route” leading from the left of the road. After $\frac{1}{2}$ mile you will pass large barns on your right; these are shown as Crick’s Farm on the Ordnance Survey map. After a further $\frac{3}{4}$ mile a road will cross your path (604548). Take this road to the left following the Ickniel Way sign and walk for $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, after which the road will turn to the left. Do not follow the road to the left: instead, turn right (603544), following the public byway, also signposted “Ickniel Way”.

After 300 yards, you will pass the Cambridge Water Company buildings on your right. Shortly after the buildings, the byway will lead you to the left. There is a ford at this point (601545). The ford was dry at the time of writing.

Continue to follow the bridleway. After $\frac{1}{2}$ mile you will cross a minor road and after a further $\frac{1}{2}$ mile you will cross another minor road at Green End Farm (595531).

Continue to follow the Ickniel Way straight ahead until you reach Balsham. As you enter Balsham the track will become a metalled road. Follow the road past the speed restriction signs, until you arrive at the main road (580508) running through Balsham. At the main road, turn left and follow the road through Balsham.

When you reach the round shelter surmounted by a weather-vane, follow the road as it curves right but do not continue to follow it as it curves left. Instead walk into Wood Hall Lane (586507).

$\frac{1}{2}$ mile along Wood Hall Lane you will pass Wood Hall Farm. Continue to follow the bridleway. Balsham Water Tower and Balsham Wood will be about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to your right.

Walk until the Roman Road crosses your path (584488). Turn right and follow the Roman Road. You will be walking between hedgerows. After

you have followed the Roman Road for about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile look for the waymark indicating a footpath to your left (576491) leading towards the Linton Water Tower, which you will see clearly on the horizon. If you miss the footpath, you can follow the road, which you will reach soon afterwards, towards Linton Water Tower.

Follow the footpath towards the water tower. As you walk along this footpath, Borley Wood will be about 200 yards to your left.

When you reach the road, turn left and follow it past the entrance to Chilford Hall and join the Ickniel Way uphill towards Linton Water Tower (567479).

Turn right after the water tower, following the bridleway. Follow the bridleway westerly. You will have the water tower on your right.

Walk on and you will pass a wood close to your left. When you reach the end of the wood you have another magnificent view of south Cambridgeshire in front of you. Ahead, in the distance, you will see the hangers of the famous World War 2 airfield at Duxford, now a part of the Imperial War Museum.

Shortly after the wood, the bridleway will turn left (563479). Follow it downhill until you join Linton Back Road.

Turn right into Linton Back Road and follow it past the traffic speed derestriction signs. Be very careful because there are no footpaths or grass verges to walk from this point.

Approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the derestriction signs, take the footpath to your left signposted “Linton $\frac{3}{4}$ ” (556478). At the time of writing, this signpost was hidden in a tree.

Follow the footpath. you will come to the River Granta, which you can either ford or cross by a footbridge.

When you have crossed the Granta, go through the gate. Walk following the footpath ahead of you and keeping the hedgerow to your right.

Walk until you reach a stile with a hedgerow facing you (554476). Climb over the stile and turn right. You will shortly pass under a line of electricity pylons. Keep following the footpath with the wood to your left. Soon after the wood you will pass a sewage farm on your left—keep walking! You will have the river behind the hedgerow on your right. To your left and about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile away you will see a windmill, without its sails, which has been converted into a house.

