



RIGHTS OF WAY NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Aldwinckle & Wadenhoe



Wadenhoe House

WALK 1

Aldwinckle and the River Nene

Starting at the south end of the village nr. All Saints' church ① and the Old Rectory ②, head east via the footpath to reach the road and Brancey Bridge. Crossing over the road you can follow a riverside path along Harper's Brook and the River Nene, until you join up with the Nene Way. At this point you can head north to Wadenhoe; or return to Aldwinckle, passing alongside Aldwinckle Pocket Park ③ to emerge on Main Street, a short distance from the Old Rectory and your starting point. Walk approx 2 hours. Path alongside River Nene may be muddy.

WALK 2

Wadenhoe and Achurch

Beginning at the King's Head ① head south and uphill to St. Michael and All Angels' church ③ at the southern end of the village. Follow the footpath that heads north and then takes you around the area of earthworks known as Castle Close ④. When you emerge on Main Street, head across the village green towards the war memorial and then double back along Pudding Lane to reach Pilton Road.

Passing by Wadenhoe dovecote ⑥ which stands in the stable yard of Wadenhoe House ⑦ (now a Training Centre) turn into Mill Lane. From here you can follow the Nene Way across a water meadow and the river to St. John the Baptist ①, parish church of Achurch. A short walk along a country lane through the village takes you to a footpath that will allow you to double back through the fields to Wadenhoe.

Walk approx 1 1/2 hours.
Steep climb to church.



Beside the River Nene

ALDWINCKLE & WADENHOE

Rich in history and wildlife, the attractive villages of Aldwinckle and Wadenhoe are nestled in a dramatic curve of the River Nene.

Why not enjoy a walk along the banks of the river or a stroll amongst limestone, slate and thatched cottages?



The villages of Aldwinckle and Wadenhoe, are located approx. 4 miles from Thrapston, in the north-east of the county.

For information about public transport to Aldwinckle and Wadenhoe please contact Traveline on 0870 608 2608.

When parking in either village please take into consideration local access needs. Parking is available near All Saints' Church, Peartree Farm and Titchmarsh Nature Reserve in Aldwinckle, next to the village hall and St. Michael and All Angels' Church in Wadenhoe.

If you wish to report any problems with any of the routes shown in this leaflet, please contact Rights of Way, Northamptonshire County Council, Riverside House, Bedford Road, Northampton NN1 5NX. Tel: 01604 654465.

This information can be made available in other languages and formats upon request, such as large print, Braille, audio cassette and floppy disk.





THE WILDLIFE



Marsh Marigolds

The traditionally-managed farmland on the River Nene floodplain between Aldwincle and Wadenhoe is a haven for many kinds of wildlife. Look out for snipe and heron, magnificent pollarded willows or even otters.

Achurch Meadow / Wadenhoe Marsh

This Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) with its flower-rich waterside meadows, riverside woodland and marshy grassland provides ideal habitats for wading birds and over 100 species of flowering plants.

Titchmarsh Local Nature Reserve & Heronry

With its footpaths and bird hides, the Reserve is an ideal venue for watching birds such as goosander and kingfishers as well as being home to many different plants, butterflies and dragonflies. Dogs should be kept on a lead at all times. No access to the heronry.

Aldwincle Pocket Park

3

Created in 1989 in a former quarry pit, the Pocket Park includes a rookery and is home to a variety of trees, scrub and associated wildlife such as bluebells, red admiral butterflies and green woodpeckers.

The Linches

This former estate woodland created at the end of the 18th century was part of Lilford Park. Mainly pine, sycamore and beech along with some elm and ash. Look out for bluebells in the spring and the white letter hairstreak butterfly. Shooting takes place in these woods, please keep to the path with dogs on a lead.



Pollarded Willow



Wadenhoe Mill



WADENHOE

Wadenhoe, a village of attractive stone buildings and a rich history probably dates back to Saxon times. The name may come from a Saxon lord 'Wada' and a 'hoo / hoe' - spur of land / hill or from the Old English 'Waden' or 'ford'. The village's many interesting sites and buildings are worth a closer look.

St. Michael and All Angels' Church

3

Standing alone at the village edge, the parish church has Anglo-Saxon parts and a 12th century saddleback tower but is mainly 14th century in date. Treasures to discover include its six bells (said to be the most musical in the county), the Green Man carvings inside, the scratch dials (sundials) outside and the stained glass windows, including a memorial to the Rt. Hon. George Ward-Hunt, owner of the Wadenhoe Estate, and Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1868.



St. Michael & All Angels' church

Castle Close

4

The earthworks next to the church are known as Castle Close, though it is unlikely that it was ever the site of a medieval castle. The hill is a natural feature defended in the past by building a rampart. Recent investigation has found evidence of medieval buildings - possibly a 13th or 14th century manor house.

Wadenhoe Dovecote

6

This 18th century circular dovecote still has its lath and plaster nesting boxes and a central, turning ladder or potence. The dovecote is cared for by the County Council and is open to the public.

Wadenhoe House

7

This magnificent Jacobean house was extensively remodelled by George Ward-Hunt in the 19th century. Ward-Hunt is said to have had the first rural telegraph office (at the Post Office) installed in Wadenhoe to keep in touch with government business.



Wadenhoe Dovecote



ALDWINCLE

The loop of the River Nene probably gave Aldwincle its name, it was recorded in the Domesday Book as Eldwincle - a Saxon name "Ealda" and the Old English "wincle" meaning old nook or corner. Settlement here dates back even further, with a Roman settlement discovered south of the village. Until 1879 the village had two parishes, each with a church, rectory and manor.

All Saints' Church

1

Dating back to the 13th century with a pinnaced and carved 15th century tower, All Saints' church has been disused for over a hundred years. Now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust, the keyholder lives nearby if you would like to view inside.

The Old Rectory

2

Opposite All Saints' Church stands the stone, plaster and thatch birthplace of John Dryden, 17th century Poet Laureate to King Charles II. Born in 1631, Dryden gained renown as a playwright and poet, being buried in Westminster Abbey.

St Peter's Church

4

The beautiful broach spire, tower and chancel of St Peter's date to the late 14th century, but there is evidence of earlier Norman origins. The church has wonderful stained glass - look out for the figures of St. George and St. Christopher. Outside a carved frieze of animals and birds encircles the building.



THORPE ACHURCH

Achurch was once part of the Lilford Park Estate. A famous descendant of the village was John Quincy Adams, sixth President of the USA, related to Achurch residents Edmund and Judith Quincy who travelled to America in the 1630s.

St. John the Baptist Church

1

Dating to the early 14th century and built in the shape of a cross, the church was founded by the Knight Asceline de Waterville in thanks for his safe return from the Crusades. His tomb is preserved in the graveyard.

SAFE WALKING

Be prepared - always wear suitable clothing and sturdy footwear, take refreshments and directions.

Take care when crossing or walking on roadways (walk facing oncoming traffic).

The countryside is a living, working environment, so please follow the Country Code.

- ❖ Keep to the line of the paths
- ❖ Leave gates as you find them
- ❖ Respect the countryside - leave wildlife, livestock, crops and machinery alone
- ❖ Keep your dogs under control
- ❖ Take your litter home

PLACES OF INTEREST

Wadenhoe

- 1 King's Head (17th century public house)
- 2 Millennium Sundial
- 3 St. Michael and All Angels' Church
- 4 Castle Close (earthworks)
- 5 Post Office & Shop
- 6 Wadenhoe Dovecote
- 7 Wadenhoe House
- 8 Mill

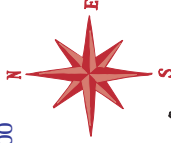
Aldwincle

- 1 All Saints' Church
- 2 The Old Rectory
- 3 Aldwincle Pocket Park
- 4 St. Peter's Church
- 5 Peartree Farm (B and B)
- 6 Garage
- 7 Village Shop

Achurch

- 1 St. John The Baptist Church

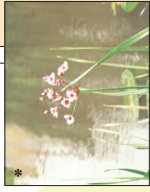
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KEY	
	Nene Way
	Permitted Footpath under Countryside Stewardship Agreement (ends 2013)
	Footpath/Right of Way
	Suggested Walk Routes
	Northamptonshire Cycle Route - 'Undale and Thrapston'
	Stile
	Bus Stop
	Parking
	View Point
	Seat
	Public House



A view of Aldwincle



Flowering Rush



Tractor in River Nene

FINDING YOUR WAY

All the footpaths shown in this leaflet are Rights Of Way (except for the permissive path along the banks of the River Nene). These Rights of Way are marked with sign posts, waymark discs and markers.

For more detailed information about the surrounding countryside or other possible walks you could use Ordnance Survey maps - the Landranger 141 or Explorer 224 maps cover the Aldwincle and Wadenhoe area.

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