

Three interesting
and varied walks
around the villages of
Houghton, Wyton
and the surrounding area



A map showing parking and the start/
finish point for walks is included

WALK 1

Two miles long and at a slow pace the walk will take about one hour and thirty minutes. You will head off following the river Great Ouse towards Godmanchester and Huntingdon across the meadows and then back via Hemingford Abbots.

From the National Trust car park next to the tearooms at the far end of Mill Street head straight for the Mill. Follow the path through the Mill, over the sluice bridge and keep going until you cross the bridge of the boating lock. Immediately turn right along the riverbank.



Continue along this riverbank and across the next bridge through two gates. This bridge crosses the sluice that feeds the backwater known locally as the frying pan. Bear left towards and over the next bridge, which is a short distance across this meadow and once across the bridge, keep roughly the same bearing across this longer meadow leaving the river on your right. You will now come to a gated bridge across a stream on the left hand side of this meadow, cross the bridge and bear right again towards a metal gate at the far end of this field.



Go through the gate and along the lane and within a short distance with another metal gate in front of you, turn left over the bridge, then immediately left again through the gate following the public footpath sign. This takes you across the common by path where you will exit via another gate onto Common Lane, Hemingford Abbots. Make your way down Common Lane for about ten minutes until on your right you will see a large house with elaborate chimneys called Thatch Cottage. It is here where you take a left turn down Meadow Lane, passing a grand Oak tree on your right and then over the Bailey bridge.

Keep going straight across the meadow and you will find yourself back at Houghton Lock. Follow the path back to the National Trust car park to complete your walk.



WALK 2

One and three quarter miles long and at a slow pace the walk will take around one hour and fifteen minutes. You will head off following both the main river and back streams towards Hemingford Grey on the opposite bank and return via Thicket Road.

From the National Trust car park with the tearooms on your right head left along the riverbank until you come to a gate at the far corner of the Caravan Club field. Go through this gate and across the first bridge that crosses a ditch straight in front of you. A little further on cross the second bridge on your right and keep going until you cross two more bridges, the last one crosses the back stream weir directly from the main river Ouse.



Follow the main river across two fields and another bridge that crosses a brook. In front of you is a large meadow, again follow the path with the river on your right, all the way round until you come to a large weir again on your right hand side.



Cross the stile here and follow the path to the right you are now parallel to the backwater with Hemingford Grey on the opposite bank of the island. Continue all the way round this meadow, constantly keeping the back stream to your right you will now go through a hand gate and turn right over a concrete bridge. Keep going down this lane until you come to a small pump house next to the track on your right. Thicket Road is now in front of you so turn left down this road until you come to some large black gates of a housing complex called The Elms on your right.

Opposite these gates turn left and then after a short distance, right, down a footpath with fences on either side, keep going down the lane until you see a gate on your left in the Caravan Club field, go through this gate and bear right across the field so that you are now back in the National Trust car park.



WALK 3

Six miles long and at a slow pace the walk will take around three hours. You will head off across the meadow to Hemingford Abbots then Hemingford Grey and on to St Ives before you make your way back to Houghton via the thicket path.

From the national trust car park go through the mill and follow the path across the boating lock bridge. Continue across the meadow towards Hemingford Abbots. When at the other side cross the Bailey bridge and head down Meadow Lane until you reach the T-junction with Common Lane. Turn left and continue on for about a fifteen minute stroll passing the Axe and Compass pub on the left until you see a black and white thatched house called Beechers House. Turn left at the public footpath sign at the side of this house and continue down the path through a gate and

across two meadows and a small wooded copse in between until you meet the river again at Hemingford Grey. Go through the gate and along the walled path past the famous old manor house or Green Knowe as this was the home made famous by the author Lucy Boston (visiting is possible by appointment only on 01480 463134, www.greenknowe.co.uk).



When you get to the mini roundabout next to River House turn left down the public footpath next to the river and you will come to the church gates. Turn right up Church Street passing the entrance to Hemingford Grey house on the left. Walk 80 metres then turn left down Love Lane. Follow this route until you come to a road called Meadow Lane, continue straight down this road and follow it to the very end, here at the public footpath sign, leave the tarmac road but continue straight for a few metres onto the Dolphin meadow. Soon after entering turn left and head for the river. When you reach the river turn right and follow the riverbank until you have to turn right again along by the moorings to the Dolphin Hotel.

When the fence ends turn left and exit the meadow via the gate. Go through the Dolphin car park to come out onto London Road turn left after the barriers and cross the Medieval bridge to St. Ives, walk to the top of Bridge Street a T-junction.

At this point you may like to break your journey and look around the very interesting market town of St. Ives.

Resume your journey by turning left and keep walking passed the Victoria Memorial pass the moorings at the side of the river and then take an immediate left (footpath sign Ouse Valley Way) and enter St. Ives Parish Church yard. Continue straight through the church yard and out the other side, here aim for the footpath that runs along the side of the back stream called Barnes Walk continue on down here until you see the Copley Scouting Centre on your left. The path then bears to the left in the direction of the river, continue on this concrete path for approximately fifteen



minutes with the river running parallel across the meadow. You now arrive at what was an old gate across the path and you now have the choice of continuing along this concrete pathway or going up the steps to the right into the woodland. If you take the woodland route when you reach the top turn left and follow the track until eventually you again join the concrete path at the far end of what is called The Thicket.

Continue on once you have left the wooded area for fifteen minutes until you reach a bridge crossing a ditch, here continue to follow the made up road until you reach Houghton village centre. At this point turn left down Mill Street and at the bottom left again back into the National Trust car park.

This is your journeys end so we hope you had a very pleasant ramble.



