

Walk 2: The Roman Road, Linton Water Tower, and an Unusual Stile

Type: Circular.
Distance: $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles.
Extra Care: Crossing A1307 (twice); Hildersham crossroads; no pavement on road from Hildersham crossroads to start of bridleway to Roman Road ($\frac{1}{4}$ mile).
Start: By the entrance to Abington Campsite on Church Lane (531492).

Turn right and follow Church Lane until you reach the junction with High Street. At the junction continue straight ahead, walking along High Street. You will cross the River Granta and pass the Three Tuns public house.

After you have passed Abington Primary School on your right, turn left into Linton Road (signposted to Linton and Haverhill). Follow Linton Road past the speed de-restriction signs until you reach West Lodge Kennels. Just past the kennels turn left to follow the public footpath signposted "Hildersham $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Almost immediately this will take you to the A1307 (537486).

Cross the A1307 to the gate opposite and follow the waymarked footpath across three fields. When you enter the third field, the footpath will lead you to a footbridge over the river (543487) in the opposite right corner.

Cross the footbridge, turn right and walk, keeping the river close to your right, until you reach the road which runs through the village of Hildersham.

Turn left and follow the road until you arrive at a crossroads. On the way you will pass Blench Lane on your right and Holy Trinity Church on your left.

At the crossroads walk straight ahead towards Balsham. Note that the road does not have a pavement from this point. Walk for $\frac{1}{4}$ mile and find the bridleway on the left signposted "Roman Road $\frac{3}{4}$ " (549493). Follow the bridleway.

Walk until you meet the Roman Road. There are a few metal posts across the bridleway at this point.

Turn right and follow the Roman Road (548505). It is worth noting that the Road is in fact a narrow footpath with high hedges, mainly hawthorn, on either side. As you would expect, the Roman Road runs in a straight line.

Walk along the Roman Road. You will pass under a line of electricity pylons just before a road crosses your path.

Cross the road and continue to follow the Roman Road. As you walk along this section of the Roman Road, look over to your right. You will see Linton Water Tower and in the fields in line with the water tower you will see a crop of trees which surrounds Chilford Hall vineyard.

Keep walking and you will reach another road crossing your path. Cross this road and continue to follow the Roman Road. From here the Roman Road becomes a public byway and is much wider. Walk for approximately 150 yards from the road and look for the waymarked footpath (576491) on the right of the Roman Road.

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 Icknield Way uphill towards Linton water tower (567479).

Turn right after the water tower following the bridleway. Walk on and you will pass a wood close to your left. When you reach the end of the wood you have a 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 until you reach Symonds Lane.

Turn left into Symonds Lane and follow it round to the left. You will pass Granta Leas. Immediately after Granta Leas take the public footpath to your right. This will take you over the river and towards Linton recreation ground. Walk straight ahead.

Turn right past the pavilion, following the signposted direction Roman Road Walk; a bowling green will be on your right. Walk past the play area keeping the hedge to your left.

As you leave the recreation ground the path takes you to the side of a

clapper stile. The stile looks like part of the fence. Push down on the end away from the post.

Leave the recreation ground and follow the wide, grassy path which will lead you towards the line of electricity pylons. Before you reach the pylons you will reach a brideway signposting left (555474). This is at Lt Linton. Do not turn left but go straight ahead to find the footpath which continues on the opposite side of the brideway. Continue walking and you will pass under the line of electricity pylons. Keep following the footpath with the wood to your left. Soon after you leave 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 a quarter of a mile away you will see a windmill without its sails which has been converted into a house.

When you reach the track which leads to the converted windmill, cross the track and keep on following the path with the river to your right towards the village of Hildersham. When you reach Hildersham climb the stile (545484) and cross the field diagonally to the far left corner. Follow the path and cul-de-sac through houses to reach the road which runs through Hildersham.

Cross the road, turn right, and walk past the Pear Tree public house towards the river bridge.

Cross the bridge and turn left to follow the footpath signposted “Abington $\frac{3}{4}$ ” (545486), keeping the river on your left. You are now retracing your steps until you reach Abington High Street. The path leads you to a footbridge crossing the river.

When you have crossed the river follow the waymarked path across three fields until you reach the road leading into Abington.

Turn right towards Abington Walk until you reach High Street.

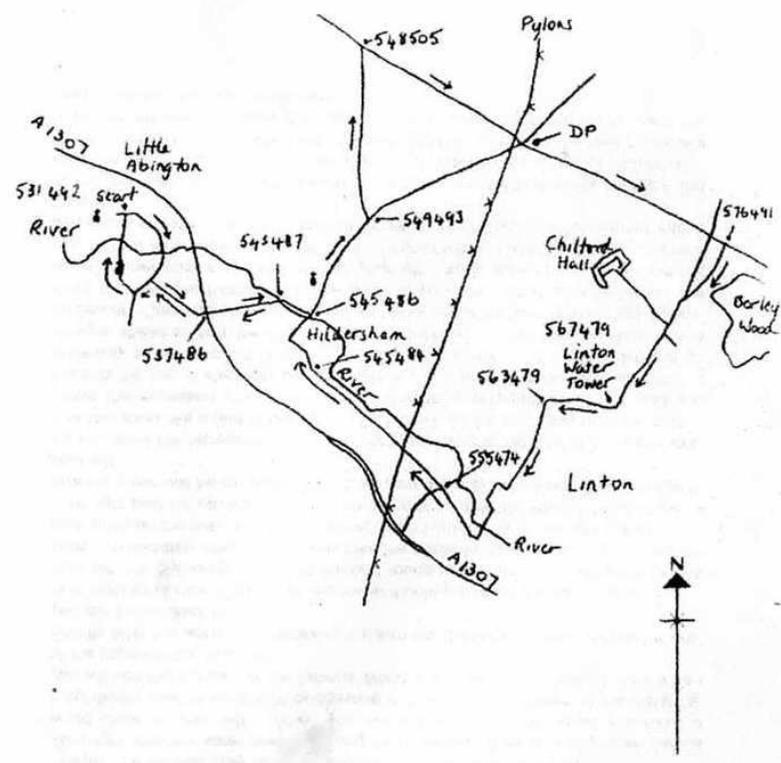
Turn left into High Street and walk for 200 yards until you reach on your right the sign to “St Mary’s Church Great Abington”, also signposted “Public Footpath to Little Abington $\frac{1}{2}$ ”.

Turn right and follow the road towards St Mary’s Church. As you approach the church, leave the road and veer to your right keeping close to the fence on your right until you reach the gate at the corner of the churchyard.

Go through the gate. Walk through the recreation ground, keeping the

hedgerow close to your left.

When you reach the corner of the recreation ground, cross the footbridge and follow the footpath which will lead you back to Church Lane and the entrance to the campsite (531492). When you are walking this last section of the footpath, you will have the campsite on your right. Please do not be tempted to climb through or over the perimeter fence, as you may cause unnecessary damage.



(Not to scale.)