

## Walk 5: The Roman Road, Wandlebury, and Babraham Hall

Type: Circular.  
Distance: 8 miles (plus  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles to include Wandlebury).  
Extra Care: Crossing the A1307 (twice)  
Start: By the entrance to Abington Campsite on Church Lane (531492).

Follow Church Lane to the left towards St Mary's Church, Lt Abington. When you reach the church, follow Church Lane as it bears right. Walk on; you will pass the entrance to West Field to your left. When Church Lane bears left it runs into Bourn Bridge Road. At this point (529495), cross Bourn Bridge Road and follow the footpath opposite between fences to the A1307.

At the A1307, turn left and follow the road (there is a pavement), leaving Abington until you reach the signs left to Fourwentways Services. Follow the signs until you reach the Fourwentways service station. Turn left at the service station and follow the old A11 road.  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from Fourwentways follow the footpath to your right (521497). Ahead of you, you will see a footbridge which crosses the A11. Cross the footbridge and continue walking straight ahead. Follow the footpath for  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile. It will become a concrete roadway which will take you through the buildings of Home Farm to Babraham (512502).

Turn right into the road which runs through Babraham and follow it, past the George public house on your right, to the A1307.

Cross the A1307 and follow the road opposite, signposted to Worsted Lodge. This road is lightly used by vehicles. It does not have a pavement and when necessary safety must be sought on the grass verges.

1 mile from the A1307 you will reach a 'T' junction. Turn left and follow the road as it curves right, until you reach Mount Farm (528519).

At Mount Farm, turn left through the upright metal posts, and begin walking along the Roman Road.

After  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles you will reach a wood on your left. At this point a public byway (512532) is signposted to the left. The walk takes this byway. It is, however, worthwhile continuing walking along the Roman Road to explore

Wandlebury. Wandlebury is signposted as a public footpath to Wandlebury and Cambridge (505536) and will be on your left after a further  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile. Wandlebury Ring is  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from the Roman Road.

If you have explored Wandlebury, return to the waymarked byway (512532) and follow it towards the A1307 about 1 mile ahead. The byway you are following has to begin with the wood surrounding Copley Hill on your right. The byway is wide, runs gently downhill, and offers magnificent views.

At the A1307, turn right, walk for 100 yards, and cross the road to follow the footpath signposted to the left (502520). Note that there is no pavement to the A1307. There are, however, wide verges on which to walk.

Follow the footpath. After  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile you will reach the River Granta. Cross the river and follow the footpath straight ahead. A few yards from the river the footpath will take you over a stile. Continue to follow the footpath, through a plantation of trees straight ahead to the next stile (498512). Climb this stile and turn immediately left, following the waymark.

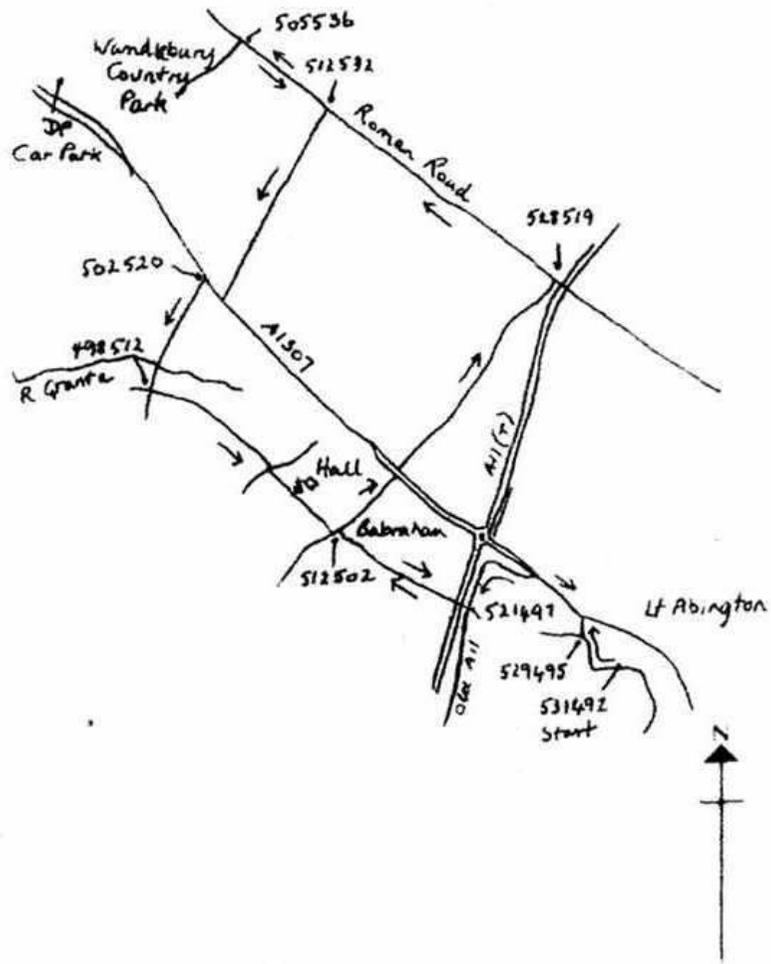
Keep walking with the fence on your left. You will pass a wood on your left. When the wood leaves the footpath, you will find reverse signposting to Stapleford along the path which you have been following.

Follow the signposts (in the opposite direction to Stapleford) and walk until a private road crosses the path. Cross the road and continue to follow the footpath. You will shortly have the river on your left. On the other side of the river are the buildings of the Babraham Institute.

Continue to follow the footpath by the river. At Babraham Church the footpath will lead into a road. Follow the road. On your left you will see the splendid façade of Babraham Hall. At this point also look to your right to see the avenue of trees leading away from the Hall.

The road will bear to the right. Do not follow it round, but walk straight ahead, through the gap between fences to join the road that leads through Babraham. Turn left and follow the road. After 50 yards you will find a footpath signposted "Abington  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles". This footpath will take you back through Home Farm. Now retrace your steps to the campsite (531492).

N.B. You are advised not to take the alternative route from the old A11 back to Abington along Bourn Bridge Road. Bourn Bridge Road is fairly busy and narrow, and has no pavement.



(Not to scale.)