

## Walk 8: Horseheath (Cardinal's Green) and Hadstock

Type: Linear.  
Distance: 10 miles.  
Extra Care: Hadstock Road bend (557451)—blind turn to right.  
Start: Cardinal's Green (615465).

Follow the public bridleway in a westerly direction. The bridleway is signposted "Bartlow 2 miles". Initially, the bridleway is narrow and between hedgerows.

After you have walked for  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile you will leave a wood behind on your right. At this point be careful; the farm track on which you will find yourself is obvious and leads uphill. There are a few pines to the right of the track at the crest of the hill. Do not follow the track up the hill. Instead, look to your left for the continuation of the bridleway. This leads away on a bearing of  $253^\circ$ .

Follow the bridleway. To begin with, you will have a hedgerow on your left. After you have walked for a little over a mile, you will reach a road (597452). Turn left and follow the road. Keep on the wide grass verge to the left of the road. After you have followed the road for 200 yards, turn right (599451) and follow the narrow road which will take you past Westoe Farm on your left.

After you have been walking on this road for  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile, you will pass a barn on your right. Follow the road round to the right by the barn. The road now becomes a track. Follow the track as it winds right again and then left past a wood on your left. 200 yards after you leave the wood on your left, the track will turn sharply right (594441). Do not follow the track to the right; instead walk straight ahead, keeping a hedgerow on your left.

Continue to follow the bridleway. As you approach some woods, the bridleway will be divided by a hedgerow and trees. Follow the right fork, keeping the hedge and trees on your left.

Walk on into the wood and you will find yourself at the junction of five tracks (591435). You must follow the bridleway which leads away from the junction on a bearing of  $251^\circ$ .

When you have walked  $\frac{1}{3}$  mile from the junction, you will reach a 'T'

junction with another track. Turn right and follow the track to the road (584432).

When you reach the road, cross and follow the road to the left opposite. You will have a sewage treatment plant on your left. After a short while, you will cross the river Bourn—just a trickle at this point. Follow the road. You will cross a bridge which, once, crossed a railway. 150 yards after the bridge you will pass a wood on your left.

Immediately after the wood, turn left (580437) and follow the signposted bridleway. You will be walking uphill with the wood on your left. Keep following the bridleway until you reach a 'T' junction at Bowers (567431). Turn right, keeping the brick wall on your left and walk until you reach the road junction.

At the junction, the Ordnance Survey map shows the footpath which you need to follow as being directly opposite. The footpath seems to have been diverted. To find it, turn left and walk along the road for about 100 yards until you have passed the buildings on your right. At the time of writing, the footpath was accessed by a wire mesh gate and led into a chicken farm. Follow the footpath straight ahead to the left-hand edge of the wood, 300 yards away. Walk past the wood, keeping it on your right.

When you reach the end of the wood (565435), the footpath will lead you straight ahead across open fields. At this point, if the footpath is not clear, it is worthwhile following a compass bearing on  $346^\circ$ .

You will need to follow the footpath across fields for just over 1 mile towards Hadstock. As you approach Hadstock, you will converge with a line of poles carrying low level electricity power lines. The pole at the point of convergence has a footpath arrow directing you ahead. Walk ahead to the left of the pole, keeping the ditch on your right.

You will soon see the tower of Hadstock Church (558447) among trees ahead of you to the left. Make your way to the stile in the corner of the field directly behind the church tower.

Climb the stile, and walk through the churchyard to the road on the far side. (Do not follow the path in the churchyard leading away to your right.) As you leave the churchyard, you should have a pond on your right.

Turn right and follow the road until you reach a junction. At the junction turn left, following the signs to Cambridge and Linton. You will pass the King's Head public house on your left.

Walk on until the road bends to the right (558451). Do not follow the road round; instead, follow the public footpath straight ahead, to begin with keeping a ditch on your right. Follow the footpath towards a line of electricity pylons.  $\frac{1}{3}$  mile before the pylons, the Icknield Way will cross your path. At this point, go through the gap in the hedge and on to the Icknield Way. Turn left. After a few yards, turn right and follow your original line of travel towards the electricity pylons.

As you reach the pylons you will pass through a hedge. From here, follow the footpath diagonally across the field on a bearing of  $240^\circ$  to the point, approximately  $\frac{1}{3}$  mile away, where your footpath meets a bridleway (543454) running downhill towards the A1307 about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles away. Do not follow the bridleway to the A1307 but cross it and follow the footpath on the other side. You will be walking uphill with a hedgerow on your right and the line of electricity pylons will be behind you.

Walk with the trees on your right. Walk until you reach the right-hand end of the wood which you will see ahead of you. Follow the path left for 50 yards, turn right, and keep walking past the wood on your left.

When you reach the end of the wood, follow the path straight ahead keeping a ditch and a line of trees on your right. You will now be walking towards Abington Park Farm.

300 yards before you reach the farm, turn right (527461) and follow the farm road downhill towards Abington.

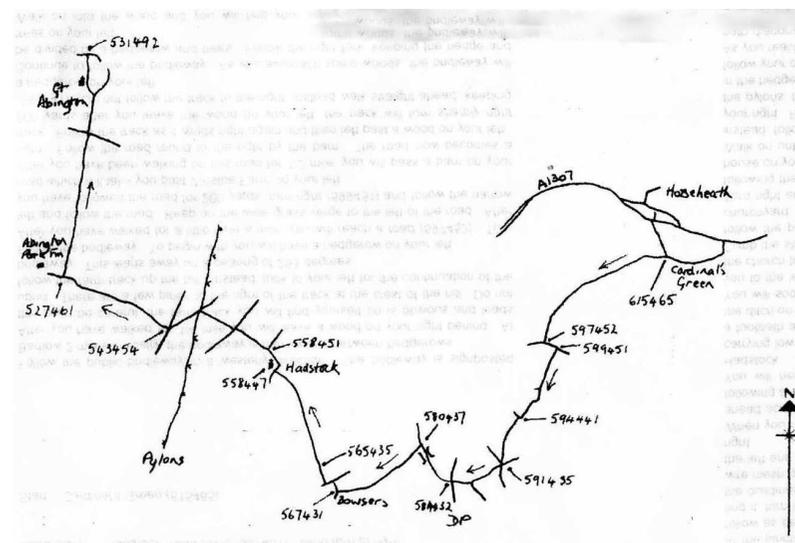
Walk downhill, enjoying the view before you, to Abington. When you reach the road cross and follow High Street opposite. Walk along High Street for  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile and find the sign on your left to "St Mary's Church Gt Abington", also signposted "Public Footpath to Lt Abington  $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Turn left 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, and 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 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.)