



DISTANCE

2.6 m / 4.18 km



ELEVATION

318 ft



CALCULATED TIME

Approx 1hr



DIFFICULTY

Easy/Flat

This is a superb leisurely walk which would be perfect just before of after a lovely pub lunch at the Fox & Hounds in Harlestone. Dog friendly, fabulous views, thatched cottages, a woodland area and a peaceful lake with a fantastic stone bridge to cross. If you are looking for a walk that is flat, with well maintained paths then this is for you. If you time your walk right, on Sunday afternoons during July, August and September the church serve tea and cakes for a small fee between 2.30pm and 5.00pm. They have a book stall too.

HARLESTONE VILLAGES WALK



1. Parking at the church car park (Church Lane, Lower Harlestone, Northampton NN7 4EN) make your way down the small steps and turn right. You will be seeing the church in all its glory a bit later on. Trust your SatNav with the post code



2. Keeping the school to your right you will see a green footpath sign in front of you. Turn right onto the tarmac path.



3. Continue along the tarmac path through two fields, saying hello to the horses and Shetland ponies.



4. As you pass through the small farm, turn right onto the busy road, keeping to the footpath on your right. It is a narrow path and you will find yourself walking in single file. Don't worry, it is not for very long you are soon about to turn right. Note: the Fox and Hounds Pub is just in front of you, although you may not have worked up a thirst quite yet! Did you look up to see the sundial on the side of one of the cottages?



HARLESTONE VILLAGES WALK



5. With the pub in the distance turn right. You will pass a cute cottage called "Side by Side". Continue up the little lane until you reach the gate. Turn right opposite the phone box.



6. Go through the gate and please be aware that cows can be present in this field. Check out those bumps on the right. Legend tells us that these may be an hidden medieval village (or I could be making this up!). Actually, the bumps you see are locally know as the Hills and Hollows or rather ills n ollas.



7. Take the forked trail to your left. As you round the corner check out the Hansel and Gretel House on the left.



8. You will soon arrive at another lovely property. This house often sells eggs in the front garden. Continue straight following the regular footpath signs. You will now enter a small section of the woods.



9. Emerge out of the woods and head towards the gate at the other end of the field. As you pass through the gate you will see a green footpath sign pointing to your right (next to Church Farm sign). Here you follow the narrow track. (more horses and also look out for the memorial plaque on the ground to your right at the end of the first section of footpath). Turn around and you will see a small memorial.. It's quite sad though

HARLESTONE VILLAGES WALK



10. Follow the tarmac path across the field. Cross the country road and follow the footpath signs. Check out that strange tree to your left!



11. As you exit the field after saying hello to the very tame sheep, turn right. Walk past the well-head on your left with gorgeous thatched cottages to your right.



12. Now follow the green footpath sign back onto the tarmac path through the next two fields.



13. Head towards the Village Hall in the distance and take note of the memorial monument to your right. You are now walking straight ahead in search of the golf course.



14. Follow your nose, but keep an eye out for flying balls!

HARLESTONE VILLAGES WALK



15. Either take the left fork and visit the church, or the right fork which takes you back towards the car park... but you haven't finished yet as the best is still to come. We still have a small loop to complete that holds a hidden gem!



16. Wave to your car in the car park on your right and continue down the footpath. I know! You have been here already, but bear with me as it's about to get really good! Follow the footpath signs again, but this time do NOT cross into the field, just keep on the track with the lovely house on your right.



17. Keep going and you will see a little stone bridge that goes over a stream.



18. You may be tempted to turn right where the footpath sign goes but please DO NOT. Just follow the path to the left and head on up the hill.



19. This section may also look a bit familiar. At the top of the hill hop over the stile to your right and into the woods. In the spring this woods is full of wild garlic and smells absolutely divine! Continue on the curvy path through the woods which ends up in the bottom corner of the woods. In summer months please wear long trousers as the nettles can be brutal.

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20. Over the stile we go. In a minute you will see an amazing view. Take your time to admire the scene including the wildlife and the fabulous stone bridge. When the sun is going down this is just spectacular.



21. Cross the stone bridge and you will see a small round footpath sign on your right. The actual footpath is slightly further on (see photo). Climb over the stile and this final track leads you back to your car after a short walk.

We hope you enjoyed this lovely little trail.

PHOTO CHALLENGE:

Your challenge, should you choose to accept it, is to capture a photo of wild garlic, or take a selfie with the lake behind you.



For each Adventure Geek walk we will challenge you to take a photo and upload to Facebook, Twitter or Instagram using the hashtag #AGPhotoChallenge.

PUB GRUB

Visit: <https://www.thefoxandhoundsharlestone.co.uk/>



- Historic pub with literary connections and a slick makeover.
- Modern English menu and garden.
- Open everyday from 11am