



DISTANCE
3.5 m / 5.6 km



ELEVATION
302 ft



CALCULATED TIME
Approx 1hr 25 min



DIFFICULTY
Moderate

The Hunsbury trail has something for everyone and is a pure delight to walk. From little secret paths to iron age forts, to the views at the top of Hunsbury hill (which may get your pulse racing) due to the steep climb. We complete a forest trail where you will spot deer, squirrels and other wildlife as well as the odd steam train or two! Take a quick break at the Dovers Return Café, before heading out towards the Hunsbury Lakes where swans and geese will keep you company.

HUNSBURY HOP (AG09)



1. Parking at Tesco Mereway, Clannell Rd, Northampton NN4 0JF (behind Click and Collect), or in the evenings park in the library car park. Take the tarmac path that leads up to the library.

Note: there is a 2hr limit on the Tesco parking.



2. Follow path around the bend and you will then cross Overslade Close. You will see the yellow bollards that leads to the footpath on the other side of the road.



3. Follow the cycle trail which takes you under the subway.



4. Turn right and continue on the cycle lane.



5. Turn left onto the track at the crossroads by the black litter bin.

You will see a turning on your right. Ignore the first turning and take the second turning (see photo 6)



6. This track will lead you towards Hunsbury Hill Fort. Defenses were built at Hunsbury Hill between the 7th and 4th centuries BC. The deep ditch excavated has survived to the present day.

HUNSBURY HOP (AG09)



7. Just around the corner is a bench which looks out over Northamptonshire.



8. Take the weight off your feet for a few mins and enjoy the view. Perhaps snap a few photos. Can you see the Express Lift Tower in the distance? At night this is spectacular. Sitting on the bench you will turn left and go down the hill.



9. You may be tempted to enter the woods, but turn right and follow the treeline. There is another entry into the woods at the corner of the field.



10. Just before the field bends round to the right, take a left into the woods and follow the single track. I love this part as it is very tranquil. See how many squirrels you can spot!



11. Keep an eye out for a crossroads. You will see the entry to the field on your left, and a fence to your right which is the school grounds. Head for the fence and once again you will see the Express Lift Tower poking over the top.



12. At the next junction turn left. I appreciate that it all looks very similar, so if you reach a post in the track then you have gone too far.

HUNSBURY HOP (AG09)



13. At the fork in the road take the left fork. Please don't worry if you take the wrong turn here as it will lead to the same place.



14. At the next very large and wide fork, turn right. This will lead you to the railway crossing.



15. Go over the rail crossing and it is time to get out your camera. Shortly you will head into the carpark of the Ironstone Railway Trust.



16. Turn right and you will find yourself in the carpark. Visit <https://nir.org.uk/> for more details on the trust as well as events / museum etc.



17. After a quick break at the Dovers Return you will head out back on the trail. There is a small wooden bridge that leads you around the back of the café.



18. Follow the footpath back onto the track and you will see the busy road in front of you.

HUNSBURY HOP (AG09)



19. Cross the road and follow the green footpath sign. This quiet path will take you along the back of some houses and is very popular with dog walkers (plenty of dog poo bins!).



20. Please ignore the first turning into the estate.



21. Take the second turning which should bring you out onto Wood Avens Close.



22. At the end of the close, turn right and then immediately left into Hudson Drive. You are seeking an arch at the end that has been created by tall fir trees – yep, that is a secret path!



23. Go through the arch and you will love what you find at the other end of this section.



24 Take the left fork and perhaps enjoy a few moments looking at the seating area by the lake and to read the plaques. This park has a fantastic community feel.

HUNSBURY HOP (AG09)



25. As you follow the tarmac path, keep the lake to your right.



26. Continue with the lake on your right and then you will pass underneath a bridge. This part of the trail can become flooded in the winter months.



27. The path crosses the green bridge and then bends to the left.



28. Turn left at the red dog poo bin until the path meets a natural end. You will now find yourself in Stuart Close.



29. Stuart Close weaves left, then right then left again until you reach the main road (Ladybridge Drive).



30. At Ladybridge Drive turn left. You will now be walking for quite a while until you see the Hunsbury Country Park sign. You will pass: Blackwell Hill, Saerek Park, Tideswell Close, Foxford Close, Holbein Gardens, Tall Trees Close. If you reach the roundabout then you have gone too far.

HUNSBURY HOP (AG09)



31. Turn right into Hunsbury Country Park. Be warned that this is a long and rather steep hill.



32. At the top of the hill, cross over the road and turn right. You are looking for another Hunsbury Country Park sign on your left.



33. Turn into the park and then after 10 steps or so, turn right. DO NOT go through the gate.



34. Do not pass through this gate, simply turn right and follow the track. Be wary of large badger and rabbit holes (especially if you are walking this route at night).



35. Take the right hand fork.



36. At the end of the track turn right. This will seem familiar as you walked this small section at the beginning of the trail.

HUNSBURY HOP (AG09)



37. Turn left and go under the subway.



38. Cross Overslade Close and make your way back past the library and back to your car.

We hope you enjoyed this walk, just as much as we enjoyed creating it.

PHOTO CHALLENGE:

Your challenge, should you choose to accept it, is to capture a photo of a swan on the lake.

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



CAFÉ BREAK

Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/DroversReturnCafe/>



- Hot and cold food
- Drinks served
- Open 9am-5pm everyday apart from Christmas Day
- Accepts car payments
- Seating inside and outside
- Various events held



Watch the scope video at [adventuregeek.co.uk/YouTubeAG09](https://www.adventuregeek.co.uk/YouTubeAG09)



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