



DISTANCE

4.6 miles / 7.4 km / 10k steps



ELEVATION

417 ft



CALCULATED TIME

Approx 1hr 45 min



DIFFICULTY

Easy to Moderate

Towcester lays claim to being the oldest town in Northamptonshire and possibly, because of the antiquity of recent Iron Age finds in the town, to be one of the oldest continuously inhabited settlements in the country. If you have a chance then check out Bury Mount (near the start of this walk) and you can read the full history of Towcester as you climb the mini-mountain.

This walk has a real mix of terrain. You will encompass some amazing views over open countryside, walk through a secret arch which leads you through a small wood and you even cross a ford. Be aware that there is some road walking on this route, including a short stretch along the busy A43 (on a tarmac path). Larger dogs may struggle with some of the stiles on this route.

TOWCESTER AND HULCOTE (AG11)



1. Parking at Tove Short Stay Car Park, Northampton Road, Towcester, NN12 6LD. Exit the car park and take the path to your left along Northampton Road.

Note: there is a 2hr limit on parking



2. When you reach the bridge cross over the road and turn left. Continue along Northampton Road for approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. You will pass a second car park (long stay) on your left, an entrance to Graham Hill Road (on your left), and a mini-roundabout.



3. Immediately after a small cottage on your right, you will spot a lovely old horse chestnut tree. Next to the tree is a little archway that leads you into the woods. Follow the trail through the woods until you reach the stile.



4. As you cross the stile, bear right and you will soon see another stile (which is quite tall) at the other end of this is a short path that leads you into a field that often holds livestock.



5. The next stile is at the other end of this very large field. Follow the guide posts and worn path at about 11 o'clock direction (see photo).



6. At the end of the field, hop over yet another stile and head for the two buildings that are in front of you and slightly to the left (see photo). You will shortly enter the small hamlet of Hulcote.

TOWCESTER AND HULCOTE (AG11)



7. Turn left and head for the two hexagonal buildings (see photo). The chequered brick cottages with their gothic windows date back to the early 19th century. Hulcote is part of the Easton Neston Estate which was designed by Nicholas Hawkesmore.



8. At the little old school/ village hall follow the path round to your right.



9. Continue through the gap in the houses and you will see a footpath that starts at the end of the hedge. Dogs may bark, and ducks may quack, but they are all safely ducked away in the gardens.



10. We have another rather tall stile to cross and then bear left. Head towards the kissing gate.



11. Make your way through the kissing gate and then follow the hedgerow until you reach the metal gate at the end of the field. (about 10 mins walking)



12. Once you have gone through the gate, turn left. You will see a pretty ford ahead of you which is great for a hot summer paddle! (Or you can cross over the little wooden bridge).



13. Following the dirt track for approximately ½ mile.

TOWCESTER AND HULCOTE (AG11)



14. If the sun is beating down then this bridge is a nice shaded spot for a break.



15. You have a little way to go on this dirt track. Continue straight ahead.



16. When you reach the gate, turn left onto the quiet country road. You are heading for Showsley hamlet.



17. Keep to your left as you head towards the main A43. Don't worry, there is a path that is tucked around the corner.



18. This path that follows the A43 is loud and not very pleasant (sorry), but you are not here for very long. Can you see the parking area in the distance? You will be taking a side track that takes you back into Towcester from the parking area.



19. When you reach the top of parking area, there is a small track to your left that leads you through a small wooded area.



20. When you emerge from the woods, turn right and follow the tarmac path alongside the road. Keep on the path at all times as the path splits from the road and it is difficult to rejoin the path.

TOWCESTER AND HULCOTE (AG11)



21. You are now back on Northampton Road. Follow this path for approximately ½ mile and you will soon see the familiar little arch on your left and in the next 10 minutes you will be back at your car.

PHOTO CHALLENGE:

Your challenge, should you choose to accept it, is to capture a reflection on the ford.

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 BREAK

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