



#### **DISTANCE**

8.4 miles 13.5 km 17,700 steps





#### PRAM FRIENDLY

No, this is not a pram friendly walk.



#### **SMALL DOG FRIENDLY**

There are a few stiles on this walk, so small dogs only.



#### **DIFFICULTY**

Moderate walk



#### REFRESHMENTS

There are numerous pubs and cafe's throughout this walk.



# **WALK AUTHOR:**

This walk was written and developed for Adventure Geek by Julia Doherty.

Favourite walk - Camino de Santiago in Spain.

Favourite Local walk - Snorscomb Hill (AG36)

## PHOTO CHALLENGE:

Your photo challenge is to find a stain glass pig window, a geocache, chickens, a rookery and a field of alpacas.



## DOWNLOAD THIS ROUTE TO YOUR PHONE



Follow this route on Alltrails: <u>Here</u> (including GPX files)



To listen to the audio prompts <u>click here</u>. .

(to work alongside the photo instructions)

# SPECIAL THANK-YOU TO CLAIRE COUSSENS FOR BEING THE OFFICIAL POINTER IN THIS WALK.



P1. The walk starts outside St Laurence Church, Church Lane, Brafield-on-the-Green, Northampton NN7 1BA. For the exact location click here and then open in Google Maps. Park locally and please be respectful to residents. Walk through the arch and take the left path through the church graveyard.



1a. Continue straight.



**1b** Keep the farm building to your right.



**2.** Turn right when you get to the hedge and follow the footpath ensuring the hedge is to your left.



**2a.** Make your way through the kissing gate and continue along the footpath.



**2b.** Go through the second kissing gate and then turn right. Continue along the edge of the field.



**2c**. Shortly the path will fork. Take the left fork.



**2d.** Keeping the pylons to your right, make your way through the hedge and make your way across the field. There is a well defined footpath (see next photo).



**2e**. Continue along the footpath, keeping the pylons to your right.



**3.** Go through the gate (this is after going through a gap in the bushes prior to getting to this point!)

1 mile has now been walked.



**3a.** You have now reached the village of Cogenhoe (pronounced "Cook-no"). Turn right. Check out the cute little village sign to your left in a few minutes.



**3b**. Cross the road, then make your way down The Piece and follow all the way to the end.

See if you can spot the group of houses that was purchased by a lottery winner and knocked into one big house!



**3c.** At the end of the cul-de-sac turn left and follow the green footpath sign.



**PHOTO CHALLENGE!!** Turn left and see if you can spot the "stain glass piggy window". This route also has numerous historic houses with green plaques.

Continue along Church Street.



**3d.** Continue along Church Street until you reach the house with the flags outside.



**3e.** At the house with the flags (with lots of interesting stuff in the fence and in the garden), turn left. Check out the humorous sign on the wall to your right.



**3f**. You may feel that we are sending you to a residential area, but don't worry, you are on the right track. When you reach the white garage, turn left. Continue on the path, go down the hill and spot the caravan park in the distance.



**3g.** At the bottom of the hill, go through the gate. (There is a funny sign on the back gate of one of the houses, to your right), but you are actually turning left and heading towards the Holiday Park.



**4.** After the hump "slow" in the road, immediately turn right. This is easily missed, so keep your eyes peeled. (Check the red "footpath sign on the green sign on the left).



**4a.** As you go through the gate take note of the red footpath sign. We will be following these all the way to the Falcon Pub in Castle Ashby.



**4b.** Checkpoint photo - you will keep the river to your left for approximately two miles (we have some checkpoint photos along the way). Look out for the quarries in the distance on your right.



**4c.** Checkpoint photo as you go through a little wooded area.

You will see many swans, a couple of herons and geese along this canal.



**4d**. Checkpoint photo - make your way through the gate.



**5.** At the bridge / lock, turn right (look out for the red Falcon Pub walking route sign). Continue along this route for approx 0.5 miles. The quarries will eventually be filled and made into lakes/ nature reserve.



5a. Checkpoint photo.



**5b.** Cross the main road. You now have a little bit of road walking until you reach the quaint village of Whiston.



**5c.** Walk by the Silver Jubilee monument to your left.



**6.** At the junction, take the road that leads off to the left.



**6a.** I love the thatched cottages in Whiston. It's like going back in time! Follow the footpath sign. Take a deep breath as this is a long incline up to the church.



**6b** Check out those gargoyles on the church roof. Take the path to the right and make your way to the back of the church.



**6c.** Hop over the fence, then turn right and follow the hedgerow around the edge of the field. You will soon see a little grave on your right with a cute little robin.



**6d.** At the gap in the hedge turn right through the gap then head straight towards the telegraph pole in the middle of the field.

**PHOTO CHALLENGE.** At the telegraph pole see if you can find the geocache which is hidden under a stone at the base of the pole. Sign the log book, and then place the cache back where you found it, ready for the next person.



You have now walked four miles.



**6e.** Can you see the red footpath sign? Turn left, do not walk on the road. Keep the hedge to your right.



**6f**. Go over the new stile, cross the road and climb the stile on the other side of the road.



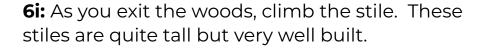
**6g** Climb over this stile, turn left and make your way down the field that runs alongside the road.



**6h.** Climb the stile, cross the road and then go over the stile on the other side of the road. You will now follow a trail through the fabulous wooded area.



**PHOTO CHALLENGE:** Can you see the chickens and you will soon see a rookery (if you look up before the next stile).





**6j.** You have now reached the Falcon Pub who welcome walkers for a coffee, cake or perhaps a meal.

Cross the car park heading in a one o'clock direction and make your way to the front of the hotel.



**6k** Turn left and follow the road towards the village.



**6I**. Follow the road which takes you up towards Castle Ashby House & Gardens.



**7.** The road bends around to the right. Here you can explore the little boutique shops and cafes which are to your right.



**7a.** Turn left, and follow the paved footpath that runs alongside the road.



**7b** Opposite the old school house, turn left and go over the stile. The next few fields have very tall stiles which are not dog friendly.

Alternatively (if you have a dog) - continue on the road for approximately 5 mins and skip to photo 8a.



**7c.** After climbing over the stile and facing directly forward, walk at a 2 o'clock angle.



7d Go over the stile and continue straight.



**8**. In the corner of the field, climb the stile, then immediately turn right and go over the cattle grid. You now have a little bit of road walking until you reach the t-junction.



8a At the t-junction, turn left.



**8b.** At the next junction, turn right into the small hamlet of Chadstone. Check out the huge "Magic Faraway Tree" in the garden on the left. I love this tree.



8c. At the farm building, turn left.



**8d.** And then you will have **two** metal gates to go through.

You have now walked 6 miles.



**8e.** Cross the double stile and follow the well defined footpath in front of you.



**8f**. Continue over fields until you reach a little wooden bridge.



**8g** Cross the bridge and then immediately turn left.



**9.** At the corner of the field, turn right and take the track that heads up the hill.



**9a.** At the top of the hill, as the track bends to the right, turn sharp left and continue along the field which heads towards the village of Denton.



**9b.** Go through the metal gate and continue straight.



**9c.** At the junction, turn right. This is known locally as "Cardiac Hill" - but luckily, you are going down this hill not up it!

Checkpoint - you will pass the doctors surgery on your left.

You have now walked 7 miles.



**9d**. Continue down the footpath. You will go through a little arch of two thatched cottages.



**9e** Cross the road, and see if you can spot the footpath between the two buildings in front of you.



9f. At the top of the path, turn left...



**9g.** Then turn right into Leys Close.



**9h.** In the corner you will see a footpath sign which you will follow BUT see if you can spot the Alpacas in the field on your right - they are super cute!



**9i.** Checkpoint photo - continue straight. We now have a series of fields to cross as we head back to the Brafield on The Green.



10. Checkpoint photo: Field number 2.



10a Checkpoint photo: Field number 3.



**10b.** Checkpoint photo: Field number 4.



**10c.** Hop of the small stile and then cross yet another stile.



**10d.** Climb the next stile. You are heading for the signpost in the distance which is approximately at an 1 o'clock angle.

Side note: You walk past a telegraph pole with a sign on it saying DNH10.



10e. Go through the gate, and turn left.



**10f** Continue straight. You should be able to see the church very soon.



**10g.** The church is to your left! Yippee, you have just walked over 8 miles.

Well done and you can now put another sticker in your AG passport.

If there are any changes that need to be made to this walk, then please let me know. Email: <u>julia@adventuregeek.co.uk</u> or submit your feedback using <u>this form</u>. Thank you.



www.adventuregeek.co.uk/passport

AG Passports are now available.

This pocket-size passport is designed to help you record Adventure Geek walks in a fun way. Inside the passport, you will find a list of each walk accompanied by a photo challenge with a space to place your sticker. With each order, you will receive one passport as well as a set of x 30 stickers. There are 25 walks per passport. Good luck!