

Walks in and around Shudy Camps

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1. Northey Wood

This is the first in a series of recommended circular walks of varying length, following public rights of way. It is a relatively short walk of about 1.5 miles, which takes around 45 minutes.

Starting at the village sign (1) in Main Street, go through the kissing gate into the meadow. Follow the edge of the field with the hedge on your right for about 200m to a second gate.

Cross the sleeper bridge (2) and turn left to follow the path with the stream on your left.

At the far end (3), where one path goes left between Granary Cottage and Jasmine House to rejoin Main Street, turn right along the field edge to the top left-hand corner of the field. As you climb this path, there are lovely views of the village beyond Main Street to Shudy Camps Park and the Parish Church.

Turn right along the top edge of the field and then left towards the old railway embankment. In spring, there is an abundance of cowslips along this part of the route.

It was on the 4th March 1967 that the last passenger train ran from Cambridge to Sudbury along the old railway line. It is now difficult to imagine that at one time up to 20 trains a day came along this route, which is now covered with scrub.

Cross the footbridge and embankment (4) and go through a strip of ash woodland before crossing another footbridge and ascending with the hedge on your left to the corner of Northey Wood. Northey Wood, with an area of about 10 acres, is one of the few remaining areas of mature woodland within the parish.



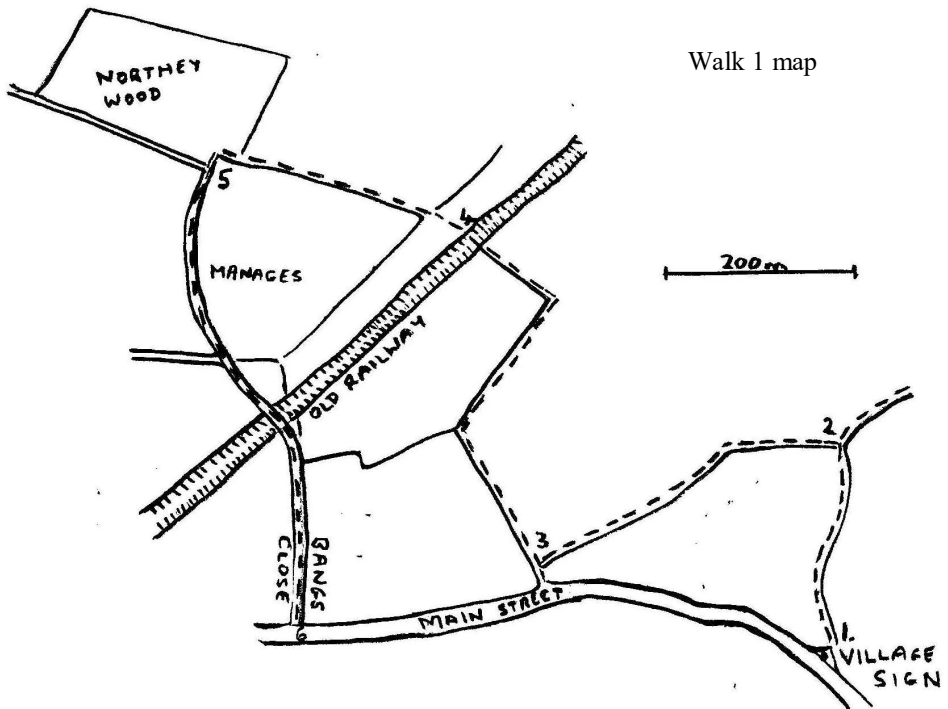
Turn left (5) on to a farm track. The field on your left is a plot of land known as Manages, which was donated in the 17th century by an unknown

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benefactor to provide relief for the poor of the parish. At one time it was broken up into small allotments but in 1971 it was sold to the adjacent landowners and the proceeds invested to provide grants for the needy.



Continue down the track passing the railway embankment on each side. The track becomes Bangs Close, which leads on to Main Street. Turn left on Main Street (6) to return to the village sign.

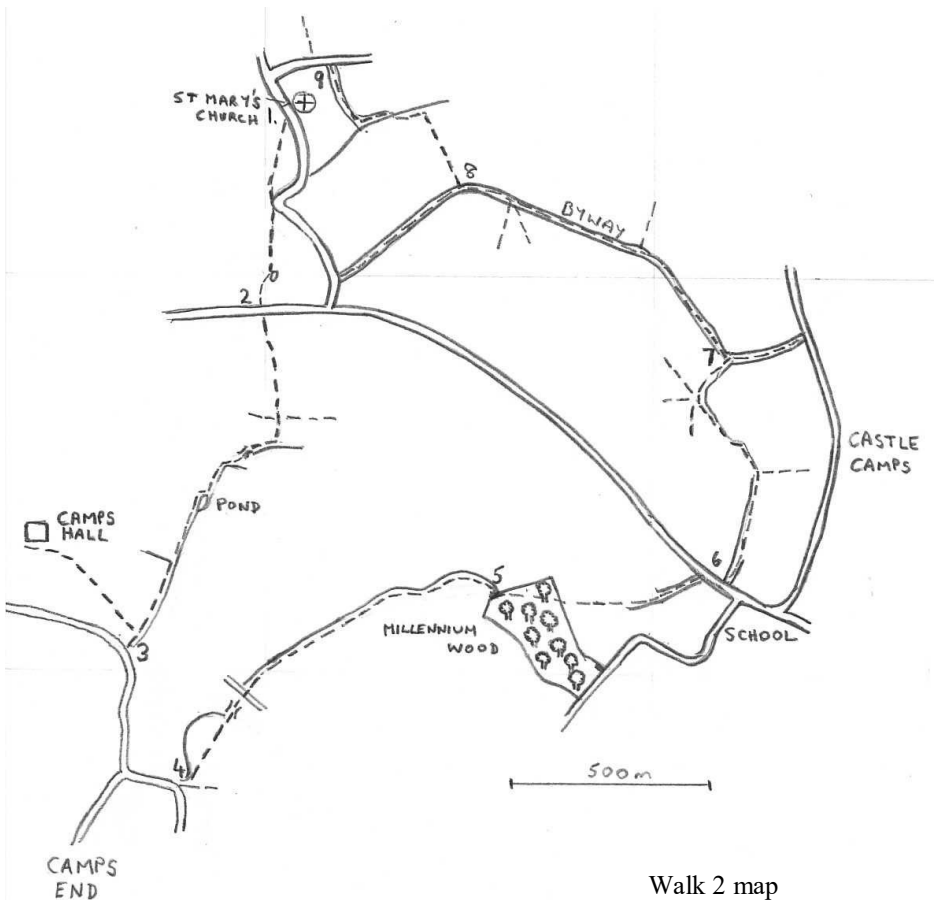


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2. Camps End, Millennium Wood and Castle Camps

Walk 2 starts in front of St Mary's Church and is approximately 3.5 miles (5.5km) long, taking around 1hour 45minutes.

Leave St Mary's Church (1) on your left and after a short distance, opposite the entrance to Glebe House, go through the kissing gate into a paddock and take a diagonal route to a second kissing gate under laurel bushes in the far corner. Go through the gate and after a few metres under the overhanging bushes, take the cross-field path towards a pond with a small willow tree.



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The path goes to the right of the pond and after about 100m reaches a wooden bridge, which leads onto the road (2).

Cross the road and follow a line of poplar trees. After about 300m the path turns right opposite a hedge and ditch and after a further 100m bears left over a footbridge to a cross-field path which leads diagonally to the right. After crossing the field, the route continues as a wide grassy path with a hedge on your left. Along this part of the walk there are lovely views back towards Shudy Camps and across the countryside beyond Linton and in the direction of Cambridge. After a short distance, the path turns right and almost immediately left by a small pond and wooded area. Continue straight on to a stile in the grounds of Camps Hall and then keep in the same direction to a gate, which leads onto a road (3).

Turn left along the road. In early summer, the verges along this part of the route are covered with meadow crane's-bill, a beautiful blue flower, not particularly common in this part of the country. Bear left, passing the road leading into Camps End on the right and just around the next bend take the sign-posted footpath on the left (4).

Cross the wooden bridge and, after a short distance, turn left through the gap in the hedge into an open field. Take the left of the two cross-field paths or, if this has not been reinstated, follow the field edge in an arc to the left. The cross-field path goes in a straight line to reach a gap in the hedge. Go through the gap to a concrete bridge, followed by a short flight of steps to another field. Cross the field for a short distance to a farm track. Cross this track and go through a kissing gate to the waymarked path, which follows another track along the field edge with the hedge on your left. After about 600m you enter Millennium Wood (5).

Millennium Wood, which covers an area of 5 hectares or about 13 acres, was planted in November 1999. It was a joint effort by the people from five local villages, including Shudy Camps and was one of six woods, sponsored by South Cambridgeshire District Council as part of their millennium celebrations. The public footpath crosses one corner of the wood but the whole area is open to the public if you wish to explore further. There is an information board at the roadside entrance near the pumping station.

Leave the wood near the large oak tree and follow the footpath across the field towards Castle Camps. After passing between gardens and allotments, the path reaches the road (6).

Turn right and after a short distance take the sign-posted path to the left. Alternatively, you can continue and turn left into Castle Camps High Street



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Walk 2 continued:

where, if you are feeling thirsty you can visit the pub and rejoin the path a little further on. The footpath runs roughly parallel to the High Street, at first between gardens, then with a hedge on the left and then, after meeting another path coming in from the High Street, bears left with back gardens on the right. When you reach the junction of several paths, keep right by the hedge and after about 100m join the public byway (7), which links the two villages.

Turn left on the byway, and after about 800m, when you reach a left-hand bend, join the waymarked footpath across the field to the right (8). Shudy Camps Park and the water tower can be seen in front of you.

On reaching the far side of the field, turn left and in about 150m turn right over a footbridge. Follow the path behind the gardens of houses in Blacksmith's Lane. The path turns right between the gardens of Weavers and Eriskay and leads into Blacksmiths Lane (9).

Turn left and then left again at the T-junction to return to the starting point.

Millennium Wood
July 2014



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3. Mill Green and Cardinal's Green

Walk 3 starts in Main Street and is approximately 3.6 miles (6km) long taking around 1 hour 45 minutes to complete.

Starting at the village sign (1) in Main Street, go through the kissing gate into the meadow. Follow the edge of the field with the hedge on your right for about 200m to a second gate.

Cross the sleeper bridge (2) and bear right with the ditch on your right.

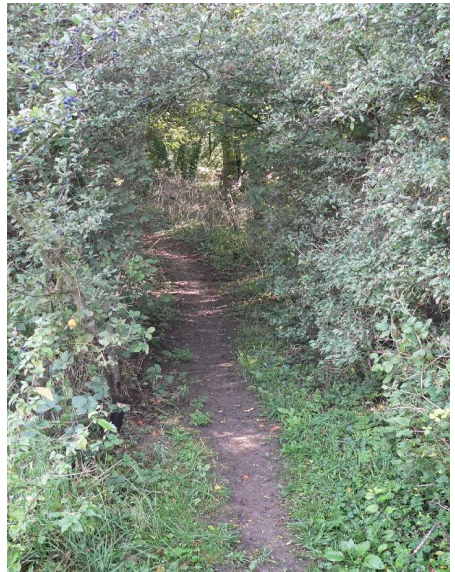


Continue on a well-defined path, gradually gaining height towards Mill Green. Looking back, the views extend across the village and as far as Hadstock airfield on the horizon. After about 400m, high hedges enclose the path on both sides. This part of the path is known as Bird Lane. After a further 200m the lane emerges onto the road (3).

Turn right through the hamlet of Mill Green and immediately after the

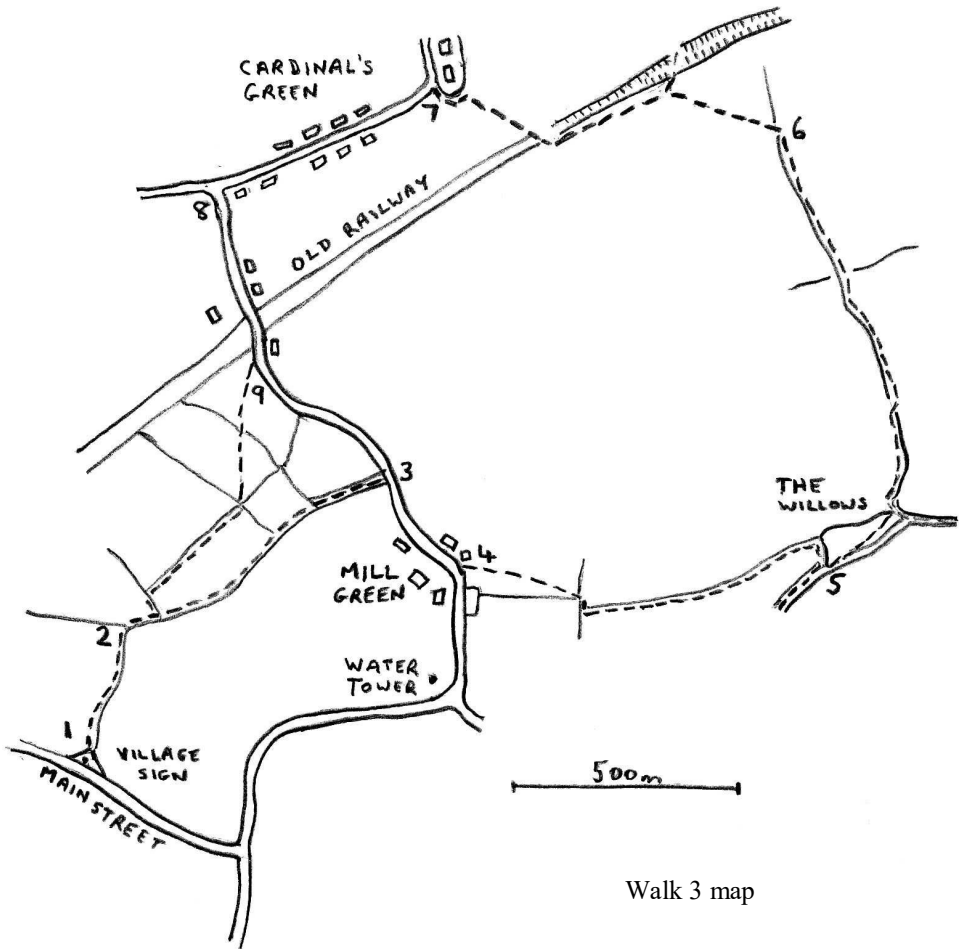
bungalow called West View turn left into a grassy field entrance (4) and bear right on a cross-field path. After about 250m, cross a footbridge between high hedges and immediately turn right. After a few more metres the path turns left along a field edge. Continue on this path, which, after about 650m, bears right around the edge of the field and reaches a farm track (5).

Turn left on the farm track but after about 75m the footpath leaves the track and enters the small wood on the left (look for the waymark sign on a post). This wood is known as The Willows. Cross two wooden bridges and immediately after the second bridge



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Walk 3 continued:



Walk 3 map

turn left onto a bridleway, which almost immediately turns right. For about 300m, the bridleway follows a stream on the right, which, in one place has been enlarged to form a small pond. Turn right over a culvert and then left along the opposite side of the stream. The bridleway crosses a field boundary and enters a grassy area with a hedge on the left. After a further 400m the path turns left through a gap in the hedge (6) and crosses a field towards the old railway embankment.

At the path junction, the bridleway continues to the right and joins the

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A1307. However, you should follow the footpath, which runs parallel to the old railway and alongside a ditch for approximately 300m. The footpath then bears right across another field towards Alington cottages, where it joins the road in Cardinal's Green (7), a hamlet, which takes its name from the family of a William Carbonell and forms part of Horseheath parish.

Turn left along the road and left again at the road junction (8).

Walk along the road and cross the old brick railway bridge. This bridge once crossed a deep cutting, which was filled with builders' rubble etc over a period of many years following the closure of the railway in 1967. Shortly after the bridge, take the sign-posted cross-field footpath to the right (9).

The path goes through a gap in the hedge where, again, there are good views of Shudy Camps and the surrounding countryside. It continues diagonally across a second field to a wooden bridge. Cross the bridge and follow the path to the left of a ditch, which leads to another bridge at the next field boundary. After the bridge, turn left along a permissive path to join the outward route where you turn right to return to the starting point.



Footpath through
The Willows (5)

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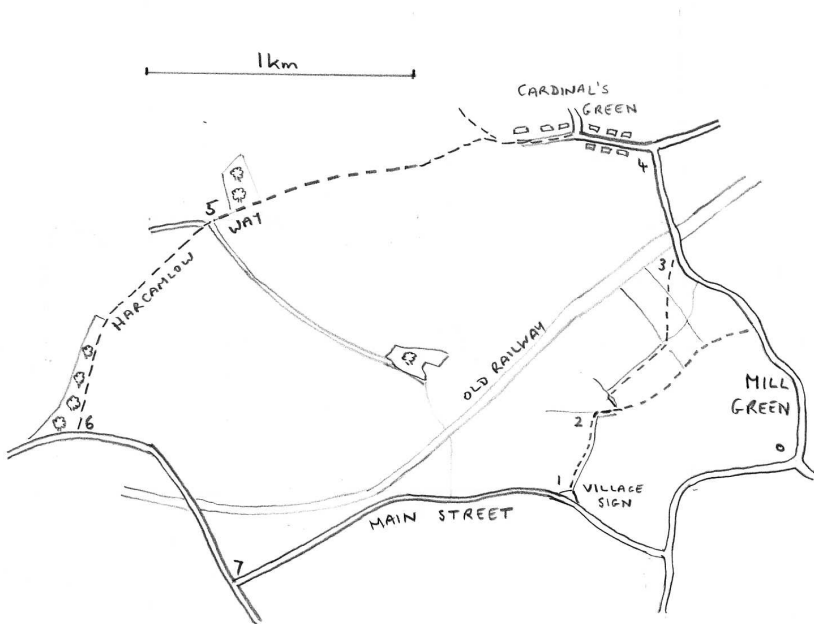
4: Part of the Harcamlow Way

Walk 4 starts in Main Street and is approximately 4 miles (6.5km) long taking around 2 hours to complete. It can be linked to Walk No. 3 at point 4 on the map to make a longer walk of approximately 6 miles (9.5km).

Starting at the village sign (1) in Main Street, go through the kissing gate into the meadow. Follow the edge of the field with the hedge on your right for about 200m to a second gate.

Cross the sleeper bridge (2) and follow the path, which bears right along the field edge. After about 75m, turn left onto a permissive path. Turn right over a footbridge and follow the field-edge path for 250m to a another bridge. After the bridge, the path crosses two fields diagonally to reach the road just before the route of the old railway (3).

Turn left and follow the road to a T-junction in Cardinal's Green (4). This is



Walk 4 map

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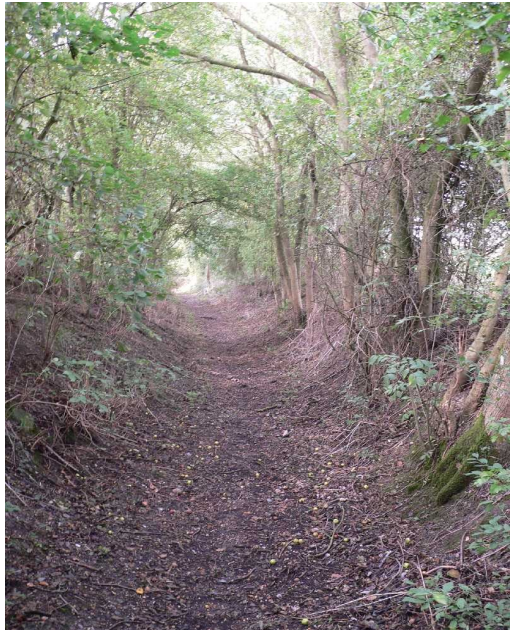
where the route links with Walk 3. If following Walk 3 from Shudy Camps you will reach this junction at point 8.

Turn left through Cardinal's Green and where the road turns right, carry straight on along a lane. At the end of the houses, the lane becomes a bridleway and after about 150m, where a footpath joins from the right you are on the Harcamlow Way.

The Harcamlow Way is a 141-mile (227km) walking route, which starts and finishes in Harlow, Essex and follows a figure of eight route with its northernmost point in Cambridge.

This part of the Harcamlow Way is an attractive and varied walk, which you follow for about 2km to the road between Bartlow and the Camps (6). At point 5, a farm track leads off to the left towards Northey Wood. This is not a public right of way.

At 6, turn left along the road and then left into Main Street (7) to return to the starting point.



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5: Barsey Farm and Nosterfield End

This walk starts in front of St Mary's Church and is approximately 4 miles (6.5km) long, taking around 2 hours to complete.

Starting with St Mary's Church on your right (1), turn right into Blacksmith's Lane and after about 125m turn left following the footpath sign (2). This path crosses Shudy Camps Park with views of Park House, otherwise known as The Hall to the right. Go through the kissing gate and continue along a broad grass path following a line of poplar trees to the road (3).

Turn right and follow the road to the junction near the water tower (4). Turn right again and after walking about 500m and passing Priory Farm on the left, turn left onto a broad track following the footpath sign (5).

Follow this track with the hedge on your left for about 750m, ignoring the waymark post and path junction on the left. About 75m past this junction the footpath leaves the track and enters a small wood on the left known as The Willows. Enter the wood and cross two wooden bridges, reaching a T-junction with a bridleway immediately after the second bridge (6).



Turn right on the bridleway, leave the wood and continue straight on, on a broad track towards Barsey Farm. Turn right at the T-junction (7) and after a few metres bear left and then almost immediately right following the waymark signs along a wide path between a pond on the right and the moat, which partially surrounds Barsey farm, on the left.

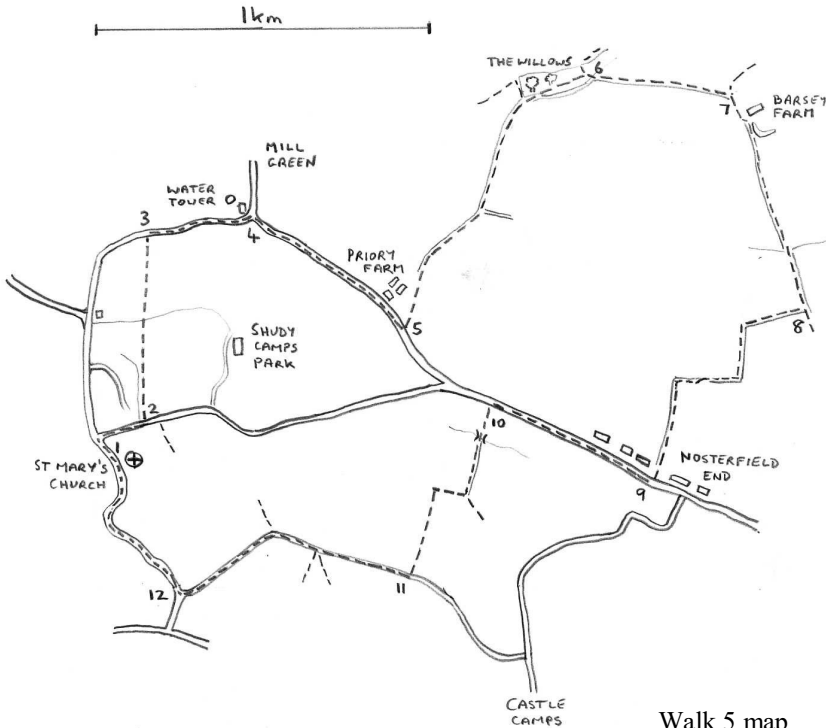
Barsey Farm is actually in Shudy Camps but the only vehicular access is from the Haverhill bypass near Hanchet End.

Continue for about 750m and where the bridleway bears slightly left between high hedges turn right onto a footpath along the field edge (8). Take left and right turns, always keeping the hedge on your left and then turn left over a footbridge through a gap in the hedge. Turn immediately right and follow the path round a left turn, now keeping the hedge on your right. This path reaches

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the road at Nosterfield End (9).

Turn right and walk along the road for about 450m. Leave the road at (10) by taking the sign-posted cross-field path towards a metal bridge. Cross the bridge



and follow the footpath with a ditch on your left. At the far end of the ditch turn right with another ditch and hedge on your left and after about 100m turn left across the shallow ditch and take the cross-field path to the byway (11).

Turn right and follow the byway to the road (12). Turn right again and follow the road back to the starting point.

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6: Castle Camps, All Saints Church and Camps End.

This walk starts in front of St Mary's Church and is approximately 4.5 miles (7km) long, taking around 2 hours 15 minutes to complete.

Starting with St Mary's Church on your right (1), turn right into Blacksmith's Lane and after about 150m turn right into the entrance of "Weavers" (2) as indicated by the footpath sign.

Follow the path between the gardens of "Weavers" and "Eriskay" and then left behind the gardens of "Eriskay" and other houses in Blacksmiths Lane. Turn right over a footbridge and then immediately left along the field edge. After about 150m, turn right along a cross-field path to the byway (3).

Turn left on the byway and follow it to the road in Castle Camps, a total distance of about 850m (4).

Turn right along Castle Camps High Street and follow it to the junction by the war memorial (5), passing or alternatively stopping at the "The Cockerel" on the way.

Turn left and then almost immediately right by Rose Cottage on to a track indicated by a footpath sign on the opposite side of the road. At the end of the short track, continue straight ahead on a path, which crosses an arable field. At the far side of the field, turn right and follow the well-defined path towards All Saints Church. The path reaches a lane, at a point opposite the church, but immediately before that, the site of the medieval village of Castle Camps can be seen on the right. Where you reach the lane, there is an information board (6) giving the history of Camps Castle, the site of which lies towards the end of the lane on your left.

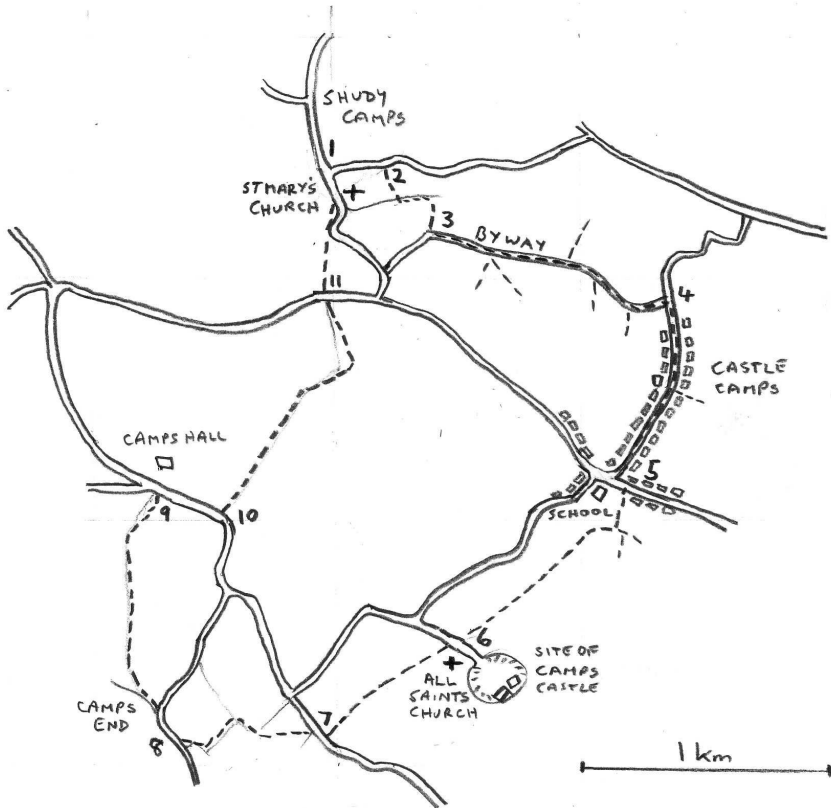
To continue the walk, turn right for a short distance and then go through the kissing gate on your left to a path, which follows the boundary of the churchyard. At the end of the churchyard go through another kissing gate and continue straight on with a fence on your right. Ignore the metal kissing gate on the right and go through two kissing gates, continuing between arable fields to reach the road, opposite a large house with metal gates (7).

Turn right onto the road and after a distance of about 100m, turn left onto a cross-field path, which then bears to the right. At the far corner of the field bear right, go through a small area of trees, cross a stile and continue along a path

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with a hedge on your left. After about 100m at the path junction, turn left through a large metal gate or the kissing gate adjacent to it and cross the field to a wooden bridge incorporating a stile. Cross the bridge and go diagonally right through a paddock containing a number of caravans. The paddock leads into what is, essentially, the garden of a cottage and head for a small gate in the right hand corner. This leads across a wooden bridge to the road in Camps End (8).

Turn right and, where the road turns sharply to the right, continue straight on into a small lane between cottages. After a short distance, bear right in front of a metal gate and follow a path along the field edge. After about 250m, cross a small bridge and continue along the field edge, which turns to the right after a



Walk 6 map

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Walk 6 continued:

short distance (strictly speaking, the right of way crosses the field diagonally to the right but the field edge seems to be the accepted route). From the next field boundary the route of the path follows the left hand side of the ditch and descends towards farm buildings (9).

Turn left through the farmyard to the road and then right back towards Camps End. After about 300m, turn left over a stile (the gate alongside is usually open) into the grounds of Camps Hall. Continue to another stile and then along a wide grassy path passing a small pond and wooded area on the right. Along this part of the path, there are lovely views towards Shudy Camps and across the countryside beyond Linton and in the direction of Cambridge. Follow a short cross-field path, which goes diagonally to the right to a footbridge. Cross the bridge, turn right and after 100m the path bears left along a line of trees to the road (11).

Cross the road to another bridge and take the cross-field path, which goes to the left of a small pond with willow trees. Continue towards the right-hand corner of the field. Go under the overhanging bushes and through the kissing gate into a paddock. Cross the paddock to another gate in the far right-hand corner, which leads to the road opposite St Mary's church.

This walk completes a series of six relatively short circuits running in different directions from the village. Clearly there are many possible variations on these. They can be varied, linked and extended in many ways.

Any comments?

I would welcome any feedback on this series of recommended walks.
Are they interesting and enjoyable? Are the directions clear?
Any comments appreciated.

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