

5 Nether Heyford

This circular route is about 3 miles [5k] and it can be completed in about 1½ hours. It is an easy walk, mostly on footpaths across fields, which may be muddy in wet conditions and there are some stiles and footbridges. In some fields there may be cattle or horses so take care and please keep dogs on a lead.

Directions.

At the corner of **Nether Lane** and **King's Lane** there is a footpath sign for the Nene Way. From here go through the kissing gate into the field. [If starting from Bliss Lane, follow the footpath by the Plant Nursery and Tea Shop into the field and walk a short distance to join the Nene Way]. Then go to the bottom corner of the field to another pedestrian gate, the first of several along this part of the route, and follow the well signed footpath running through fields adjacent to the **River Nene**, until you pass beneath overhead power lines and reach a footbridge across a ditch and through a hedge, leading to the next field. This is the parish boundary. The footpath continues in the same direction alongside the hedge of the next field, to reach a track before crossing an access road to a group of buildings, formerly Heyford Mill, which are being rebuilt for residential use. Continue by going over another footbridge and then through a gate into a field. Follow the footpath along by the fence and close by the millstream into the next field, as far as a footbridge across the **River Nene**.
Go over this into the village of **Nether Heyford**.

Here there is a possible variation [1] to the route which goes into the village as described at the end.

Having crossed the river turn R and follow the rough footpath, running between a ditch and the rear boundary of houses in Nether Heyford, and go as far as the corner of what is a rough field where there is a field gate. [Here on the left, behind a wall, is the parish church.] Do not go through the gate; turn R and

walk across the field, again along the backs of a line of mainly bungalows, to the corner where there is a gap/stile in the hedge. Go through this and cross the next field to a track, which leads to the **Heyford Fishery** on the right.

Here there is another possible variation [21] to the route to walk back along the canal as described at end.

Cross the track and continue to follow the foot path over several more fields and an equal number of stiles, ditches and footbridges to emerge on the lane between Flore and the canal at Stowe Hill. Turn and walk back to Flore, passing over the flood relief channel and then the **River Nene** itself by Flore **Mill**.

Notes. There are two possible variations to the route as referred to above. Both of these add a short distance to the total.

[1] After crossing the footbridge at Nether Heyford go to the left and follow the tarmacked footpath running between the side fences of adjoining houses, to emerge in Manor Park, a residential cul de sac. Continue straight ahead across the road and carry on along the footpath to Manor Walk, then Church Street and into the village centre, where there are shops and pubs. Return to the route via Church St. or Weedon Rd to rejoin the route on the track to the fishery.

*[2] At the point of crossing the track to the fishery turn left and walk to and cross over Weedon Road. On the other side follow a [signed] permissive footpath along the edge of a small field and go through a hedge to emerge on towpath of the **Grand Union Canal**. Turn R and walk along the canal [part of the Grand Union Canal Walk] going past, on the opposite side, the site of a **Roman Villa** and then High House Wharf before reaching bridge no.26 at Flore Lane. Leave the towpath and walk down the lane to Flore as described.*