

A GENTLE RAMBLE THROUGH ANCIENT VILLAGES & FENS

Why not wile away 1.5 hours on this gentle 5.5 kilometre (3.4 miles) walk along lanes and footpaths? Starting in Glington, the route takes in Peakirk before returning via the Maxey Cut high bank. N.B. There are some easy stiles to cross. Park in Glington at The Green. Please don't obstruct residents' drives and gateways.

Both villages were recorded in The Domesday Book with Glington having Iron Age and Roman remains found there. The spire of St Benedict's Church is considered one of the finest needle spires in England, inspiring the peasant poet, John Clare, to pen a poem, 'Glington Church', about it. Peakirk's church was named for St. Pega, the sister of St Guthlac who founded the settlement of Crowland. She established a hermitage during the 8th century and the village was named for her: Peakirk means Pega's Church.

1. From The Green, turn left on North Fen Road past dwellings to reach the edge of the village. 300m
2. Take the field track on your right that is marked by a small yellow footpath arrow, to walk towards a small wood. 557m
3. Turn right for a short distance along a rough path. 69m
4. Take the first left on to a footpath with a field to the right and the wood on your left to enter Peakirk on Rectory Lane. 810m
5. Note Peakirk's War Memorial to your right that, unusually, records the name of every local who went to war, instead of those who died. Continue to St. Pega's Church. 87m
6. If you wish, enter the churchyard to spend some time spotting old names recognizable from local businesses today and ponder over some very intriguing gravestones. Return to the lane, turning left to join Chestnut Close and pass the play area on your right. At the T junction, go left, passing St. Pega's Hermitage – still in use today – and the old Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust Waterfowl Park on your right. To your left, the Roman canal course of Car Dyke follows the northern boundary of the wood. Continue along Deeping Road, crossing South Drain, until you reach the Maxey Cut bridge. 661m
7. Do not cross the bridge. Take the left hand track, following the southern high bank of the Cut. 881m
8. At the first footbridge, turn left away from the Cut. You are now following briefly the Car Dyke course. Go left at the junction with Mile Drove. 180m
9. At the triangular junction on your right, keep right to head back to Glington, along North Fen Road. 343m
10. Cross the footbridge across a drain and bear right. Keep the drain to your right. Ignore the first footbridge and cross the second only if you want a closer look at the pond and small nature reserve. Return to road. 113m
11. At this point, you can return to Glington on North Fen Road. Otherwise join the right hand path that follows Brook Drain, keeping it on your right. 669m

12. Cross the stile on to Lincoln Road. Turn left, following the footpath back to Ginton. 483m

13. Turn left at the crossroads, on to High Street. Note The Blue Bell pub on your right where refreshments can be found, just before you turn left to return to The Green and your car. 242m