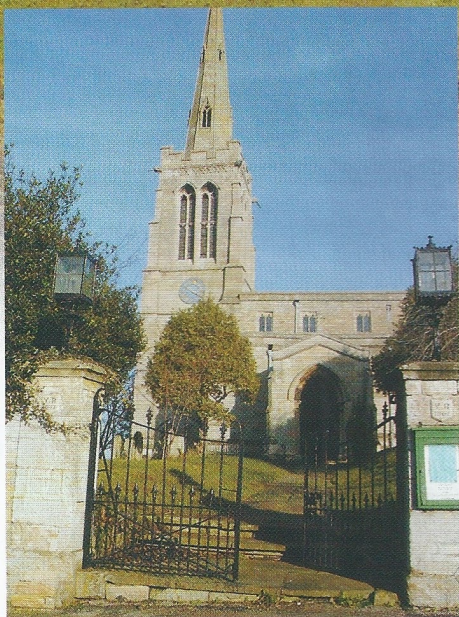


Bulwick and Rockingham Forest

A pleasant walk crossing quiet countryside and starting and finishing in the delightful village of Bulwick. Nicholas Rudd-Jones explores.



Directions

1. Park on the road outside the pub. Take the small road past the east end of the church, which soon becomes a track and a path between two ivy-clad walls. Turn right and skirt the north of the village. At the small road cross straight over, following the track across fields.
2. As you approach Cadge Wood you pass through a field boundary; at this point (depending on muddiness) it may be best to follow the left of the field along the wood boundary. At the end of the wood turn left and then immediately right across a small bridge over a ditch. The path then goes diagonally across a field (again, to avoid the mud, you may want to go along the right-hand edge) to a larger crossing over the ditch.
3. At this bridge, the path once again sets out diagonally across the field, but you may find it easier to follow the right-hand edge. At the far field boundary, about half-way across the field, there is a stile.
4. Cross this stile and turn left across some rough pasture towards a deserted building. Just behind the building on the left there is a gate.
5. Pass through this gate. If you are looking for a much longer walk a path bears off to the right here towards King's Cliffe. Otherwise,

factfile

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Distance | 4 miles |
| Typical time | 2 hours |
| OS map | Explorer 224 (always walk with an OS map) |
| Start & finish | Bulwick Village |
| Terrain | Undulating, potentially muddy for the first half of the walk |
| Stiles | About six |
| Getting there | Just to the E of the A43, 4 miles S of Duddington |
| Refreshments | The Queen's Head Inn at Bulwick has recently changed management. Angela Partridge & Geoff Smith have rejuvenated the establishment - one of the oldest buildings in the village, dating from the 17th Century. The food is very good and the real ales most impressive. Tel: 01780 450272 for bookings. |

take the path straight ahead across a field and then reaching a firm track which runs along the western side of two woods.

6. At the end of the second wood the path bears round to the right and then bears left through a narrow avenue of trees, eventually coming out on the road close to Blatherwycke.
7. Cross a stile on the other side of the road and then head back across several fields on the path back to Bulwick.

Points of interest

Bulwick

The church has 13th century origins. There is a memorial inside to Admiral Lord Tryon, commander of the Mediterranean Fleet of 1893. His ill-fated order led to his own ship being rammed and then sunk by a friendly warship.

Blatherwycke

If you have the time, take a short detour at Point 7 to go into Blatherwycke to see the lake and de-commissioned church, which is in the grounds of the former Blatherwycke Hall, which was sold for £1,600 in 1948 and demolished for building materials.

Rockingham Forest
Many of the woods in this vicinity are remnants of the medieval Rockingham Forest which stretched for many miles and was famous for its hunting. The area today still has a slight other-worldly quality and is a haven for large herds of deer – we saw a herd of at least 50 the day we did the walk.

