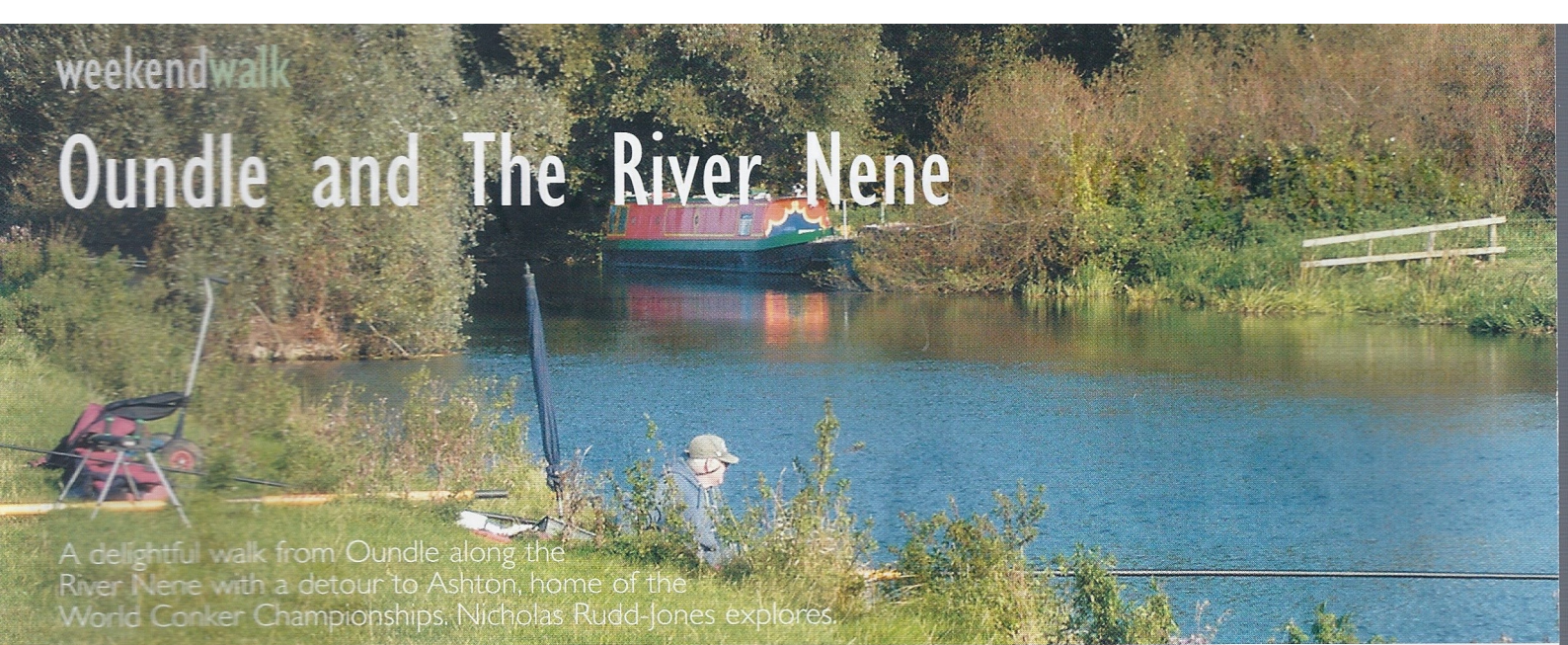


Oundle and The River Nene



A delightful walk from Oundle along the River Nene with a detour to Ashton, home of the World Conker Championships. Nicholas Rudd-Jones explores.

Walk data:

- Distance 4 miles
- Typical time 2 hours
- OS map Explorer 227 (always walk with an OS map)
- Start & finish Riverside Close, Oundle
- Getting there Head S from Oundle centre down Osyth's Lane.

Directions:

1. Park at the bottom of Osyth's Lane, where the road bends right and there is a track straight ahead leading down to the river. Once into the meadow, take the footpath bearing left diagonally across the field; after a couple of hundred yards or so it runs east along the bank of the river
2. Go under the road bridge and continue following the riverbank path for 1.5 miles in total in a U-shaped pattern; a few hundred yards after passing a weir, you will see a footbridge crossing the river
3. Take this footbridge and path, which leads up to Ashton; when you reach a small road turn right and then left across a field; you soon reach the pretty village of Ashton, with the Chequered Skipper pub at the far end of the green
4. Once refreshed, re-trace your steps to the



The Chequered Skipper

5. Turn right onto Ashton Rd, then next left onto East Rd. At the following junction turn left to return to the car, or right to explore Oundle.

Points of interest

- **Oundle**
A beautiful town centre, with several places to eat and drink and lots of shops. Tourist Information Centre Tel: 01832 274333 Mon-Sat 9-5
- **The River Nene**
The River Nene rises to the west of Northampton, one of its sources being

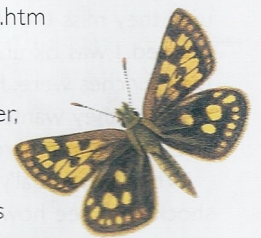
Naseby, near to the Civil War battle site. The Nene navigation was completed from Peterborough to Northampton in 1761 allowing relatively large craft to travel up and down the river:

• Ashton

A model village created in the Tudor style by Charles Rothschild in 1900.

The pub is named after the rare butterfly that frequented this area in the nineteenth century but is now extinct in England.

The World Conker Championships take place each October. In 2005 they are on Sun 9 Oct. Visit www.oundle.gov.uk/conker_championships.htm



Refreshments

The Chequered Skipper, Ashton. The 2005 Good Beer Guide reports: "Changing ales such as Adnams, Newby Wyke Bear Island, Oakham JHB and Tetleys, reasonably priced food from baked potatoes and ciabattas to restauranty main courses."

