



THE ICKNIELD WAY ASSOCIATION

Linton (Cambridgeshire)

The Dog and Duck

A short walk up to the water tower on the top of Rivey Hill, with good views of Linton in the valley below. Down the hill again the walk follows back streets and the river Granta through this picturesque village. Possible extensions include Chilford Hall Vineyard to the north (pre-booked tours available www.chilfordhall.co.uk/tours) or Linton Zoo to the south.

A route map is available at: www.icknieldwaytrail.org.uk/html/circular_routes.html

Linton has many attractions, including a zoo and nearby Chilford Hall, Cambridgeshire's largest vineyard. It has a rich history, as outlined in its *Heritage Trail*, (available from the Post Office and other outlets). Three pubs, including *The Crown*, (accommodation available), *The Wagon and Horses* and *The Dog and Duck*.

The deservedly popular thatched *Dog and Duck* stands next to the bridge over the river Granta at the bottom of the High Street in the centre of the village. Originally two 16th century cottages, it was converted to its present use in 1851. Its heavily beamed ceilings and open fireplaces are complimented by pictures including old photographs of the pub. A traditional style long bar opens into an extended dining area. A good range of traditional pub grub, (ploughman's etc.), seafood and steaks, it uses fresh local produce where possible. Vegetarians are catered for and children's portions available. Dogs on a lead are allowed in the non-dining area of the bar, and there is a pleasant riverside garden if you wish to eat outside. A very popular and modestly priced fish and chips is served on a Wednesday. Service is efficient and attentive.

The *Dog and Duck* serves real ales, Guinness and cider.

Opening hours: From 12 noon every day, serving food from 12 – 9 Mondays to Saturdays, and 12 – 4 on Sundays.

Telephone 01223 890349

How to get there:

Linton is in the south-east corner of Cambridgeshire, near the Essex border, on the A1307 Cambridge to Haverhill road. Frequent buses run from Cambridge to Haverhill seven days a week.

Parking

There is a car park to the rear of the pub – get there early though, it can fill up!

The Walk

Length of the walk: 3 miles (4.8km), (extensions optional). Map OS Explorer Map 209. Cambridge, Royston, Duxford & Linton

Join the Icknield Way by walking down Meadow Lane, (immediately to the left of the pub as you face it). Where the lane ends keep straight on along a footpath to the side of the recreation ground, (taking in the historic 'Click-clack' gate near the pavilion). Take the white



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footbridge across the Granta however, and follow the path leading through a housing estate, crossing a small service road and eventually to the junction with Linton's Back road. A few yards to your right, the I.W. footpath sign directs you to Rivey Hill. The walk stays with this track as it climbs uphill alongside arable fields, and to the right of a wood. At the top it turns right along the ridge. A convenient bench invites you to appreciate panoramic views down across Linton and Hadstock and Little Walden beneath you to the south, and Abington to the west. You may be able to see the remnants of WW2 aircraft hangers, used by the USAAF at Little Walden, and aircraft hangers at Duxford further west.

The walk follows the track to the left of a large wood before passing a converted barn and flint-faced cottage opposite the red-brick water tower. Built in 1936, the 92' (32m) dodecagonal (12-sided) tower supplied Linton with its first mains water and makes a prominent landmark, visible for miles across the surrounding countryside.

This is where the walk can be extended by staying with the Icknield Way and turning left towards Chilford Hall vineyard and the Curwen Print Centre, and to Balsham.

The circular walk however turns right at the water tower on a very attractive track by the side of the wood, and although it runs down to a spring, is wet for a time rather than muddy, as it has been gravelled. At the bottom of the hill the track continues into Linton, through housing and past the cemetery to the Back road where you turn left. At the junction with the road to Balsham, turn right, going past the Post Office, (where you can buy the Heritage Guide, to help you explore Linton's fascinating history), and right again into the High Street. Just past *The Waggon and Horses* (Linton's oldest pub), turn left down Mill Lane and follow it down to the Mill, where you walk under part of it to your right, and then down to a ford and footbridge over the river Granta.

Across the river the walk continues along the river-bank, past a footbridge, and then right over a second footbridge. A tarmac path then takes you to St Mary's Church. Where the paths cross in the churchyard, turn left to leave the churchyard opposite the impressive 16th century Guildhall. Continue up the path ahead, to the left of the Guildhall, to arrive at another footbridge across the river, the aptly named Duck Bridge. Follow the narrow lane leading back to the High Street. You will find yourself almost opposite *The Crown*, with the delightful '*Linton Kitchen*', serving teas, cakes and selling local produce, (open Monday- Saturday 9-5), to your right. Continue on up the High Street to return to the *Dog and Duck*.