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**Discover**  
— Northamptonshire —  
CULTURE · TOURISM · HERITAGE

# Walking Map

**1.** Aldwincle, Wadenhoe & Lyveden



Lyveden

## Route Info:

**Duration:** 2.5 - 3 Hours

**Difficulty:** ★★☆☆☆

(Some steep inclines)

**For use alongside Ordnance Survey:** OS Landranger 141 / OS Explorer 224





## Aldwincle, Wadenhoe & Lyveden

These circular walks give you the opportunity to start at any of these villages:

- **Aldwincle:** Start at the Nene Way opposite Lowick Road junction or on the Main Street near to the Pocket Park.
- **Thorpe Waterville:** Start near the village sign on the road towards Aldwincle.
- **Achurch:** Start on the road to Thorpe at the last house on the right heading towards Thorpe Waterville.
- **Wadenhoe:** Start near the Village Hall or near to the Dovecote.

This map features two routes - both of which can be accessed and embarked upon from **Wadenhoe**.

### Aldwincle .....

The loop of the **River Nene** probably gave Alwincle its name and it was recorded in the Domesday Book as Eldwincle - a Saxon name "Ealda" and the Old English "Wincle" meaning old nook or corner. Settlement here dates back even further, with a **Roman settlement** discovered south of the village. Until 1879 the village had two parishes, each with a church, rectory and manor.

The beautiful broach spire, tower and chancel of **St. Peter's Church** date to the late 14th century, but there is evidence of earlier Norman origins. The church has wonderful stained glass - look out for the figures of St. George and St. Christopher. Outside a carved frieze of animals and birds encircles the entrance.

Dating back to the 13th century with a pinnaced and carved 15th century tower, **All Saints' Church** has been

disused for over a hundred years. The church is now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust and visitors can now camp overnight at this venue. For more information visit [www.champing.co.uk](http://www.champing.co.uk)

Opposite **All Saints' Church** stands the stone, plaster and thatch birthplace of John Dryden, 17th century Poet Laureate to King Charles II. Born in 1631, Dryden gained renown as a playwright and poet, being buried in Westminster Abbey.

### Achurch .....

Achurch was once part of the **Lilford Park Estate**. A famous descendant of the village was John Quincy Adams, sixth President of the USA, related to Achurch residents Edmund and Judith Quincy who travelled to America in the 1630s.



The village is also home to the Grade II listed Church of St John the Baptist - a beautiful early and late 13th century Anglican church which was restored and enlarged in 1862 by architect William Slater.

### Wildlife .....

The traditionally managed farmland on the **River Nene** floodplain between Aldwincle and Wadenhoe is a haven for many kinds of wildlife. Look out for snipe and heron, magnificent pollarded willows or even otters.

### Titchmarsh Nature Reserve

Titchmarsh is part of the **Thrapston Gravel Pits complex**, which lies within the Upper Nene Valley gravel pits Site of Special Scientific Interest. The biggest lake is Aldwincle Lake, which provides a large area for overwintering birds. The walking trail around the reserve is on a hard surfaced track with kissing gates to one bird hide, otherwise grass paths. Please visit the Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants website for more information on this reserve [www.wildlifebcn.org](http://www.wildlifebcn.org)

### Wadenhoe .....

The village was built in what was once a deer park and dates back to 1657. The current village is made up of 17th, 18th and 19th century limestone



buildings with thatched roofs or Collyweston slate tiles and pan tiles. The marshy area along the banks of the river forms part of a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

### St. Michael & All Angels Church .....

The parish church has Anglo-Saxon parts and a 12th century saddleback tower. Treasures to discover include its six bells, the Green Man carving inside, the scratch dials outside and the stained glass windows.

### Lyveden .....

Dominating the local landscape, **Lyveden** was designed by Sir Thomas Tresham, to express his devout Catholic faith during the reign of the Protestant Queen Elizabeth I. It was his son, Frances Tresham, who later became embroiled in the Gunpowder Plot.

Lyveden was incomplete when Sir Thomas died in 1605 and remains a haunting survival of the Elizabethan age. The building has a religious design full of symbolism - with a layout based on the design of a Greek Cross. [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

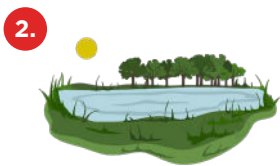
**Images:** (L-R) Wadenhoe town marker, Titchmarsh Nature Reserve, All Saints' Church, Aldwincle.



# Key Sites along the Way!



**1. All Saints Church**  
Offering evidence of Norman origins, the church spire and tower date back to the 14th century and feature wonderful stained glass - look out for the figures of St. George and St. Christopher. Outside, a carved frieze of animals and birds encircles the entrance.



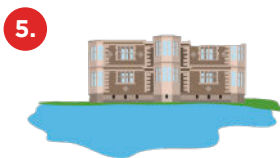
**2. Titchmarsh Local Nature Reserve**  
Part of the Thrapston Gravel Pits complex, which lies within a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The reserve features a range of beautiful walking trails offering opportunities to take in the stunning wildlife, including a large area for overwintering birds.



**3. The Old Rectory**  
Opposite All Saints' Church stands the stone, plaster and thatch birthplace of John Dryden, 17th century Poet Laureate to King Charles II. Born in 1631, Dryden gained renown as a playwright and poet, being buried in Westminster Abbey.



**4. St. Michael and All Angels Church**  
The parish church has Anglo-Saxon parts and a 12th century saddleback tower. Treasures to discover include its six bells, the Green Man carving inside, the scratch dials outside and the stained glass windows.



**5. Lyveden**  
Now owned by the National Trust, Lyveden is a stunning, unfinished Elizabethan summer house in the parish of Aldwinckle. Commissioned by Sir Thomas Tresham, the property features a number of unique religious inspired designs and architectural features.  
**01832 205259**

## Other Points of Interest:

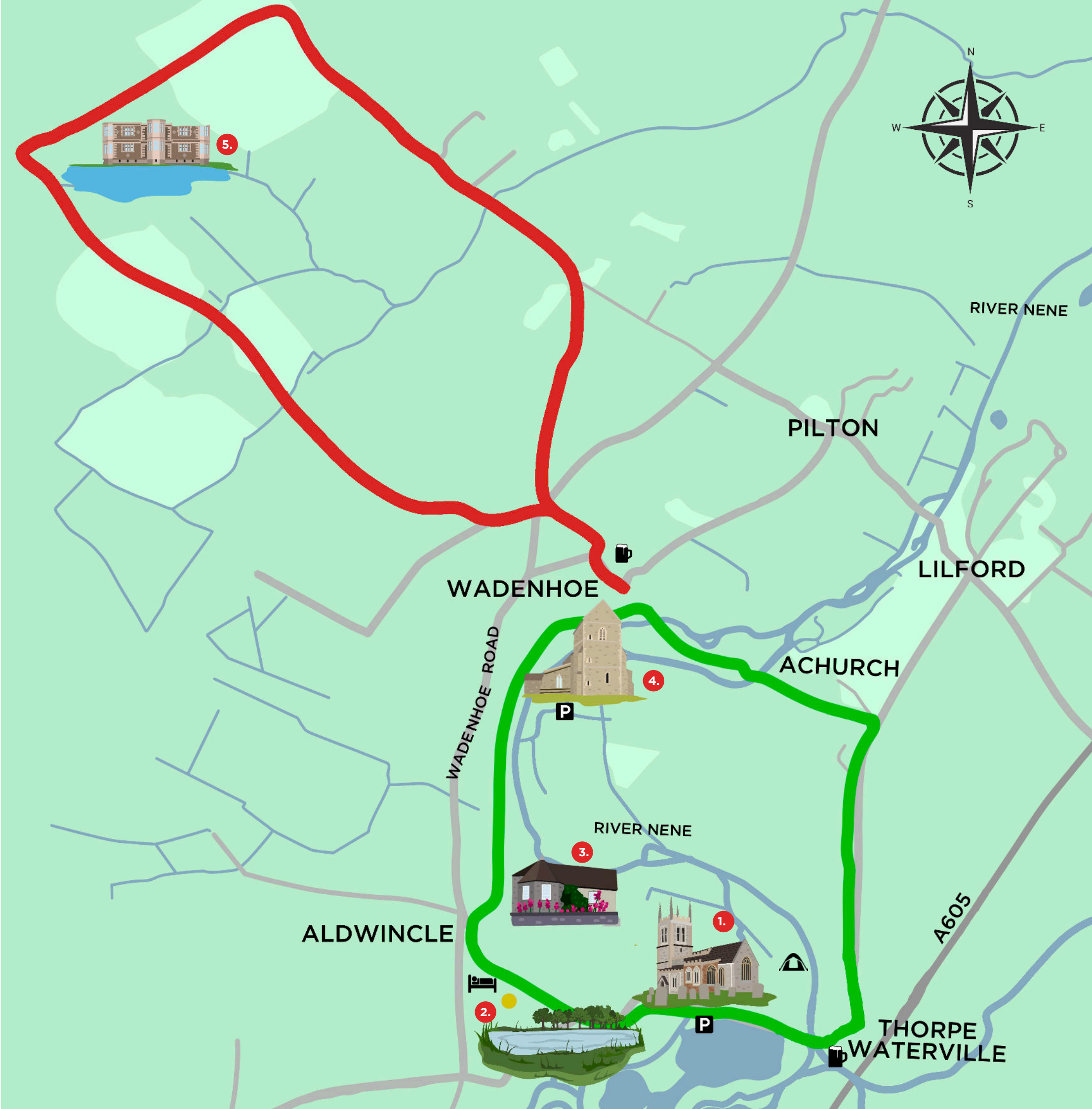
- |          |         |                |
|----------|---------|----------------|
| Pub      | Church  | Public Toilets |
| Shopping | Parking | Camping        |

## More Information:

This leaflet is to be used with an **Ordnance Survey Explorer map 224** or **Landranger map 141** as not all rights of way are included.

Please be sure to check weather and travel arrangements before beginning walks. In the event of an emergency please be sure to make note of the following numbers:

- Emergency Services: **999**
- Northants Police Non-emergency Service: **101**
- Northants Fire & Rescue Service: **01604 797000**





## Respect Everyone

- Be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.
- Do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking.
- Be nice, say hello, share the space.
- Follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available.



## Protect the Environment

- Take your litter home - leave no trace of your visit.
- Do not light fires and only have BBQs where signs say you can.
- Always keep dogs under control and in sight.
- Dog poo - bag it and bin it in any public waste bin or take it home.
- Care for nature - do not cause damage or disturbance.



## Enjoy the Outdoors

- Check your route and local conditions.
- Plan your adventure - know what to expect and what you can do.
- **Enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory!**



## Report a Problem

If you wish to report a problem or fault on this route, please scan the QR code or visit the Street Doctor portal at [northnorthants.gov.uk/streetdoctor](https://northnorthants.gov.uk/streetdoctor) where you can pin point the issue and receive a case reference ID.



## Discover Northamptonshire Hub, Rushden Lakes, Rushden, NN10 6FH



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[www.discover-northamptonshire.co.uk](http://www.discover-northamptonshire.co.uk)



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## Also available in this series:

1. Aldwincle, Wadenhoe & Lyveden
2. Fotheringhay to Woodnewton
3. Rushden to Thrapston
4. Oundle Riverside Walks
5. Woodford, Denford & Ringstead