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— Northamptonshire —
CULTURE · TOURISM · HERITAGE

Walking Map

5.

Woodford, Denford & Ringstead



River Nene at Denford

Route Info:

Duration: 2.5 - 3 Hours

Difficulty: ★★☆☆☆

(Some steep inclines)

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



Woodford, Denford & Ringstead

This circular route can be joined in any of the three main villages along the route.

Woodford: Start at the Village Green and take Church Green via Pound Lane towards the Church. From the gates of St Mary's Church looking at the Church, you can go left towards Denford along Church Street or right to go to Ringstead.

Ringstead: Start near the Axe and Compass Pub and go clockwise or anti-clockwise.

Denford: Start near the Cock Inn and go straight ahead towards the river and Woodford, or turn left and follow the route clockwise towards Ringstead.



Woodford Mill

A historic Grade II listed paper, flour and bone rendering watermill, the building was renovated by its owners, with the support of The Rural Development Programme for England.

The Watermill sits alongside the **River Nene** on the stretch between **Ringstead** and **Great Addington** and today features a range of activities nearby.

Willy Watt Marina

Nestled alongside the River Nene near **Ringstead**, the marina offers walking trails along the river, along with a tea room, picnic areas and a full range of amenities for boat owners mooring at the facility, including fuelling, dry docks and more.

Woodford

A picturesque historical village renowned for its well-preserved thatched cottages, **Woodford** offers a glimpse into traditional English rural life.

St Mary's Church features a stunning edifice dating back to the 13th century, and its architecture and scenic churchyard are highlights for visitors interested in history and heritage.

The village is built alongside the River Nene, and offers a number of walking routes for nature enthusiasts and casual strollers alike.

The Nene Way, a popular long-distance footpath, runs close by and is ideal for those looking to explore the scenic countryside.

Denford

First documented in the Domesday Book of 1086, **Denford** is situated alongside the **River Nene**.

The Church of the Holy Trinity, first built in the 12th century, stands as a testament to the village's long and storied past, featuring a mix of Norman and later architectural styles.

The village also features charming stone cottages and a traditional village pub, offering a cozy spot to rest and enjoy local hospitality.

Ringstead

The village is surrounded by extensive gravel pits, which have been transformed into a thriving habitat for a variety of wildlife, making it a popular spot for birdwatching and nature walks. **The All Saints Church**, dating from the 13th century, showcases remarkable medieval architecture and serves as a reminder of the village's long-standing history.

Walking paths around Ringstead provide a wonderful mix of scenery, from the serene waters of the gravel pits to the lush greenery of the surrounding countryside. **The Nene Way** offers a particularly scenic route through the village.

Explore local amenities including a community shop and a welcoming pub.

Wildlife

When you explore the banks, woods and hedgerows along the River Nene, there is a wealth of wildlife for you to discover. Grey herons are often seen standing motionless or quietly stalking their prey (including frogs, slugs and fish) along the water's edge.

Most often seen in the early morning or at dusk, otters are making a welcome return to the English countryside. They eat crayfish, frogs and even voles but when they catch a fish they bring it to the bank to eat. Young otters, known as cubs, spend all their time with their mother; the male otter known as a 'dog' lives alone.

The Broad-bodied Chaser is one of many dragonflies you may see on warmer days. There are about 40 species of dragonfly and 16 species of damselfly in Britain.

You can tell the difference between them in three ways, dragonflies are usually bigger, fly much faster and when at rest keep their wings outstretched. Damselflies are small and slender, with a light, floating flight.

Images: (L-R)

Holy Trinity Church, Denford, River Nene at Woodford, paddleboarders on the Nene at Ringstead, Denford town sign.

Key Sites along The Way!



1. Dukes Arms
Named after the Duke of Wellington who stayed nearby at Woodford Lodge. The pub offers live music and a delicious range of food & drink. A popular family destination in the heart of Woodford.

01832 732224



2. St Mary the Virgin
Woodford church is one of those churches where there is more history than time to tell it. Needless to say, St Mary the Virgin is a delight with plenty of treasures to uncover including a crusaders heart which rests inside a column of the nave. There is a 14th century wooden effigy of an unknown knight and a lady.



3. Willy Watt Marina / Watermill Tea Room & Restaurant
A working marina, Willy Watt offers a cafe for visitors, along with a range of amenities for boaters looking to moor for the night.

01933 622038 | www.watermilltearooms.com



4. Kinewell Lake
A beautiful spot for walking or enjoying a family picnic, Kinewell Lake takes around an hour to walk around and offers stunning views and a diverse range of wildlife and birds.

Other Points of Interest:

Pub

Church

Public toilets

Shopping

Parking

Accomodation

Cafe / Tea Room

More Information:

This leaflet is to be used with an **Ordnance Survey Map 224** 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 where you can pin point the issue and receive a case reference ID.



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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