

Look carefully at this end of the wood and you can see it has been used for mediaeval ridge and furrow agriculture.

5 Turning right continue walking until you reach a stile at the entrance into the wood (after about 80 metres) and enter the wood.

6 Walk along the path to the first, second or third track on your right. Any of these will enable you to reach the main east/west footpath on which you turn left and walk down hill.

7 You have to go over the main junction of Pinnacle Crossing, a favourite place for Orchids in spring and downhill until you reach the bottom of the valley.

8 Turning right here takes you back to the footbridge and notice board where you can exit the wood. (3) Turn left and carry on up the hill.

Or you can carry straight on and have a rest on the unusual wooden bench. From the bench carry on walking the uphill path that bears right to finally leave the wood on its boundary with the footpath you first walked along on the edge of the wood. (2) Get on the path by the sheep field and turning left you will carry on walking uphill.

At the top of the hill you will see the path leading down to the car park.



Common
spotted
orchid



- ❖ Please remember to take your litter home.
- ❖ Broken plastic and glass can injure or kill living creatures.
- ❖ Please do not let your dogs run freely.
- ❖ Do not throw things into the water courses.
- ❖ Always stay on marked footpaths.
- ❖ On average a person walks 3 miles per hour.
- ❖ Never pick wild flowers.

SAFETY

- ❖ Some parts of the path may be muddy and slippery when wet.
- ❖ Please read the route directions for guidance regarding the suitability of this walk for pushchairs and wheelchairs.
- ❖ When walking along the road, take care. Always walk on the right hand side, towards the oncoming traffic.

Supported by:



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Mediaeval Walk

Take a Walk

2



Ancient Wood and the Bullock Road
Approx 4.8km (3miles)



In partnership with

Countryside Services
Huntingdonshire

Welcome to Sawtry - Mediaeval Walk

The walk starts at the St Judith's Lane car park.

1 Walk into St Judith's Field take the path to the left hand side of the hedge going through a kissing gate and after about 200 yards reaching the wood over the brow of "High Holborn" hill.

Roughly south east and quite near, you can see Archers Wood, so called as it stands an "archers" or arrows length from the old roman road of Ermine Street. Behind it stand Coppingford and Upton woods. Left, over the A1(M) is Monks Wood that was in "the gift" of Sawtry Abbey in the 15th century. Left again is Sawtry Fen and Wood Walton.

2 Continue to follow the path along the southern edge of the wood where you will come to a small footbridge.

3 On the right is a rustic gate into the wood and just inside is an information board & map ♠ . You have the option of walking inside the wood from here (The map of the wood clearly shows the tracks that can be followed inside and as they are all virtually straight up and down or across you should not get lost!) but this 'Mediaeval Walk' continues on the wood edge.

4 Carry on through a hedge gap until you reach the wood's western edge where it meets the Bullock Road. This road is ancient and we know that mediaeval farmers drove cattle and geese along it to markets.

A few yards inside the wood from here is an equally ancient "star" pond where they watered their beasts.

This walk is easy going but sometimes muddy.

It is not suitable for prams or the infirm.

The wood is a Woodland Trust property but they allow free access.

Depending on the time of year you are likely to see wonderful displays of bluebells & orchids. Insect life is prolific with many varieties of dragon & hover fly as well as several hairstreak and the white admiral butterflies.

All year the wood contains muntjac deer, (listen for the male's sharp "bark"), hares, rabbits, grey squirrels and field mice.



Bluebells

To
Farm labourers
Walk No 5



Muntjac deer



Banded Demoiselle



Green woodpecker



To
Ancient Woods
Walk No 6



Nightingale

You can hear and see all the expected woodland birds including jays, owls, wood pigeon, pheasants, finches etc.

On warm late spring evenings the nightingale can be heard. Since 2000 there have been regular sightings of a peregrine falcon, red kite and several buzzards.

KEY

- River/Stream
- Woodland/Hedgerows
- Fields/Grassland
- Kissing gate/Stile
- Route
- Optional route
- Footpath

