

## Wadenhoe – November 2018

Our walk today takes in the villages of Wadenhoe and Aldwinckle, which are nestled in a dramatic curve of the River Nene, and is approximately 4 miles long with one stile.

We are starting out from The King's Head, a 17th century pub whose name probably derives from the time King Henry VIII split from the Catholic Church, when pub names changed from religious themes to those showing loyalty to the crown.

Wadenhoe is regarded as one of the prettiest villages in Northamptonshire and dates back to 1657. The current village is built in what was once a deer park and is made up of 17th, 18th and 19th century limestone buildings with thatched roofs and made of Collyweston slate and pantiles.



Points of interest in the village are a Jacobean Manor House, a Millennium Sundial, the St Michael's and All Angels Church, an 18th century Dovecote (cared for by the County Council and open to the public), and Castle Close earthworks next to the Church where recent renovations found evidence of possibly a 13th or 14th century manor house.

We took a path following the River Nene to Aldwinckle with views over to a Church.

Two prominent men were born in Aldwinckle, each in one of the two rectories that were here at that time. Thomas Fuller was born in 1608 in the rectory of St Peter's Church that was demolished in 1790. He was an important writer of religious works and a notable Church of England historian. He died in 1661 at the age of 53.



John Dryden, also a prolific writer, was born in 1631 in the rectory of All Saints Church, now known as Dryden House. He was a poet, playwright and critic and the first Poet Laureate. He lost this position after becoming a Catholic and writing the controversial poem 'The Hind and the Panther'. He died in 1700 and was given an impressive funeral at Westminster Abbey.

Once in Aldwinckle we will take a path down Cross Lane, a path of ancient origin that once formed a section of the road from Oundle to Thrapston. We will continue along this path and eventually cross a stile leading us to Wadenhoe Church and passing the earthworks and the Millennium Sundial mentioned earlier, and back to The King's Head for a most welcome lunch.

