

## A delightful and easy 2.25 miles/3.5 km walk through an attractive part of the Ouse Valley.



## Planning your walk

### Parking

You can park in Roxton High Street near the Parish Hall. Please park considerately

### Public transport

Point B is on the route of the X5 service that runs between Oxford and Cambridge. For details of buses and timetables please contact the Bus Information Line on 01234 228337 or the Stagecoach Traveline on 0870 6082608.

### Accommodation and refreshments

Meals and refreshments are available at The Garden Centre (marked 12 on the map), The Royal Oak pub (11 on the map) and The Anchor pub Tempsford (across the footbridge at 4 on the map).

There are guesthouses and B&Bs in the area.

Church Farm House 01234 870234

For further details on accommodation, please contact:

Bedford Tourist Information Office 01234 215226

Sandy Tourist Information Office 01767 682728

### Useful maps

This walk is also covered by Ordnance Survey Landranger sheet no 153 and OS Explorer sheet 208.

### Tips for enjoying your walk

Walking in the countryside is good for your health and a great way to relax. We hope you enjoy your visit. Parts of the walk can become muddy especially after heavy rain, so strong waterproof footwear is recommended. Take care where conditions are rough and do let someone know where you are going. Please be aware that much of the walk is unsuitable for wheelchairs and difficult for pushchairs.

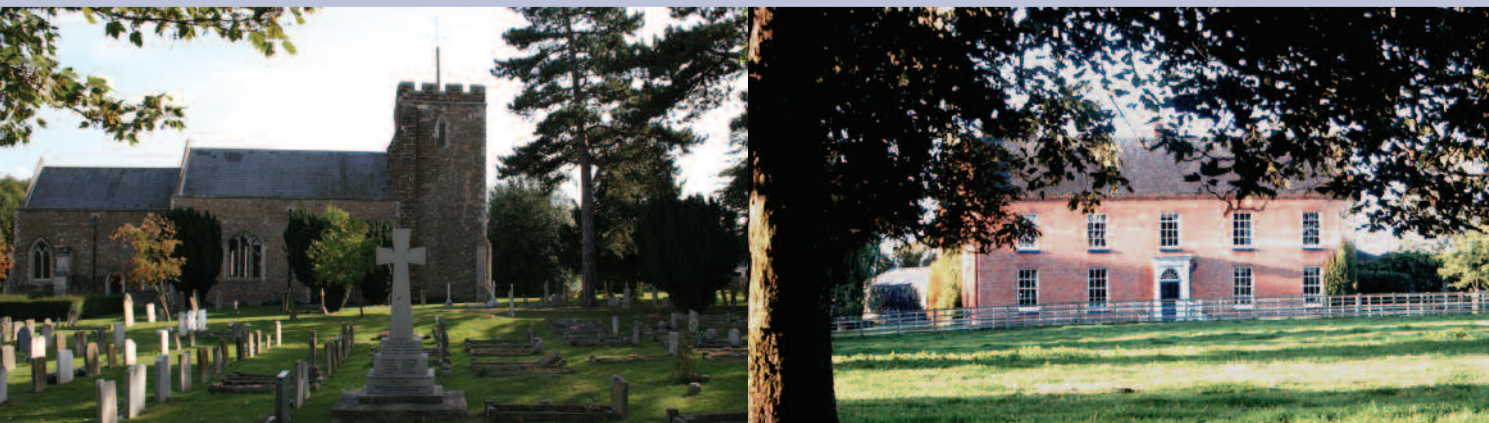
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Bedfordshire P3 encourages parish-based community groups to get into, enjoy, understand and improve their local countryside.



### Circular Walks

# Roxton

A delightful and easy 2.25 miles/3.5 km walk through an attractive part of the Ouse Valley.

Roxton is a small, unspoilt village situated near the junctions of the A421 and the A1 about 7 miles east of Bedford. Its history dates back to the Bronze Age when people settled here on the River Great Ouse floodplain. This area was also used by the Romans in about 50 AD and later by the Anglo-Saxons, the Vikings and the Normans.

The walk meanders through grassy meadows by the banks of the River Great Ouse and through Roxton – along one of the most attractive village High Streets in the county. The complete walk is about 2 miles, but can be shortened to about a mile if you take the 'shortcut' (marked 5 on the map).

All footpaths are marked. Look out for the circular route waymarkers showing this walk. Other rights of way are also waymarked with yellow or blue discs. Yellow arrows denote public footpaths; blue arrows, public bridleways. Please remember the countryside code

- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs.
- Leave gates and property as you find them.

### Roxton High Street

- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home.
- Keep dogs under close control.
- Consider other people.

There are some lovely buildings in Roxton High Street. Some of the older timber framed houses date back to the 17th century. Behind the white thatched cottages and tarred farm buildings you can see the beautiful trees of Roxton Park. The unique thatched Congregational Church, set back from the road, was once a barn. It was converted to a place of worship in the early 19th century by Charles Metcalfe – the Lord of the Manor. Later two wings were added. The north wing was used as a schoolroom, and pupils paid two pence a week for their education. This Church is still used today, and holds regular coffee mornings and fundraising events as well as the usual services.

You can just see the red bricks of Roxton Park House. Constructed in the 17th century the house was re-fronted in the 18th century and enlarged in the 19th.

### The Parish Church

The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene was built in the 14th century, but has a 15th century embattled west tower. The building is Grade II\* Listed because of its rare 15th century Rood screen. The stained glass window at the eastern end contains a dedication to Joseph Brimley, the village carpenter; he made the pews and was organist for 50 years. The churchyard has some fine trees, walls, hedges and fascinating gravestones. Look for the gravestone of the blacksmith John Barnett; it has an interesting epitaph.

*My sledge and hammer is declined,  
My bellows too have lost their wind,  
My life extinct, my forge decayed,  
And in my dust my vice is laid,  
My coals are spent, iron gone,  
My nails are dove, my work is done.*



# The Walk

Approx 2.25 miles/3.5 km



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- |           |           |           |                 |   |        |   |              |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|---|--------|---|--------------|
| ● ● ● ● ● | The walk  | ● ● ● ● ● | Shortcut        | ⊕ | Church | Ⓟ | Parking      |
| —         | Footpath  | - - - - - | Permissive path | 🌳 | Woods  | 🍺 | Public house |
| —         | Bridleway |           |                 |   |        | 🚏 | Bus stop     |

- P** Please park at the Parish Hall in the High Street.
- 1** The walk begins at the entrance to the Parish Church in School Lane.  
Go diagonally across the churchyard keeping the church to your right.; head towards the large weeping willow tree then go through the fence using the Y gate.  
Continue along the clearly defined path that passes between arable fields. There is a small pond on the right where you often see ducks and occasionally moorhens.
- 2** Turn left at the way marker post and follow the path alongside the recently planted grove of trees.
- 3** At this point the walk crosses another footpath. Continue downhill through a small copse and over a footbridge.
- Enter a large field by climbing over the stile, and walk across the field keeping the hedge to your left. Leave the field using another stile.
- Continue heading east until you reach the next waymarker post. Here the walk swings to the right and parallels the river, which you can see through the trees.
- 4** Pass the footbridge across the River Great Ouse on your left and continue to the bottom of Ford Lane.
- 5** You can take the 'shortcut' back to the village at this point.
- To continue the walk cross the lane and use the footbridge to cross the ditch. Turning left you enter into the river meadow. Follow the waymarkers keeping the fence and river to your left, walk to the river bank and turn right.
- 6** Follow the river upstream; cross over a wide ditch using the footbridge; continue to the field boundary.
- 7** Leave the field using the stile and follow the path across a bridge over the old Roxton Lock. The new modern lock, to your left, was built in 1972. Do NOT cross the river; the Kingfisher Way starts here.  
Pass the Environment Agency building and walk to the riverbank using the Y gate.
- Keeping the river to your left, walk upstream along the bank. There is a large trout lake to your right where you can spot herons and the occasional kingfisher. You may also see coots, great crested grebes, mallards, tufted ducks, and Canada and greylag geese.
- 8** Turn right at the signpost and follow a wide, grassy path that leaves the river bank and leads back to the village.
- 9** At Ford Lane follow the lane to the right to a small triangular green.
- 10** Turn left into the High Street and walk back to the Parish Hall.