

Rural Rambler

A series of walks around Marsworth and the local countryside.

No. 2 The Aylesbury Arm and Wilstone Village

Distance 3.5 miles (5.8 km) easy going, some muddy sections in wet weather.

This walk takes you along the Aylesbury Arm of the Grand Union Canal (GUC) to the attractive village of Wilstone and through open countryside with good views. There are plenty of opportunities for refreshments: Wilstone Village Shop (tea/coffee snacks - mornings only), the Half Moon Pub and the café at Meads Farm Shop.

Starting at Marsworth Church walk down Church Lane, over the bridge at the GUC and straight on to the 2nd bridge. Immediately after the bridge (point A) turn right onto the Aylesbury Arm towpath and follow it to Bridge 2 at Dixon's Gap. Taking the steps, pass under the bridge and walk for some 60yds to a gap in the hedge (B). Here the main route turns left and crosses the fields to Wilstone. Alternatively stay on the towpath to avoid the village, meeting the main route again at Wilstone Bridge (Bridge 3, E). Note that this short section of the towpath can be extremely wet and almost impassable at times.

If following the main route take the path across the field to the gap in the next hedge after which turn left, passing the allotments on your right and into Rosebarn Lane. At the end of the lane (C) turn right into the heart of Wilstone. Pass the village shop and the pub on your right (stopping for refreshments if required!).

At the village hall (D) another alternative route is available, stay on the road to follow the main route to Wilstone Bridge (E) or take the track beside the recreation ground to rejoin the canal where turning left will return to the main route.

If staying on the road, pass the bungalows on the left and open field on the right (soon to be the site of further housing development) to Wilstone Bridge. Access the towpath on the right hand side of the road and double back under the bridge to follow it opposite the new development at Wilstone Wharf, past the footbridge and on to canal bridge number 5 (F). Leave the towpath up a short rise and turn left through a small copse and cross the Wilstone Brook. Once again turn left and follow the path along the side of the field and brook to a gate at (G). Turn right, pass through a small gate and walk through another field (often cows) beside the brook. At the exit to this field (H) the path branches to the left at the large farm gate and meets a track which takes you back into the village via Chapel End Lane, passing some interesting old houses. At the main road turn right and walk approx. 160yds (careful, no footpath) to New Road. Turn left and, shortly after, turn right at the village pond then straight on through 2 gates to meet the B489 at Wilstone Green.

Keep left in front of the cottages (unless visiting Meads Farm Shop and café some 80yds to the right) and enter the next field with an orchard on your right. Follow the path beside the hedge (good views of Marsworth Church tower and Pitstone Hill in the distance) until it meets Wingrave Road (point I). Turn right (beware of traffic) and

then left to take the path to the right of the fence beside and then diagonally across the next two fields.

Pass through the gate, cross the footbridge over Tring Brook and along the path to re-enter Watery Lane at The Mill House. Straight ahead takes you back over the bridges to Church Lane and the end of the walk

