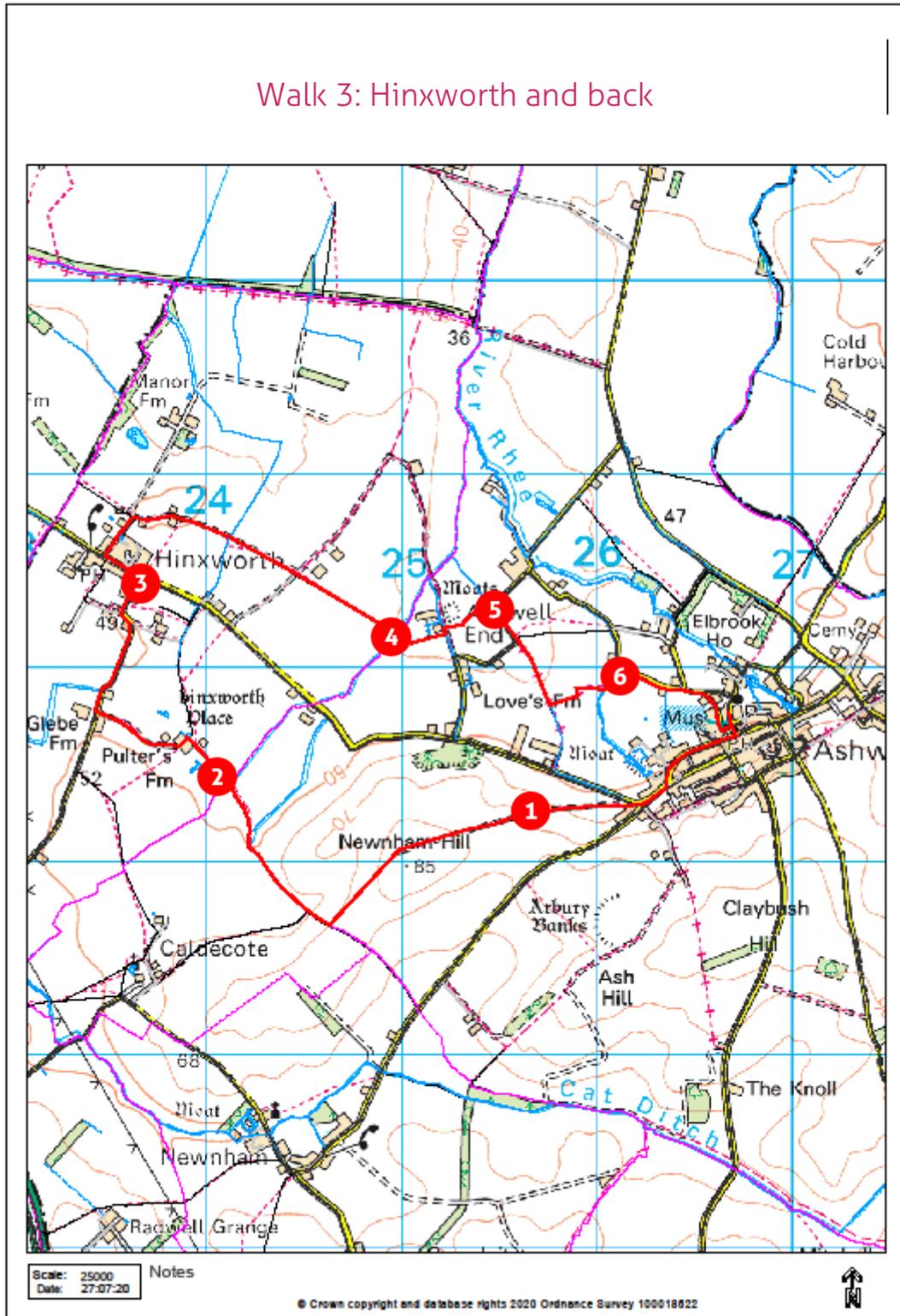


ASHWELL WALKS

Walk 3: Hinxworth and back



Length and timing

9.6 Kilometres (6 miles), about 2 hrs walking briskly, 2hr 50 mins at leisure.

One gentle climb and descent.

Panoramic view from the top of Newnham Hill, then to the well tended village of Hinxworth and its pub, 'The Three Horseshoes'. Return through open farmland.

Directions

With your back to the Parish Church lych gate head left along Mill Street, cutting through to the High Street via Alms Lane between the Parish Rooms on the left and the Museum on the right.

Turn right along the High Street and carry straight on along West End for 600 metres to a junction just outside the village. Go down the right fork, the Hinxworth Road, and take the track going up the hill.



Right Fork, then take the track uphill

1 This is Newnham Hill. Don't forget to look back at the view of the church after climbing a bit. At the top it levels off and just before going down the other side there is an expansive view to the North (right hand side) of Biggleswade and the villages of Dunton, Wendy and Croydon.

Down the hill you come to a 'T' junction. Turn right here. Follow the track down and along as it follows the field margin.

2 After about a kilometre you will see a black barn ahead. Keep along the track to the left of the barn. The medieval manor house, Hinxworth Place will be on your left hand side.

At the corner of the manor house plot the track reaches a junction. Go left down the lane.



Left down the lane. (Hinxworth place will be on your left)

After 30 metres, turn right on to the lane going west. It crosses open fields to reach a quiet road.

When you reach the road turn right. It winds along for 800 metres until reaching the junction at Hinxworth village. Turn left.

3 Hinxworth is a small picture-postcard village with well maintained houses and beautifully tended gardens. Here might be a good place to take a break and have a drink and bite at the Three Horseshoes pub, if open.

Just past the pub turn right and go north east along Chapel Street. Pass the duck pond, which will be on your right. At the junction beyond take the right fork down a lane.



View of the duck pond in Chapel Street (taken from the drive on the extreme right hand side)

The lane passes houses until it reaches a junction with a gate and a path on the other side that descends gently across a large open field. This long, straight run crosses another junction with a farm track and large house to your right, then yet another large field.

4 Go across the small footbridge over the ditch at the field boundary into a paddock. The path is bounded by fences and there is a break in the hawthorn hedging at the other end. Go through it and turn left immediately.

At the lane turn left again and look out for the finger post on the right pointing to Ashwell End.



Path to Ashwell End (medieval moat on the left hand side of the path)

There are two moated enclosure here, though not that obvious if like me you are not familiar with these things. One I cannot see at all. According to Historic England, enclosures like this form a significant class of

medieval monument and are important for understanding the distribution of wealth and status in the countryside during the thirteenth and fourteenth century.

Follow the direction of the finger post along the path (the moat will be on your left). It comes out onto the road at a sharp bend.

5 Go right and continue until the road bends sharply again to the right but continue straight ahead down the track. It becomes more shaded after a short distance.



This shaded avenue makes a pleasant change from open farmland

Look out for a break in the trees and shrubs on the left where there is a small footbridge over a ditch. Cross it and follow the track first ahead then a dog-leg to the left and right.

Keep following it through the trees and then left. After a short distance you will reach Gardiners Lane where you go right.

6 Gardiners Lane takes you back into the village. Look out for the Cob Wall running alongside the road on the right hand side. Apparently it is home to six species of mason bees. In the summer time, if you take a minute, it is easy to see them coming and going.



End of the walk: looking back along Gardiners Lane