



# THE ICKNIELD WAY ASSOCIATION

## Linton (Cambridgeshire)

*A short walk up to the water tower on the top of Rivey Hill, with excellent views of Linton in the valley below. Down the hill again the walk follows back streets and the river Granta through this picturesque village. Possible extensions include [Chilford Hall Vineyard](#) to the north or [Linton Zoo](#) to the south.*

These details are available at: [icknieldWayPath.co.uk/route/Cambridgeshire](http://icknieldWayPath.co.uk/route/Cambridgeshire) where there is a link to the [OS Maps](#) route map.

Linton has a rich history, as outlined in its *Heritage Trail*, (available from the Post Office and other outlets). Three pubs, including [The Crown Inn](#), [The Wagon and Horses](#) and [The Dog and Duck](#). The [Linton Kitchen](#) serves as a community hub serving tea and cake (and sells the Icknield Way guidebook).

The deservedly popular thatched *Dog and Duck* stands next to the bridge over the river Granta at the bottom of the High Street in the centre of the village. Originally two 16<sup>th</sup> century cottages, it was converted to its present use in 1851. Its heavily beamed ceilings and open fireplaces are complimented by pictures including old photographs of the pub. A traditional style long bar opens into an extended dining area. A good range of traditional pub grub, (ploughman's etc.), seafood and steaks, it uses fresh local produce where possible. Vegetarians are catered for and children's portions available. Dogs on a lead are allowed in the non-dining area of the bar, and there is a pleasant riverside garden if you wish to eat outside.

### *How to get there:*

Linton is in the south-east corner of Cambridgeshire, near the Essex border, on the A1307 Cambridge to Haverhill road. Frequent buses run from Cambridge to Haverhill seven days a week (use Hillway stop).

### *Parking*

There is a car park to the rear of the Dog and Duck pub – get there early though, it can fill up!

Free public parking is also available behind the health centre just off Coles Lane a short walk to the Dog and Duck (2 mins)

## **The Walk**

*Length of the walk: 3 miles (5.0km), climbing 75m. Map OS Explorer Map 209. Cambridge, Royston, Duxford & Linton*

Join the Icknield Way by walking down Meadow Lane, (immediately to the left of the pub as you face it). Where the lane ends keep straight on along a footpath to the side of the recreation ground. Unless taking a short diversion to see the historic 'Clapper Stile' (see below) follow the path around to the right in front of the pavilion to take the white footbridge out of the park across the river Granta. Follow the path uphill leading through a housing estate, crossing a small service road and eventually to the junction with Linton's Back road. A few yards to your right, the IW footpath sign directs you to [Rivey Hill](#). The walk stays with this track as it climbs uphill alongside arable fields, and to the right of a wood (which can be muddy in wet conditions). At the top it turns right along the ridge. A convenient bench invites you to appreciate panoramic views down across Linton and Hadstock and Little Walden



beneath you to the south, and Abington to the west. You may be able to see the remnants of WW2 aircraft hangers, used by the USAAF at Little Walden, and aircraft hangers at Duxford further west.

The walk follows the track to the left of a large wood before passing a converted barn and flint-faced cottage opposite the red-brick water tower. Built in 1935-36, the 98' (30m) dodecagonal (12-sided) tower supplied Linton with its first mains water. The Grade II listed tower makes a prominent landmark visible for miles across the surrounding countryside.

This is where the walk can be extended by staying with the Icknield Way and turning left towards Chilford Hall vineyard and the Curwen Print Centre, and to Balsham.

The circular walk however turns right at the water tower on a very attractive track by the side of the wood, and although it runs down to a spring, is wet for a time rather than muddy, as it has been gravelled. At the bottom of the hill the track continues down into Linton, through housing and past the cemetery to the Back road where you turn left. At the road tee junction with the road to Balsham, turn right, going past the fire station and right again into the High Street. Shortly after *The Waggon and Horses* (Linton's oldest pub), turn left down Green Lane and follow it down to the Mill, where you walk under part of it to your right and continue to a ford with footbridge over the river Granta.

Immediately after crossing the river, turn right along the riverbank, past a footbridge, and then right over a second footbridge. A tarmac path then takes you to [St Mary's Church](#). Where the paths cross in the churchyard, turn left to leave the churchyard opposite the impressive 16<sup>th</sup> century Grade II\* listed Guildhall. Continue up the path ahead, to the left of the Guildhall, to arrive at another footbridge across the river, the aptly named Duck Bridge. Follow the narrow lane leading back to the High Street. You will find yourself almost opposite *The Crown*, with the delightful '*Linton Kitchen*', serving teas, cakes and selling local produce, (open Monday- Saturday 9-5), to your right. Continue on up the High Street to return to the *Dog and Duck*.

## Clapper Stile

Before turning right by the pavilion go 150m to the north west of the pavilion is the grade II listed '[Clapper Stile](#)'. The historic stile was replaced with a new one in 2019 (after a previous replacement fell into disrepair). The clapper stile is one of only seven left in the UK – other examples are in Berkshire, Derbyshire, Sussex and Warwickshire. The stile is at grid ref TL557471 or <https://w3w.co/curly.pays.sensitive>.