



The Hundred Parishes

Circular Walks – number 183

Quendon and Rickling - a short stroll, largely through woodland - 2 miles (3 kms)

This walk is mainly along footpaths through or beside woods that are usually rich with bluebells in springtime. Some of the paths can be muddy at times. There are no stiles. The walk starts at Rickling Green, beside The Cricketers Arms; if you hope to take refreshment there, you are advised to book in advance on 01799 619260 or

<https://thecricketersarmspub.co.uk/>

The route goes past Quendon Church. If you hope to visit the church, please be prepared to either remove muddy boots or wear boot covers or plastic bags.

Start and finish: The route starts and finishes at the small parking area outside The Cricketers Arms at Rickling Green (Ordnance Survey Grid Reference: TL511299 - Postcode: CB11 3YG). The small parking area also serves the adjacent school and cricket field so can sometimes be full. Then, it may be necessary to park along Rickling Green Road which runs north from the green, walking back to the pub area for the start of the walk.

The Cricketers Arms dates from around 1800 AD and Rickling Primary School from 1873, although both have since been extended. Cricket has been played on the green since 1850.

From the parking area, head east along the surfaced path that runs between the school on the left and the pub car park on the right.

After about 100 yards, at the end of the path, turn left into a small residential area. This is Oxlip Close. In about 50 yards, keep straight ahead into Snowdrop Road.

After another 80 yards, turn right and leave the housing estate, soon emerging onto the main Cambridge Road, the B1383. When safe, cross the main road and continue straight ahead on a drive / public footpath, heading towards Quendon Bowls Club.

In another 50 yards, the drive turns right towards the Bowls Club. To the left, there is an impressive entrance to Quendon Court. We keep straight ahead, waymarked as a public footpath and entering woodland. The footpath may be muddy at times (an unofficial path runs parallel, just to the right). This is the first of many areas of woodland on this route with extensive bluebell coverage in springtime.

To the left, we will get occasional glimpses of Quendon Court, a mansion that was built around 1750. It faces the main road.

After a while, follow the waymarked path round to the left, down some shallow steps and then up again. At the top of the steps, the official path turns right but if this is muddy we can go straight ahead for about 20 yards beside the fence before turning right to soon rejoin the path.

For some distance, we continue along the field-edge path with Quendon Wood on our right, also with bluebells.

After a while, ignore the bridleway signposted off to the left.

At the end of Quendon Wood, continue round to the right but, within 20 yards, bear left onto another path that runs between fields, heading towards Quendon Church whose bellcote pokes above the trees.

On reaching a small wood, keep ahead with the wood on the right.

After a hundred yards, we come to a crossroads of paths where there is a choice of route for the next hundred yards or so, each bringing us to Quendon's parish church . . .

- (1) The main bridleway goes right and then through a gateway to reach the church.
- (2) Alternatively, if the bridleway is too muddy, go straight ahead through a gate into a field (which sometimes has horses). In the field, turn right and follow the hedgerow for a short distance to exit by another gate, emerging opposite Quendon Church.

The church is usually kept locked, but if it is open you are encouraged to visit – contact details are displayed outside should you particularly wish to visit. If you do go in, please either remove or cover muddy boots first. The church is dedicated to St Simon and St Jude. It dates from the 13th century but was much restored and rebuilt in 1861. The porch was added in the 20th century, as was the white-painted, timber bellcote with its golden cockerel.

On leaving the church, turn right onto the lane and descend to the main road, Cambridge Road. The red-brick houses head, on the opposite side of the road, were built in the 19th century; those to the right, numbers 3 to 7 were originally constructed as a stable block.

Turn right along the pavement but soon, when safe, cross the main road to continue on the left side.

Immediately after turning into the main road, steps on the right lead up to Mill House. It is timber-framed and plastered and dates from around 1640.

On the left, number 8 is clearly dated 1835. Its flint face was added to a timber-framed building. We pass the entrance to Orchard House on the left and, just afterwards, our route turns left beside a postbox onto a grassy path.

We climb for a hundred yards or so and emerge onto a field. Turn left to follow the hedge.

In about 30 yards, turn right to continue along the field edge path, with hedgerow on the left.

After about 80 yards, turn left through the hedge, bearing slightly right and heading across the field towards the righthand end of woodland.

Ignore a path that bears left and continue ahead to the right corner of the field.

From the corner of the field, turn left along a track – signposted as both a bridleway and Harcamlow Way.

We continue along this track for about 250 yards altogether, with woodland on the left and open fields on the right. In the distance to the right, we may catch a glimpse of Rickling Church which lies about a mile away, largely hidden by trees and close to farm buildings.

We ignore a gate on the right (a path leads from here across the fields towards Rickling Church).

About 100 yards after the gate, we leave the track. Ignore the path that goes sharp left, instead taking the path that goes half left into the wood. In April or May, this wood is extremely rich in bluebells.

Keep straight ahead through the bluebell wood.

In about 170 yards, our path meets another clear footpath. We turn left onto the new path, continuing through the wood.

In another 200 yards, we meet another path, immediately opposite a high metal fence. Here, we turn right, still on the bridleway.

The bridleway soon becomes a gravel drive and we pass a few houses on the right. We pass beside what is usually a substantial puddle and emerge onto Rickling Green Road, where we turn right.

We are now back in Rickling Green with only about 300 yards to go to the pub. Continue along the pavement on the right.

Soon, on the left, the small bungalow with a tall chimney was once the parish hall.

Fairly soon, when safe, cross the road and fork left up the driveway. Note the two pretty thatched cottages set back on the left: The Thatch and then Tudor Cottage. Each dates from the 17th or 18th century.

Continue ahead, now on grass, past Rickling Primary School to reach the little car park where we started this walk.

This route description, last updated 13 May 2023, was downloaded from www.hundredparishes.org.uk There, you can read more about the parish of Quendon and Rickling and also find many additional walk routes.

Please email any suggestions for improving the route or the route description to hundredparishes@btinternet.com.

A diagram of this route, based on the Ordnance Survey map, is shown below. It is published under © Crown copyright 2020 OS 100062498.

