

Reach

Start & Finish Points: Reach (TL 567 661) Mileage: 5.7miles

This is a typical Fen walk, with large skies and waterways. Starting at the picturesque village of Reach, then taking in Burwell with good views of its windmill and church. Finish the walk on Devils Dyke (an old Anglo-Saxon defence bank) where you will get good views of Swaffham Prior's two churches and windmill to your left and Ely Cathedral (on a clear day) to your right.

Leave the car park from where you entered and carry straight on with Fair Green to your left. When the road swings to the left leave it and carry straight on down Chapel Lane. When you come to the end of the road go through a kissing gate to the left. When you come to another kissing gate go through this and carry straight on, on a path with a river to your left. After going under a footbridge about ten yards before you come to a wooden gate turn right down a slope.

Ignore a footpath to your left and you will come to a concrete road, just keep to this and when the concrete road turns into a gravel path just stick to it on the Lode Way. Just before the path swings to the left leave it by turning right on a vague path soon going between some metal posts soon coming to a semi-hard drove; turn left and you will eventually come out onto a road, turn right. Just after passing a farm to your left turn left by a footpath sign, cross a stream on a concrete bridge and carry on in the same direction soon having a wood to your left, the path will then swing to the left and then a quick right having a footpath sign to your left, then a quick right turn down and up a slope and then once up turn left having trees to your left.

At the field boundary to the right turn right for a few paces and then left with a fence to your left. You will then come to a Tarmac area, walk straight across it which will bring you out onto a road, turn left and the road will quickly swing to the right. When you come to a T-junction of roads turn right, the road will quickly swing to the left when you come to another T-junction of roads turn right soon having the Five Bells public house to your left, then quick right down Spring Close. When the road swings to the left leave it and carry straight on, on a semi-hard track down a public byway. You will then soon come to a footpath sign on your left, ignore this and walk on for about 10 paces to another footpath sign and turn left directing you towards Devils Dyke. Just keep to this footpath as zig-zags until you come to a footpath sign on your right, turn left signposted Reach. The path will then swing to the left and cross a footbridge.

Once across you will come to a T-junction of paths. Turn right, soon crossing a footbridge then aim to the right side of some iron railings in front of you. Once there turn left having the railings to your left. You will then come out onto a road, cross this and carry straight on in the same direction on a track. When the track swings to the right leave it and carry straight ahead on a footpath. At the field boundary carry on in the same direction, through a gate and up some steps. Turn right and you are now walking on Devils Dyke. You will then come to a gate, go through and carry on in the same direction and you will then come to some kissing gates. Go through these and carry on in the same direction, then down a slope onto a green and turn right, keeping trees to your right. When the trees cease turn right then another quick right back into the car park from where you started.

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