

Marshborough (Miles 4.5; 7 km) March 2022

This is a circular walk. There is a section of this walk where the path is very uneven and becomes very waterlogged after heavy rain. There are two stiles to climb.

Ordnance Survey Leisure Map OS150

1. Start from the car park behind Ash village hall in Queens Road (CT3 2BG). Leave the car park turning right into Queens Road. Turn left into The Street (War Memorial) and walk 200m.
2. Cross the road just before the road forks at Sandwich Road / New Street, pass through kissing gate into Street End field (EE111A) and walk south east, keeping the fence to your left, up the slope and carry straight on through two more kissing gates 300m.
3. Where the path meets a metalled road (Moat Lane) adjacent to a bungalow turn left. At this point there are panoramic views to the south into Woodnesborough and east into Staple.
4. After 700m where the lane (now Coombe Lane) turns left, carry straight on up the dirt track/ sunken lane, to a gate. You are now in Woodnesborough Parish.
5. Turn right through the gate onto a footpath (EE196) in front of a house and continue straight on to the left of a second gate onto a narrow footpath for 400m (Ringleton Manor on your right).
6. Go over the stile opposite the Manor Gatehouse and turn left up the narrow by-way (Green Lane) for 350m ignoring two exits on the right.
7. At the crest of the slope the bridleway (EE471) opens up with panoramic views to the north and east; the old RAF radar station is to the north west. Turn right (EE217) and continue along the field edge heading for a telephone mast.
8. Continue past the mast for a few metres then take the first descending footpath (EE207) on the left to Marshborough Road.
9. Turn left at the road (there are no footpaths so beware of traffic) and follow the road for 200m to the thatched Honeypot Cottage.
10. Turn right onto Farm Lane (EE216?) and proceed ahead to a large, thatched barn, keep to the right of the barn and follow a field track for 500m to a line of electricity poles.
11. Turn left (EE214A) and follow the field track over a dyke to the road past Each End House.
12. At the road turn left and after a few metres turn right onto a track (EE97A) to the right of a bungalow. Cross the A257 Ash bypass to a track (EE97A) opposite (take care as this is a 60 mph road) and continue straight ahead (EE93) passing a building to a lane (East Street).
13. Turn left uphill along the lane for 200m to the brow of the hill and turn right (EE97) diagonally along the field footpath to a metalled road.
14. At the road turn left for a few metres past a red post box in the wall then turn right (EE95) through Goss Hall farmyard then cross over a dyke and through a gate.
15. Walk diagonally left across the meadow to the right-hand corner of a fence, with the fence on the left (Hills Court) continue north to a stile, cross the stile and follow the path alongside the garden to a second stile onto a metalled road.

16. Turn left along road for 50m then turn first right into a lane, proceed along the lane passing large greenhouses on the right. After 300m turn left along a footpath (EE53A) across a field to the A257 Ash bypass. Walk down the steps and carefully cross the A257 and up the steps on the far side. Walk straight across the field to the hedge and going through the hedge, continue, straight on until you meets a second footpath on the Field EE53A. Turn right onto the path and walk to the corner of the field. Turn left into Burfords Alley and right using the first gate into the Recreation Ground. Keep straight on with the allotments on the left until your reach Queens Road, (Alternatively - Go over the style and across the field (EE53A) to the Ash Recreation Ground.) There is Juliet's Café on the left of the Recreation Ground where you can purchase farm produce and refreshments.
17. Go diagonally across the recreation Ground to the gate in the corner, turn left into Queens Road with the Resthaven Almshouses on the left and walk to the starting point at the Ash Village Hall car park. On a Saturday, the Ash Heritage Centre is open in the mornings and holds many photos and historical documents about the parish.



(Note: The footpath across the field at the 300m turn and the field at the other side of the bypass can be extremely muddy or have crops growing. An alternative route is to stay on the lane for a further 200m then bear left at the junction, walk along the road to the bypass and use the path opposite (Burford Alley) EE465) to reach the Recreation Ground).