

RUTLAND HERITAGE TRAIL

MYSTERIOUS MAZES AND

DISTANCE: 5½ miles (approximately)

START & FINISH: The Maze in Wing (signposted)

TERRAIN: Mostly a mixture of footpaths and bridleways across fields and stretches of road. Short walk along A6003 with two crossings of this busy main road.

REFRESHMENTS: The King's Arms, Wing

The Horse & Jockey, Manton

MAP DETAILS: This route is covered by the Ordnance Survey Explorer Series Numbers 15 (234)

ALLOW TWO TO THREE HOURS FOR THIS CIRCULAR WALK, ALLOWING MORE TIME IF YOU WISH TO EXPLORE THE VILLAGES OF WING, MANTON AND PRESTON.

This circular walk to the south of Rutland Water takes in the ancient turf maze in Wing, the villages of Manton and Preston and gives walkers a glimpse of the long-lost medieval village of Martinthorpe. Find out more in *Discover Rutland's Deserted Settlements* on page 52.

THE WALK

Starting at Wing maze, head left towards the village then take the left onto Morcott Road. Follow this road until, just before **The King's Arms** take Middle Street on your right. Turn left at the end onto Bottom Street and take the footpath on your right as the road bends left.

Climb the stile and as you begin making your way across a paddock, head over to the left and look for an old stile and a waymark post in the fence ahead. After you cross the stile, turn right and keep to the edge of the field as you continue down the hill. When you near the bottom of the hill, a wooden bridge over the River Chater should come into view.

Cross the bridge and immediately bear left. Look for a gap in the hedgerow where you should find an old gate post and a waymark post. Passing through the gap will bring you out into another pasture field. Head straight across the middle of the field to the opposite corner, where you will find a wooden field gate alongside a stile. Pass over the stile and ahead of you will be a brick arch railway bridge, but in front of that is a hand gate, go through the gate, onto the track and under the bridge.

After the bridge, look for a footpath on your right that goes between the railway line and a brick tower. Take this path. On your right you can see across the railway line to Manton Junction where the railway works and tunnel entrance are visible. The path passes along the back of a barn and onto a drive before turning right along the side of an arable field and coming out onto a tarmac road.

This road leads into Manton and onto Lyndon Road. Now turn left and walk along Lyndon Road towards Manton Top and the junction with the A6003. Cross over with care and make for the Bridleway marked opposite.

The bridleway begins as a stony farm track. Pass through the double field gates and follow a double line of trees across the ridge and furrow (a sign of medieval ploughing) until you reach a dry-stone wall



VANISHED VILLAGES



and a pair of metal gates. You will see the newly renovated Martinsthorpe House (formerly known as 'Old Hall Farm') ahead of you. **Gunthorpe Hall** can be seen across the valley to your right.

If you wish, you can examine the remains of Martinsthorpe medieval village (the bridleway continues straight on past the earthworks and building to reach the remains of a 17th century carriage road). A panel containing more information about the village and **Martinsthorpe Hall** is located near to the stone building.

To continue the walk, turn left at the dry-stone wall and walk downhill towards Fox Covert. Keep the wall to your right as you follow the footpath through a gate and onto the wooded path. The path leads out into open fields, keep the hedge on your left and continue straight on towards the spire of Preston church, which is visible ahead.

You will come to a stone bridge that crosses the Chater. After crossing the bridge, go through the gate and bear left. Pass through a field gate, then head straight ahead through a gap in the hedge, bear immediately right towards a stile. In the next field, head uphill to the far corner where, when you cross the stile, you will find yourself back on the A6003.

Walk along the verge to the outskirts of Preston, cross over with care and take the turning towards Wing. Follow this road past **Wing Grange** (remember to face oncoming traffic) to a junction. Turn right and climb uphill for the final ¼ mile back into Wing. As you reach the edge of the village, you may notice the earthworks in the field to the right – possible remains of a medieval village.

Continue through the village back past **The King's Arms**, turn right into Glaston Road and to **Wing Maze** where you started.

SAFER WALKING

- Be prepared – wear suitable clothing and sturdy footwear, take refreshments and directions
- Respect the countryside – take care in crops and be considerate of livestock
- Take care when crossing or walking on roadways and walk facing oncoming traffic
- Fasten all gates, keep dogs under close control and guard against fire
- Please show consideration to village residents by parking cars responsibly and making sure all dog mess is appropriately cleared away
- Remember to take nothing but photos and leave nothing but footprints!

