

22. Thornton Thornborough and Nash

6 miles

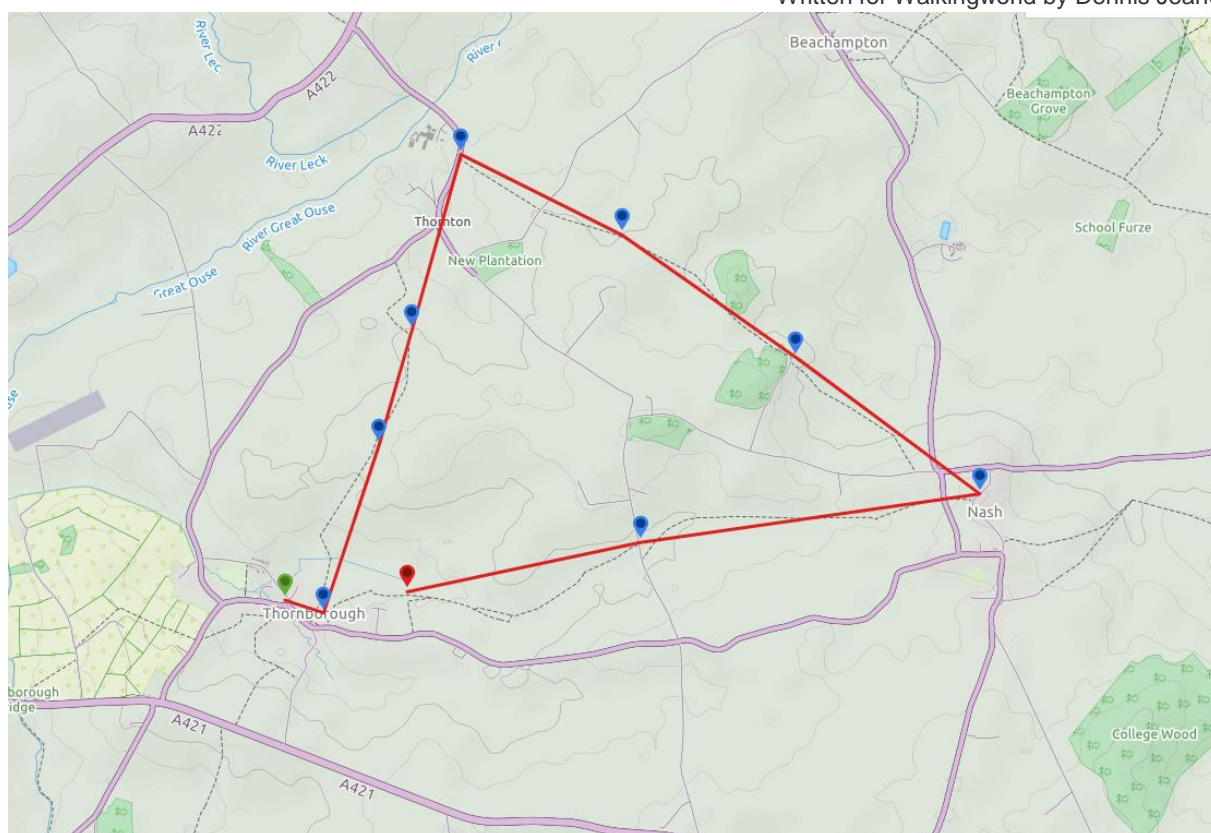
<https://my.viewranger.com/route/details/MjNfNDIzNA==>

A walk in the Buckinghamshire countryside through three delightful and picturesque villages. There are woods, but most of the walk is in open countryside. A feature of this walk is the variety of crafted metal gates at the beginning and towards the end. A pleasant Pythagorean walk, away from all main roads, begins in the largest of the three villages with an old stone church, a small stream, the only pub in the area and easy parking by the village green opposite the church.

Going north to Thornton, the trail climbs steadily then goes down a little to Thornton. Walking eastwards to Nash there is a little ascent, then the ground is relatively high with good views. Returning eastwards back to Thornborough the trail follows a stream along a shallow valley.

There is a fine building in Thornton which is now a college and the historic parish church has been restored and can be seen in the college grounds

Written for Walkingworld by Dennis Jeanes



With your back to the church with a tower, cross the road and walk away from it, past trees and into Chapel Lane on far right corner. Follow it to a footpath on your left, which has four steps up to a stile.

Follow the footpath past pond on left, over another three stiles, turning right after the second one. Cross a brook and go slightly left across field and over stile in hedge. Turn right along the hedge for twenty metres to planks over ditch and through the hedge.

Continue with hedge on right, over wooden stile and planks over ditch. Continue rising gently with hedge on right to end of field,

Go straight across a footpath but with hedge on left. Turn left when hedge turns left and after about 50m reach a footpath sign. Cross a track between fields to the corner of a hedge around a garden. Turn right through 45 degrees and go towards the left end of a tree plantation. Walk straight on with plantation on right and broken

hedge left to where the hedge turns left and the plantation ends. (There are no signs until the road is reached later on).

Turn left and down the edge of field, with hedge on left, turning right at the bottom and continuing along the edge of field, with conifers on left, to corner of field. Turn left through gap in hedge and carry on downhill with hedge on right. Cross stile in corner of field onto the road.

Turn right along road to Thornton. When a road joins from right, go right on road which rises slightly (the left fork is a dead-end). When Thornton College is visible on left, the drive of Thornton Park Farm is on right.

Take footpath along drive past farm and on to the next road. Cross it and continue in the same direction across field, parallel to fence on right. Go over planks, through gap in hedge, continuing in same direction with copse on right. At end of copse go diagonally across corner of field to wide gap in hedge.

Go straight across next field. Cross footbridge over ditch, go over next two stiles and cross the next field diagonally to left towards corner of Great Wood. Then cross field diagonally to right to the far edge of Cowpen Wood. Follow it to end of field and take grassy track through hedge to stile. Over it, head for five-barred gate. Cross road to your right to a six-barred gate into a field.

Go through gate, down diagonally left to stile over fence and straight on across next field diagonally to stile in hedge. Go straight on across field diagonally, through gap in hedge, straight on diagonally to stile in corner of field. Go diagonally across next field to third house from right, over stile onto road. Turn left along road, straight over at crossroads (Whaddon Road).

Take first right (High Street). As road bends left downhill, look for tiny lane right past Ringle Crouch left and Old Chapel right.

Follow footpath downhill and cross road. Take footpath at left of bungalow and go straight ahead with hedge right. Cross footbridge and turn right, following hedges along sides of four fields to a road. Turn right, go 60m to six-barred metal gate left, where footpath starts.

Follow path left across field about midway between fence right and brook on left, aiming for gate and stile in hedge to left of third tree from right. Cross stile; path goes a little left and follows brook to gate over fence. Go straight across field, eventually bearing right to stile in hedge right. Follow fence and cultivated hedge left.

At end of hedge turn left and immediately right along tree avenue, over planks. Go straight on across field (brook now right) through gap in hedge. Continue straight on, passing newly made pond right, to stile in hedge.

Cross stile, following grassy path (sometimes muddy) through young wood. At end turn right and join path coming in from right. Continue in same direction through yellow metal gate.

Keep hedge or fence left to next yellow gate. Follow track passing through more yellow gates. Keep hedge or fence on left and look for wooden stile on right to exit field (with brick garage on left). This takes you to Chapel Lane where you keep on to village green and your starting point.