

PALMERS CROSS AND NAPLETON

Start. The walk starts at Kempsey Surgery, Old Road North.

1. Walk away from Old Road South along the track with the Surgery and two houses on your right hand side. The footpath then goes straight ahead, to the left of another house, down a slight slope to the right and then straight ahead. There is a stile on your right hand side into an orchard. Go over the stile and through the orchard to a bridge crossing Hatfield Brook. You will hear the water moving fast on the left as you cross the orchard as this is the site of the old Mill race. Continuing straight you will reach a field.
2. The path turns right here along the edge of the field, with gardens on your right side. It then goes between two houses to emerge onto Post Office Lane. Turn left and walk down Post Office Lane until you reach a crossroads. This is known as Palmers Cross.
3. There is a stile immediately opposite. Cross the stile and go up onto the field. Follow the edge of the field for a short while until the hedge goes round to the left. The path then goes diagonally slightly right across the field to a stile. Cross this stile and then head diagonally left towards a cottage. Ignore a stile out onto the road (Green Street) and follow the field edge around the back of the cottage to another stile (which also leads up onto Green Street).
4. With your back to this stile facing the field, walk towards the opposite fence where there is a gateway (almost straight ahead but very slightly left). The motorway will be to your left. Enter the next field and aim for the right hand corner of a small wooded area.
5. From the corner of the wood cross into another field, aiming for a double poled electricity unit. To the left of this there is a metal gate.
6. Go through the gate into a grassy area with a wooded slope. Turn left and follow the fence line until you reach a pair of large metal farm gates with a house opposite. There is a stile to the left of the gates. Cross this onto the road and turn right.
7. You are now walking along the old Roman Road. Just past the house, opposite Napleton Farm, there is a footpath on the left. The path goes straight down the side of the field to a corner and then turns right across the field to a stile in the opposite hedge.
8. Crossing the stile you are on a driveway. Turn left along the driveway. There is a small wicket style wooden gate at the end leading onto Napleton Lane with the playing field opposite. Go through the gate and turn right towards the houses.
9. Just before the first house, (Foxes Hill) turn right along a track. This becomes a smaller path leading to a metal gate. Go through the gate and along a winding path with the housing estate on your left. This leads back to Post Office Lane.
10. Turn left along Post Office Lane and then turn right to return along the path you walked earlier at the side of the field. Turn left to cross Hatfield Brook and go through the orchard. Cross the stile and turn left to return to the Surgery.