

# The Long Plank



The footbridge over the River Great Ouse, known as the Long Plank, meets the footpath to Passenham. Evidence has been found in Passenham of two Iron Age settlements (East Ashballe Coppice and West Ashballe Coppice). Between 1957 and 1972, graded excavations to the west of the River Great Ouse revealed a Roman Villa. It is believed this site was occupied between the first and third centuries AD.

STONY STRATFORD

## Historic St Guthlac's Church



The original church on this site was mentioned in the Saxon Chronicles, written in 921AD. The first reference to a stone church dates back to the reign of Henry I, when a grant was made by the king for the building of a house of worship in Passenham. The nave contains 18th century wooden box pews and a splendidly carved Jacobean pulpit. According to local folklore, it was taken from Calverton Church in 1800.

The chancel contains remarkable 17th century wall paintings of the prophets and evangelists. These are attributed to the court painter Inigo Jones. St Guthlac's appears in the book 'England's Thousand Best Churches'.

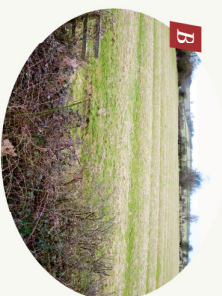


A

### The Stratford Treasure

The presence of a temple in this area was first suggested by the discovery, in 1789, of a hoard of religious objects. These included two bronze head-dresses and a number of bronze and silver plaques dedicated to Mars, Mercury and various other gods. The head-dresses were probably part of the uniform of a priest. One head-dress, as well as the plaques, is in the British Museum.

Look out for these landmarks as you follow the Riverside Walks



B

### Medieval Ridge & Furrow Fields

Some of the best examples of medieval ridge and furrow fields in the country can be seen here. The hedge layouts are the same as they were at the time of the 1619 Enclosures Act.



C

### The Tithe Barns

This is one of two stone tithe barns. The larger one was built in the early 16th century, the other was added in 1626. They were used during the Civil War as a hospital by Cromwell's troops after the Battle of Naseby.

Did You Know...

Ten bird, a hundred with a squint, was a 19th century saying in Passenham. He was the author of numerous local ghost stories, one of which is listed below. His grave can be found in Passenham Churchyard.

### The Ghost Story of Nancy Webb

On the night of the October Deansbanger Feast, the figure of a woman in 'white bearing a child in her arms is supposed to head to the Passenham mill race into which she plunges, her white dress floating on the deep, dark water. She lost her husband in the Crinnea and her new born child soon after. Nancy's continued visits to the graveyard unhinged her mind. She then threw herself into the mill race where she was managed by the mill wheel.



The Parks Trust  
MILTON KEYNES



**Flora & Fauna around the River Great Ouse**  
A wide range of traditional wildflowers including yarrow, oxeye daisy, birdfoot trefoil and ragged robin have been seeded at Millfield by the Riverside Parks Group and The Parks Trust.

Yarrow

Oxeye Daisy

Ragged Robin

Birdfoot Trefoil

