



Suggested Short Break – Upstream to Woodford/Stanwick Lakes and return (3 nights)

30 miles, 16 locks, 12/15 hours approx.

Overnight Moorings

Friday night – Wadenhoe/Islip

Saturday night – Woodford/Stanwick Lakes

Sunday night – Wadenhoe

This is a three day boat holiday from Oundle to Woodford/Stanwick Lakes and return.

Day 1 – Oundle to Wadenhoe or Islip (2/4 hours)

Oundle is an ancient market town on the River Nene. The town has been occupied since the Iron Age and was originally a trading place and market for local farmers and craftsmen. It is full of delightful honey coloured stone buildings and its skyline is dominated by the elegant spire of the 13th century church of St Peter. As you journey upriver through open farmland, the banks become more wooded as you pass by Lilford Hall built in 1635. The Saxon village which once existed nearby was demolished in the 18th century to create the surrounding parkland. The 4th Lord Lilford was known for introducing the Little Owl to Great Britain. The river passes under the gracefully arched stone bridge before reaching Lilford Lock which is beautifully located in a wooded area called 'the Linches'. Look out for the remains of an old folly built by Lord Lilford on the left hand bank in the distance. On your first night you can stop on the moorings at The King's Head (patrons only and book in advance if you want to eat at the pub). There is a lovely tea room in the village but no shop. If you have provisions for the night there is another mooring on a small island 20 minutes or so further along the river which you can use. This mooring is signposted and managed by the Friends of the River Nene. If you want to cruise for longer, you can continue on towards Islip. From Wadenhoe, the river curves east then west as it skirts the villages of Aldwincle and Thorpe Waterville. The headquarters of the Middle Nene Cruising Club are based at the old watermill near to Titchmarsh Lock. Continuing on, as you approach Islip Lock, there is an EA 48 hour mooring next to the sailing club on the left hand bank. You can access the village of Islip from here by crossing the footbridge over the river and walking up past the Mill. There is a nice pub, the Rose and Crown in the village and further down the road is the Woolpack Inn. You can also access Thrapston by walking along the footpath in the opposite direction where you will find a number of shops, pubs and takeaways. Thrapston is known for its connections with George Washington, first President of the United States. His great-great-great uncle, Sir John Washington lived in Thrapston and there are memorials to him in St James Church. If you are unable to moor at the EA mooring, there is a Friends of the River Nene mooring (signposted) just after Islip lock on the right hand bank going upstream.

Please note that this mooring is landlocked and there is no footpath access to Islip or Thrapston from here.

Day 2 – Islip or Wadenhoe to /Woodford or Stanwick Lakes (3/5 hours)

Continuing upstream, go through Woodford Lock, and as you approach the village you pass by some houses with gardens reaching down to the river on your right hand side. Just after these houses, below the church on the right hand bank you can stop overnight on the 'Friends of the River Nene' mooring (marked by a sign, if the horses haven't demolished it). From here you can walk up the footpath, past the church and into the village. There is a farm shop, village store, fish and chip shop and the Duke's Arms pub on Woodford village green. If you would prefer to carry on cruising, you could stop at Stanwick Lakes mooring, signposted and managed by Friends of the River Nene. This is a great mooring if you have children with you! Stanwick Lakes has a number of walks, open spaces, a cycle hire shop and children's play areas. The visitor centre has a café and shop which is open throughout the year. Check their website for further details.

Day 3 – Woodford or Stanwick Lakes to Wadenhoe (4/5 hours)

Heading back downstream towards Oundle, you journey back towards Wadenhoe where you can either stay at Pear Tree Farm moorings or The King's Head at Wadenhoe for your final night. You are about an hour and half cruise away from our base. You are of course welcome to spend the night on Sammy's mooring back at Barnwell.