



# The Hundred Parishes

An introduction to

## LINTON



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**Location:** 6 miles northeast of Saffron Walden. 12 miles south of Cambridge. **Ordnance Survey grid square** TL5646. **Postcode** CB21 4JS. **Access:** B1052. **Bus:** A regular half-hourly service serves Linton, the main destinations being Cambridge and Haverhill. There is also a service to Newmarket and Saffron Walden as well as some surrounding villages: [www.stagecoachbus.com](http://www.stagecoachbus.com)  
**County:** Cambridgeshire. **District:** South Cambridgeshire. **Population:** 4,525 in 2011.

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Set in the valley of the River Granta between rolling hills, Linton has a long history stretching back over 2000 years. Evidence has been found of substantial Iron Age, Roman and Saxon settlements. Linton is surrounded by arable farmland and flourished as a market town from the 13th to the 19th centuries. Many of the fine timber houses along the High Street were built during the prosperous Tudor and Stuart periods. The 17th-century Dog and Duck (shown here) is the only surviving ancient building close to the River Granta, which used to flood frequently. The last major flooding was in 1968.



The railway came to Linton in 1865, providing connections to Cambridge, Bury St Edmunds, Colchester and beyond. A hundred years later, the increase in motor transport had made the railway uneconomic and it closed in 1967. The High Street was not suited to heavy motor traffic and was by-passed in 1968 by what is now known as the A1307.

Without the heavy through traffic, Linton has thrived as a residential town and has continued its tradition of trade by providing retail and other services for the surrounding area. The character of the ancient heart of the village is protected, with around half a mile square being classified as a conservation area. Of all the villages in Cambridgeshire, Linton has one of the greatest numbers of listed buildings. The High Street alone has 75. A Heritage Trail is available from several outlets (see below).

Of particular interest are the largely 14th and 15th-century Grade I-listed parish church and the nearby Guildhall, shown here. This was built in 1523 as a guildhall but has been a private house for 300 years.

Leadwell Meadows, administered by the parish council, is a haven for wildlife and also a quiet place to stroll along the River Granta. The village green, bordering the River Granta and also known as Camping Close, can be reached from Church Lane through the churchyard or via Mill Lane. Children love to paddle and to feed the ducks at the ford in Horn Lane.



The Icknield Way long-distance path passes from south to north through Linton, climbing immediately to the north of the village up Rivey Hill. There are fine views from the summit, which is distinguishable for many miles around because it is the location of this 12-sided brick water tower. It stands 100 feet (30 metres) tall and was built in 1936. It still provides water to Linton.

Beyond Rivey Hill is Chilford Hall with its 18-acre vineyard, planted in 1972. Beyond that is a former Roman road (which seems to follow a straight line between Colchester and Chester) which marks Linton's northern parish boundary.

Thought to be the only parish in England with both a zoo and a vineyard, Linton is not only a visual treat but also a working environment without losing its rural background. Several small businesses offer local employment, whilst many residents commute to Cambridge, 12 miles away



Linton has four excellent schools, a sports centre, a health centre, post office, library, fire station, a children's centre and a wide range of shops and recreational and sports facilities, etc.

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#### **Attractions:**

Linton Zoo, CB21 4NT - check for opening times: 01223 811308 - [www.lintonzoo.com](http://www.lintonzoo.com)  
Chilford Hall Vineyard and conference centre, CB21 4LE – 01223 895600 - <https://www.chilfordhall.co.uk/>

#### **Hospitality:**

Dog and Duck, 63 High Street, CB21 4HS - 01223 890349 - [www.dogandduck-linton.co.uk](http://www.dogandduck-linton.co.uk)  
Crown Inn, 11 High Street, CB21 4HS - 01223 891759 - [www.crownatlinton.co.uk](http://www.crownatlinton.co.uk)  
Waggon and Horses PH, 110 High Street, CB21 4JT - 01223 893636 - <https://www.facebook.com/thewaggonandhorseslinton>  
Linton Tandoori, 6 Bartlow Road, CB21 4LY – 01223 890030 - [www.linton-tandoori.com](http://www.linton-tandoori.com)  
Linton Kitchen (coffee shop), 30 High Street, CB21 4HS – 01223 894949 - [www.lintonkitchen.co.uk](http://www.lintonkitchen.co.uk)

#### **Accommodation:**

The Crown Inn – see above  
Cantilena B&B, 4 Harefield Rise, CB21 4LS - 01223 892988

**Hundred Parishes Society walks** - <http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk/walks> include . . .

Circular walk 109 of 6 miles between Hadstock and Linton. Route description starts from Hadstock but could be started in Linton at the top of page 2 of the description.

Circular walk 174 starts in Linton and follows a loop of 9.5 miles to Great Chesterford and back.

**Adjacent Hundred Parishes parishes:** Great Chesterford, Hildersham, Bartlow, Hadstock.

#### **Links:**

Parish Council: [www.lintoncambridgeshire-pc.gov.uk](http://www.lintoncambridgeshire-pc.gov.uk)

#### **Further reading:**

*Linton in Pictures – a Photographic History*, Garth Collard and Norman Dann

*Linton – the Story of a Market Town*, published in 1992 by Linton Parish Council

*Linton Heritage Trail* - Booklets and a DVD of the Heritage Trail are available from Sweet Talk News or Darryl Nantais Gallery, both in the High Street, Parish Council and other outlets.