

## May 20<sup>th</sup> 2012

This is a longer and slightly more strenuous walk than some, but well rewarded by good views of the Vale and Chilterns. There are 2 ploughed fields, usually, but not always with the footpath re-instated, but the rest is pasture and farm tracks. Distance about 4.5 miles; it took 1hour 50 minutes.

- From the TK on the High Street, cross the busy A413 and turn right (towards Aylesbury). Turn left into Post Office Lane and bear left along the track, through the KG, and along the paddock (46) to enter the Cricket Field by a KG.
- Turn right, past the pavilion, through the gate, and bearing slightly right, through 2 KGs into the lane (54) which recent research (see Village website) suggests may once have been the road from Bushmead to the Church.
- Follow this until it forks; the right fork leads back to the High Street, and if the weather has been very wet, you may wish to detour via the High street and into Bushmead, as a short section of the following path can be rather boggy. If you are well equipped with good boots and a stout heart, take the left fork, past the pond to the stile (51).
- Follow the right hand hedge along the back of Swan Close gardens to the stile; across this is the boggy section of the path which continues in the same direction, gradually becoming drier, to a further stile; a short distance, slightly left brings you to the stile into Bushmead.
- Turn left along Bushmead; when the pavement ends, cross carefully to continue a short way on the opposite verge to turn right into the marked FP (55).
- Cross the stile at the end of this track, and walk along the left hand edge of this and a further 3 fields, with fine views towards Weedon and the Chilterns, right. ( N.B. the 3<sup>rd</sup> field is often inhabited by a fine bull and his harem of cows and their calves. They are usually placid, but care should be taken not to pass between the cows and their calves, and to avoid alarming them with dogs or noisy children).
- The 4<sup>th</sup> field ends in another boggy patch; negotiate this to the stile at the corner, and cross into a large field sloping downhill. The path, which is not always re-instated, leads downhill at 1 o'clock to a gap in the bottom hedge; through this continue in the same direction to the footbridge visible at the far side of the field.
- On reaching this, do not cross, but turn to head back up the field at 11 o'clock to a gap where a broad farm track enters the field. Follow this ( Hardwick FP 9) into Hardwick village, and continue along the street until the main A413 is reached.
- Turn right along the pavement, until, on the opposite side of the road, a FP sign is seen. Cross carefully to it, and pass across the stile into the horse pasture (Hardwick FP 1). Turn half right to the stile, cross and continue in the same direction to the stile to the left of the gate which leads into the gas station lane.
- Across the lane, a stile leads into pasture; continue in the same direction to a stile in the hedge ahead, just to the left of a small brick

shelter. Cross this, and after a few yards, turn right to walk up the horse pasture, across a stile and to the stile in the top hedge.

- Walk up the steep path, with a new (2011) hedge left, and, just past the roots of a mighty fallen tree, a FP post is seen ahead. Take the right fork, (58) which soon leads to a KG into a narrow lane between overhanging hedges, and over 2 stiles to a concrete path; turn left to emerge into Little London.
- Walk up this to emerge onto the High Street between the Firs and the garage; a short distance, left, then, to the starting point at the TK.