

November 18th 2012 No Mud (or not much)!

This is a walk which avoids ploughed fields and muddy gateways, much in evidence at present, but nevertheless is a pleasant amble along lanes and bridleways, with much of interest.

- Ⓟ From the TK, turn down the tarmac path (21) towards Whittle Hole, now flowing well after the wet weather. Continue to the stile/FB/stile onto Castle mound, bear slightly left to the double stile and round the top of the field to a gate, along a narrow path (15) to emerge onto Weir Lane. Turn right to the junction with Castle Lane, then left through the KG (29), across the pasture and downhill, slightly left to cross the double stile in the far fence just to the right of the copse.
- Ⓟ Proceed uphill and slightly left to the gate ahead (well chewed by horses, 2012), turn right along the hedge, (33), through the gate ahead, cross a narrow track, through a second gate, cross the pasture to the stile next to the gate leading onto Oving Road.
- Ⓟ Cross, and turn left along the road, ignoring the first FP, to turn right at the second, just before 'Wayside'. Follow this track, (OP28) and where it ends at a gate, turn left onto the narrow footpath, now in Oving Parish. After passing some well-kept allotments, turn right over a steep stile to walk along the edge of a large field (OP25), passing the enclosure recently occupied by goats and rare-breed sheep. Two llamas can be seen in the far enclosure. After a short stretch between high hedges, emerge onto Whitchurch Lane.
- Ⓟ Turn left along the wide verge towards Oving, and at the top of the hill, cross and take the second of two lanes on the right, Pulpit Lane.
- Ⓟ This is a dead end, but still bears some traffic conveying horse-mad girls to Hideaway Farm, so be alert for the inevitable 4x4s!
- Ⓟ Just before said farm, turn right onto the bridleway,(OP10) and follow the track until a field gate is reached. Through this, cross the field diagonally right to the far corner (OP13), through the gate and continue in the same direction to the field gate leading to the Meadway.
- Ⓟ Turn right onto this and follow to its ending onto Whitchurch Lane. Cross, and walk along Bowling Alley through the village until Stone View is reached. Turn left into this, and continue along the FP (OP28) when the road ends, until it emerges onto Oving Road.
- Ⓟ Turn left and continue until the junction with North Marston Lane is reached, cross and take the FP right, next to the surgery; a narrow path between field and hedge. Through the gate at the end, turn left, (26) and after a short stretch, cross a stile into the pasture ahead. Continue ahead along the top of the field, bearing slightly right to converge with the fence protruding into the field, and through the KG onto Weir Lane.
- Ⓟ Continue ahead into Castle Lane, and thence to the High Street and back to the TK.

Key: Numbers refer to Whitchurch Parish Paths

OP= Oving Parish Paths

FP=footpath

FB=footbridge

TK=Telephone Kiosk

KG=kissing gate